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Sunday 10th February
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Launch of New Aycliffe Business Group at Xcel

The Steering Group for Aycliffe Business Park, the second largest industrial estate in the North East covering 672 acres, has announced a launch event for an initiative relevant to all businesses on 1st February 2013 at the Xcel Centre.

The Business Park is of regional significance and the largest in County Durham with a critical mass of over 300 businesses including; Gestamp Tallent, Tetley, 3M, Lidl, Stiller and RFMD registered on the park and totalling 10,000 employees. The arrival of Hitachi Rail Europe to locate its UK train manufacturing facility on the Park further underlines its importance as a major employment area with opportunities for growth. Chairperson, Kerina Clark of the Aycliffe Business Group comments: "The steering group and committee for Aycliffe Business Park are represented by business men and women from a variety of organisations on the park and we are hosting an event and invite all businesses based on the park to come along and hear about an exciting

initiative which is relevant to any size business on the estate.

"As the area goes from strength to strength, we would encourage all businesses to come along and find out more about how they can participate and benefit from forthcoming opportunities

through a series of initiatives planned for the area."

The free event will be held on the 1st February 2013 at the Xcel Centre, Aycliffe Business Park 9.30-11am. Businesses can register for free on <http://youdontwanttomissthiseventbrite.co.uk/>



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Live Entertainment with "The Wild Murphys"

Saturday 2nd February, 2013 - 9.00pm till late - Free Entry

Customer Challenges The Cubby Cook



Paul Hull from Trimdon, a regular customer at The Cubby, ordered a TEN quarter pound burger in a bun this week. He also added cheese and onion. Kitchen Manager Sally Symon said: We try to cook whatever the customer wants but this is the

biggest burger I have made" Chairman Billy Blenkinsopp asked him if he wanted Red Rum Sauce or Horse Radish. but Paul said "Nay"!

Free Fitness Sessions at Leisure Centre

There are FREE fitness sessions at County Durham Leisure Centres this weekend including Newton Aycliffe. County Durham leisure centres are opening their doors free of charge this weekend in a bid to get more people exercising.

Nine centres across the county will offer free use of facilities on Saturday and Sunday (January 26 and 27) including fitness suites, selected exercise classes and swimming lessons. Plus, take out a direct debit membership this weekend and pay nothing until March.

Steve Lister, strategic manager for indoor facilities with Durham County Council, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity to perhaps try a class that you have always fancied doing - free of charge. "If you are thinking about joining a gym it's the perfect chance to give it a go and find out if it's for you."

All fitness appointments must be booked in advance. For more information on the participating leisure centres log on to: www.durham.gov.uk/leisureoffers.

EDITOR: We apologise that this information may arrive too late for some readers, but this is down to Durham County Council who sent it out too late. We have complained and hope they will take note that weekly newspapers need this type of information much earlier.

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 Saturday 26th January - "Skinflint"

Twice stars of the main stage at 'STORMIN'

Previous review from the Turbinia: "Skinflint's first blast in the Tub last night, and what a first blast!!! love Skinflint, cos they've got the only two guys I know who get their hair out more than me!! Absolutely ace! Everyone has said how good the lads were, and with an alternative venue just over the road havin a band on again, some of the folk who came over from there said they were well pleased they had done so!!

The lads had the sound bang on for us, they sounded excellent!! (I loved "the soundcheck song"). Opening tune was 'Paranoid', swiftly followed by 'For Whom The Bell Tolls'. Thin Lizzy's 'Cold Sweat' was top notch as was 'Cat Scratch Fever'. I heard that one at Crook and it's fast becoming one of my faves! Chris Isaac's 'Wicked Game' and Ozzy's 'Bark At The Moon' were followed by 'Rosalie', (which took away one of our lad's shout for his encore straight away!!) AC/DC's 'Whole Lotta Rosie' removed Keith's second encore shout so he was stuck for what to shout for when the time came!! Bit of Foo Fighters and Sabbath, The Cult's 'L'il Devil' had me and some of the lasses on the floor with the hair out, (nowt new there) and Status Quo's 'Sweet Caroline' rocked!! 'Whisky In The Jar' totally ruined Keith's chances of shouting for anything at all for an encore, 'Highway Star' and 'Smoke On The Water', and the lads rounded off with my all time fave 'Rebel Yell', which guaranteed me whiplash this morning!! Saw these guys at Stormin' last year, was looking forward to them coming to the Tub and they did themselves proud. I hope they enjoyed the gig as much as the punters did, and look forward to them coming back for another round!!

Saturday 2nd February - "Elenbak"

"We do covers by the likes of Bad Company, Free, Sabbath, Poison, Brian Adams, Eurythmics and many more.

Review: "Elenbak: What a bunch of fighters these guys are! Back again after previously strong showings in past BOTBs, Elenbak return with yet more melody driven and insanely catchy soft rock. More new material in their excellently delivered set, but still it's the wonderful 'Samantha' that gets under your skin and refuses to be ignored - a summertime hit single if ever I heard one. Partnered to familiar favourite 'In This World' these are two great songs that really show the quality running through this band. Closing with a triumphant 'Someday' you have to believe that there is a cracking AOR album in this band just begging to be unleashed."

Saturday 9th February - "Bon Jovi Forever"

with special guest support - 'THE KILL'

Gig Pit Review: "I went up the Tuns, glad I did, never seen 'The Kill' before, known Mark for years, what a band, top drawer! Not a great fan of Bon Jovi, but I have to say these are the best tribute act I've seen, and Greggs vocals in both bands was awesome, guitar playing was immense and the rhythm section tight as anything. Grown men stood open mouthed, and the women went berserk. Great nite lads! Rockermouth Review: "Great band! Still haven't seen the Bon Jovi Forever set, but it's the same line-up as the Kill... and they rock! Talented lads, the lot of them. A great set of musicians, and Gregg has frontman skills and stage presence to back up his excellent voice. Then add to that a cool and interesting set list, a quality P.A. rig, and you've got a superb package. Can't wait to see the lads play again. But maybe next time at the Office".

ONE OF ONLY 2 FREE GIGS THE GUYS ARE PLAYING THIS YEAR

For more information on bands go to www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034
 Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke

ART AT CHILTON

Art students from Greenfield Community College will spend the next four weeks working with Year 2 students from Chilton Community Primary.

The Greenfield students have been commissioned to facilitate sessions with the year 2 students to create a piece of art for the new Chilton outdoor area.

This is a great opportunity for the two schools to work together, and for the Greenfield students to gain experience sharing their skills. We look forward to seeing the results!

Diesel Fuel Problem

Peter Hardy of Bramham Close was on his way to Bristol when his diesel powered car broke down on Horndale Avenue. He called the RAC who told him the car stopped because the fuel was breaking down and blocking the filter due to sub zero weather conditions.

The answer to his problem was to buy the additive 983 Microflex, costing nearly £15 for each tankful which adds a lot to the cost of running his car!

Peter thinks buying cheap fuel from Supermarkets might be the cause, but on investigation we discover all diesel fuel comes from the same source and is not affected by sub zero temperatures



Jessie
 Tribute Act

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2013 A Milestone Year for Meningitis

A life-saving vaccine for meningococcal group B diseases (MenB) is on the horizon and it is hoped it will be introduced during 2013. The true impact of viral meningitis is highlighted with a survey of sufferers' experiences, showing 97% are left with after-effects from the disease. Victims have their voice heard in Parliament as part of the call for more support

for victims living with life-changing after-effects. Meningitis will continue to devastate lives in your community – striking quickly and killing within hours. We are right in the middle of the peak season for bacterial meningitis (that's the deadly type that can kill within hours). This runs from October to March. Viral meningitis peaks during the summer months.

TEMPORARY USE OF SHOP FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

CLEAN UP VOLUNTEERS WANTED



Active Aycliffe a project led by the PCP are delighted to have received the keys to a new community shop

in the town centre, which will provide a space for community groups to meet, and for local charities and services to hold drop-in sessions and workshops. This will replace the old community shop next to Boyes, and will be free to use for anyone providing a community service for the benefit of local residents. Active Aycliffe are very grateful for the generosity shown by The Aycliffe Shopping Centre in offering the use of the shop, and Centre Manager Bryan Haldane and his team have kindly given their time to help make it a safe and accessible community space. If you would like to support the development of your new community shop, we are looking for volunteers to help clean and decorate from Monday 28th January. We are also looking for a few donated items to help create

a family-friendly space inside, including a sofa and/or comfy chairs, games, toys and books. The Credit Union will be moving here from the old community shop, and will be holding weekly drop-in sessions between 11-12pm on Tuesdays. These will start on Tuesday 22nd January. The CAB will also be holding drop-in days on Wednesday 23rd January and Wednesday 20th February between 10am – 3pm. Also watch out for our Healthy Hearts for Families event during half-term week on Saturday 16th and Monday 18th February. Activities will take place in the community shop and Leisure Centre, and will include smoothies and healthy eating demos, Health MOT checks, arts and crafts workshops, family tennis and aqua zumba. For more information please

contact Lindsay Manning on 01325 321234 or email: lindsay.manning@pcp.uk.net.

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Fishburn Primary School	Manager: Carol Woods	01740 620683
Evenwood Village	Manager: Kerry Dixon	01388 834161
Newton Aycliffe	Manager: Vicky Hutchinson	01325 315623
Bishop Middleham	Manager: Natalie Richardson	01740 651224

*Aycliffe Village Ofsted Outstanding

IS AYCLIFFE BECOMING A TOWN FULL OF MORONS?

Dear Sir,
We tend to use "moron" to describe people who say or do things that do not fit within the 'normal range' of a nice society. The actual English Dictionary definition is: "foolish or stupid person; person with a low intelligence quotient". Well hopefully very few people in Newton Aycliffe actually fit this definition, but it's surprising how many ACT as if they do, and we can't blame it all on our younger residents. Yes, we still have the children and teenagers who do not know how to say please and thank you, how to use a rubbish bin, or move out of a four person line up on a narrow footpath to allow someone coming the other way to pass, but then, as always, this comes back to poor (or moronic) parenting. What chance do some of these kids stand when we see and hear parents yelling and screaming at them in the street - I even heard one woman using a variety of four-lettered words to a child in an Infant School playground recently - what a MORON!
To the list already given above, I would add the following actions perpetrated by those I personally would label 'MORONS':

- (1) Cyclists on the footpath who do not give way to pedestrians (surely the clue is in the name: FOOTpath!)
- (2) People who hold conversations with whoever they are with - or worse still on their mobile - at the top of their voices, which means everyone within a 100 metres feels 'dragged' into that conversation!
- (3) Those who part company with a friend, or family member, but continue their conversation as they get further and further apart, till in the end they are shouting to each other. This is also the case when one 'moron' spots a friend in the town centre and starts a conversation from say outside Herons, when the other is outside say Select, what happened to just walking over to them?
- (4) Drivers who do not indicate at junctions and roundabouts when only pedestrians are about - pedestrians also have a right to know which way these drivers are going!
- (5) Cyclists on the path (again) or the road who have their dog on a lead beside them - I believe this is actually against the law.
- (6) Drivers who have their radios turned up so high that even with all their windows shut I am forced to listen to

their noise pollution.
(7) People who 'push in' to shops as others are coming out - common sense should tell them that there will be more space inside once those leaving are outside.
Oh sorry, I forgot, my definition of MORONS weren't issued with common sense, just a gene labelled ME, ME, ME, and to hell with everyone else! The list could go on and on, I'm sure you could add to it. I've stopped shaking my head when I see and hear these actions - it would be so often that I'd develop a pain in the neck - yes, pun intended!
The world generally is a sad place much of the time. Why can't we all just try a tiny bit harder to be nicer people, perhaps then I'd have MORE ON the good side to write about!
Midweek Moaner
(name and address supplied)

Bad State of Town Centre

Dear Sir
I noted the comment on the state of the town centre in reply to my letter last week. I fail to see what the forthcoming demolition has to do with ensuring the centre is kept clean to a decent level and in good repair.
Even my 8 year old Granddaughter said it was in a mess and that's coming from a child!
The townspeople need answers to the state of our town centre and something positive should be done to improve the situation on bird muck, bad paving etc.
I wonder if a member of the royal family was making a visit it would remain in that sorry state? I bet there would be a vast improvement then!
R. McNeal
Tunstall Road.

A 'Site' for Sore Eyes!



The site before Aldi was built

Dear Sir,
I thought you may be interested in the attached pictures which depict development of the now attractive 'Aldi' site. At long last, Newton Aycliffe Town Centre is beginning to look more like an attractive shopping area.
Graeme C. Halloway.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Charities Suffer Funding Cuts

Dear Sir
For the last ten years I have worked within the charity sector, from volunteer to paid worker. I enjoy my work with clients and I know that I have helped change lives. But during that time there has always been a dark cloud hanging over the work that myself and so many others do - it is FUNDING.
Year by year there has been less and less money going to charities and council run services. This has meant that services have gone under and the ones that are left have been put under more stress and have become overworked. I understand the current

financial circumstances are making things difficult for everyone, but I believe there is a deeper problem within the charity sector that has made things worse.
During every cycle when charities have to make bids for funding, executives and managers have to decide what their charity wishes to offer and how they can deliver the best value for money.
This "value for money" in my experience leads to a charity becoming overstretched and one that will struggle to provide the service promised to the funders.
I have spoken to many varying agencies and all I hear is how they struggle with work overload, stress and low morale. What I also hear is the frustration of workers who want to do everything they can for a client only to be told that there may be weeks to wait for a service to help or that the service required would mean a client may have to travel to get the help. Remember that a client may not be able to afford to travel so will not get the help they need.
This bidding for funding has been like this for many years. What we are left with is services that have been underfunded for all that time. There will be managers reading this who will defend their actions by saying if we hadn't done what we did there might not be a service at all. I understand that and it is undoubtedly the system which has caused some of these problems, but due to the "value for money" promises, any statistics produced are incorrect leaving the system/government the ability to say we can continue with these cuts we are currently suffering as there is still room to squeeze a little more.
Unfortunately, more and more people are requiring help and these cases are getting increasingly complex. I speak from the heart about these issues. If you feel the same, then please let your voice be heard.
D. Biggins

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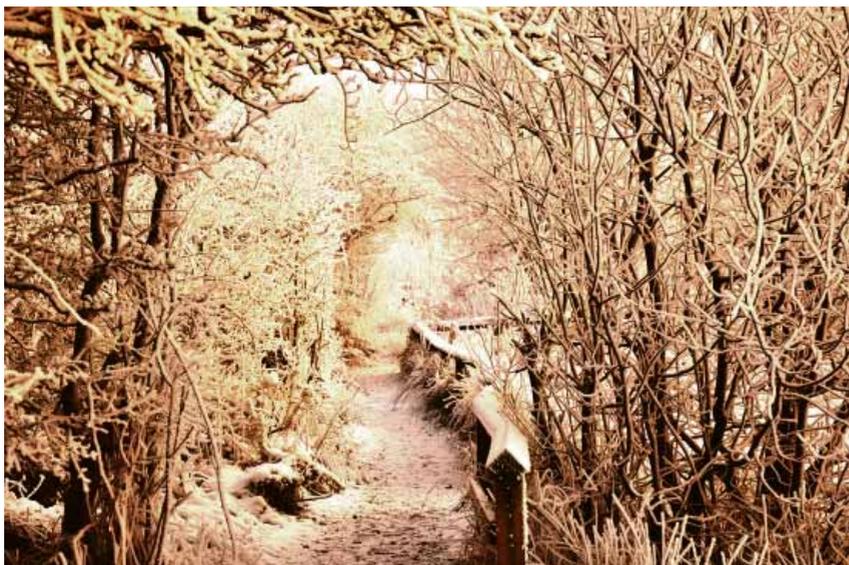
Dear Sir,
The facts I put in my letter regarding police cover in the West Ward were true and not criticism in any way, I have spoken twice to Ron Hogg the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner and he thanked me for drawing this problem to his attention. He has since dealt with this problem for me and I would like to thank him for doing so.

I read in the letter from Inspector Mark Hall that the West Ward will have a PC on 5th February 2013: PC Holohan.

What I suggest now to the public in the West Ward is if you have any Crime or Anti Social Behaviour to phone 101 and ask for PC Holohan. As crime and anti social behaviour figures are down by 18%, with our own PC I hope they fall further. It would be nice if Inspector Hall and our new PC attended the next PACT meeting on 7th February 2013 at 6-00 at Burn Hill Methodist Church on Burnhill Way.

All we want now is a new Police Station in our town centre as a base for our Police officers to work from. George Gray Independent Councillor West Ward,

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



A snowy Aycliffe scene taken by Newton News reader Terri McGrath. If you have a topical photograph please send a jpeg image to: syd@newtonnews.co.uk

COUNCIL PINCH SALT SUPPLIES FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD BOXES

Dear Sir,
As citizens we are encouraged to look after our elderly and infirm in our neighbourhoods, particularly when the winter months leave us with snow covered roads and icy paths. ACORN take this in hand voluntarily and members take pride in clearing paths and dangerous stretches of roads in our neighbourhood where possible. Imagine the consternation of our membership when grit from a box on Lightfoot Road

was emptied and taken away to be used in another area. We were told that DCC had prepared for the winter weather with high stocks of grit available, yet, when we ask for replenishment of our supply we are told that supplies have run out! Consequently our pensioners and disabled have to struggle whilst our stocks of grit are used elsewhere. The roads in this area are rarely cleared with a plough and residents recognise that finance is tight for local

government and therefore try to do things for ourselves instead of constantly relying on the Council. Anyone involved in community work recognises the advantages of the mobilisation of volunteers but we have to give them the tools to do the job. Perhaps someone can tell us who has priority usage of salt reserves, Council premises or access to bungalows and footpaths where residents are in danger of falling. Ken Robson (Chair) Acorn Residents Association

Lack of Information on New Bus

Dear Sir,
I was sorry to hear about the Central Coaches situation, and the lack of passengers, but I have noticed a number of problems which could be the cause. To my knowledge no timetables have been put out, via official means. Unofficial timetables were sent out to certain places, whilst the County Durham Bus Maps Website had them, one had to go to a small heading at the top of the main map and it did not appear until after the new service started.

The timetable had a general route on it. However the "Contact Tees Valley" Website made the 116 timetable available from the start of the service with a more detailed route. Sadly the bus stops between the Town Council Offices and Heighington, controlled by Darlington Council, who put up a yellow notice at each stop saying their timetables are out of date and to phone Travelline etc. The first two weeks of Alex Voy's route has not been updated, although there has been some unofficial timetables at two sets of bus stops in School Aycliffe, including the new 16A.

A new route through School Aycliffe is in operation but I am not aware of any notification of this to the general public. A bus route map is now on the School Aycliffe bus stops. The new service around Alston Crescent and past Greenfield Community College does not start until 9.20am at Heighington and finishes at Heighington at 2.12pm. This is no good for getting to or from College and as a shoppers service. It does not help workers

A large part of the 116 route is either covered by other bus services, Arriva cover a large part of the route the 7, 8, 21 covering a small bit and the 5/5A

covering a larger part, the Town Service, JSB run the 17 and 18 services along other parts. Some people could be using the County Council Link - door to door service and some may not know the 116 is running, when and where, to and from.

Arriva have a discounted ticket system which means that although their fares have just gone up, people may wish to walk a bit further or get an extra bus with them because of the discounts.

Some bus operators only have timetables on the bus and this lack of information could have

No Contact With New Bus

Dear Sir,
Please let Central Coaches know, that I (and doubtless other people) have tried a number of times to ring the telephone number previously printed and there is never an answer or a call answering service.

I would like to know when the bus runs and where it stops etc, I am pretty sure that if people can't find out any of this information then that is the reason the bus is empty. Samantha Mitchell

an impact on bus service take up. The best places for viewing timetables is the Library, Leisure Centres and some supermarkets, the PCP and Town Council Office etc. "Helping Hand."

Bus Problem

Dear Sir,
I must respond to the sad article about the new Town Bus Service. I feel very sorry for Alex Voy that his new service has not taken off, but can someone tell me where the service operates? Arriva have almost destroyed communication on buses in Newton Aycliffe.

In the North end of the town we used to have a bus go down Meadowfield Way every 10 minutes. This is now reduced to the choice of 1 service (the number 5) every half hour and the service round Alston Crescent has been discontinued.

I do not know which part of the town Mr. Voy is licensed to trade in but I am sure that if the service was extended to the North of the town and even Woodham, it might be better used. Mrs J Dutch

BUS SERVICES INFORMATION POOR

Newton News is aware of the problems over Bus timetables in the town and wonder why all the bus companies providing a service do not come together and supply a combined timetable which is easily understood and, more importantly, widely distributed. To much reliance on bus timetables is put on the respective company's website. Newton News is happy to publish a comprehensive timetable free of charge should someone take the trouble to compile one.

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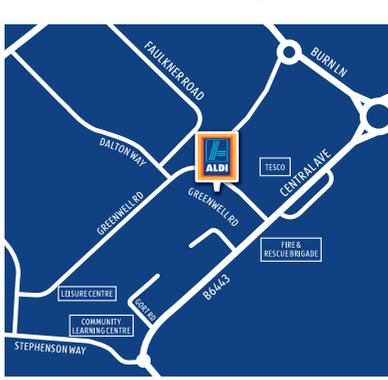
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SNOW ON CARS COULD PROVE COSTLY

Motorists who fail to clear snow from their cars risk penalty points and a fine and will also nationally waste hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of fuel by driving off with added weight on the roof. Research reveals that almost one in five, equating to nearly 6 million motorists in the UK don't remove snow from their cars before setting out. While most people clear snow from their windscreen and rear window and even their drive, many leave the roof of their cars untouched. This could lead to prosecution for careless or inconsiderate driving if they were involved in an accident. Situations where this could occur include: snow left on the roof falling forward onto a driver's windscreen, obscuring the view. Or similarly if the snow falls off backwards

causing a hazard for motorists travelling behind. Police warn the fixed penalty for driving with an obscured windscreen is three points and a £60 fine, but the consequences can be far greater if snow from your car is deemed to have been a factor in an accident. Rule 229 of the Highway Code states: • Before you set off you must be able to see, so clear all snow and ice from all your windows. • You must ensure that lights are clean and number plates are clearly visible and legible, make sure the mirrors are clear and the windows are demisted thoroughly. • Remove all snow that might fall off into the path of other road users. • Check your planned route is clear of delays and that no further snowfalls or severe weather are predicted.

Pony Visits Care Home



Defoe Court Care Home residents recently had a visit from Molly the Pony and her friend Mr. P. The lovely animals were petted by everyone and the whole home had a special time with a one to one experience touching the ponies.

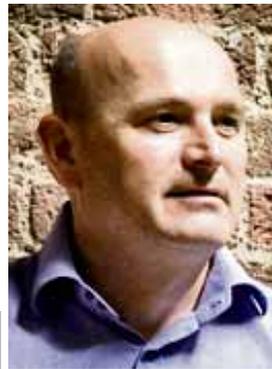
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GREENFIELD STUDENTS INSPIRED



Students at Greenfield Community College continue to have the opportunity to learn from successful individuals. Award winning international designer Paul Priestman spoke to Year 11 students about intelligent design and promoted the values and attitudes required to be successful. Paul of Priestmangoode has revolutionised the aviation, transport and hospitality industries, working for Virgin Atlantic. In recent years he has designed the fastest trains and the smallest hotel rooms around the world.

Bad Weather Affects Waste Collection

Continued blizzard-like conditions and forecasts for more snow are having a direct impact on refuse and recycling collections in some parts of County Durham. Whilst the vast majority of collections were undertaken as normal last week there were some problems in a few places due to extremely difficult local conditions on high ground. Durham County Council is asking residents to be patient and promising to return to pick up any missed refuse and recycling collections as soon as it is safe to do so. This morning 'catch-up' crews have attempted to carry out additional collections in some areas missed last week, but in many cases they have found local conditions on high ground too dangerous. The extra collections in these areas have been suspended to protect both the public and staff. Particularly badly affected are the Consett and Blackhill areas, with high Dales communities also likely to be hit by the continued snow, sleet and ice. Oliver Sherratt is the council's head of direct services: "Our crews have made valiant efforts to catch up in some truly awful weather conditions but we are at the point where it is simply dangerous for staff and the public for us to continue. "Our fleet drivers have battled to manoeuvre 26 tonne vehicles on icy roads. In some areas we have deployed crews on foot to push the bins out and wherever possible we have diverted Streetscene staff onto snow clearing duties. "We are trying hard to get to you and we will continue to do so. If your regular collection is missed then leave out your refuse or recycling and we will look for any opportunity to return. "When the weather improves the worst hit areas will be targeted with additional crews. "We are really sorry for any inconvenience but I feel sure everyone will understand that public safety is the most important factor."

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Aycliffe Computer Firm Holds "Cloud" Event

Aycliffe's CLOUD computing specialist Big Little Fish is gearing up to introduce a groundbreaking new product to North East businesses which could revolutionise the way firms operate in the region. The County Durham technology business is to host a major event which aims to show the region's businesses how they can take advantage of the latest addition to its portfolio of SME services, Soonr Workplace.

Soonr is a collaboration and mobile content management tool that provides a safe, cloud-based system for the uploading and sharing of files which comes with added management and security features built-in. It is especially applicable for work on projects that involve individuals in and out of the office or between different departments and allows files to be securely shared using any device, including tablets, smartphones, PCs and laptops. Big Little Fish, which specialises in helping SMEs significantly improve their performance using cloud-

based software, will host a Soonr introductory event next month at the HUB workspace on Aycliffe Business Park on 6th February from 10am until 12 noon. It will give delegates information they need to begin taking advantage of the software. Rebecca Scally, managing director of Big Little Fish, said: "We're really excited about our Soonr Workplace service and we think it complements our portfolio of cloud services for SMEs. "Soonr Workplace enables users to organise, manage and share files both internally and externally from any device anywhere and is an excellent way of becoming significantly more efficient and productive without breaking the bank."

For more information on the Soonr Workplace event, which will include an opportunity to network with North East businesses, visit: <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/5236819468>. For more information on Big Little Fish visit: www.biglittlefish.co.uk/.

"Hands On" Project Takes Shape



"Last week in the snow we continued work on the new outdoor community space at Greenfield Community & Arts Centre. Local volunteers spent a morning working with bamboo to lay out the plans for the area – we are all excited now to see the final results!

As the project moves into the construction phase we are looking for more male volunteers who are willing to volunteer their time, skills and knowledge to help build this community space. This is also a great opportunity for anyone wanting to develop new

skills. The project meets Mondays from 10:30am at Greenfield Community & Arts Centre – if you are interested in joining in our next session will take place on Monday 28th January 2013. Contact us on 01325 379048 for more information.

Wilkinson Offers to Help the Community

Team members at the Wilkinson store in Newton Aycliffe, are offering a helping hand to community groups and charities in the area who need extra support with local projects. Whether the project benefits young people, families or the elderly, Wilkinsons is inviting anyone who is passionate about their local community to get involved and apply for a donation. People living in the Newton Aycliffe area will be able to apply to the store for a donation of Wilkinsons' products or team members to volunteer their time, as they are also keen to roll up their sleeves to support neighbourhood developments. Barbara Tennick, manager said: "The Helping Hands scheme is an initiative where funding is provided to support local projects, directly benefitting the lives of people who live and work close to the store.

A family owned firm after more than 80 years of trading, JK Wilkinson opened the first store, in Leicester, in 1930. The company's portfolio has expanded significantly over the eight decades that followed, and there are currently 372 stores across the UK. Serving over 178 million customers each year, and selling over 25,000 product lines, including health & beauty, cleaning products, seasonal essentials and homewares both in store and online at Wilko.com, Wilkinsons is dedicated to providing its customers with high quality products, choice and first class, friendly service. Wilkinsons is committed to Britain's high streets and prides itself on being a community focused retailer, actively supporting local charities, community groups and empowering its team members to support great causes that are locally important to them.

"As a company, it's great to be able to help community groups and charities by giving something back to the area, whether it's seeds to help a community garden bloom or paint for a local animal shelter, we are able to help." Application forms can be collected from the store and once completed, returned to the store's help desk. Successful applicants will be notified within three months of submission.

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KNOCK NEXT DOOR – BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR OVER THIS WINTER

People in County Durham are being encouraged to 'knock next door' and help out friends and neighbours during the bad weather. Durham County Council is issuing the call to action as the snow look set to continue this week.

Residents are encouraged to: **BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR** by calling on those living nearby to check if they need anything. **LOOK AFTER THE VULNERABLE** by getting in touch with people who are ill, older or on their own and may need a helping hand. **KEEP DRIVES AND FOOTPATHS CLEAR** by shovelling snow for friends and neighbours if they struggle to do it themselves and need to go out.

5010 – for concerns about someone's welfare. Durham County Council: 0300 026 0000 for all other issues, or visit www.durham.gov.uk

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Lesley Jeavons, Durham County Council's head of adult care, said: "The cold weather can significantly increase the risks to those who are already vulnerable, so it's particularly important

that we look after one another. "We're asking residents to spare a thought – and perhaps a little of their time – for friends, relatives and neighbours who may struggle in the worst of the winter. "Whether it's phoning an older person to check they are keeping warm or clearing the snow from the drive next door if your neighbour can't manage, a small act can make a big difference to someone else." When checking on the vulnerable, residents should ensure they are warm, especially at night, and have food and medicines so they don't need to leave the house. Residents are advised to call the following numbers for help or advice: Highways Action Line (HAL): 0191 370 6000 or email HAL@durham.gov.uk - for enquiries about the salting of roads and footpaths. Social Care Direct: 0845 850

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Saturday 16th & Monday 18th
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Woodham Mock Exam Results Day

Friday 11th January marked Woodham Academy's traditional mock examination results day, when the results of examinations sat in December were released to students, with the accompanying tension of opening the envelope to get a feel of what the real event will be like in August. The mock results are particularly encouraging this year, causing staff to raise their expectations in many subject areas. The results of careful planning and thorough revision were much in evidence.

Alongside the mock results, students had the additional anticipation of actual GCSE Mathematics results. The pass rate at grade C or higher exceeded Head of Mathematics, Steve Flynn's, wildest expectations, and is a record for Woodham at this stage of the students' final school year. Steve commented, "We are delighted with the overall result. It allows us to fully support the few who have not yet achieved their target grades and many of the successful students who want to push on to achieve even higher outcomes".

Place your VALENTINES DAY Greetings in your local community newspaper, "NEWTON NEWS"

Above example:
£12.00 (inclusive)
(maximum 15 words)

JOHN DOUGH To my "squidgy widge" on Valentines Day, love from your little bunny X

JANE DOUGH To my honey bunny, all my love on Valentines Day, love from "squidgy widge"

Above example:
15p per word

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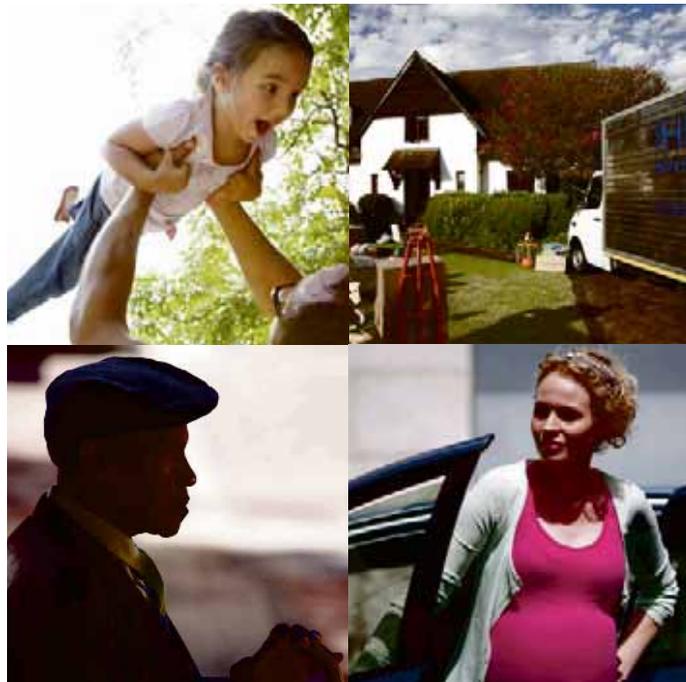
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County Council Switch on to Bright Idea

Durham County Council continues to take steps to cut carbon emissions. An Overview and Scrutiny committee has been tasked with carrying out a review of the council's Carbon Management Programme and Cabinet was today asked to note the importance of the drive to reduce emissions when the committee presented its findings. Cutting carbon emissions is a key objective for the council which aims to make reductions of up to 40 per cent by 2015. Bearing in mind recent increases in energy prices, the council continues to look at ways to make savings wherever possible. The report recommends the council encourages staff to look at innovative ways to make changes such as reducing travel by using Skype, telephone conferencing and promoting the use of 'hot desks' available at all council offices.

Emissions have decreased each year and, when compared to other councils in the North East, the council is performing well. Cllr Dan Myers, chair of the overview and scrutiny environment committee, said: "The new technologies and measures now available to help us in the drive to be kinder to our environment signal exciting times ahead. "We are looking into a wide range of possibilities such as moving to alternative powered fleet vehicles and providing fuel efficient pool vehicles for staff to use." Other measures taken include the installation of biomass boilers, solar panels and other technologies to help reduce energy usage. A number of initiatives are also being trialled and these include dimming street lighting in allocated areas between the hours of midnight and 5.00am which should save 7,500 tones of carbon per year.

PCP'S BUDDY SCHEME TO HELP PEOPLE LEAVING HOSPITAL

Do you know someone who has recently been discharged from hospital that would benefit from some extra support at home or in the community? The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) has launched a new county-wide Health Buddy service in conjunction with County Durham NHS and the Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund. The Health Buddy service offers short-term care and support to individuals who have recently been discharged from hospital. The aim is to assist recovery and build confidence in returning to their home. Margaret Curtis, Programme Manager for the Health Buddy service, says: "After leaving

hospital, people can find that they struggle with day-to-day activities and they may feel isolated because they are worried about getting out and about on their own. This scheme can offer a helping hand and a friendly face to support individuals in tackling the initial problems that they can encounter." This support is provided through local volunteer befrienders who can assist individuals with their shopping, attending social activities and medical appointments, or simply taking the time to listen over a cup of tea. For more information please ring the Pioneering Care Centre on 01325 321234, or email healthbuddy@pcp.uk.net.

Careers Day at Woodham



On Thursday 17th January all Year 9 students at Woodham Academy spent the day taking part in a careers event. The aim of the day was to allow students to investigate different career pathways. Students worked alongside local employers and used online resources to determine which career might be of interest to them. The event was supported by the Durham Education Business Partnership which regularly supports the school in its work-related learning provision. Sarah Worsnop from the partnership said "The students were an absolute pleasure to work with and exuded confidence and enthusiasm throughout the whole day". In recent years, Woodham Academy has placed a real emphasis on providing students with the highest quality careers education, information and advice and

guidance. The success of the programme has been highlighted in the schools last Ofsted report.

This is just one of many events designed to support students in making informed decisions about their future.

Aycliffe Artist Exhibits at Loco Museum

Stephen Bainbridge (64) was born in Leicester. and taught in Buckinghamshire for thirty-six years before retiring to the North, initially living in Cumbria before moving to Newton Aycliffe where he now lives with his wife Shelagh. Stephen has worked with acrylic for forty years, initially developing techniques under the tutelage of the professional artist Noel Gregory. His pictures often reflect his lifelong passion for the days of steam railways, but he also has produced works of other technical subjects and landscapes. His work has featured in magazines and have been used in historical text books. In his works he always aims to produce paintings that are detailed and technically accurate while portraying the atmosphere of the days of steam. Following his successes in the south, his art is becoming increasingly well-known and recognised, initially in Cumbria with exhibitions in Appleby and Carlisle, and now in Durham and the North East. Having spent many happy



hours at Peterborough and Grantham in his youth Stephen has a particular interest in Sir Nigel Gresley and his locomotives. He is a member of the Gresley Society, for whom he produced a painting for their 2012 Christmas card, and The Sir Nigel Gresley Locomotive Preservation Society. Stephen a member of the North York Moors Railway said living close to 'Locomotion' has allowed him to spend time painting at the museum and he hopes to forge further links to the museum and other railway centres in the future.

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For Information on Local Businesses, Organisations, Promotions, Offers & Events



Ebac's £7m Plan to Produce Washing Machines in 2014

Ebac, the North East manufacturing company which is bringing washing machine manufacture back to the UK, is to develop its Newton Aycliffe factory to ensure the new appliances are made and jobs are retained in the town.

Recruitment is also underway to help expand Ebac's accounts and IT departments to cater for the overall expansion of the company. The company is planning to establish a new production line in its existing factory, to cater for the additional workload being created by new product ranges being developed.

In Autumn 2012, it was announced that Ebac will start to manufacture washing machines, creating more than 200 jobs in total, starting with the positions in accounts and IT. Currently, around 4 million washing machines are bought in the UK each year, all of them imported. News that the jobs will be created in Newton Aycliffe has been welcomed by the area's MP, Phil Wilson.

Developing the existing site increases the efficiency with which Ebac can replace some of these imports with domestically produced goods.



Ebac Managing Director Pamela Petty with Project Design Engineer Jeff Palin

Ebac Group Ltd is to develop the new products in a £7m venture, made possible by £1m from the Regional Growth Fund, announced in October.

The first washing machines are expected off the production line in Spring 2014. The company is also planning to manufacture other domestic appliances, once the production of washing machines is successfully implemented.

Ebac's Group Managing Director Pamela Petty said: "When we considered

our ability to manufacture washing machines and other appliances, we saw a strong, economically viable market, which we are fully capable of serving. Additionally, we know there is a strong, willing workforce in this area, and we believe we can recruit an excellent team for this extra work.

"Having looked at the options of developing a brand new site, we felt that to expand what we do in our existing facility would only serve to increase the efficiency of production across all of our

manufacturing lines.

"As well as making the processes more efficient, it adds even greater strength and security to our position as a County Durham employer, which is good news for Ebac, the North East and the wider economy."

The Labour MP for the Sedgefield constituency, which includes Newton Aycliffe, Phil Wilson, said: "It is great news for the area that Ebac has decided to create these jobs in Newton Aycliffe. I attended the launch of the Ebac Foundation last year and one of the principals of the foundation was a commitment to County Durham, and this cements that loyalty and support for the community."

Job applications can be sent to Margaret Elliott, Human Resources Director, Ebac, Ketton Way, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham DL5 6SQ.

Workshops in Health and Safety on Offer for Aycliffe Firms

Businesses in Newton Aycliffe are being offered workshops in health and safety as part of a new initiative to provide free information, support and guidance.

The Estates Excellence initiative, organised by a range of partners, will offer a series of special events at South West Durham Training premises.

The events will offer employers and their staff a chance to access free expert advice covering a wide range of health and safety topics such as fire risk assessments, control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH), practical manual handling and many more.

The Estates Excellence team will be approaching businesses in the town over the next few weeks to explain the services they can offer. If a business wants to take part, further meetings will be set up to assess its operations, identify any risks and then provide relevant

workshops on topics such as risk assessment, stress at work, workplace transport, manual handling and fire management.

Charl Erasmus, of SW Durham Training, said:

"As we all know health and safety plays a very big part in our lives. In difficult times we could all use that little extra support and this is a great example of companies pulling together and raising the collective standards and maintaining focus on what is important to the well being of their organisation and their staff. After all, a safe workforce is a better workforce."

Joanne Waller, of Durham County Council, said:

"Durham County Council is committed to improving standards of health and safety across the county. By working in partnership with employers on the Aycliffe Industrial Estate, the Estates Excellence project will help businesses secure a long term health and safety legacy and make Newton Aycliffe 'Altogether Safer'."

David Snowball, HSE Director for Scotland and Northern England said:

"The Estates Excellence initiative works in partnership with businesses

providing clear information, on-site training and practical help to improve the health and safety of workers.

"This obviously not only benefits the workers themselves but will also save businesses time and money by cutting down the risk of accidents in the workplace, down time and time off work for employees, all of which will help increase productivity."

Estates Excellence has been organised by Durham and North Yorkshire Safety Group and South West Durham Training, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Durham County Council.

Other partners supporting the initiative include North East TUC, Engineering Employers Federation (EEF), NHS County Durham, Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, Federation of Small Businesses, ARCO and local companies.

For more information about Estates Excellence go to www.hse.gov.uk/estatesexcellence or contact the team by email at Estatesaycliffe@hse.gsi.gov.uk.

LOCAL Business News Sponsored by www.newtonaycliffe.com

New Courses Focus on Work Placements

GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE PRACTICAL SKILLS

DISC's young person's training project Steps4 Success in Newton Aycliffe are trying to help young people who are out of work, and not currently in education, to improve their skills and gain valuable work experience to enable them to move on to work or college.

To date, about 160 young people have benefited from its combination of practical advice, skills and confidence building courses and work placements with organisations such as Katell, Aycliffe Dental Practice, Aycliffe Day Nursery and Bluebell Workshops.

Courses range from health and social care, to retail, construction, and business administration. After successfully completing the personal social development course, Amy, 17, enrolled on the vocational level one BTEC certificate in business administration.

The combination of group work, classroom sessions and a work placement helped build her confidence and she became an active member of the group, offering valuable content during learning discussions.

"She was even able to

participate in a DISC presentation ceremony where she stood and told her story to others, many of which she did not know," said Andrea Dixon, project manager "What a fantastic achievement."

Amy left DISC in September 2012 and is now excelling on a Mencap work placement at Spennymoor Citizen's Advice Bureau.

She also volunteers for Newton Aycliffe Town Council's environmental department and has written more than 21 short stories.

Amy said Steps4Success had made an enormous difference to her life. "It has helped a lot with my confidence," she said. "I used to be a loner and didn't talk much and never wanted to get involved. DISC has helped me to gradually open up."

Andrea said the charity would love to hear from other young people interested in Steps4Success. Free transport and bursaries are available, as well as help with other course costs.

Contact 01325 731160 or steps4success@disc-vol.org.uk

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The site will expand over the coming months and will include more options and new ideas to promote Newton Aycliffe as a great town. If you have any suggestions which you feel would be beneficial, please let us know: sales@newtonaycliffe.com

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Aycliffe Family Move to USA



A family from Woodham leave this week to start a new life in Massachusetts in the USA.

Steven Hansom, wife Claire and children Sam (14), Katie (10) and Alex (6) are going to

live in Franklin not far from Boston. Steven is the son of Stan and Dorothy Hansom. Stan taught for many years at Woodham School.

Claire is the eldest of three daughters of Roger and Sue

Curtis of Aycliffe Village and worked in the family business, Curtis Office Furniture Ltd, in Darlington for nearly 20 years.

Sam was a pupil at Greenfield and Katie and Alex attended Aycliffe Village School and they are all excited at the prospect of enrolling at their new schools in Franklin.

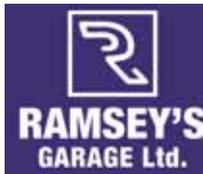
The family flew to Boston on Wednesday this week and are hoping to move into their new home over the weekend. Steven is starting his new job as Lean Manufacturing Manager North America with DuPuy Orthopaedics a subsidiary of Johnson and Johnson with effect from 1st February.

Steven has suffered a bit from his job title as to those that know him, he is anything but lean. A big man, who has an even bigger heart.

The whole family will be missed but go with the best wishes of both families and all that know them.

MOTOR TORQUE

By Ramsays of Aycliffe



While you were enjoying your Christmas and New Year, plans were afoot for new driving licence rules to come into effect in January 2013. From this date newly issued licences will be produced in a format much harder to copy illegally.

Your previous passport style photo will now be burnt by laser onto several layers. They will also now be black and white rather than colour as is with the current format. Licences will also be made from polycarbonate - rather than basic plastic - so they will be light and durable.

It's also worth mentioning the new licence rules will also influence what motorists can tow. For more information visit: www.gov.uk.

The new licence rules will also affect lorry and bus drivers. As such, if you pass your driving test in categories C, CE, C1, C1E, D, DE, D1 or D1E, after 19 January 2013 you'll get a licence valid for 5 years. Every 5 years up to age 45, you'll need to sign a declaration to show you still meet the medical standards.

After age 45, you'll need to

provide a medical examination report every 5 years to renew your driving entitlement. In contrast, the following rules will apply to those under 45 with older licences: If you passed a driving test in one of the categories below you'll come under the new rules when you renew your driving licence. The categories affected are C, CE, C1, C1E, D, DE, D1 or D1E. When you renew your licence, you'll receive a licence valid for 5 years. Every time you renew you'll need to confirm you still meet the medical standards.

If you apply to replace your licence because it is lost or stolen, or your personal details have changed, your new licence will run until the end of your original period. However, if you update your photo at the same time you'll come under the new 5-year rule.

Finally, drivers over 45 will continue to renew their entitlement as they do now. When you renew your licence at the end of a 5-year period, you'll need to provide a medical examination report.

The rule changes will also affect motorcycle and moped riders. As such, new licences will enable their holders to ride vehicles as defined by their licence categories.

Happy new year and safe motoring
Elliott Ramsey
Aftersales Manger

CLEAR PATHS BUT USE COMMON SENSE

Good Samaritans who clear their paths and driveways of ice and snow during the UK's cold snap have nothing to fear from the law if they act responsibly.

"We know from previous winters that when we have the kind of weather we're experiencing at the moment, people start to wonder how best to make footpaths and driveways safe, and in some cases whether they should even try at all," said Karl Tonks, president of not-for-profit campaign group the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL). "It is a misunderstanding that a homeowner is

automatically liable for any injuries which happen after they have attempted to clear snow and ice," Karl said. "Every winter people become concerned about this and I want to stress now that you would have to do something very reckless for a personal injury claim to succeed if someone slips and suffers harm in this way," he said. Karl says preventing needless injuries should be a priority. "Snow and ice is treacherous enough and the last thing anyone wants is for more injuries when they can be avoided by using common sense.

Pouring boiling water over snow to melt it, for example, would cause a sheet of black ice when the water inevitably freezes. Keep the job simple and use a shovel and some grit."

He went on: "A general lack of understanding about the difference between a simple accident and outright negligence is a big problem when it makes people fearful of doing a decent thing to help others".

The Department for Transport advises people to use sand for traction or salt to melt ice, and to shovel fresh snow early in the morning as any sunshine later in the day will help to melt any of the harder, compacted remaining layers.

"By all means do your bit to help others during the cold snap, just don't make a bad situation worse," said Karl.



A PACT Meeting will be held at Neville Parade Methodist Church on Thursday 31st January, 6.30pm to 7.30pm. PC Alan Thompson & PCSO Richard Scott are your Community Police Officers. Please come along and get updates and have your say on Local issues.

Councillors & Living Representatives have been invited.

For more information on what's going on in your area visit www.durham.police.uk

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P.A.C.T. Meeting
Police And Community Together

Durham Constabulary is dedicated to making your neighbourhood safer. If you have any issues affecting your quality of life and want to discuss it with your Neighbourhood Policing Team then get involved in your local PACT meeting. This is an informal discussion with the police and local partners to resolve the issues where you live. The next Woodham Ward PACT meeting will be held on Monday 28th of January at Woodham Community Centre, St Elizabeth's Close at 6pm. We look forward to seeing you there!



APPEAL FOR INFORMATION ON DOG ACCIDENT

The Police are dealing with an incident where a black and white dalmation ran into the path of a Silver Mazda 6 car on Woodham Way.

This occurred at approximately 2.50pm on the 18th January. The driver of the vehicle spoke to the male who was with the dog but Police would like to speak to the owner of the dog. Anyone with information please contact PC 2456 Booth at Newton Aycliffe on 101.

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Gold Medallist Visits Greenfield

Craig Heap – Double Commonwealth Gold Medallist Gymnastic

worked with Year 9 students to share his success and promote the importance of inspirations and dreams.

He shared his 'six keys to success' looking at belief, determination, hard-work, belonging, people skills and time management.

Headteacher, David Priestley commented "Our programme of visits of high profile role models from all walks of life allows our young people to reflect on their ambitions and to aim high and achieve brilliant outcomes."

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Adult Netball at Greenfield



Ladies, start your new year with Netball. Whether you have done it before or are completely new to the sport come along to Newton Aycliffe's "Adult Back to Netball club". Sessions are held at Greenfield Community College Sports Hall every Tuesday 5.30-6.30pm. For those of you who have a competitive

streak there are opportunities to play in a local league play friendlies or get involved in tournaments. You can simply just take part for fun and furthermore, your first time is free then sessions are just £2 after that. Get fit, have fun, make friends. For further information contact: Ellie Barneson 0741 2666256. Ellie.barnes@greenfieldschool.net

Aycliffe Village News

by JACKIE CRAFT

WI MEETING: Aycliffe Village WI starts the New Year with a meeting on Wednesday, January 30th, at the Village Hall at 7.30pm, when Carole Dawson will give a talk about her Healing Hands Adventure in Sarajevo. The competition is for an Aycliffe Village WI New Year's Resolution. For more details, call the president Kathy Round on 01325-315732.

BABY SENSORY: If you have a baby aged up to 13 months old, then why not try out our new baby sensory class, on Tuesday, February 5, at the village hall, starting at 10.30am. Babies can experience a range of sensory activities to help their development. This first session is free to enable parents to find out more about what it involves. For more details, call Carly on 07881-922076 or visit darlington@babysensory.co.uk.

BREAKFAST CLUB: The first breakfast club of the year takes place on Saturday, February 9th, at the Village Hall from 9am-noon. It is sponsored by Andrews Industrial Consumables Ltd. There will be the usual bacon, egg or sausage buns on offer, as well as cups of tea or coffee. There will also be activities for children and a book stall. All proceeds go

to the village hall.
JUNIOR DISCO: It's disco time for children aged five to 12 years at the village hall on Friday, February 22, from 6.30-8pm. Hot dogs and a range of snacks and drinks will be available. Children can also have a glitter tattoo for £1. Entry is £1.

TIME TO PARTY: If you fancy dusting off your flares or re-living your disco-dancing days, then come along to an Eighties' Night at the village hall on Saturday, February 23rd, at 7pm. Tickets cost £6 or £4 for children and senior citizens and include a disco and food (take your own drink). Call Caren Edmead for more details on 07508-442294.

TAI CHI: For a more relaxing time, there is a taster Tai Chi session on Wednesday, February 27th, at the village hall from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. Entry is £5.

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Wolves Devour Durham Wildcats

It was a high scoring start to this encounter with both teams finding their range early on as the lead traded hands on many occasions with several players claiming an early score count. The Wildcats held the lead for majority of the quarter and took a 4 point lead into the second period with the score at 24-20.

The positive start continued for the Wildcats as they created a 6 point gap midway through the quarter at 40-34. A great defensive display from Durham bolstered their lead up to 10 points with a minute remaining with the score showing 46-36. The lead was cut short to within 7 in the final seconds at 48-41 on the buzzer. The Wolves found themselves trying to play catch up from behind the arc but could not execute as Durham kept Worcester at arms-length with a 4 point deficit for a large quantity of the third and managed to hold the lead going into the final stanza with a 3 point lead at 66-63.

Worcester claimed the lead through an Ocitti 3 pointer creating a 2 point lead early in the fourth at 66-68. The Wolves took charge of the game with Kai Williams making a big impression opening a lead of 10 points at 66-76. The

advantage was in the hands of the Wolves as they developed a 13 point lead as the Wildcats couldn't end their drought with Worcester holding the lead with 3 remaining at 73-86. Both sides were exchanging three's in the closing minutes as Page and Baldarelli found their range closing the gap to within 5 of their visitors at 87-92. Kai Williams put the final nail in the coffin making 2 from the free throw line taking the win home as the score ended on the buzzer 91-98. Despite the defeat, Head Coach Dave Elderkin was in high spirits but thought they could have claimed the win.

"It was a good performance but we need to change those good performances into wins." He said, "We went close with Surrey and Worcester who are both top 4 sides and we could have won both games. Not normally a coach would say this but when your team are shooting well from behind the arc you would like your team to shoot more three's and I believe our team shot the three ball well today." M.V.P – Ralph Bucci; 22 points, 5 rebounds, 4 assists, captained his team by example but unfortunately couldn't lead his team to victory. Durham Wildcats – Ralph

Bucci; 22 points, 5 rebounds; Brad Guinane; 18 points, 6 assists, Mike Baldarelli; 17 points, 6 rebounds. Worcester Wolves – Alex Owuni; 22 points, 7 rebounds, Stanley Ocitti; 19 points, 9 rebounds, Arturas Masiulis; 17 points, 10 rebounds.

St Elizabeth's Woodham

Monthly Coffee Morning on Saturday 2nd February at 10am

February 6th is Soup-Lunch at 12.30 pm with a choice of 2 soups, 2 desserts, tea or coffee for £3 per person. All welcome.

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This year a group of students from Greenfield Community College Youth Challenge have taken on the challenge of organising "Aycliffe's Got Talent", a fantastic community event which will take place on 23rd February 2013 at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre. The students have been

working hard to design publicity, organise tickets and entries, and now we need you!

If you are a young person aged 5-19 contact Greenfield Community & Arts Centre for an entry form, or if you would like to see the show you can purchase tickets from Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre or Greenfield Community & Arts Centre. For more information contact us on 01325 379048.



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Dream Men on Show at Football Club Fundraiser

Newton Aycliffe FC are welcoming one of the country's leading female-entertainment groups as they host a first-ever Ladies' Night.

'The Dream Men Show' will be featuring at the Newton Aycliffe Sports club on Friday February 8th, with tickets on sale now for £10. Stars of the show have appeared on XFactor, Britain's Got Talent and Big Brother, as well as in a host of print-based publications.

Following the success of the club's evening of hypnosis last year, they are hoping the Ladies' Night is as much of a hit and general manager Dan Lewis expects the night to be popular.

"We hope the Ladies' Night is a success with the females on the town," he said.

"It's another 'first-ever' for the club but we're confident of a good turnout.

"I am sure that for our female supporters - or the wives and girlfriends of our male supporters - the £10 ticket will be excellent value.

"One or two of the lads are on standby in case the entertainment fails to show up!

"It is important we continue to put these events on and make sure everyone in the town has a connection to the club in some way."

"There are many who do not like football, but we can still offer a service to them with nights such as this, and last year's hypnotist evening with Adam Night, which was a huge success.

Tickets for the event, which gets underway at 7.30pm and is strictly 18+, can be purchased by contacting Dan (07581784726, theoccerfactoryltd@gmail.com) or club treasurer Paul McGeary (07703732342, mcgearypaul@hotmail.co.uk). While the club have been busy off-the-field, not much activity has been taking place on it. Last weekend's trip to Celtic Nation was called off due to the weather, while the midweek home game with Durham was postponed as Moore Lane Park was covered in snow.

The club are due to welcome Norton & Stockton this Saturday (January 26th), though the game is in doubt with the snow and ice unlikely to have disappeared in time. Fans are advised to check the

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Saturday 26th January: Norton & Stockton (H) 3pm
(subject to pitch inspection)

Saturday 2nd February: Hebburn (A) 3pm

Wednesday 6th February: South Shields (H) 7.30pm

Saturday 9th February: Spennymoor (H) 3pm

Saturday 16th February: Dunston (A) 3pm
www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk

club's official Twitter (@NAycliffeFC) and Facebook (Newton Aycliffe FC) pages for news on the game's chances.

The clubs next home game is on Wednesday February 6th, as bottom-side South Shields make a rearranged visit to Aycliffe, while they are due to travel to Hebburn next weekend.

Clearing Snow at Supermarkets

Dear Sir,
I am disabled and had to venture out in bad weather on Tuesday, to get milk and bits and pieces and was shocked at the state of Aldi's car park. Not even the disabled bays had been cleared so I went to Tesco's. The difference was amazing! A great big thank you goes to the staff there who obviously care about their disabled shoppers as most of the car park was clear.

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Sheena Stephenson

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Licence Applications

LICENSING APPLICATION
Notice is hereby given that on Monday 21st January 2013, the Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association submitted an application to Durham County Council Licensing Services, PO Box 617, Durham DH1 9HZ in respect of the granting of a "Premises Licence" in respect of the below name property:
Great Aycliffe Village Hall North Terrace Aycliffe Village Newton Aycliffe Co. Durham DL5 6LG
The application is in respect of the following licensable activities:
• The provision of regulated entertainment (to include plays, films, live music, recorded music and the performance of dance);
• The provision of late night refreshment (but excluding the sale of alcohol).
The application can be inspected by contacting the Durham County Licensing Section at the address shown above. Any interested party or responsible authority wishing to make representations in respect of this application must do so in writing within 28 days of the application being submitted to the licensing authority.
This application is made in the knowledge that it is an offence, liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the Standard Scale, under Section 158 of the Licensing Act, 2003, to make a false statement in, or in connection with, this application

Accommodation

TO LET
3 Bedroom House Aldfrid Place, N/Aycliffe
3 Bedroom House Cypress Grove, S/Aycliffe
3 & 4 Bedroom House Fewston Close, N/Aycliffe
Housing Benefit Welcome
07540 640591

House To Let
3 Bedroom, Linden Place Cloakroom, Bathroom, Good Condition
£400 Bond, £400 pcm
Contact
07818 554449

House To Let
3 Bedroom unfurnished house in Fewston Close, Newton Aycliffe, £450 per month in advance, £150 admin fee. LHA rates apply. References required.
Contact
07925 845266 for further details

House To Let
4 Bedroom, old part of town, Newton Aycliffe, £575 per month, no DSS, available at the end of February
07929 215650

House To Let
Brand new, yet to be lived in, 3 bed semi-detached house. Sought after location. Private landlord
For info ring
07970 106393

3 BEDROOM spacious mid terrace property is available to rent at Morrison Close in Newton Aycliffe. The property has enclosed gardens to the front and open plan grassed area to the rear. If you are interested then please contact Kevin on 07775 811527 for further details
3 BEDROOM house in Stainforth Close, £110 per week. Bond and refs required. Immediate availability. Tel 307445
2 BEDROOM property to rent in Deval Close, £475 per month, Fee £300. Tel 07980 596563
1 BEDROOM bungalow in School Aycliffe, £499pcm including bills. No DSS. Tel 07557 773633
3 BEDROOM house for rent, £115 per week. Call Heather on 07882 440377
3 BEDROOM house near town centre, GCH, DG, large garden, no DSS. Available from 20-2-2013. £500 per month, £500 bond. For more details ring 07523 444208
2 BEDROOM semi detached house for rent in Woodham Newton Aycliffe. Excellent condition. Great quiet area, unfurnished, GCH, double glazed, driveway, gardens front and back, fitted kitchen. £450pcm. Tel 07812 351224

MP Opens 3M Exhibition Area



Phil Wilson (centre) with 3M site manager Shaun Morley and executive administrator Stephanie Heaviside

Sedgefield MP Phil Wilson has officially opened a new exhibition area at 3M's Heighington Lane site in Aycliffe.

The Customer Experience exhibition has been designed to show visitors a full range of products from the diversified technology company's Personal Safety Division.

As well as respirators made at the Aycliffe site, the exhibition includes hearing and eye protection products and protective clothing.

Site manager Shaun Morley said the aim had been to make the permanent exhibition as interactive and hands-on as possible so that visitors could get a real feel for the products and the solutions they provide.

"It's been created by converting rooms next to the

reception foyer and has clear glass doors so that all visitors to the site will see that it's there," Shaun explained.

"As well as the products themselves, there are screens showing promotional films and information display boards covering the full Personal Safety Division range."

During his visit, Mr Wilson was also taken on a tour of the site's manufacturing area and was updated on new developments in talks with senior management.

Councillors' Surgery

A Ward Surgery will be held on Saturday 2nd February at St. Marys Church Meeting Room. County and Town Councillors for Aycliffe East, Neville and Shafto/St Marys Wards will be in attendance from 11am until 12noon.

For Sale

BARGAIN BUYS Bosch washing machine to rent, £3.99 a week! No deposit, no more unwanted repair bills. Tel 321 678

PRO FORM 370 P Treadmill, with users Manual, folds up for easy storage. Good Condition. £170 ono. Tel (01325) 300861

INDESIT 7kg tumble dryer, cost £249, used twice, as new, £100; Black 2 seater couch, as new, £80; Corner lamp stand (6ft), gold, £15 ono. Tel 07791 652029

TABLE and 4 chairs, VGC, colour mahogany, only £85, can deliver. Tel 07587 736357

FRIDGE under bench, VGC, £45, can deliver. Tel 07857 736357

3PIECE suite, VGC, only £85, can deliver. Tel 07857 736357

BRAND NEW double divan with quilted Damask mattress, £120, can deliver. Tel 07789 113343

16" BLACK flat screen TV with aerial and remote, mint condition, £30. Tel 07976810592

3 + 2 SEATER black settees (immaculate) only 6 months old, £450 ono, need quick sale due to move. Tel Kathy 07772 135226

SOFABED beige material, full mechanism, excellent condition, hardly used, £100. Tel 07584 636907

BEDS BEDS BEDS at Bargain Buys. Single Divan beds, Double Divan beds, Pine Frames, Metal Frames and Double Leather Frames from £99. All available on credit. Tel 321 678

In Memoriam

DICKINSON, Walter James. 25th January 2012. Wonderful memories of a loving Brother and Uncle. We all miss you more than words can say! Lots of love always, Denise, Steve, Craig, Laura, Casey, Clarissa, Stephen and Channon xxx

FRANCES MATTHEWS - January 25th 2012. In loving memory of a beloved Wife, Mother, Nana and Great Nana. Your love we hold in our hearts so dear, The memories we have keep you near. Love you and God Bless

SHEILA TWOHIG 29/1/11. We who love you sadly miss you. As it dawns another year. In our lonely hours of thinking. Thoughts of you are ever near. Mike x

SHEILA TWOHIG 29/1/11. It only takes a little space. To say how much we miss you. But it will take the rest of our lives. To forget the day we lost you. Missing you everyday Mam, Carol and family x

MARY ELLIOTT (Molly) 28th January. Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts. Loved and missed, Daughter Barbara, Son-in-Law Rob and loving Husband Hilton xxx

MARY HILTON (Molly), 28th January 2010. Treasured memories of a lovely Mam and Nanna, always in our thoughts. Love, Pauline, Bruce, Michael and Stephen xxxx

DOREEN DAVIES 23rd January 2012. We little knew that morning that God would call your name. In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose you, you did not go alone, for part of us went with you, the day God called you home.

You left us peaceful memories, your love is still our guide, and though we cannot see you, you are always by our side. Our family chain is broken and nothing seems the same. But as God calls us one by one the chain will link again. A much missed Mam, Mam-in-Law, Nana and Great Nana. From Denise, Phillip and family

DOREEN DAVIES 23-1-2012. My dear friend, how I miss you. You will always have a special place in my heart. God bless. Love always from Marie and Ray xxx

DOREEN DAVIES 18/2/1930-23/1/2013. The moment you died my heart was torn in two. One side filled with heartache, the other died with you. I often lie awake at night when the world is fast asleep. And take a walk down memory lane with tears upon my cheeks. Love always, Bill (Grumpy) xx

DOREEN DAVIES 18/2/1930-23/1/2013 Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts. Love, Peter and family, Nigel and Jayne xx

DOREEN DAVIES 18/2/1930-23/1/2013. Things we feel most deeply are the hardest things to say. Mam/ Nana we loved you in a very special way. If we could have one lifetime wish, one dream that could come true. We'd pray to God with all our hearts for yesterday and you. Love and miss you always. Jill, Wayne, Vicky, Sean, Mark, Gareth, Karl and Sarah xxx

DOREEN DAVIES 18/2/1930-23/1/2013. Gentle Jesus up above, give Nana Doreen all our love. Shannon, Blake, Phoenix, Ben, Dakota, Kyle, Darcie, Leighton and Maisie xxxx

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Congratulations

Jordan Louise Kjenstad



13 TODAY
22nd January 2013
Happy birthday sweetheart.
From Mam, Dad and Jack

Obituary

SANDRA RICHARDSON - Unexpectedly on 18th January, aged 55. Beloved Mum, Sister and Partner. Will be sadly missed by many. Service at St Luke's Church, Ferryhill, 8.45am, Monday 28th January, followed by Durham Crematorium. All welcome back to The Three Tuns, Shildon. Family flowers only please.

Birthday Remembrance

George Smith

24th January 1932

How can we write on paper the way we feel inside, the heartache and the emptiness when the one we love has died? It does not need this day to bring you to our minds, for days without a thought of you are very hard to find.

Loved and remembered by Madge, Sue, Roly, Christopher, Fiona xxx
Lots of hugs and kisses from Great Grandchildren, Charlie and George xxx

Thank You

EDDY MILLER and the family of the late Irene Miller wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for all the kindness and sympathy shown to them during their recent bereavement. Also for the cards and floral tributes received. Thanks to Doctors and Staff at Bewick Crescent Surgery. To Joanne for all her help and support, special thanks to Rev. Julie Wing for a comforting Service, also to Julie Guest, Dave Scott and Staff at the Co-op Funeralcare.

THANK YOU to the young man who helped me when I slipped on ice before Christmas and broke my leg. Also the man who came out of his home in Morton Walk to guide the ambulance to me and my Husband. Mrs M English

CRAGGS The family of the late Helen would like to thank everyone for the flowers, charitable contributions, cards and kindness at this sad time. We would like to say a special thank you to Penny and Roger for all their help and support; to Lindisfarne Care Home; Jessica and the all the staff from John Meynell Funeral Service and the Rev Julie Wing for the lovely Service.

Thompson and Melvin

31st December 2012

Congratulations Martin and Lindsay on your Engagement on New Year's Eve. Wishing you lots of love and happiness for the future. Love from both families xxxx

Stacey Mitchinson



Happy 21st Birthday

29th January 2013
We hope you have a fab time. Love always, Mam, Dad, Nana, Milo.
Also Ian, 2-2-2013. Happy 50th. Love always, Melanie, Stacey, Sally and Milo

"Sweet 16" Lucy Hay



Happy 16th Birthday Lucy

20th January 2013
Lots of love and kisses, Mum, Dad and Chris xxx
Happy 16th Birthday to our wonderful Granddaughter Lucy. Love from Grandma and Grandad Banks xxxxx

Paula Bainbridge



Happy 40th Birthday

27th January 1973
Have a lovely evening out. All our love from Mam, Karen, Andrew, Tony, Samantha, Rachael (and Bump) and Luke xxxx

Eleanor Grace Johnson



Congratulations

To our wonderfully talented daughter, gaining distinction Grade 1 Jazz Flute, LCM, Distinction Grade 1 Keyboard LCM and a Merit Grade 1 Classical Flute ABRSM. A fantastic start to your musical career. Sincere thanks to Dan Shield Music Works Northern, Dr Fiona Little and Steve Bone for your first class tuition. Well done Gracie, Love from Mam, Dad, Florence and Monty. Well done Gracie, keep up the good work! Love from Nana Marjorie and Grandpa Vic. Congratulations Gracie and well done on your recent music exam results. We are all so proud of you. Love from Grandpa Harry, Nana Sue, Great Grandpa Frank and Great Grandma Janet.

Look Who Is 40 Julie Proud



Happy Birthday

Love from Richard, Rachel, Lauren and Hannah

One Today Lola Rose Bygate



28th January 2013

We would like to wish our very special little girl a happy first birthday. Lots of love, Mammy and Daddy xxxx

Chiropody

CHIROPODY

Mr P. Oliver
BSc (Hons) - M.Ch.S

for a Home Visit call
01325 320126

Catering

PROFESSIONAL Caterer available for all occasions. Buffets priced from £4 per head. For a fantastic service phone 07871 025639

COOKE Gail and Stephen Cooke (Canada) on your Silver Wedding Anniversary. Love from Judith, Alan and Girls x

LYNN MORTON To my darling Wife, happy 50th birthday. Love you always. Steve xxx

LYNN MORTON To our Mam, happy 50th birthday. Love and kisses, Paul and Neil xxx

JOHN BLAKEY No 3, happy 13th birthday. The dreaded teenage years have risen their head, gone are the days when you can get sent to bed. Bring on the sullen moods and the long lie ins, as you play some awful music making a din. But I'll still love you millions. Enjoy Wet n Wild. Grandma xxx

MARJORIE CROMPTON Happy birthday Mam. Have a lovely day. Love you very much from Rob and Lisa xxx

MARJORIE CROMPTON Happy birthday Nan Madge. Love you to the moon and back, from Jess xxxxxxx

GARY ALLEN Happy birthday Gary on 22nd January. I also want to say a big thank you for all your love and support over these last few difficult weeks. I couldn't have got through it without you. Love you so much. Mandy xxx

GARY ALLEN Happy birthday Dad. All our love, Darren, Danny and Jenna xx

BILLY WHEATLEY 60 - 24th January 1953. Happy birthday, love you loads, Sheila.

BILLY WHEATLEY Hope you enjoyed your night, love, Vi.

BILLY WHEATLEY Happy birthday. Love, Sean, Debra, Dean and Becca.

BILLY WHEATLEY Love you Grandad Grumpy. Cory, Brooklyn and Levi

WALTER MITCHELL 27th January. Happy 80th birthday Dad. Love always, Phyllis and Vince xxx



SafeLine Taxis
(Aycliffe's "Black Taxi" Company)
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THE ONLY TAXI NUMBER YOU WILL EVER NEED
All Durham County Council Licensed Vehicles
OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK
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24 HOUR TAXIS
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Tel: 307478

Champion Aycliffe Under 7's



NAJFC Under 7's entered the Soccarena Christmas 6 a side tournament last week where 13 team's were seeded and split into 3 groups. Their first game was against tough opposition, HFC, who started well scoring early, capitalizing on our mistakes. We were 3 nil down at the break. Second half we were

at our best and soon had the score level with 3 goals in 5 minutes. We pushed on but couldn't get a winner and 3-3 was the final score. Our two other group games were much easier with big wins over Soccarena FC and Deerness Valley. We went through as group winners

and played Whickam JFC in the knockout stages, despite going 1 nil behind we went on to the semi-finals with a 2-1 victory. The semi-final was a great game against Sunderland Foundation FC but again we went 1 nil behind but managed to equalize just before full time taking the game into extra time which we won 2-1.

Cash 4 Clothes
40p PER KILO
Tel: 01325 490408
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- We Weigh
- We Pay
- At a time to suit you

This set up a final against HFC who took the lead early in the 1st half before we completed yet another fantastic comeback to win 2-1. Well done to the team Dominic O'Donnell, Chloe West, Harry Brumwell, Jake Patterson, Aaron Jervis, Charlie Dawson and Zack Blythe. NAJFC caters for children from 4 to 18 years old. Check the website www.najuniorfc.co.uk

GAMP & LOCAL FIRMS FUND AYCLIFFE F.C. CLUBHOUSE

Newton Aycliffe Football Club is hoping to score a goal with fans thanks to funding from the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP). A new hospitality suite is set to be built thanks to £20,000 from the neighbourhood budgets of Cllr Sarah Iveson and Cllr John Moran (£10,000 each).

As visitors to Moor Lane Park know, the one thing missing from the ground is a clubhouse. The supporters currently use Aycliffe Sports Club and have long yearned for a sheltered, social space close to the pitch which can act as a viewing area for fans. GAMP funding is being used to purchase a large portable unit which is approximately 60 feet long with a veranda and with room for approximately 100 seated spectators. Adam White, GAMP coordinator, said: "This is a fantastic project which will help the town's football club. Funding will provide a number of benefits not only for the club but also the hundreds of supporters who enjoy following their local team."

Two local companies have been chosen to help kick start the project. Allan Oliver Reinforcing Ltd has agreed to install and fund the concrete base and foundations with Finley Structures Ltd agreeing to fund and install the steel framework for the structure, including the viewing area. GAMP funding will also be used to fund flooring in the main stand. A new stand last year enabled the ground to be eligible for the First Division but a lack of funding meant appropriate flooring couldn't be installed.

It still qualified for Football Association ground grading but can't hold as many people as other similar grounds and puts visitors off. It's hoped these new further improvements will not only benefit current fans but attract new ones too. The work is set to take place at the end of the season in May. GAMP is one of 14 Area Action Partnerships set up in 2009 to help Durham County Council better engage with residents.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?
We are always interested in local news stories. We like to feature good news and interesting items on achievements & community service
Tel: Syd
01325 300212
or syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Town 5-a-Side League Starts in February



MDMazing the Football Team in the photo above won the league and £250 from the "On the Ball Scheme" last year. They are all local Aycliffe lads and with the cash treated themselves to new football kit.

The next League Competition is at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre each Monday Night. This 5-a-side league is from 7-9pm and starts in February.

It is £10 to register as the league is affiliated to Durham FA and the cost to play is £20 per team each week. Please contact Steven Bell on 07881 268940 or email him on steven.bell@durham.gov.uk for more details or to confirm your interest.

Wartime Nostalgia Tour

Newton News Reader Holiday Offer

in conjunction with J&C Coaches of Newton Aycliffe

4 Day Mini-Break

Departing Monday 13th May 2013
Just £235.00 per person
(based on 2 people sharing)

- 3 Nights Accommodation
- En-Suite Hotel Rooms
- Traditional Cooked Breakfasts
- 3 Course Evening Meals
- Coach Travel with Reserved Seat
- Admission to RAF Coningsby
- Admission to Imperial War Museum
- Admission to Bletchley Park
- Melton Mowbray Visit
- Guided Walking Tour of Cambridge

Wind the clock back sixty years to the days of World War II and hear tales of heroes and spies with visits to RAF Coningsby, the home of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, The Imperial War Museum at Duxford and Bletchley Park National Code Centre. This four day trip is based at the 4* Kettering Park Hotel on a half board basis and includes admissions to all the places of interest as well as a visit to Melton Mowbray on the return journey.

Depart Monday mid morning for RAF Coningsby with a comfort stop en-route. We pass the historical City of Lincoln arriving at the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Centre at approximately 2.00pm. The Hangar tour lasts for one hour and after a look round the Visitors Centre we travel to Kettering Park Hotel.

On Tuesday we visit charming Cambridge for a guided walking tour of the city. The highlights include pretty streets, historic market place and the majestic architecture of the Colleges. Duxford Imperial War Museum is the next visit to one of the finest examples of a wartime airfield with a wide variety of aircraft, seafaring vessels and land machines.

Wednesday is perhaps the highlight visiting Bletchley Park National Code Centre which includes a variety of activities and exhibitions including its Victorian Mansion, home to intelligence staff during the war. See the outstanding Churchill collection and the famous German Enigma Machine. There is more than enough to occupy and enthral visitors for a full day.

Thursday after breakfast its farewell to our hosts, heading north, calling in at Melton Mowbray, famous for its pies and sausages. Why not visit Ye Olde Pork Pie Shop and Dickinsons & Morris Sausage Shop next door? Afterwards we continue our journey back to the North East, arriving at approximately 5pm.

Book Now with the Reader Holiday Team on 312705
PLEASE NOTE A £50 DEPOSIT IS REQUIRED

BENGAL LOUNGE

Happy New Year from Bengal Lounge
NEW YEAR SPECIAL OFFER
Free glass of quality wine for every person dining in our restaurant*
*This offer excludes Friday and Saturday
Offer ends 31st January 2013
(Soft drink available instead of wine)

Now taking bookings for Valentines Day

BANQUET NIGHT
DINE IN OUR FIVE STAR INDIAN RESTAURANT
EVERY SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY ONLY

1 - POPPADOMS AND PICKLES
2 - CHOICE OF ANY STARTER*
3 - CHOICE OF ANY MAIN COURSE*
4 - CHOICE OF RICE, NAN OR CHIPS

FOUR COURSE MEAL
£9.95 per person

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Mon-Thursday 5.30-11
Sunday 5-11

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