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Town Council Tax Frozen for a Fourth Year

Council Hold Tax Despite £55,000 Shortfall

Dear Sir,
The Council recently set its 2013/14 Revenue and Capital Budget and I am delighted to report it will be freezing the Town Council proportion of the Council Tax bill for a fourth year in a row.

This is despite a significant recent development in relation to the localisation of council tax benefits by central government which has fundamentally changed the way in which the Town Council is funded and led to a substantial reduction in the Council's tax raising capacity of over £350,000. Although the government has put in place a compensatory grant to offset some of this loss, the Council was still faced with a net funding shortfall of £55,000 next year.

This was compounded by the withdrawal, by Durham County Council, from next year, of the £38,500 Double Taxation Grant currently receivable in respect of services provided by both authorities such as allotments and cemeteries. The Council was therefore left facing a total funding cut of over £90,000 as a result of

issues that were completely out of its control. This meant that even to deliver a standstill budget next year, it would have needed to increase the town council proportion of the council tax by as much as 7.5%, if savings could not been found.

On top of this, the Council was also facing a number of other financial pressures in setting next year's budget in relation to the running costs and income of its various services, such as making provision for inflation and a likely 1% officer pay award next year, as well as providing for significant falls in sports

Aycliffe Will Get a New Police Station

Police Commissioner Ron Hogg has announced in his new budget that Newton Aycliffe will have a new Police Station.

We rang him this week and he confirmed it will be a single storey module building on the site of the old Police Station which will be demolished this year.

The new station costing £½ million will be completed in 2014 at which time the police will move from Parsons Court on the Business Park back into the Town Centre. Ron Hogg told Newton News he recognised the strength of feeling of residents on policing in Newton Aycliffe and was pleased to include the capital spend in his first budget.

continued on page 3

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MP TO HOST SPECIAL WELFARE SURGERY

Average Benefit Cuts of £700

Phil Wilson will host a special surgery in Newton Aycliffe to help people who stand to be affected by the latest round of welfare cuts.

The Labour MP for Sedgfield is bringing together experts from various fields, including Citizens Advice and housing

associations, to offer welfare advice to residents.

From April this year, further Coalition cuts will hit working families and even disabled people and foster carers.

Mr Wilson believes the Coalition is hitting the wrong people. He also thinks

information isn't being made readily available, and the new measures are set to hit residents "like a steam train".

So he's holding a series of special surgeries across his Constituency to help residents deal with the changes.

Mr Wilson said: "From April, if you live in a house rented from a social landlord, such as Livin or East Durham Homes, claim Housing Benefit and you are of working age, you could see your benefit cut if the Coalition believes the household has too many bedrooms.

"If a couple of working age claiming Housing Benefit lives in a two bedroom house, they will be deemed to have one bedroom too many and their benefit will be cut.

"If they live in a three bedroom house their housing benefit will be cut by a quarter.

"Hundreds of thousands of households will be on average more than £700 a year worse off. The new regulations do not take into consideration the need for a temporary carer to use the spare bedroom.

"It also affects the disabled and foster carers those in work as well as those unemployed. People will have to make up the shortfall to cover the rent or move to a smaller property and there is shortage of one bedroom homes.

"What makes it worse is a lot of people don't even know about it. This is going to hit them like a steam train. For many, it's a head-on collision with the Coalition, and we know who's going to lose."

The Aycliffe Welfare Surgery will be held at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre on Saturday 16th February from 10am-12noon.

Rotary Club Supports Town's "Helping Hands" Project



Volunteers Scott Nicholls and Malcolm Wheldon unload the goods

Thanks to the generous gift from the town's Rotary Club, Lifeline Community Action have been able to take delivery of a huge amount of household products to help people in crisis.

This week we're expecting to have our busiest week since we started the 'Helping Hands' project as the number of people ringing for our help has reached its annual peak.

Common situations people can find themselves in can actually involve serious and long-term problems including rent and mortgage arrears, job loss and relationship breakdown.

If you would like to find out more about the 'Helping Hands' project or find yourself in crisis and need our help, please phone Alwyn White - Project Co-ordinator on 07936 431262

Countryside Half Term Events

Great Aycliffe Town Council are again organising a series of countryside half term events for the whole family themed around animals and where they live.

Interesting and exotic creatures large and small will be at Moore Lane Eco Centre with their handlers from Krafty Kritters, who will help explain how and why these animals adapt to suit their own natural habitats.

After the talk we hope to take a stroll around the park at Moore Lane in search of the amazing British relatives of these animals to see how these creatures survive and adapt to our occasionally harsh climate. The event will take place on Tuesday 19th February at 2pm. Booking will be essential as places are limited. Book by contacting Great Aycliffe Town Council on 01325 300700.

Even if we do not always see our furry and feathered wild friends we can still turn detective and look for the tell tale signs that they leave behind.

On Wednesday 20th February at 2pm why not spend a few hours looking around Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve for these tell tale signs. The event will begin from the information board near Ranulf Court, Byerley Park.

Jessie J
Tribute Act

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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

Saturday 16th February - "Feed the Bear"
Gig Pit Review: From a previous gig at the Turbinia: Well, What can I say? Awesome! What a brilliant band this lot are!! Very friendly and full of banter to a rather small audience. Steve was, as Marky had predicted, all over the shop, outside within 30 seconds of the first track kick in! On the tables, on the floor, snogging the dog, the works! Mansell was extremely accommodating with Steve singing to him on the floor. Animal on drums was great to watch, bare chested and hair all over the place. The tattoo on his back is MEGGGGAAA!! Love it!
Some fab renditions of some of my favourite tracks, including Alice Cooper, Faces, Bowie, Nazareth and a couple of AC/DC tracks in the first set. Have to say I thought 'Highway to Hell' and 'Whole Lotta Rosie' was fabulous. Proper loud and ear-splitting, just how we like it! Second set gave us 'California Man' (Mott the Hoople?), 'Bad Bad Boy', 'Sin City', 'Don't Believe a Word', and a track I've not heard in yonks - 'Black Knight'! A couple of Zep tracks and 'Cat Scratch Fever' for an encore rounded off an absolutely brilliant gig at the Tub. I for one thoroughly enjoyed Feed The Bear, and look forward to their (guaranteed) return here soon! Nice one lads, some happy punters here!!

Saturday 23rd February - "Sabbatica"
An evening of classic BLACK SABBATH music from the Ossie era.
Davy's Rock Page Review: "The singer had great presence even managing a stand up comedy routine in the middle of a broken string break. The other three members of the band were excellent, it's unfair to give the lead guitarist all the lime light, but let's face it the lead guitar is like the centre forward, he gets all the attention, and boy did this guy milk it and deliver some fret work that left us totally speechless. It's not often we are totally blown away but this guy did it, some of his solos made the hairs on the back of your neck stand up. The bass was fantastic and the drummer gave an equally great performance, this may sound like we are going over the top but its not hype, we are paying £12 to see a U2 tribute band at the customs house, and to be honest after Hearing SABBATICA we would gladly pay the same amount to see them www.sabbatica.co.uk

For more information on bands go to
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If You Love Cake - This is for You!

"Durham Dales Clandestine Cake Club is coming to Newton Aycliffe!" Do you have your own show stopper cake that you think should feature in a recipe book or a foolproof recipe from your favourite cookbook?

To celebrate the launch of the Clandestine Cake Club Cookbook the Durham Dales branch is holding "Cake Love and Book Launch" in Woodham.

So if you enjoy baking and

eating cake, bring along your favourite homemade cake to share with everyone on Saturday 16 February at 2.30pm.

For more information and to book a place contact Charlie Scott-King on durhamdalesccc@hotmail.co.uk or 01388 662148 or visit www.clandestinecakeclub.co.uk

Everyone who bakes a cake can bring a guest too. £2 entry fee

to include refreshments and lots of cake! Parking is available and the venue is suitable for buggies and those with mobility issues.

Half Term Healthy Hearts Activities

Free Family activities have been arranged for Saturday 16 and Monday 18 February at the new Community Shop, next to the Post Office, and Leisure Centre in Newton Aycliffe town centre.

Go along between 10am-3pm and have a go at:

Cardio-tennis
Aqua zumba
Arts and crafts
Healthy wraps and smoothies
Family tennis
Junior dodgeball
Hand and arm massages

Or have a health MOT whilst the kids get their faces painted. There will also be information on the many activities and services available in Newton Aycliffe.

The aim of 'Active Aycliffe' is to help get children, young people and families fitter and healthier and participate in activities to improve their lifestyles.

'Active Aycliffe' involves organisations such as DCC's Sport and Physical Activity Team, Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP), Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP), Woodham Academy, One Point, Great Aycliffe Town Council and local sports' clubs who have got together to run

events and raise the profile of what's going on in Aycliffe. Various activities are being planned under the 'Active Aycliffe' umbrella to enable local groups, clubs and organisations to showcase and promote their activities and encourage local children, young people and their families to join in and adopt healthier lifestyles.

For further information contact the Active Aycliffe Project Officer lindsay.manning@pcp.uk.net or call PCP on 01325 321234

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Free Breakfast for St. Francis School Students



Left to right back row: Jackie Crombie, Greggs Foundation Manager, Julie Kent, Community Coordinator, Lyndsey Hutchinson Lead Communities Coordinator, Malcolm Gray Improving Communities Coordinator livin and Mrs Wilkinson, head teacher at St Francis' Junior School.

Homes and communities organisation, livin, is funding a new project in partnership with national bakery Greggs to provide free breakfasts to school children in Newton Aycliffe. A free breakfast club will run every morning for pupils at St Francis' Junior School offering a healthy start to the day by providing free, nutritious breakfasts. The project which will run for two years has been funded by a £3,500 donation from the livin community fund. Alan Boddy, executive director people and communities for livin, said: "We have invested a lot of time getting to know our communities and carrying out research. This has allowed us to develop a set of community plans which identify the areas that need our help most which is one of the reasons why we are piloting this scheme at St Francis.

"The Breakfast Club gives children the best possible start to the day and research has shown they can help to improve attendance and attainment amongst pupils." As part of the funding from livin, Greggs has supplied the school with toasters, freezers and equipment to store and make the breakfasts at the school and free bread which is supplied from the local Greggs store on Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe. Mrs Wilkinson, head teacher at St Francis' Junior School said: "We have really noticed improvements in

the children's alertness and ability to concentrate during morning lessons since the introduction of the breakfast club. Children are now always keen to get totally immersed in their learning and we are also very keen on the club as it supports our strong "family" ethos, with children interacting socially in a calm, relaxed environment. "The club has provided the school, parents and children with an invaluable resource-long may the club continue!" Lynne Hindmarch, Foundation Administrator for the Greggs Foundation, said: "The Greggs Breakfast Clubs which were established in 1999 provide a great start to the day to over 10,000 pupils in 220 schools nationally and, by working in partnership with other companies, we hope this number will increase significantly over the next few years."

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Town Council Tax Frozen for a Fourth Year

and golf complex income as a result of the on-going economic difficulties and bad weather. However, despite this very difficult backdrop to the budget setting process, the Council has worked hard to identify savings and budget reductions to try and avoid an increase in the council tax. This has been greatly assisted by the efficient management of the Council's finances in recent years and the various savings that have been delivered as a result, most notably from a restructure of sports complex staffing hours and the renegotiation of the Council insurance and brewery contracts, as well as the savings generated from the on-going freeze in officer pay. The Council has made further savings by deleting four vacant posts from the staffing establishment. Whilst the removal of potential job opportunities for local people is always disappointing, deleting vacant posts has at least avoided possible job losses for current council staff. The savings and budget reductions have also been targeted in a way that ensures all front line services have been protected, meaning that the community will continue to receive the same range and quality of services from the Town Council next year that they have come to expect in recent years. By meeting the funding shortfall faced from savings and budget reductions, the Council has been able to deliver a welcome freeze in the town council proportion of the council tax, which will hopefully go a small way at least towards easing the financial burden on local tax payers in the parish next year. Whilst the Town Council may face further cuts to its funding in future years, I can assure the tax payers of Great Aycliffe that the Council will continue to review its spending and services over the coming year with a view to delivering further savings and ensuring that any future council tax increases are kept as low as possible.

CLlr Bob Fleming, Leader of the Council

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Bishop Auckland College has received a top equality award for its efforts to promote equality and diversity and achieve fairness in the workplace.

It is only the second college in the region to receive the Equality Standard Gold Award from Equality North East.

Award criteria includes leadership commitment to equality, policies and procedures that actively promote equality, and promotion of a diverse culture. Liz Reay, Chief Executive of Equality North East, said: "We were so impressed at the work being carried out by Bishop Auckland College to



(l to r): Senior Equalities Officer Helen Fletcher, Chief Executive Liz Reay from Equality North East, Student Support Worker Olwen Shaw, Principal and Chief Executive Natalie Davison, and Head of Student Services Jane Brown from Bishop Auckland College.

embed equality. They go that extra mile to ensure fairness for their students and staff. The college is a worthy recipient of the Equality Standard 'Gold Award' - congratulations!" Principal and Chief Executive Natalie Davison added: "I am delighted to announce that the college has received the Equality Standard 'Gold' Award from Equality North East. Achievement of this award is based on evidence of promotion and monitoring of equality and diversity activity

within all aspects of college life - both as an employer and with students.

"Bishop Auckland College, believe in providing every individual with the opportunity to achieve their potential, and we really value the richness of ideas that diversity brings. As one of only two colleges in the region achieving the award, this is confirmation we lead the field in this area. I'd like to thank all staff who have contributed to this achievement."

Woodham in British Schools Gymnastics

On Thursday the 31st of January, Woodham Gymnastics Academy took part in a competition held at the University of Cumbria.

The gymnasts had to perform an individual floor routine and a vault to begin with. They then had to perform a routine as a trio which include complex trio balances.

The girls involved were Gabrielle Welsh, Victoria Archer, Rebecca Carr and Keera West. The girls performed well on floor and excellently on vault in the first round. They then performed an eye catching trio routine in a later round.

Although the team gained the highest score for the trio routine, overall they came a close second to the winning team, Trinity School from Carlisle. The girls worked extremely hard in the build up to the competition and their hard work has paid off.

**Bishop Auckland College in Top 25%**

Student success rates at Bishop Auckland College are in the top 25 per cent in the country, figures released today show.

The statistics are published by The Data Service, the official Government-funded body for information on the further education sector.

Level 3 success rates (equivalent to A Levels) for both young people and adults are significantly above those of similar colleges. Success rates reflect the number of students who achieve a qualification as a percentage of those who start.

The new performance figures follow a positive verdict by Ofsted inspectors last year, who found the college was "relentless in its pursuit to drive up the quality of teaching and learning", adding: "success rates have improved for nearly all students".

Natalie Davison, Principal and Chief Executive, said: "This is a fantastic achievement. To be ranked in the top 25 per cent of all colleges in the country shows that our students benefit from high quality teaching and learning and achieve their aspirations with us.

"We are continuously striving to improve, and this success demonstrates the hard work, commitment and dedication put in by our students and staff." More information can be found at www.thedataservice.org.uk on the college success rates.

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Group exercise classes for men and women

Class Timetable

MONDAY		
TIME	CLASS	STUDIO
6.30-7.15	BootCamp	2
9.30-10.30	BodyAttack™	1
9.30-10.30	BodyPump™	2
10.30-11.00	CXWORX™	2
<u>17.15-18.00</u>	<u>Bokwa®</u>	<u>1</u>
18.00-19.00	BodyCombat™	1
18.00-19.00	BodyPump™	2
19.00-19.30	CXWORX™	2
<u>19.45-20.30</u>	<u>Bums, Legs & Tums</u>	<u>1</u>

TUESDAY		
TIME	CLASS	STUDIO
9.30-10.30	BodyCombat™	1
<u>9.30-10.15</u>	<u>Bokwa</u>	<u>2</u>
12.15-13.00	BodyPump™	2
17.15-18.00	Circuits	2
18.00-19.00	BodyAttack™	1
19.00-19.45	BodyPump™	2

WEDNESDAY		
TIME	CLASS	STUDIO
6.30-7.15	BootCamp	2
9.30-10.30	BodyPump™	2
<u>9.30-10.15</u>	<u>Aerobics</u>	<u>1</u>
10.30-11.00	CXWORX™	1
12.15-13.15	Box-a-Circuit	2
<u>17.15-18.00</u>	<u>Fitball</u>	<u>1</u>
17.15-18.00	Box-a-Circuit	2
18.00-19.00	BodyCombat™	1
18.30-19.00	CXWORX™	2
19.00-19.45	BodyPump™	2

THURSDAY		
TIME	CLASS	STUDIO
<u>9.30-10.15</u>	<u>Bums, Legs & Tums</u>	<u>1</u>
9.30-10.30	Circuits	2
10.30-11.00	CXWORX™	2
12.15-12.45	CXWORX™	1
12.45-13.30	BodyAttack™	1
<u>17.15-18.00</u>	<u>Bums, Legs & Tums</u>	<u>1</u>
18.00-19.00	BodyAttack™	1
18.00-19.00	BodyPump™	2
19.00-19.30	CXWORX™	1

FRIDAY		
TIME	CLASS	STUDIO
6.30-7.15	BootCamp	2
9.30-10.30	BodyCombat™	1
9.30-10.30	BodyPump™	2
12.15-13.15	Circuits	2
<u>17.15-18.00</u>	<u>Fitball</u>	<u>1</u>
17.45-18.30	BodyPump™	2
18.00-18.45	BodyCombat™	1

SATURDAY		
TIME	CLASS	STUDIO
9.30-10.00	CXWORX™	1
10.00-10.45	BodyCombat™	1
11.00-11.45	BodyPump™	2

SUNDAY		
TIME	CLASS	STUDIO
10.00-10.45	BodyPump™	2
10.45-11.30	BodyAttack™	1
<u>17.30-18.15</u>	<u>Fitball</u>	<u>1</u>

Underlined classes are available on the Wellbeing Package.



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Half Term is coming, so how do you keep the children amused? Why not enrol them on one of our holiday courses, at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex. During Spring Half Term we are running courses in Table Tennis, Archery, Crafty Kids, and an Activity Day for children aged 8-15 years. We are also holding a Mini Activity Session for little ones aged 4-7 years. To book your place, contact Reception on 01325-300600. For further information on any of the above courses visit our web site at www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk and follow the links. Hurry as all courses have limited availability and are very popular.

HELPFUL VAN REMOVALS

Dear sir
May I take this opportunity to thank D & D Van Man who advertise their services in your newspaper? As I was looking for someone to help me with moving from my house to a bungalow I decided to try this service and they went well beyond what I paid them for. They put the furniture in the right rooms and even put my fridge where I wanted it placed. They were both very cheerful even after a hard morning and so friendly. I want to let them know I would recommend them to all my friends that need help. Their service was appreciated a great deal. Thank you,
Mr & Mrs Kilpatrick

Woodham Dancers Interact Live with American School



Last week at Woodham Academy, a groundbreaking global collaboration project took place between two schools 3,000 miles apart. Collaboration between schools has been said to be the key to raising standards, with experts sharing good practice whilst learning from one another. Throw in an international element and you've got some pretty excited students and staff. How often do students in the UK get to meet, chat and dance for students on the other side of the world and

then have the technology available to immediately judge and feedback on these performances? That's exactly what happened at Woodham Academy and Merton Intermediate School in Wisconsin, America. Using the Academy's global contacts, Assistant Head Teacher, Jon Tait, established a link with Merton School and after having an initial chat about a dance project, it developed into a live 'dance off' over Skype where students danced for each other and then judged the performance. Lead dance teacher and Woodham Sports Academy dance coach, Angela Minervini, led the development of the routines with the dance academy girls. After four weeks of hard work practising routines, the 'dance off' took place in front of the live Skype feed. Each group of students came forward to the camera, introduced themselves with a big hello and then performed their routine. All dancers on both sides of the Atlantic were able to instantly judge the performance using modern technology on their phones and internet enabled devices. It was quite amazing to think

that the work that these girls had been doing at Woodham was being beamed across the globe to another school hall in America with lots of excited students watching on their big screen! The dances from both schools were fantastic and a joy to watch. The respect the students had for each other was superb. They all sat silently whilst each school danced and then clapped and cheered once their performance was over. Although they had never met before, there was a clear mutual respect between them all - they were young, they loved dancing and they were super excited about breaking down the barriers and working globally with each other. Jon Tait commented 'The excitement, enthusiasm, commitment and dedication showed by all of the dancers and staff in both schools was incredible. To be able to connect so easily with students on the other side of the world really shows how technology is changing the way we work and the way we live our lives. This is certainly a project that both schools are already talking about continuing and developing further'.

Hope for New Private Town Bus Service

Dear Sirs,
Thank you for publishing Central Coaches timetable for the new route last week, it will hopefully help us find more passengers for the bus. A letter last week from one of our elected representatives on the Town Council remarked on the times the bus runs, saying there was inadequate time for shopping etc. I haven't seen the same criticism of the other town service bus, which has identical start and stop times. This service is operated by JSB travel and has been going for over 14 years. He also remarked on our lack of market research. If the Councillor had bothered to

go to any of the three public meetings, he would have found out that there was a need for a service at the western part of the town. On the news that Arriva are now rerouting their buses round Greenfield in March, I'm now looking for another part of the town that wants and would use a reliable service. Possible areas could be Bluebell Way and Woodham. Alec Voy, Central Coaches 7 Ross Walk E-mail: alecvoy@aol.com PS please don't ring the telephone number printed in a previous correspondent's letter - it is a dormant number not used for 10 years.

UNFAIR CRITICISM

Dear Sir,
Once again I am criticized by a Labour Party member for doing my council work for the West Ward! I would ask Arun Chandran to read the column next to his letter, where PACT meetings at all the wards in Newton Aycliffe are advertised but nothing mentioned about the West Ward. Every PACT meeting has a PC and a PCSO attending so that residents can put forward their complaints and find out what is happening in their wards. PCSO Gavin Laycock does an excellent job, but he still needs the support of a PC at the meetings. There are times when a PCSO cannot give a reply whereas a PC can, so it is important the West Ward PACT meetings have a PC in attendance. It sounds as if Mr Chandran thinks PACT meetings are a waste of time, and not important enough! I believe PACT meetings are there to support residents, and for them to raise their concerns. God willing I will be standing as an Independent candidate at the next election on 2nd May 2013 and if elected will continue to do what I have been doing for the last 22 years in serving the people of the West Ward. I do not have to write letters in the Newton News as the residents in the West Ward know I am always there to support them. For information I have spoken to Mr. Thompson and a PC about a Police Station in Newton Aycliffe. Alderman George Gray, Independent Councillor West Ward.

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DO YOU WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?

Chungdokwan Taekwondo C.I.C are a community based martial arts group based in the North East. In partnership with the NHS and the East Durham Trust, the group is running FREE weekly sessions across the former Sedgefield Borough area throughout February and March to help locals improve their mental health. The classes will have a relaxation focus, using martial arts exercises, stretching, and meditation. Your local class will be held in Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on a Wednesday evening from 5.15-6.15pm. The first session took place on Wednesday 6th February but you can join at any time. We pride ourselves on our friendly, family-oriented atmosphere so please don't hesitate to call 07946 179788 for more information.

Residents Group AGM

ACORN Residents Association hold their AGM at 6pm on Thursday 14th February in Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. The highly successful resident's group will be hosting a presentation by Neil Langthorne, Community Liaison Officer with Durham Constabulary. Neil is a regular attendee at ACORN meetings and along with his colleague Gavin Laycock, PCSO for the area, keep members apprised of criminal behaviour trends in the locality. ACORN incorporates Neighbourhood Watch within its organisation. Subjects for discussion will include events, which ACORN intend to organise this coming year; such as Easter Egg Hunt, Teddy Bear's picnic, Petting Zoo and St George's Day celebration. Plus any suggestions which members or junior members wish to discuss such as parking issues, anti-social

behaviour and town centre improvements. Attending ACORN meetings gives access to Town and County Councillors plus representatives from living and is also a forum for residents to air views and seek support. You are assured of a warm welcome; so please come along. ACORN junior section Little Acorns also welcomes new members and will be holding a meeting at the same venue from 5.30pm. Further details can be obtained from: Ken Robson (Chairman) 01325 321471

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TOP QUALITY CLOTHING ALTERATIONS

(FOOTPATH NO. 5
GREAT AYCLIFFE PARISH NEWTON AYCLIFFE)
(TEMPORARY FOOTPATH CLOSURE) ORDER 2013

The Council intend in not less than 7 days from the date of this notice to make an Order under the provisions of Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily close to pedestrian traffic an 830m length of Footpath No. 5 Great Aycliffe Parish that extends westwards from the western side of the railway track, Newton Aycliffe to enable archaeology and site development works to be undertaken.

The maximum duration of the temporary footpath closure order is 6 months and is required from 25.02.13 and for the duration of archaeology and site development works, anticipated to be 6 months. However, for operational reasons, on rare occasions, closures may be necessary on dates and times other than those set out above and where this occurs, closures and/or diversions will be signed accordingly.

An alternative route will be available to pedestrian traffic from the eastern side of the closure northerly along the highway of Long Tens Way and westerly along Heighington Lane to the public footpath leading to the western side of the closure and vice versa.

Dated: 8 February 2013

Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal & Democratic Services
County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL

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Durham County Leisure **Active Aycliffe** **PCP**

Chelsea's Goalkeeper Meets Woodham Students



Former Woodham student and current Chelsea goalkeeper, Ross Turnbull, took time out of his busy schedule to drop into the Academy this week to talk to PE students. As one of the Academy's ambassadors for Woodham Ross keeps in contact with the school and took the opportunity to visit the school after Chelsea away fixture at Newcastle United last weekend. Ross spent the morning talking with students from both the highly successful GCSE Physical Education course and also the key stage 3 Physical Education curriculum. Topics included diet and nutrition regimes professional footballers have to follow, different training methods under the different Chelsea managers that he has played for and dealing with the pressure of playing in the best league in the world. Students got to ask their own

questions and the hot topic on everyone's lips was 'What was it like to win the European Cup with Chelsea last year'? Assistant head teacher Jon Tait said "Having Ross as an ambassador for our Sports Academy is fantastic. He is living proof that local children can make it to the very top if they are prepared to put in the hard work and dedication required".

Jon also went on to comment on Ross's involvement in Chelsea's Champions League win last May "Ross spoke to our students about the fact that he can remember watching Liverpool's amazing Champions League Final comeback against AC Milan in the Oak Leaf Sports Complex with his friends . . . 8 years later he was holding up the cup himself! Quite incredible".

Dog Owners are a Bigger Problem

Dear Sir,
In reply to Councillor Jed Hillary's letter regarding 'Thoughtless Horse Riders'. I would have thought the bigger issue was thoughtless dog owners who allow their dogs to foul in the same area and fail to clean up after them! This poses a health risk to children who play in this area and is much more unsightly than a few hoof prints! I suggest Councillor Hillary opens his eyes to the more serious of the two problems!
Phillip Halton (A responsible dog owner)

"Quinny" at the Big Club



T.J.F.A Club of the Year, Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre AFC, are delighted to announce that former Newcastle United & Coventry City striker, Micky Quinn, will be the Guest Speaker at their Fundraising Evening on Friday 8th March 2013 at Newton Aycliffe WMC. "Quinny" a legendary football pundit on TalkSPORT Radio is one of the most colourful characters to have come out of the English game. He also boasts a successful career as a racehorse trainer and is guaranteed to have the audience captivated and in fits of laughter during the evening as he performs his renowned guest speaking stint. Mick Quinn will also be joined by top comedian Chris McGlade. Tickets are £20 each and are available from Newton Aycliffe WMC. Tables can be booked via Darren Williams on 07712 134564.

WILDCATS FALL TO SHOOTING EXHIBITION

Eagles star Charles Smith shot the lights out, scoring 49 points at Aycliffe Leisure Centre as the visitors beat the Wildcats, 65-106. The Wildcats kept in the game for the majority of the opening quarter with Brad Guinane nailing 3, three pointers early on but the Eagles had an answer in Charles Smith cancelling out Durham's impressive start. The start was short lived for the Wildcats as the Eagles soon fired up as Chapman and Defoe found their touch creating a 27 point lead at the end of the first with the scoreline showing 13-40 on the buzzer. Despite Newcastle showing their championship winning credentials, Durham started to fight back making two short stint runs bringing the game back to within 16 points with Baldarelli and Keister scoring majority of the points from the free throw line ending the half 38-54. Charles Smith continued his scoring form whilst at the opposite end of the court the Wildcats struggled to claim a basket as the Eagles extended their lead to 33 points with a lethal shooting display and Chapman getting in on the act with the third quarter ending with the Eagles in full control at 55-88. Newcastle didn't hold up against their local rivals as Chapman and Smith hit consecutive three's with some dynamite shooting from downtown despite the Wildcats fighting hard to narrow the score. The Eagles shut out Durham to win the game by 41

points with the score showing on the final buzzer, 65-106. Head Coach Dave Elderkin found Charles Smith's display outstanding but his players found it hard going after a packed schedule, "First of all I would like to congratulate Charles Smith on an incredible shooting display." He said, "Our players weren't fresh going into the game after having 6 games in 10 days and the Eagles took advantage of that. The Eagles would have been psyched up after we defeated Plymouth previously and they were fantastic

tonight." M.V.P – Charles Smith; 49 points, 16 rebounds. With his incredible 3 point shooting display, Smith carried his team to victory with an impressive double double. Durham Wildcats – Keith Page; 12 points, 1 rebound, Andrew Keister; 11 points, 18 rebounds, Brad Guinane; 11 points, 6 rebounds. Newcastle Eagles – Charles Smith; 49 points, 16 rebounds, Darius Defoe; 21 points, 9 rebounds, Joe Chapman; 18 points, 11 assists. By Ryan Gillham

Rotary Help Lifeline Community Action



Rotary Club President Roger Curtis hands over a cheque to Susan Sadler and Alwyn White from Lifeline Community Action to help provide food and household goods to needy families in Newton Aycliffe. "Each £1 donated buys goods up to seven times the value and Rotary sees this as a good return on the money raised from the community." said Roger.

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Livin Receive High Rating as Housing Provider

Homes and communities organisation, livin, is celebrating after gaining the highest possible rating as part of a Regulatory Judgement for housing providers.

The Regulatory Judgement, issued by the Homes and Communities Agency, is an assessment of housing providers with more than 1,000 homes regarding their compliance with three economic standards; Governance and Viability, Value for Money and Rent Standards. The regulator's assessment on compliance with the Governance & Financial Viability Standard is expressed in grading's from G1 to G4 for governance and V1 to V4 for viability. livin received G1 standard for Properly Governed and V1 for Viable.

Colin Steel, chief executive, for livin, said: "We strive to deliver a first class service across the organisation. Over the past 12 months we have continued to improve the way we run the organisation and the regulatory rating is a validation of our progress and recognition that we are a well governed, viable and sustainable organisation".

AYCLIFFE BUSINESS RESPONDS TO THE CALL

The launch of Aycliffe Business Community attracted over 100 local companies to the Xcel Centre last Friday, all keen to know how this new group could improve their business and bring Aycliffe industry and commerce together.

It was an encouraging turnout of almost half the businesses operating here and they were all very pleased to hear how this initiative would help them, and the promotion of Aycliffe Business Park as a major source of supplies and services to the region and nationally. Aycliffe is the second largest industrial estate in the north employing over 8,000 people and with Hitachi coming should start to make itself heard.

Breakfast was provided and a business card draw was held with an Ipad as a prize. Our MP Phil Wilson was present and he remarked how Aycliffe has, up until now, punched below its weight. He welcomed the formation of the new group and promised any help he could to support its aims and objects.

Durham County Council Business Development team have been a great help financing a good part of what has been achieved so far, the most successful service being the creation of Aycliffe's own website. It will be up to the businesses in Aycliffe on how successful the movement will

be in the future.

John Parnell Development Manager visits Aycliffe every Monday afternoon and is available to talk to business leaders over a cuppa at Starbucks, at the Xcel Centre. "The website is brilliant and a very useful tool for everyone to use, offering links to their own websites. Every business in Aycliffe should take the opportunity to register and see the benefits

for themselves in logging on www.aycliffebusinesspark.co.uk" said Chairperson of the Steering Group Pamela Petty, Ebac's M.D.

In the Question and Answer session business representatives asked how they could get involved with local schools, how the environment could be improved by grasscutting, pothole repairs and whether it was possible to combine

training facilities on the park.

Answering questions for the steering group were Kerina Clark, Dave Spensley, Paul Stiller, John Findley, Amanda Hird, helped by Sarah Slaven from Durham Business Development.

A programme of events is scheduled for 2013 and includes networking and meetings to aid businesses in Aycliffe, details of which are on the website.



Dave Spensley
Steering Group Member



Panel answered questions



Woodham Students Luke Watson and Meghan Cumming who helped the delegates shown with MP Phil Wilson



Vice Chair Kerina Clarke

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NEWTON NEWS CIRCULATION RISES TO 16,500

The Newton News, established in 1948, has reached another milestone! The circulation has increased from 15,000 per week to 16,500, and includes deliveries every week to businesses on Aycliffe Business Park as well as every home in Newton Aycliffe, Middridge, School Aycliffe, Heighington, Aycliffe Village, Coatham Mundeville, Woodham and Redworth.

Copies are also available at Tesco, the Library, Garages, Taylors Newsforce, Walkers Butchers, Excel Centre, Ruff n' Tumble, The Gretna, Eden Arms Hotel, PCP Centre, Greenfield Gallery, Oak Leaf Sports Complex, McDonalds, Aston Hotel as well as Newton Press Reception.

Advertising your business in the Newton News couldn't get any better and the rates are exceptional compared to other publications in the area. Recent advertisers have reported an increase in business after running an advert in the Newton News - give it a try you will be

surprised!

The full version of Newton News is placed on our website each week (www.newtonnews.co.uk) and is viewed, not only locally, but from all corners of the globe, as ex-Newtonians log in to read what is happening back home. Advertising on this popular site is also available for £10 a month. The site has a counter on the bottom right hand side and shows an average of 10,000 hits per week, nearly 3 million since June 2012; our popularity through Facebook has reached over 800 likes in the same time period.

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Wednesday
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 9.30am with Diane
 Telephone: 07876 133509

Navy Club, Bluebell Way 5pm & 7pm with Diane
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Telephone: (01325) 328443

Tallent's Staff Help Food Bank



Employees at Gestamp Tallent Limited recently took part in a challenge to help the Durham Foodbank and raised a vast quantity of food and donated £245 to the Food Bank. Mr and Mrs Temple, local volunteers/co-ordinators for the Food Bank were presented with cash and food donations on Friday 1st February by Simon Brown, Shift Manager at Gestamp Tallent Limited. Mr and Mrs Temple were delighted by the excellent response and assured Simon that the donations would be passed on to those in need. If anyone would like further details of the Foodbank, general enquiries can be made on 0191 303 7559.

Local Powers Needed to Bridge Unemployment Gap

A LEADING North East training provider is urging government to give local authorities power to channel funding for training into sectors that need the most support, after a report claimed that youth unemployment could be cut by 20 per cent with greater local control.

The Local Government Association (LGA) said that attempts to cut youth unemployment in England are being hampered by excessive bureaucracy and central government control, and that division of training funding at a local level would help to ensure that young people are supported to enter industries in which there are skills shortages.

Michael Blades, business development manager at Newton Aycliffe based SW Durham Training (SWDT), a 45-year old company that

delivers engineering and manufacturing apprenticeships and training support, wants to see increased government localisation in order to encourage more people to enter sectors that will help grow the economy.

He said: "With companies such as Nifco and Nissan on our doorstep and Hitachi Rail headed to the region just a stone's throw away from us in Newton Aycliffe, there can be little doubt that the manufacturing and engineering industry is thriving in the North East. With projected future growth, it is absolutely vital that we take steps now to future-proof this sector and do what we can to create a pipeline of people with the right skills to ensure that the sector continues to prosper.

"Balancing supply and demand is something we have to get right, and in the case of manufacturing and engineering, we're some way away from achieving this. Greater local control would enable local councils to look at the industries that are burgeoning in their area, and ensure that funding is administered in a way that meets their projected growth. In the case of the North East, we should be encouraging more people to train for careers in manufacturing and engineering, sectors in which there is no shortage of well-paid roles, but not enough talent."

Research led by the Local Government Association (LGA) found that more than 94,000 people completed hair and beauty courses last year, even though there were only 18,000 new jobs in the sector. By contrast, in construction, around 123,000 people were trained for around 275,000 advertised jobs.

The LGA said this was partly caused by colleges and training providers being paid for every student who receives a qualification, regardless of the local need for those skills. Mr Blades added: "If funding was more closely aligned to industry needs it would ensure that people were training for roles in thriving sectors. A more localised approach would prevent people from spending years of their life developing skills that are not needed, and ultimately being left out of work. Manufacturing and engineering are two sectors that offer real job opportunities – the demand is absolutely

there, and we just need to see more people sign up to earn while they learn and embark upon apprenticeships in these sectors."

For more information about courses at South West Durham Training Ltd, visit www.southwestdurham.co.uk or call 01325 313 194.

Progress on Tidying up Business Park

The instigator behind Aycliffe Business Park's exciting new group has revealed how he's making progress in helping to tidy up areas of the industrial estate – including the disgraceful former Sanyo site. It was the original idea of Finley Structures managing director John Finley to set up the new Aycliffe Business Park group. With the help of Business Durham, Mr Finley pulled together a handful of local companies, with the original intent of improving the appearance of the business park.

The main direction of the group has since evolved, to primarily improve communication between businesses with the launch of www.aycliffebusinesspark.co.uk – a free business directory for companies operating on the park.

But Mr Finley has continued in his efforts to make the park more visually attractive. At the launch of www.aycliffebusinesspark.co.uk last week, he revealed he has persuaded Vine Properties, landowners of the former Sanyo site, to "sort out" the



now derelict site which has become an eyesore.

"Members of the group have been given different areas of responsibilities and mine has been to try and improve the appearance of the park, by getting overgrown grass cut and flower beds installed. Sedgefield MP Phil Wilson helped to launch www.aycliffebusinesspark.co.uk during a special event at the Xcel Centre.

Mr Finley added: "I'm sure the new website and free directory will provide a very welcome facility to improve awareness of all companies and aid communication among them"

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27th Feb: 5pm – 7pm

2nd March: 10am – 12pm

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'A Learning Community Guided by Gospel Values'

Greenfield's Wide Range of Sport Opportunities

Students at Greenfield have the opportunity to take part in Boccia in addition to a large range of traditional and non-traditional clubs such as handball, table tennis, badminton, rowing, basketball, cricket, dance, girls rugby and many more. The School works in close partnership with local clubs and Sedgefield School Sport Partnership to ensure a wide range of high quality opportunities are available at lunchtime, after school and during evenings and weekends.

For more information contact Michael Rippon (Community Sport Manager) on 07879 117224. Many of these opportunities are available to Primary pupils including netball, football, basketball, dance, tennis, cheerleading, baseball and various martial arts including Jujitsu & Karate.

Over the next few months, Greenfield students are looking forward to a some expert Boccia training from a National Boccia player Lee Maddison, Cricket coaching with Darren Brown (County Durham Development Coach), Basketball with the Wild Cats, Girls Rugby with Karl Stephenson (Durham Rugby League Coach), Table Tennis with Matthew Porter (County Table Tennis Coach), Tennis with Carl Brough (Level 2 LTA Coach) and many other opportunities such as the launch of Greenfield's Rowing club next week and a Community Baseball club.

Many of these opportunities are available to the local community. For more information contact our Community Sport manager on the above number.

New Garment Firm Launched in Shildon



A trio of local entrepreneurs are putting themselves on the map and at the same time bringing an old trade back into our area.

Jane Main from Heighington, is a garment production specialist with many years experience. She provides a full pattern drafting, cutting and grading service, as well as liaising with customers at all stages to ensure a positive outcome.

Michele Connell, from Newton Aycliffe, is now based in Shildon and has wide experience in the local and national dance, gymnastic and cheerleading apparel production market. From

bespoke one-off competition outfits to standard items of lycra sport and activewear she also offers an in-house professional embroidery service, for workwear, team uniforms and corporate garments.

Spantastic is at Unit 10D, Dabble Duck Industrial Estate in Shildon open to public and trade customers from 9am until 4.30, Monday to Friday (or by appointment) Tel: 01388 417987 or email spantastic@talktalk.net. Darren Rhodes is based in Newton Aycliffe having just completed 22 years service in the Army. Darren offers high quality digital printing service, directly onto garments.

They came together to form an associate business where each will benefit from services unique to each other. The UK textile industry has been forced into decline over two decades after the economic boom in the Far East where most clothing was produced overseas.

The trio saw a niche market for British-made garments and have now set up shop in an industrial estate just outside Newton Aycliffe. By offering their services they have found that the sum of the whole is greater than the individual parts, and are now receiving enquiries from clothing designers here in the UK and from Canada.

NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Neville Community Centre had a poor response to their games activity event on a Tuesday so are trying it on a Wednesday from 10am - 12 noon. Come along and enjoy skittles, table tennis, Kurling, and Darts for just £2 per session. Book your place on 313924.

If you would like to book our large main hall for any event please get in touch to view our excellent facilities including a modern kitchen. Come along to a FREE Coffee Morning on Saturday 30th March to see for yourself.

Residential Homes are invited to bring their clients to play Kurling on Mondays from 10am - 12 noon. It is an enjoyable game which can be played sitting down.

Please make a note in your diary for the visit of Marske Fisherman's choir on Saturday 27th April at 7.30pm. This is a fabulous evening of entertainment so book your place by ringing 313924.

COUNCIL SNOW CLEARING

Dear Sir,
Can I through your paper please say a big thank you to the Town Council and Parks Dept. for keeping the main pavements into and out of the town clear of snow, a sterling job.

Carrol Hutchinson

The Town Council has a winter maintenance partnership agreement with Durham County Council to clear snow and spread salt on certain designated footways in Newton Aycliffe. These areas are: Central Avenue (all), St Cuthbert's Way (Central Avenue-Blue Bridge), Stephenson Way (all), Pease Way (all) and Burn Lane (all).

In addition, the Town Council has also agreed to replenish salt bins as and when required throughout the Town, School Aycliffe and Aycliffe Village. Durham County Council and the Probation Service also deploy staff to clear snow and spread salt in other areas of Newton Aycliffe during the winter period.

Learn How to Lift Safely

Reach your potential with a Manual Handling Course at the Agnew Community Centre in Morrison Close on Friday 1st March from 10am to 2pm.

Take this course to give you an edge in finding a job.

Receive an understanding of what is meant by Manual Handling. Identify control measures that can be taken to reduce risk of injury. Learn safe manual handling techniques

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Seekers Allowance [JSA] the course is FREE, if not a small charge of £9-20 is applied.

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If you want to find out more about this course before booking your place, ring Denise Hopps on 01388-443078 or email denise.hopps@bacoll.ac.uk Book your place with Ron Mitchie on 01325-321504 office or 07749236853 or email on agnewcommunitycentre@btconnect.com

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Basketball Team's Continued Success

Greenfield Yr 7 basketball players played extremely well in the Sedgfield interschool basketball CVL which started last week.

Greenfield entered 2 teams. Both the A and B teams finishing in 1st and 2nd place overall. With some outstanding basketball played against some tough opposition from Whitworth Park, Sedgfield and Windlestone.

The A team were unbeaten, and in fact won all games except one, which was against Greenfield's B team who finished in 2nd place overall. This was a boy's interschool event, but Greenfield entered 2 mixed teams.

The girls did a fantastic job alongside the boys, to ensure both teams finished on top. Both teams are looking forward to the next leg of the league in February, when the winners will go through to represent Sedgfield in the

County Finals in March – good luck.

In the same week Greenfield's Yr 8/9 Boys finished 2nd in the South West Durham Schools Basketball tournament on Tuesday. They won all games in their section, including a match against Durham Johnston, and sailed through to the final.

In the final they met Durham Johnston for a second occasion, but unfortunately lost in the final, to finish runners up. The following day Greenfield's Yr 9 became winners of the first round of the Sedgfield basketball CVL, and again are looking forward to the next round in February.

Greenfield's Yr 7 & 8 Girls are looking forward to the first Yr 7 & 8 girls event of the season – at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Center on Sunday, 10th February.

Well done to all teams and good luck in the next round.

Livin Sponsor Junior Football



NAJFC Under 9's, Under 10's, Under 13's and Under 15's

Newton Aycliffe Junior Football Club has received £2,000 sponsorship from Livin. The money sponsors the Under 9's, Under 10's, Under 13's and Under 15's for this season and into 2014.

The sponsorship was received last year and NAFJC want to show everyone the difference this sponsorship has made. A photo shoot was held on 26th January 2013. Newton Aycliffe had snow but everyone made the effort to meet, which enabled Livin and the Club to take pictures to show how proud they are in the new football strips.

NAJFC presented Robbie McCormack from Livin with a framed football shirt displaying the Livin logo. A spokesperson from the club said "This is the start of a long relationship between Newton Aycliffe Junior Football Club

and Livin".

Purchasing four new strips has enabled NAFJC to help street kids in North Africa who will receive the old strips. Colin Coulthard (Under 15's Manager/Coach) has liaised with the Street Kids charity which aims to give disadvantaged children the chance to wear football strips, something that previously they could only dream of.

All old kits go to this charity and a while ago Colin received this message "The lads send their love to you. To me and the boys you gave it for a

worthy cause. With time, you will realise how much you are appreciated by the bunch. They send their love and I hope one day, your name will be written in my people's history".

NAJFC purchase all their football strips from Avec (Just Sport Group) in Spennymoor. Thank you to Jonathan for all his help with these strips, the teams all look fantastic.

NAJFC would also like to thank Malcolm Gray from Livin for his initial contact with the Club and secondly Robbie McCormack from Livin who assisted the club with gaining this sponsorship.

Byerley Park Win Swimming Gala



On Friday 26th February Sedgfield School Sport Partnership (SSP) held their annual swimming gala at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre.

Victoria Lane Academy, Byerley Park and Thornhill Primary School took part in the event. Each school had a team of swimmers from Y3-6 who took part in individual and relay races to gain points for their school. The event was officiated by leaders from Greenfield Community College who timed and even started the races!

Byerley Park won the event and received gold medals, followed by Thornhill in 2nd and Victoria Lane in 3rd.

Byerley Park will now go on to represent Sedgfield SSP in the County Durham School Games event in March 2013.

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Loss of Baptism Records

Dear Sir

Due to unforeseen circumstances details of baptisms at St Francis' Church since 2009 have only partially been recorded. We would like anyone who had a baptism at St Francis' from 2009 to contact us with the details of whom was baptised, date of birth, date of baptism, Godparents and full parents names. Please could anyone with information e-mail greataycliffeparishoffice@btconnect.com or contact Ric Hargreaves on 316755

Thank you for your help, Revd Julie Wing

ROYAL BLUES RECORD THIRD CONSECUTIVE VICTORY

Newton Aycliffe hope to make it four consecutive wins this weekend as they host Celtic Nation at Moore Lane Park.

Following the disappointing midweek postponement – the Royal Blues were set to meet bottom-club South Shields on Wednesday but the game was called off due to a waterlogged pitch – Allan Oliver's side hope to meet the Cumbrians at Moore Lane Park on Saturday 9th February.

Last weekend the club continued their terrific start to 2013 with a 2-1 victory away at Hebburn. The Newtonians had won two from two before the unofficial winter break, but they carried on where they left off with another victory to move 10 points clear of the drop zone.

Danny Earl notched his 13th goal of the season while the excellent Paul Broom added the second before half-time. Tony Stephenson set up a nervy finale when he pulled one back with 25 minutes to go, but Aycliffe held on to record their ninth league win of the season.

Allan Oliver's side took an early lead when Earl struck after just four minutes. Tom Hinchley sent a ball through from midfield and the former Billingham Synthonia striker expertly lobbed the on-rushing Dan Regan to put Aycliffe ahead. With 10-minutes left of the first period, Fred Woodhouse narrowly dragged a shot wide from just inside the area. A second goal would arrive a minute later. Kris Hughes created himself some space and his shot from the left was well saved by Regan, but Broom got to the rebound first to force home from close range. Gibson was brought on at half-time and was instantly involved, sending a flighted ball in to Earl, whose effort was cleared off the line by Dan Kirkup. Hebburn were growing into the game and former West Brom striker Stuart Nicholson, let fly with a fierce drive from the edge of the area which was saved by Pocklington. Eight minutes later Aycliffe's goalkeeper was picking the ball out of his net as Nicholson's free-kick evaded Pocklington's grasp and Stephenson was on hand to nod into the empty net. Substitute Alex Benjamin came close to an equaliser but his flick from 10-yards was saved by Pocklington.

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Saturday 9th February: Celtic Nation (H) 3pm
Saturday 16th February: Dunston (A) 3pm
Saturday 23rd February: Newcastle Benfield (H) 3pm
Wednesday 27th February: Bedlington (A) 7.30pm
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NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY
Local Government Act 1972 - Sections 87, 89 and 232
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Section 232 of the above Act that a vacancy exists in the West Ward of the above Council as from the 10th December 2012 by reason of the death of Councillor Mrs. E.M. Paylor, 23 Wycliffe Close, Newton Aycliffe. DL5 4BN
As the casual vacancy has occurred within six months before the day on which the Councillor would regularly have retired, no poll can be demanded and the vacancy need not be filled until the next ordinary election.
(S 87(2) S 89(6) of the Local Government Act 1972; S 36 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and the 1986 Regulations.
The Council has resolved not to co-opt to fill the casual vacancy due to the proximity of the next ordinary election.
Dated: 8th February 2013.
ANDREW BAILEY
Town Clerk.
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VOLUNTEER AS A SPORTS MAKER

Dear Sir
Woodham Golf & Country Club are organising a workshop designed to enlist "Sports Makers" to volunteer to encourage others to take part in sport. This will take place from 2.30pm until 4pm on Sunday,

10th February. The workshop was set up as part of the Olympic legacy and Sport England has been tasked to enlist 40,000 Sports Makers across the UK. Although this will primarily be focused on golfing activities it is aimed at any organisation wishing to get a feel for the events and for anyone who would be interested in providing a helping hand to encourage others to take part in any sporting field.

The workshop came about through Linda Luke who was a Games Maker volunteer at the Olympics and both Pat Usher and Anita Maxwell (the current Ladies Captain) who also volunteered at the Olympics. They had such a great time helping out that they thought it would be a good idea to try and get others involved and to help build on the enthusiasm created through the Olympics and Paralympics.

The scheme is incentivised to the organisations that hold the workshops, offering them levy's

per participant, thus helping funding for any organisation that chooses to hold such a workshop.

There is no commitment required from attendees but the aim is to encourage and give ideas to those interested to volunteer in their chosen sporting field. Anyone who chooses to volunteer can then log hours accumulated and again the scheme will pay a levy to the organisation for those who log a certain number of hours. We believe that this will help not only boost the numbers of golfers in the area, encourage other organisations to hold similar events but also give those interested in volunteering in a sporting field some good ideas where to start.

Anyone interested needs to sign up at the Sports Makers website www.sportmakers.co.uk or contact the Pro Shop on 01325 315257. Anyone participating on the day will receive a free Addidas Polo Shirt. James Jacques

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million. Wayne Harris, executive director property and development for livin, said: "The site at Greenfields is our largest new build development to date. We commenced building our first new homes at the end of 2011 and the demand for the properties has been astronomical. "The Greenfields site comes as part of a £28m investment project to build 350 - 400 new homes over the next two years to meet housing shortage locally." Steve McCoy, managing director with Galliford Try in the North East, said: "We are delighted to have been selected to develop this site in partnership with livin. Providing energy efficient, affordable homes in the region is one of our key objectives." The homes, which will be built to strict environmental standards, boast a range of energy saving features including high levels of



insulation, double glazing and high efficiency boilers to help tenants save money on utility bills as well as being more environmentally responsible. The properties, which are already generating a lot of interest, will be let to people in housing need and anyone interested in renting or purchasing a property should contact livin's home choice team on 0800 587 4538 or email homechoice@livin.co.uk - The first homes are expected to be complete by October this year.

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Police Commissioner's Budget Maintains Front-Line Policing

Ron Hogg, Durham's Police and Crime Commissioner has published his plans for the 2013/14 police precept, outlining how he is taking Durham Constabulary forward over the next four years. Deep cuts to police funding imposed by Central Government have required savings of approximately £18.5m over the current four year Comprehensive Spending Review period. This has meant he has to make difficult financial decisions to balance the force budget whilst maintaining necessary assets such as technology, estates and frontline policing. Mr Hogg recently completed his first consultation with members of the public, partners and victims of crime to establish the policing priorities that local communities want from their police service as well as the amount people are willing to pay for the precept (the

policing element of their Council Tax) for 2013/14.

The results for the top policing priorities from the consultation are: TACKLING anti-social behaviour, TACKLING the harm caused to individuals and communities by alcohol and drugs. TO IMPROVE road safety by tackling careless and dangerous driving and other road safety related offences. TO MAKE policing services visible and accessible at all times

Mr Hogg said: "My consultation sought views on precept increases of 0% or 2% which resulted in 62% of respondents opting for a 2% increase. The possibility of a 3% increase was also posed however only 32% of respondents would support this.

Taking into account the outcome of this consultation I proposed a precept increase of 2% as part of my budget for 2013/14. This will cost the majority of households in the Force area a little under 4p per week.

With the support of the Chief Constable the proposed precept was presented to the Police and Crime Panel Meeting when Panel Members agreed the proposed increase. "Taking into account the views from the consultation, I have established a budget for the future by looking into workforce modernisation and have been able to maintain neighbourhood policing and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) numbers. I have set a robust police budget for 2013/14 that is balanced, doesn't rely on the use of reserves and aims to protect the quality of policing in County Durham and Darlington.

Significant reductions of approximately £100,000 in my own office budget,

together with savings from the current year will enable me to make a contribution of approximately £200,000 to support Community Safety Partnership arrangements. This will make good the reductions imposed by Government in transferring the responsibility of Community Safety funding to the PCC.

"I am very determined to ensure savings can be made to balance the budget whilst ensuring value for money can be achieved. I have made it clear that whilst PCCs in larger force areas may feel they need a deputy to assist them, I will not be having one which is a significant cost saving.

Furthermore, I am pleased to announce a dynamic capital programme going forward, which includes the building of the new police headquarters in Durham (saving of maintenance costs of £750,000 per year incurred by the current building), the building of a new police station in Newton Aycliffe, cutting edge police technology and optimising the use of the police estate".

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Spring Sale of Hand-Made Items



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New Town Centre Brings Unemployment

Dear Sir,
I read with absolute incredulity the article on the Town Centre in particular the paragraph stating the shops had a good occupancy rate.
I am sure I and many other long time residents will use the new seating areas only to admire the trees as there will be little else left with the imminent closure of M & Co and others which will not relocate due to the cost involved. They cannot take on long term leases which are on offer to our "more attractive shopping precinct. As a result myself and many other shop assistants are destined to become unemployed in the near future. Is Brian Haldane and Phil Wilson for real? Sadly they seem typical of our Society's

leaders who have their heads in the clouds and wear rose coloured spectacles.
The old Library and Health Centre have been demolished, but perhaps the whole shopping area should go too with a new town centre built by the County Council on the ex Avenue School land adjoining Woodham Academy.
That would get rid of the ongoing problems with Landlords Freshwater and the Town Centre management who have proved their incompetence.
Maybe then we would get true regeneration of our once lovely array of shops to enjoy like other towns locally ie: Shildon, Spennymoor and West Auckland.
Name & address supplied.

Why Are We Losing a Quality Retailer?

Dear Sir,
It was with some pleasure that I read the leading article in Newton News 1st February - Major work starts on town centre, at last!
The article said landlords have demonstrated their continued commitment to Newton Aycliffe by making £2m investment. I then turned to Page 7 - M&Co to CLOSE. The reason? Expired lease and higher rent sought.
If this is correct, how does this correlate to 'continued commitment' to our town centre? I assume that before agreeing to the development the landlord/developers do actually have a business case for the improvements, and have something more substantial than 'interest' from potential new tenants.
If they can't look after existing retailers, how do they expect to attract new ones? Everyone knows it is more cost effective to nurture existing customers than it is to find new ones.
There is also a statement in the article that tenants 'can benefit from the new shoppers being attracted' - which new shoppers are these? Surely it is not believed that new shoppers will be attracted by a few trees and benches?
What is needed is good quality retailers, such as M&Co, without which our town centre will be much the poorer, and no amount of capital investment will improve it.
Don't get me wrong, I believe something needs to be done with our town centre, I'm just not sure it's being done in the right way.

Christine Marsh
Sterling Accounting Services

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BARGAIN BUYS Bosch washing machine to rent, £3.99 a week! No deposit, no more unwanted repair bills. Tel 321 678
WOOD EFFECT venetian blind, 70" wide x 38" drop, excellent condition, £30 ono. Tel 01325 313079
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ELECTRIC cooker, good working order, £85, can deliver. 3 piece suite, VG condition, £150 can deliver. 2 x wardrobes, new, still boxed, £45 each. Can deliver. Tel 07587 736357
KING LOUIS plaster fire surround, solid marble back and hearth. £90. Tel 01325 312754
LARGE BLACK leather look swivel office chair, excellent condition, £25. Tel 01325 316651
DIGIBOX digihome DJ940B, £10, excellent condition, Tel 01325 316651
2 x 2 SEATER settees, M&S, terracotta, VGC, £100. Tel 01325 308332
DESIGNER wedding dress by Pronovias, brand new, never worn, still tagged. Size 14, 2012 design, ivory with champagne trim, large bow detail to the back, sequined front and back with beautiful trail and matching veil. £550 for both (bargain), photos available on request. Tel 313160
BLACK Ryder boots, size 9, worn once, £10 ono. Tel 316009
BRAND NEW double divan with quilted Damask mattress, £120, can deliver. Tel 07789 113343
ITALIAN leather three piece suite, rose burgundy, can deliver, £95; "Next" entertainment unit, black, high gloss, can deliver, £40. Tel 07789 113343
SILVERCROSS 3D pram and pushchair travel system (inc car seat, excellent condition, used for 2 months, also includes cosy toes, changing bag, etc. £200 ono. Tel 07453 744964
SOFABED beige material, full mechanism, excellent condition, £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

Encourage Improvement

Yvonne McLaughlin, a resident for over 55 years, rang Newton News to express her support and encouragement for any move to improve our Town Centre. "At last we are seeing progress, something we have been waiting for now for many years. I look forward to seeing its completion" said Yvonne.

Congratulations

Chloe Marie Brown
11th February 2013
Happy 1st birthday. Lots of love, hugs and kisses, Daddy, Mummy, Leon, Jaden-Lee and Aaliyah xxxx

BROWN Chloe Marie. 11-02-2013. Happy 1st birthday. Love Grandie and Grandma xxxxx
BROWN Chloe Marie, 11-02-2013. Happy first birthday. Lots of love, Auntie Kelly, Uncle Steven, Kian and Jacob xxx
KAY Trish and Brian - 12th February 2013 - Congratulations on your Pearl Wedding Anniversary. Love, Mam, Dad, Joan, Martin, Joseph and Isaac xxx
TEENAGER Happy 13th Birthday Holly. Hope you have a brilliant party. Lots of love Mam, Dad, Kennedy, Lilli and Tyler xxx
PEACOCK, Holly. 8th March. Happy 13th birthday to a very special Granddaughter. Lots of love from Grandma and Grandad
PICKERING 11th February 1933. Happy 80th birthday Mam. You are simply the best. My love always, Jue xxx
PICKERING 11th February 1933. Happy 80th birthday Mam. Love ya lots, Gary xxx

Les Bell
Happy 60th Birthday
Many happy returns on your 60th birthday. To our lovely brother, from Marg, Julie and brother-in-law Trevor and all your nieces and nephews. Looking forward to our family holiday in Florida

Morgan Hutchison
Happy 16th Birthday
Can't believe how fast the years have gone by. Love you all the world and a bit in a bucket. Mam and Paul xxxx
Happy 16th Birthday to a special Grandson. Love, Nan and Grandad Williams
Happy 16th Birthday Happy birthday gorgeous. Love, Jinny xx
Happy 16th Birthday Happy birthday to our fantastic Brother. Love, Tallulah and Joles xxx
Happy 16th Birthday Happy birthday to an amazing, gorgeous nephew on his 16th birthday. From the Meltons xxx
Happy 16th Birthday Love from Nanny Chris and Grandad Vic xx
Happy 16th Birthday Love from the Davisons xxx

Births

CLARK & SHIELDS. Congratulations Lynsey and Andy on the birth of "Ellis Andrew" 21st January 2013. A gorgeous Grandson, love from Mam, Dad and Family xxx

Thank You

NORAH GRAHAM Eddie, Paula and Colin would like to express their gratitude to Family, Friends and Neighbours for the wonderful flowers, cards, love and support they have received during their sad bereavement. Thanks to John Meynell Funeral Service for their help and guidance and sincere thanks to everyone at St Clare's Church who contributed in making a wonderful, memorable Service
THANK YOU Mally Pybus of Jacks Driving School for getting me through my driving test first time. Love, Rosie xxx
BINGHAM Newton Aycliffe. The family of the late Keith, would like to express their gratitude to relatives, friends, colleagues and neighbours for the thoughts, cards, flowers and kindness received. Thanks to all who attended Keith's funeral and who donated so generously to the Great North Air Ambulance Service. Special thanks to GNAAS, James Cook University Hospital, Jan Mole for a lovely Service and Bryan and staff at Whitehouse Funeral Service for their help and support.

In Memoriam

DEREK RAINE 6th February 2012. A dear friend, sadly missed. Margaret and Joe
DEREK RAINE 6th February 2012. Memories of a dear friend, your presence is missed, your memory I'll treasure. Valerie
BLENKINSOPP, Margaret. 12th February 2011. Gone but not forgotten. Brother Bill
WILLIAM WILSON REID 6th February 2000. 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, Son Mam

Morgan Hutchison
Happy 16th Birthday
11th February 2013
All grown up now, won't be long before you're buying your old man a pint ha ha, have a great day. All our love Dad, Shellie, Callum and Georgia xxxx
Happy 16th birthday to a special grandson, Morgan. Lots of love Nan and Grandad H xx
Happy 16th birthday Hope you have a great 16th birthday Morgan. Lots of love Michelle, Chris, Jack and Joe xx

Obituary

BURROWS 31st January, in hospital, peacefully following a short illness, Connie, in her 98th year, dearly beloved mother, grandmother and greatgrandmother. Funeral Friday 8 February. Would friends kindly meet at Durham Crematorium at 3:00pm prior to cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu would be much appreciated in aid of Cancer Research UK and may be given at the crematorium or will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6EN. Tel: 01325 318600.
JOAN SYMINGTON of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully with her family present on 26th January 2013. Loving Nana, Mother and friend who will be remembered with a Service at St. Clare's Church on Wednesday 13th February at 12noon followed by a Wake at the Royal British Legion Club from 1.30pm. Donations to charity in lieu of flowers please.

happy valentine's day

Bullhead
"I Love You Always"
From your girl with a heart of ice
xxxxxxx

Joanne
My One and Only Valentine.
Love Always
Stuart xxx

Twinkletoes
Love you more than ever. Happy Valentines. All my love, the Wife
xxx

The lucky winner of the bottle of wine is Bullhead and Heart of Ice, congratulations - Your bottle of wine can be collected from the Newton News office.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?
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Running Club Awards



Aycliffe Running Club held their annual awards night at Woodham Golf Club on January 26th. The club is thriving with over 100 members now signed up with a large percentage attending what was an excellent night.

Winners on the night included Dez Fielden who was named male athlete of the year after confirming his position as the club's fastest runner. Kelly Smith was female athlete of the year despite being ravaged by injury for long periods.

The most improved runner was Michael Smith who has made massive strides over the past year and is becoming ever more competitive around the club.

Both the men's and ladies club championships went down to the wire with Peter Milburn and Trish Kay claiming the titles. The ever competitive summer

handicap series was won by Lee Hoar and Emma Scott who have both shown significant improvements over the year.

Special achievement awards went to Richard Harvey and Tracy Warrior. Richard became national Over 70 champion in the 800 metres and Tracy competed in a staggering 18 club championship races, putting her way out in front as the Running Club's most dedicated racer.

The Rob Niven award, which is awarded for overall contribution, went to club stalwart Rob Nicholson who has given a lot of time and effort to supporting the club.

Anyone wanting to join Aycliffe Running Club is welcome to come along to training on Thursday nights at Sunnydale Leisure Centre's Stadium 2000, starting at 6:15.

SPARTANS PREPARE TO "PLAY BALL"

The long summer days may be several months off, but Newton Aycliffe Spartans are busy preparing for their second season in the British Baseball Federation (BBF) AA Northern Division.

In fact, the Spartans have had a relatively short break since their inaugural season finished last August as Team Manager John Johnston explains. "The team felt it was important to carry the momentum we built up towards the end of last season where we were in winning form into the off-season and we have been holding weekly indoor training sessions."

"We have been training at Woodham Academy in Newton Aycliffe on Tuesday nights and these sessions have regularly attracted 16 plus players, which is phenomenal" The Spartans have now commenced outdoor training at their new home for the 2013, Shildon Leisure Centre and the team will be working on transforming part of the playing fields there into a baseball diamond over the coming weeks, in readiness for the start of the BBF regular season in April. The Spartans will always welcome new and experienced players and if you are interested you can find out more information at www.newtonaycliffespartans.co.uk

Head Coach, Sean Wallwein, has been impressed with the commitment of the players during the off-season and is looking forward to the start of the season. "This upcoming season we

are expecting a big push up the division and although it is looking like a couple of experienced teams, from Manchester and Bolton will be dropping into our division, I'm confident that we can become one of the leading teams. We've got some new players who have some good experience and this will help us"

The Spartans also have been invited back to compete in the Leicester Spring League in March. The Leicester Spring League is fast becoming the UK's leading preseason tournament attracting some of the UK's top teams including the Great Britain junior team. The tournament is played over three weekends in March and to be invited back is a huge honour for the Spartans. The Spartans will face Leicester Blue Sox II and Milton Keynes Coyotes on Saturday 23rd March 2013.

Off the field, the Spartans are continuing to grow with a new Junior Section established and any kids aged 8-16 are welcome to come and try baseball and softball, now one of the UK's fastest growing sports and which recently has seen an increase in its funding by Sports England to over £3million.

Spartans, the only Baseball team in the whole of the North East, are looking for local companies or individuals to sponsor the team for the upcoming season and various sponsorship opportunities are available.

Contact John Johnston 07593 951879, email john@newtonaycliffespartans.co.uk

School Netball League Starts at Greenfield

Greenfield Community College are hosting the Sedgefield SSP Primary Netball League in which competitive fixtures began this Wednesday 30th January, following a practice week last week.

Byerley Park, Stephenson Way and St Michaels Primary Schools are taking part as well as a Community team made of pupils from a variety of schools.

This week all schools played each other in the first round of fixtures and the league table is as follows:

School	Points
Byerley Park	9
St Michaels	6
Stephenson Way	3
Community	0

Games were umpired by leaders from Greenfield Community College. The final week of fixtures will take place next week and it is all to play for!

Greenfield Boccia Team Represent County



Boccia is a paralympic sport similar to Bowls and French Boules, but is played indoors. At the start of the year Greenfield School entered their Boccia teams into the Durham County Boccia tournament, where they performed very well. Greenfield School were therefore selected to represent County Durham in the North East Regional U19 Boccia event on Friday 25th January.

Unfortunately Greenfield's older students had exams that day, therefore their younger Yr 7 team travelled to the event, for the experience.

They had a fantastic day at Cardinal Hume School in Gateshead, and were delighted to gain a bronze medal, after finishing third in the region, against some much older players. Very well done to Kyra, Willow, Joshua, Conor and Lewis.

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