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Shocking Case of Neglect by Social Services

Family With Disabled Mother Left Without Heat



Left to right: Alan and Lisa Maddison with Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp and Liam Hannan.

Alan and Lisa Maddison with two children of Gilpin Road were left for 3 weeks with no heating and little food while Durham County Council Social Services did little to help!

Lisa is severely disabled with Huntington's Disease and she and her two children were left shivering under a blanket in awful cold weather.

Alan was boiling a kettle to get hot water for carers who attend to Lisa's hygiene and a fight is still ongoing with Social Services to provide a suitable shower in the home. Lisa's disease affects muscle coordination and she is in cognitive decline. Alan gave up work 8 years ago to look after his wife. He was told by Social Services to phone E-on for help, but they just fobbed him off.

Councillor Billy Blenkinsopp was called in by the family to help and he was appalled by the condition in which they were

living. He brought in two electric heaters to relieve the family's misery.

"In my opinion their situation should have been treated as an emergency and work carried out straight away to help the family who were in a desperate situation with no heat or food in the house. I cannot believe Social Services could leave a family to suffer like this - animals are treated better! This is worse than recent reports of how patients in Stafford Hospital were being treated" said Billy.

If Lisa was in a Nursing Home it would cost Social Services at least £1000 a week, but Alan wants to keep the family together. It is hard work for him as his wife needs 24 hour care. Keeping the garden and home tidy and caring for the children is a constant worry.

Billy took control of the situation and at his own expense had a new central heating boiler installed immediately by local plumber and heating engineer Liam Hannan who gave his time, labour and after service free, which was a real act of kindness. He can be contacted on 0779 2286122.

The Town Councillor took a chance there would be more help from the community when he appealed and he was not disappointed. The Rotary Club donated £500 and others have contributed to cover the costs of a new boiler.

In addition local charity "Helping Hands" made sure the family was fed.

"I personally think there should be an enquiry as to why Social Services ignored the family's desperate plight. They should be ashamed of how they have treated this family and to leave them without support is absolutely deplorable" said Billy.

Social Services Response

Lesley Jeavons, Durham County Council's head of adult care, said: "We would not comment on anyone's personal circumstances but would like to reassure residents that we respond to all requests for assistance and provide help and support to residents wherever possible."

Tai Chi Taster in Village Hall

Mike Watson, certified Tai Chi Trainer will be holding a taster session in Aycliffe Village Hall on Wednesday 27th February. The class, which is especially suitable for mature adults, runs from 3.00-4.30pm. The cost is £5 per person per class and includes light refreshments. To book your place please ring Kathy Round 01325 215732.

MESSY PANCAKES

St. Clare's Messy Church will be on February 16th @ 4pm. Making, decorating and eating and racing with pancakes plus craft activities. The fun begins at 4pm finishing with a tea at 5.30pm. We ask for donations (£1 per child) to these sessions.

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WORRY: Life brings lots of worries; money, jobs, our families or future. Can we learn to worry less?

ANGER: We all get angry, sometimes for good reason! In this session we explore when anger is unhelpful, and how to manage it.

SELF WORTH: Have you ever wanted to talk to God but not known where to start? This session is for you!

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Saturday 16th February - "Feed the Bear"

Gig Fit 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 Marmy had predicted, all over the shop, outside within 30 seconds of the first track kickin' in! On the tables, on the floor, smegging 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 MEGGGGGAAA!! 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 load 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 years - 'Black Knight'. A couple of Zepp tracks and 'Cat Scratch Fever' for an encore rounded off an absolutely brilliant gig at the Tab. 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 fine 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

Saturday 2nd March - "This Machine"

"Well, I don't even know what to say, apart from . . . THIS MACHINE were absolutely amazing last night, one of the best . . . especially when the guitars were on the tables and bar, hahaha! Every song was awesome, perfect sound and just all round excellence. Also it was the best atmosphere I've ever experienced, everyone was having fun". Gig Fit Review: One of the most entertaining bands on the circuit, music by Motorhead, Van Halen, Metallica, Pearl Jam, Bon Jovi, Guns n' Roses, Deep Purple, AC/DC, Billy Idol and Thin Lizzy www.alanbwbb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk

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Greenfield College Cement Pakistani Partnership

Greenfield Community College hosted guests from one of their international partners this week.

The delegation from Abbottabad in Pakistan came to Greenfield to discuss exciting plans for the second year of the Connecting Classrooms project that teachers and pupils from the school are involved in.

This is the town in Pakistan where the former world's most wanted man, Osama Bin Laden was found and assassinated. It is home of the 'Govt Boys School No 3 Abbottabad' with whom Greenfield Community College is linked.

Pupils from both schools take part in perception changing projects to alter stereotypes and encourage more outward looking learners who will develop into truly global citizens.

The project for the next year will involve pupils from both schools studying the same text. 'The Book Thief' by Markus Zusak is a novel narrated by Death and set



in 1939 Nazi Germany. The amount of people dying at the hands of war is increasing. Pupils from both countries will study issues and themes from the novel and share answers to set questions through the dedicated 'Facebook' and 'moodle' forums.

Teachers from Greenfield will have the opportunity to mark and feedback on work from pupils in Pakistan and vice versa. Pupils will have several opportunities to come together through 'skype' to discuss their findings and feelings together. Greenfield hope to send a

Comic Relief Bake Sale

1st Aycliffe Baden-Powell Scouts are holding a baking competition and cake sale in aid of Comic Relief on Saturday 9th March at the Scout Centre from 1pm to 3pm.

To enter your home baked cakes into the competition please contact Sue Beadle on 07971 849840, cost will be £1 per entry. As we don't want any 'Soggy Bottoms' all entries must comply with Food Standards Agency's tips on staying safe and hygienic in the kitchen at food.gov.uk.

All entries to be at the Scout Centre before 1:15 to be judged, once judging has been completed the entries will then be cut up and sold.

Tea and biscuits will also be sold in aid of Comic Relief along with games and quizzes.

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High Rent-Few Shops! Low Rent-More Shops?

It is sad to hear of shops being financially squeezed at this moment in time when business is poor. Higher rents, rates and service charges can only lead to closures and staff redundancies, destroying the current sense of optimism in Aycliffe Town Centre's redevelopment.

It appears the landlords whilst agreeing to upgrade and modernise their property are at the same time planning to get that investment back as soon as possible. Looking back over the years high rents and overheads have been a constant threat in Aycliffe Town Centre and the exodus of many private shopkeepers is part of that history.

The question is often asked why do landlords get so greedy and why do they seem to prefer to see empty shops rather than reducing rents to allow shopkeepers to continue trading? The rent plays a large part in calculating property value. It makes financial sense for an owner to leave a property sit empty rather than take a reduced rent. If you have a big property portfolio there might also be tax benefits on the annual balance sheet.

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The Manual Lifting course still has a couple of places left for Friday March 1st at 10am to 2pm. Ring 321504 to book.



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TOWN CENTRE POLICE STATION



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The news that Newton Aycliffe will have a town centre Police Station is welcome and a victory for common sense.

The U-turn made by the new commissioner Ron Hogg comes after the Police broke a promise to bring the HQ vehicle repair and warehouse unit to Aycliffe Business Park. The Constabulary will not be paying a high rent for premises on the Business Park and the logistics of having Police in the Town Centre near the Magistrates Court must make sense.

No doubt Ron Hogg believed Aycliffe had received a poor deal and wanted to restore faith in the Constabulary. He is certainly shown to be a fair minded man and he will be received well in our community when he attends

the Great Aycliffe Residents Association AGM on Thursday 21st March in St. Mary's Church at 7pm.

The reasoning behind the decision worked in Aycliffe's favour. The Constabulary will not be paying a high rent for premises on the Business Park and the logistics of having Police in the Town Centre near the Magistrates Court must make sense. As can be seen from the photo, it is not a grand building, but as suggested by a GARA member it could look more impressive if the Town Clock, due to be moved, was placed on top!

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

I am investigating a road traffic accident at 11 am on the 31st January 2013. The incident occurred at the Waste Transfer Station on Long Tens Way Aycliffe Business Park, whereby a female was depositing waste when a dark blue vehicle reversed & knocked the female to the ground.

The driver of the vehicle did stop to check the female's welfare, however no details were exchanged. If anyone has witnessed the incident or has any information regarding the driver/vehicle please can you contact 101 & forward the information onto PC Peele 2647.

MP HOLDS SURGERY FOR ADVICE ON BEDROOM TAX AND CUTS TO BENEFITS

Phil Wilson MP has organised special surgeries for residents affected by Cuts to Benefits especially those being hit by the bedroom tax. Thousands of leaflets have gone out to residents across the Constituency advertising the events asking people to come along and get the right advice on cuts that affect them.

Attending the meeting with Phil will be Livin and also East Durham Housing and CAB who will be on hand to give residents advice.

The surgery will take place at NEWTON AYCLIFFE on Saturday 16th February 10am-12 noon at The Youth Centre, Burn Lane.

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Healthy Lunchboxes at Woodham



Woodham Academy's resident chef, Linda Vipond, spent the day with groups of Year 7 pupils making healthy lunchboxes.

The purpose of the sessions was to consider a healthy diet and lifestyle when choosing items for lunchboxes.

The students worked together in groups to identify healthy products that could be a part of a healthy lunchbox. They discussed the different food groups and the nutritional values when choosing foods from each group.

The groups were set a task to prepare and display a healthy lunchbox and ensure something from each food group was included in the lunchbox. A display of bright and colourful foods with different tastes and textures were available to use.

The lunchboxes included items such as, wraps, bagels, wholegrain bread, pitta pockets, fruit salads, pasta salad, vegetable sticks, and cherry tomatoes with a dip.

The fun bit was that the groups got to eat their healthy creation. Many students said that they would try some of the items at home especially the wraps with different fillings and bagels, which seem to be the current popular choice.

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Holding Council Tax Harms Progress

Dear Sir,
In response to Bob Fleming's letter in last week's Newton News, I, too, am very proud the Town Council has been able, yet again, to announce a freeze in Council Tax, despite a huge 'hit' of £95,000 on Council finances as a result of the government's changes to Council Tax Welfare Benefits.

There are, however, two things which I would like to make clear. The first is that – although the Town Council has managed to get by without raising council tax – this has not been achieved without significant damage to the Great Aycliffe community. The Town Council has been forced to abandon two planned apprenticeships which means that two Aycliffe young people will stay out of work next year – young people whom we would have wished to put on the first step of a career. Another big disappointment has been the decision not to appoint a Neighbourhood Planning officer; a Neighbourhood Plan is essential to encourage growth whilst protecting our green spaces from rogue developments

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Town's PCSO's Give Good Service

Dear Sir,
I would like to correct Cllr George Gray on his remarks in the Newton News stating that all Wards have a police attendance at PACT meetings. Greenfield/Middridge Ward for the last four years has been attended by PCSO Mike Welch because either there has not been a PC available or the PC has been on other police work. Mike has gone over and above his duty to make sure that all information needed by the local residents has been given and answered fully and correctly either at the meeting or the following day, which sometimes did happen.

The crime figures have been given and discussed. Many drug related crimes have been sorted and anti-social behaviour is at its lowest. He has liaised with the schoolchildren and attended Greenfield School meetings to gain trust of the young people and helped to take many off-road bikes etc. out of use. His continuous hard work earned him a "WOW" award and he is now training to become a P.C. We had a meeting last week with our new PCSO, Scott Hodgson, without a PC, and who was just as helpful as our previous PCSO.

I chaired the previous Neighbourhood/Residents meeting at the Horndale Club and carried on as chairman of the PACT meeting at the Evangelical Church and always make sure it is advertised every month.

When the three streets leave Greenfield/Middridge and

becomes part of West Ward in May I hope to have a regular PACT meeting in the Silverdale area. I have worked successfully on several occasions with PCSO Gavin Laycock and would welcome working with him again with or without a PC. I do not want criticism from

Cllr Gray for responding to his remarks as surely the best way is to just get on with helping residents, putting your trust in the PCSO. They will always find out the answers they cannot give at the meeting and pass information back to you as soon as possible.

Cllr Dorothy Bowman.

Signs of Confidence in Newton Aycliffe

Dear Sir,
ACORN welcomes the news from our Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Hogg that Newton Aycliffe is to get a new Town Centre police station. This announcement will come as a great sign of confidence for our brilliant town. Our residents feel for too long we have been policed at arms length and the time has come to promote the presence of officers across our town by displaying a symbolic blue lamp.

Congratulations to Ron and his team for taking decisive action to allay the fears of local residents. Thanks also go to Great Aycliffe Residents Association for leading the campaign so successfully and to everyone who petitioned and got behind the campaign. This is a great victory for residents and taken in context with the fantastic surge

forward in Newton Aycliffe with the Aldi development over the past year and with the town centre work progressing, the coming of Hitachi, must be the best news for as long as I can remember. Hopefully the spin offs will create even more jobs. This is the time of year to begin sprucing up our town and if anyone has any potholes in roads, broken paving, or streetlights which require mending please report them to Durham County Council or alternately www.fixmystreet.com which offers an excellent service for reporting things.

May I take this opportunity to thank all who have supported ACORN through its first very successful year and we look forward to continuing our work through 2013

Ken Robson (Chair)
ACORN residents association

CHIEF CONSTABLE FOR DURHAM CONFIRMED

Mike Barton has been confirmed as new Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary.

The appointment, proposed by Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Hogg, was confirmed today by the Durham Police and Crime Panel.

Mr Barton, who has been temporary chief constable since last October, has been with the force since moving here from Lancashire police in 2008, serving first as assistant chief constable then being appointed deputy in 2009.

"It's both an honour and a delight to have been given the job of leading this constabulary and providing world class policing to the people of County Durham and Darlington," he said today.

"I'm proud to be leading a team of dedicated, professional police officers and staff who have maintained our excellent performance in crime and anti-social behaviour reduction, in the face of budget cuts and the challenges of a complete force restructure."

"We are all committed to the force vision to inspire excellent policing, inspiring confidence in victims and our communities by protecting



neighbourhoods, tackling criminals and solving problems around the clock."

Mr Barton, who holds the national intelligence portfolio with the Association of Chief Police Officers, has led the force in tackling organised crime in County Durham and Darlington. Operation Sledgehammer uses intelligence, analysis and effective enforcement action to break up criminal networks which often involve extended family members.

He is also committed to tackling lower level crime and disorder, including anti-social behaviour like litter, dog fouling and speeding vehicles which can have an adverse impact on communities. These issues are regularly addressed through neighbourhood Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings.

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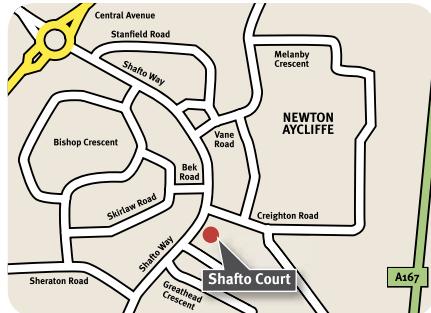
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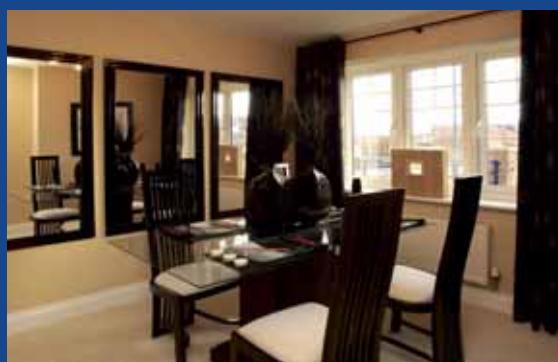
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Primary Schoolchildren in Multi Sports Skill Festival

207 energetic children from across seven local primary schools took part in Woodham Academies Year 2 Multi Sports Festival. The 207 children were able to sample a variety of sports, showing off skills and demonstrating their fantastic sporting ability. The festival was organised by Education Enterprise Legacy and saw professional coaches work alongside Woodham students to organise a carousel of sport activities that included Tri-golf, Tennis, Basketball, Football, Cricket, Hockey, Tag Rugby and Gymnastics. Lewis Marr, Managing Director of Education Enterprise Legacy, said "The festival was a huge

success and the feedback from the kids and teachers was excellent. I must add the year 9 students from Woodham Academy who assisted in delivering the programme were brilliant and their school should be very proud!"

The festival was aimed at skill development rather than competition, we just want to encourage the children to go and participate in new sports outside of school and hopefully we have influenced a few young people today building on the success of the Olympics."

Education Enterprise Legacy will be holding more festivals and events in the future, for more information and photographs visit educationenterprise.co.uk



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Dear Sir,
I commend Phillip Halton for being a responsible dog owner, furthermore I would like to thank him for highlighting the issue of dog fouling in response to my letter on the subject of thoughtless horse riders.
During my time working for Sedgefield Borough Council as a Neighbourhood Warden in Newton Aycliffe, I issued a large number of fines for dog fouling, littering and fly tipping. All of these activities blight the area we live in.
I can assure Mr Halton that I do keep my eyes open to what's going on and I would have no hesitation in reminding dog owners of their responsibilities in respect of dog fouling on maintained grassed areas and footpaths.
Similarly I would have no hesitation in reporting such matters to the enforcing authority, Durham County Council.
An £80 on the spot fine or a fine up to £1,000 if found guilty by a court, has the ability to focus dog owners on their responsibility to pick up and properly dispose of their dog's poo.
Supplies of dog bags are available free of charge from Great Aycliffe Town Council Offices and from the Park Wardens in the town centre park.
Councillor Jed Hillary

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Councillor Jed Hillary

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DANGEROUS STEEP HILL

Dear Sir,
It is good that some paths are cleared of snow and ice, but the steep path down to the bus stop at Bluebell Bungalows was never cleared.
This path is very steep to start with but snow and ice make it very dangerous and it is the only route to catch a bus.
Could the Town Council do something about it as it is quite serious?
S. Thompson
Bluebell Close.

COMMISSIONER BUDGETS FOR NEW POLICE STATION

Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Hogg has announced the plans for a new police station in Newton Aycliffe. The existing police station in the town centre has been closed for 2 years since it became unfit for purpose due to its age and running costs. Durham Police Authority then took the decision to take out a

lease for a new police station at Parsons Court on the main industrial estate in the town. Surveys amongst residents have shown that they feel that the out of town police station at Parsons Court is too far to travel. Since the Police and Crime Commissioner has taken office in Nov 2012 he has been working with the Force to identify how to improve police presence in the town.

In setting the 2013/14 budget the Police and Crime Commissioner has included £0.5m to be used to demolish the existing town centre police station and replace it with a small modular building.

Ron Hogg said: "I am very pleased to be able to announce this. Newton Aycliffe is a big town and its public want a town centre presence. This new police station will provide the same service as that provided from Parsons Court. Crime in Newton Aycliffe is low and continues to fall and this new building will provide further reassurance to the public.

In terms of timescales, I expect the existing building will be demolished at the end of this year and the new building opened in the first half of next year. This is subject to working with the relevant agencies such as the Planning Department at the County Council. I wish to express my thanks to the people of Newton Aycliffe for the support that they give to the Force."

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Dates and Times of Statutory Meetings of the Town Council and its Committees

Wednesday 27th February 2013

Environment Committee & Recreation Committee
7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 20 minutes has been set aside for an elector to ask questions, give evidence or make representation on any item of business included on the agenda of the Council, its Committees and the Planning Sub-Committee. With the exception of the Annual and Extra-ordinary Council Meetings members of the public can submit a written question for the Council Agenda as long as it is submitted 7 clear days before a meeting. If members of the public have any questions it would be appreciated if they could make them known prior to the start of the meeting. Agendas/Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend. The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".

LOVE IS IN THE AIR AT THE PCP



As part of the Valentine's Celebrations the PCP want to remind you to "Love Yourself" as well as those close to you. When you're feeling good, you give off those all important vibes! The Pioneering Care Centre has a Natural Therapy Suite and Hydrotherapy Pool to help people relax and feel better; why not treat yourself, or a loved one, to a complimentary pamper session? Choose from a relaxing, stress busting holistic therapy such as Aromatherapy Massage or Reiki, or a more bespoke treatment to help reduce aches and pains or improve mobility such as Osteopathy, Physiotherapy or Bowen Therapy. Gift Vouchers available, tailored to suit individual needs. February is British Heart Foundation's Healthy Heart Month and the PCP are inviting you to take your first step on the road to a healthy heart with them. There's lots you can do to keep your heart healthy -whatever your age. Taking exercise, eating a healthy diet, encouraging children to be heart healthy and being aware of dangers such as smoking, drinking, high blood pressure, and stress are all important for your long term heart health. PCP offers a range of help, support and activities to help you along the way. Services available include personal Health Trainers and group support, exercise classes and free walking, running and cycling groups. Put the winter months behind you and look forward to the warmer, positive days ahead with a little help from PCP. Pop in to the Pioneering Care Centre, Carers Way, ring 321234 or email enquiries@pcp.uk.net, www.pcp.uk.net. The Pioneering Care Centre is run by local charity the Pioneering Care Partnership to help people of all ages and abilities to improve their health, wellbeing and quality of life.

Greenfield Time Capsule



Photo left to right: Megan Lothian, Ellie Jade Anderson, David Priestley and Joshua Walker.

Students at Greenfield have been busy compiling a collection of items to bury in the time capsule funded by GAMP. The capsule will be buried at the front of the school over half term and when it's dug up in 50 years' time will contain a clue to the strengths of Greenfield in 2012/13.

Contained in the capsule are messages for a future generation from our current students as well as copies of students' work and background to their lives, backed up by newsletters and items of uniform. Some of the students' favourite books feature in the collection;

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Topical Titter Bits

Dear Sir,

Recent news of newts holding back the building of a new Police HQ at Durham and costing £2,000 a day, may have the new Police commissioner reconsidering his approval of a new Police Station in NEWTON AYCLIFFE.

"Chime and Chime" again I read about how sacred the Town Centre clock is to people, so much so that after the demolition of Churchill House it is to be re-erected elsewhere. Give me a break! Most people don't give a hoot about the boring, annoying monstrosity. Let's just crush it into the ground with the rest of the building.

May I comment on the horse meat scandal - could it possibly be a terrorist plot by AL-COWEDA?

As for same-sex marriage will gay men be marrying gay women next?
Honest John



Half-Term Healthy Hearts
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Saturday 16th & Monday 18th February
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- 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

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Newtonian's Vietnam to Cambodia Bike Ride

On the 23rd February 2013 Sarah Jackson and Jackie Lothian both from Newton Aycliffe are cycling 400K from Vietnam to Cambodia! They have both funded the trip themselves so that any money they raise will all go to their chosen charity. Sarah is raising money for a new wheelchair basketball club "The Tees Valley Titans" based in Middlesbrough that her son Joshua attends.

Regular readers may recall her fundraising to buy Joshua a new wheelchair last year which many Newton News readers supported. Jackie is raising money for "Rays of Sunshine" which grants wishes for terminally ill children. Jackie is also on the Just Giving website if you want to donate that way.

If you think they can do it and would like to sponsor them please contact Sarah on 0795 8001756 or Jackie on 0797 6354418.

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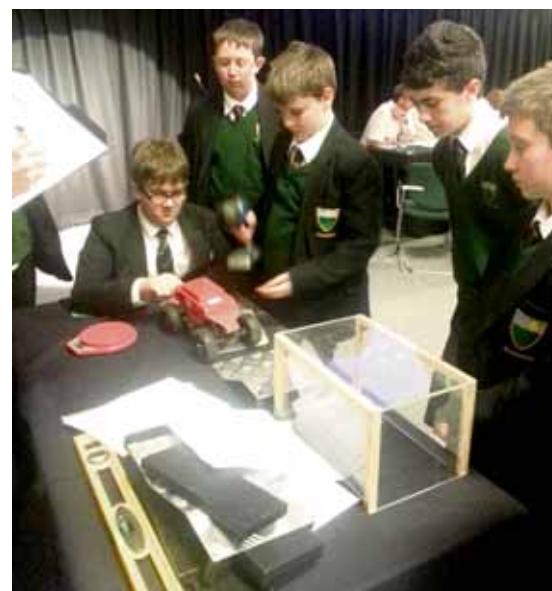
GREENFIELD REACH FINALS AT LAND ROVER FACTORY



Greenfield's thriving STEM Club which promotes Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths had two teams qualify for the National 4 x 4 in Schools Technology Challenge Northern England finals held at the Land Rover factory at Halewood.

Greenfield College completed with other teams from as far as Birmingham to Scotland. Greenfield were proud to be the only school from the North East of England to qualify for the finals. STEM club members had de-engineered radio controlled 4 x 4 vehicles before reconstructing them to exacting competition standards.

The team progressed through all the stages of the final over 7 hours including a trailer reversing task in which only one point was dropped, a presentation to Land Rover engineers and national STEM Ambassadors. The teams



vehicles were subject to a gruelling technical scrutiny to make sure things met the high standards set.

Both teams finished in the top 10 and returned very proud and ready to address their next challenge.

Young Aycliffe's Got Talent Show

Students from Year 9 Youth Challenge at Greenfield Community College are busying themselves working towards finalising plans for their production of "Young Aycliffe's Got Talent". The only thing that is missing now is YOU. They would like to invite YOU to come along and support the young people who have worked so hard on all aspects of the Show.

The event will take place on Saturday 23rd February at the Youth Centre, opposite Tesco's, commencing 5 p.m. Tickets are £1.50 in advance. Family tickets £5 for 2 adults and 2 children, under 5 years of age go free.

There will be a raffle and refreshments on the day and also a guest appearance. But to know who the guest is you will have to come along and find out for yourself.

Tickets will be available on the door at £2 each. Advance tickets can be purchased from the Youth Centre, 01325 307522, or joanclark2011@live.co.uk or Greenfield Community Art Centre.

Joan Clark Secretary of the Youth Centre Management Committee said "I am thrilled that Nordic Pioneer who sponsored the first prize last year has agreed to continue their sponsorship into the second year.

A big thank you to them because if it wasn't for companies like his then there would be no cash prizes to encourage the young people to take part.

We still need a sponsor for the second prize, so if you can help support these young people, please contact me at the youth centre or via joanclark2011@live.co.uk

STOP PRESS



Community Shop Opens

A new Community Shop managed by Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) is officially opening this Saturday 16 February at the Healthy Hearts family event.

The shop is next to the Post Office in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre and will be used by local community groups and organisations to promote their services and activities under the umbrella of 'Active Aycliffe'.

The aim of 'Active Aycliffe' is to promote health and wellbeing for children, young people and families, and to encourage participation in local activities to improve their lifestyle. The shop will showcase the activities of local clubs and

associations and provide a market place of information.

Jane Hartley Chief Executive for the PCP says "We want people to visit the 'Community Shop' to discover the huge variety of local activities and services that people can access on their own doorstep. We want people to have fun, try something new and celebrate what Aycliffe has to offer."

"A huge thank you to the Aycliffe Shopping Centre for the use of the shop, and to Greenfield College COPE group and Durham Tees Valley Probation's Unpaid Work Unit who have been busy decorating the shop, ready for the launch event this weekend."

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Growth in Apprenticeships

GROWING interest in apprenticeships could help spur on the growth of the region's manufacturing sector, according to a North East training provider.

Newton-Aycliffe based manufacturing and engineering training company S.W. Durham Training (SWDT) says that a surge in interest in – and sign up to – apprenticeships could help grow the manufacturing and engineering sectors in the North East.

The 45 year old training company, which specialises in providing courses for the manufacturing and engineering sectors, believes that a growing awareness of the benefits of apprenticeships is helping to make it a more attractive career choice, something that new figures released from Semta support. Semta, the sector skills council for science, engineering and advanced manufacturing revealed that apprenticeships in engineering and advanced manufacturing in England have increased by more than 85 per cent since 2010, with the North East seeing a 133 per cent increase since 2010. Michael Blades, business development manager at SWDT, said that the figures are a positive sign for the growth of the sector.

He said: "Attracting people

into this sector has been a challenge for a long time. Often people have very outdated views of what manufacturing and engineering environments are like, and this has been a real obstacle in the past. But the increased profile of companies in the North East like Nissan, Nifco and others, is helping to dispel these myths and showcase the great opportunities that exist in this field.

People are increasingly seeing that a vocational route into employment rather than an academic one can be more rewarding, and more successful.

"However, though I am really encouraged by Semta's figures, it is important to say that this is only the start, and we absolutely must build upon the success we are beginning to see and push out the message that manufacturing and engineering apprenticeships can get people onto a very rewarding career path."

Mr Blades' view reflects that of Semta chief executive, Sarah Sillars, who said that, while the figures showed the ambition was on track, there was no room for complacency. In a statement released by Semta, Ms Sillars said: "These figures are extremely encouraging. These are real jobs, many paying well above

the national average, with young people earning as they learn new skills.

"But we shouldn't rest on our laurels. Engineering and manufacturing still has an image problem — we need more teachers and parents to understand apprenticeships will benefit their children and not somebody else's.

"The sector needs to recruit 82,000 people UK-wide just to cover retirements up to 2016 so there is a real opportunity for young people, so much more needs to be done to attract them into engineering and advanced manufacturing."

A total of 31,070 new apprentices entered the sector in 2011–12, compared with 22,300 in 2010–11, and 16,760 in 2009–10. However, while the number of apprentices is growing, the number of 16 to 24-year-olds makes up just seven per cent of the advanced manufacturing and engineering workforce, compared with 11 per cent for all sectors, while women are also under-represented at 20 per cent compared with 49 per cent for all sectors.

Mr Blades added: "Manufacturing and engineering are sectors that are bucking the trend here in the North East, and we need to make sure that we bring through enough skilled people to support the growth we're seeing in these industries."

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



Apprenticeship Boost for Aycliffe Businesses

Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) and Durham County Council's Employability Team have come together to offer local firms the chance to offer apprenticeship opportunities in the Aycliffe area.

The project will support businesses to create 20 engineering and manufacturing specific posts for young people living in the Great Aycliffe and Middridge area.

The aim of the project is to tackle the high levels of youth unemployment in the area by encouraging and supporting businesses to create employment opportunities that would not otherwise have existed.

The introduction of the National Apprenticeship Service Initiative, an apprenticeship grant for employees aged between 16 and 24, has given the council the opportunity to compliment available funding to develop a new programme to help small and medium size businesses.

A total grant of £2,500 is available to businesses. Adam White, GAMP

coordinator, said: "One of GAMP's key priorities is employment, enterprise, education and training.

"This initiative brings together local employers, the Area Action Partnership and colleagues within the council's Employability Team with an aim of boosting, not only the job prospects of young people, but the businesses themselves."

The programme will create opportunities that will last a minimum of 15 months with an incentive being paid at the end of month 15.

GAMP has dedicated £10,000 from its Budget to the project with a further £10,000 from the Neighbourhood Budget of the late Cllr Enid Paylor. In addition £30,000 has been secured from the National Apprenticeship Service.

Roman of Aycliffe Re-launch Website

AYCLIFFE based Shower Manufacturer and Designer, Roman Limited, have re-launched their website with a new look and feel, which will be useful for both trade and consumer visitors to the site.

The homepage has received most of the attention and has been designed to allow visitors to quickly link through to the most popular sections. As Roman does not sell direct to the public, and has a network of retailers UK wide, one of the key website sections which has been given prominence is the Showroom Locator, so visitors can easily find their nearest displaying retailer.

Other pages and sections which have also been given prominence on the homepage are the Guarantee registration, so visitors can quickly register their Truelife, Lifetime Guarantee; the Brochure Request forms; and the Product Pages.

The homepage also features a useful drop down navigation bar at the side to allow visitors to quickly search by product type or range type. This is particularly valuable for general consumers, who are often unfamiliar with specific enclosure styles, as it includes line drawing to illustrate what the different

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Apprenticeships Project at Greenfield



Greenfield Students at A-Tech Fabrications

This Monday was the launch of the GAMP AAP funded Apprenticeships project at Greenfield. Year 9 students visited six local companies on Aycliffe Business Park, each group really enjoyed these visits, seeing inside these companies and learning about the different job roles, including apprenticeships and different career paths.

The students then worked hard all afternoon putting together creative presentations demonstrating what they had learnt about the companies, with the assistance of a representative from each company. The next step for these students is to continue to learn more about apprenticeships, whilst imagining their own company and the jobs there would be available there. The students will be presenting their ideas to the Aycliffe based companies in March.

BUTERWICK CRAFT FETE

Buterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland will be staging a Spring Craft Fete in the Newgate Centre on Saturday 6th April from 9.30am – 3.30pm.

Places are allocated on a first come first served basis and must register in advance. The fee is £15. For more details or enquiries please call 07730 541608.

All proceeds will go to the Butterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland.

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13th Feb: 5pm – 7pm

27th Feb: 5pm – 7pm

2nd March: 10am – 12pm

To confirm your place on one of the above dates please contact Kirsty Haden on: 01325 313194

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AGNEW COMMUNITY CENTRE

The following is what's on at your local centre in Morrison Close.

MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS: Aycliffe Day Nursery - 8am to 6pm - Ring Jane on 0776 1818514 for the best deal for your child or to arrange a viewing.

MONDAYS: Aycliffe Spiritualists - 7pm to 9pm or ring Gladys Brown on 01325-324660

TUESDAYS: Art Class - 1pm to 3pm or ring Andy Taylor on 0191-3732485. Disability Sports Club for 5 to 16 year olds - 5-30pm to 7-30pm - please ring Ron Mitchie on 01325-321504

office or 07749 236853. Aycliffe Spiritualists at 7-30pm to 9pm again please ring Gladys Brown on 01325-324660 before attending this meeting or occasional meetings held on Friday evenings.

WEDNESDAYS: Tai Chi Class - 6.30pm to 8pm - attend or ring Brett Lambert on 07903718088 for information on this popular class.

THURSDAYS: Arriba Community Weight Loss Challenge - 6pm to 8pm - please ring Jules Baxter on 07966968388 for full details.

FRIDAYS: PK All Stars Youth Club for the 7 to 11 years olds - 6pm to 7-30pm - For full details of this exciting new set up please ring James Ross on 07966 266642.

To book your Child's Birthday Party on a Saturday or Sunday for 3 hours at a cost of £24 with use of the whole Centre - from April 1st 2013 the price will be £25 - Ring Ron Mitchie on 01325-321504 office or 0774 9236853 Today

Should you require an event not listed then ring Ron and if the Agnew cannot help then he will try and put you in touch with other Community Centres who may be able to accommodate you.

CHRISTINA SHOWS COUNTY POTENTIAL



Athletics team with Christina Shodunke (centre back row)

Greenfield Yr 7 girls represented Sedgefield in the County Durham Sportshall athletics event at the Louisa Centre Stanley.

The team included Christina Shodunke, Lucy Baird, Danielle Ord, Melissa Foster, Alanta Goyns, Rebekah Graham, Katie Oliver, Lucy McCormick and Jessica Catleugh. All girls performed extremely well, gaining a number of individual 1st, 2nd and 3rd place positions in both track and field events

against some of the best in the County.

The team finished in Bronze medal position overall and were delighted with their achievements. Individually Christina gave a number of outstanding performances, finishing 1st in her three individual events. Christina has been selected to represent Sedgefield in County Durham's individual trials in February. Good luck Christina and well done girls.

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Touch Rugby Relaunch

This Friday, between 6 and 7.30pm the Durham Tigers will relaunch their touch rugby session at the Millennium Stadium, across the road from the Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Shildon.

Touch Rugby is a non contact form of rugby league and is open to all ages and both genders. The difference between rugby league and touch rugby is that instead of opponents physically tackling each other, the opposition is required to pass the ball to his opponent if his opponent touches him.

The club secretary, Phil Selby, said "Touch Rugby is a great way to get into rugby league, or to get fit, because it is a very energetic sport and there is still the physicality of running with the ball, scoring tries, passing and running from your opponent. So if you would like to get fit or you are interested in rugby league but not the idea of physical tackling then come along on Friday."

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TIMELY DONATION

Sedgefield Water Polo Club want to say thank you to Councillor Dixon for donating the funds for them to train a member of their club as a pool life guard.

The club is grateful for this donation as it is necessary for them to have trained pool life guards on the pool side in order for them to be able to run their sessions.

Sedgefield Water Polo Club is keen to welcome new members who can swim or have reached level 5 & 6 swimming lessons. Please come down on any Saturday night 5pm to 6.30pm for a free session at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. We look forward to seeing you there.

RACE FOR FITNESS

'BOOTYLICIOUS!' Aerobic Cardio Workout

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At the Greenfield Community Arts Centre in the Dance Studio

Every Monday - 6pm till 7pm - £3.50 per session

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At the Greenfield Community Arts Centre in the Dance Studio

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With our large screen T.V.'s, you could watch your favorite sport while enjoying the pleasant surroundings. A warm welcome awaits you from all our friendly staff. Remember to watch the local press for any special drinks promotions.

For further information, contact the Oak Leaf Sports Complex 01325-300600 or visit our web site at www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/oakleafsportscomplex

Byerley Park Win Netball League



The Sedgefield School Sport Partnership Netball CVL, hosted by Greenfield Community College, concluded this week. Byerley Park, Stephenson Way, St Michaels and a community team have been playing Hi 5 Netball in an after school league for the past 3 weeks. The final school games took place this week and the results were as follows: Stephenson Way 0. Byerley Park 5

Stephenson Way 0

St Michaels 8

St Michaels 0 - Byerley Park 3

Added to the competitive

results from last week, this is

the final league table:

Byerley Park 15

St Michaels 9

Stephenson Way 3

Well done to all teams and in

particular Byerley Park who were unbeaten throughout the competition. All games were umpired and scored by Sports Leaders from Greenfield Community College who did a fantastic job. All players were given information for the community netball team at Greenfield and encouraged to continue their participation in Netball.

After half term Sedgefield School Sport Partnership have a Hi5 Netball Tournament planned that is open to all schools in the area. Entry is via www.sedgefieldssp.org.uk



On Tuesday 12th February Sedgefield School Sport Partnership held their annual Cross Country Festival at the Oak Leaf Centre, Newton Aycliffe. 13 schools and 360 young people took part in the event which acts as a qualifier for Durham County Finals. There were four races which

included Y3/4 Girls, Y3/4 Boys, Y5/6 Girls and Y5/6 Boys.

The course took the young people up and down the hills and around the football pitches at the Oakleaf Centre, a great venue for cross country.

The runners were representing

themselves and their school teams as the top 2 teams and top 3 individuals in each race qualified. The results were as follows:

GIRLS Y 3/4

1st - Broom Cottages

2nd - Vane Road

BOYS Y 5/6

1st - Broom Cottages

2nd - Sedgefield Primary

3rd - Vane Road

GIRLS Y 5/6

1st - St Williams

2nd - Sedgefield Primary

3rd - Vane Road

BOYS Y 5/6

1st - St Williams

2nd - Sedgefield Primary

3rd - Vane Road

Those who have qualified now take part in the County Finals on Friday 15th March 2013, representing themselves, their school and Sedgefield SSP.

Mayor Val Raw attended the event and presented the medals to the winners and runners up. All 360 participants were given a certificate.

Well done to everyone who took part in the event!

Town's Football Club Appeal to Lost Supporters

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Saturday 16th February: Dunston (A) 3pm

Saturday 23rd February: Newcastle Benfield (H) 3pm

Wednesday 27th February: Bedlington (A) 7.30pm

Saturday 2nd March: Billingham Town (A) 3pm

Tuesday 5th March: Celtic Nation (A) 7.30pm

www.newtonaycliffe.co.uk

Durham Alliance, in 2008-09 Wearside League champions. For the first three weeks of last season they were top of our first division and with ground facilities changed almost beyond recognition.

"The curious thing is that gates have fallen season by season, a disappointing 124 paying to see Hebburn's 4-1."

It has led to much head scratching at the club. How could a club attract 200 in the Wearside League with ease, but struggle to match it against non-league heavyweights such as Bishop Auckland, Whitley Bay and West Auckland?

Finding the answer could help the Royal Blues challenge at the top of the table. Have you stopped going for a particular reason? Is there something stopping you from going? If so, the club would like to hear why. Send your comments to glenr2790@gmail.com.

Never been before? Then get down next Saturday, February 23rd as they host Newcastle Benfield in a game that could prove decisive in the club's battle to remain in the first division.

"Without big gates we will struggle to compete at the level we're at. We've worked hard to reach this level and it would be a shame if we were unable to continue providing first division football for the town due to a lack of funds.

"We understand many from the town go and see the big three clubs in the region but for those who don't or can't afford to, we urge you to give Moore Lane Park a go on a Saturday. You won't regret it."

Northern League chairman Mike Amos has also expressed his bemusement at the situation. In August, after he had seen Aycliffe play Hebburn, he wrote on his Chairman's Blog: "Newton Aycliffe have done extraordinarily well. Five years ago they were in the

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For more information on these and many other Cash flow solutions, please call for an initial informal, confidential chat on

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Open Darts Tournament

The Turbinia Pub is holding a Joe Ewin Memorial Open Darts Tournament on Sunday 24th February without registration from 10am - 12 noon and starting at 1pm.

This is the first annual competition in memory of Joe who died last year. Entry is open to all with £200 prize added for men and £50 prize added for ladies. There is a "Winner Takes All" Blind Pairs Competition at the end for £3 per person.

Sponsors: Heiniken UK and Horndale Taxis. All proceeds to the Wishing Well Club.

SCOOTER THEFT

Dear Sir,
I would just like to make your readers aware of a scooter theft from Hawthorn Drive, School Aycliffe last Sunday night. My 8 year old son's MGP Team Edition VX2 2012 in turquoise blue was stolen from outside my front door during Sunday night. This has been very upsetting for him as it was a Christmas present. I have put posters up at the top of the Chestnut estate and the Spar in Heighington. The police have been informed with a full description of the scooter. If anyone has any information on this matter I would really appreciate it and just to remind residents of the Chestnuts to be vigilant at all times and to lock everything away. Tel: 07966 764959

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Half-Term Fun at Killhope Museum

Winter crafts, wood carving and toasted marshmallows will be among the attractions when a County Durham museum opens for the February half term holidays.

Killhope: the North of England Lead Mining Museum will be open from Saturday, 16 February to Sunday, 24 February.

Special activities during the week will include a Fun in the Forest Day on Tuesday, 19 February, with wild wood crafts followed by tatties and marshmallows around the campfire. There is a £5 charge per person and booking is essential.

On Wednesday, 20 February, youngsters can find out about the museum's unique collection of spar boxes before getting creative and making their own. The session runs from 12.30pm to 4.30pm and costs £7.50, including materials.

There will also be winter and spring crafts on Thursday, 21 February for a £2 charge. The museum will be open from 10.30am to 5pm each day.

For more information, call 01388 537 505, visit www.killhope.org.uk or email info@killhope.org.uk

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Former Nurse, Sheena Stephenson from Aycliffe has good reason to thank the Cavell Nurses Trust who have given her great support since being forced to give up work due to back problems.

Sheena has to take morphine twice a day to ease the pain of Osteoarthritis and can only stand for short periods. She also faced financial problems since leaving the children's heart unit at the Freeman Hospital in 2003.

During the fight to obtain her pension she was obliged to pay for X-rays to prove she had a permanent disability. She sold her house to cover the loss of incapacity benefit until she won her case for it to be reinstated.

The Cavell Nurses Trust came to her aid helping with household equipment furniture and bills. Sheena is very grateful for the help and recently held a fundraising Coffee Morning for the charity.

If there are former nurses in Aycliffe who require help they can find more information on www.cavellnursestrust.org or contact Sheena on 314296, e-mail sheena46@aol.com**BINGO & BEER PRICES HELD AT SCOUTS CENTRE**

Newton Aycliffe Scout Supporters and Community Association are trying to do their bit in the hard times we are all experiencing deciding not to pass on the rise in duty imposed by government on beer sold on the premises until later in the year. To take advantage of these prices please come along to our friendly bar on Bluebell Way, we are open from 8.00pm each evening Thursday to Tuesday (currently closed on Wednesday) and from 12.00pm at weekends. Our Saturday night Bingo is now every week due to increased interest with doors opening at 7.00pm. Other people can benefit from the low prices by holding your Party or Get Together in the hall which is available at very competitive rates: £25.00 for an afternoon, £35.00 for an evening until 11.00pm or £45.00 until midnight, there is an additional charge of £10 if you are erecting a bouncy castle or similar due to the electricity consumption. We also have a number of groups and organisations that use the hall and you may wish to join one or more of these activities. There are two Scout groups, and a dance class amongst others. Saturday morning is for kids with entertainment organised by PK All Stars.

If you are interested in the hall hire or need any more details please call in during our opening hours or telephone 01325 318 901 when we are open. There is a message service when closed.

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Cars Cause Damage to Grass**Lent Lunches**

St. Clare's Church in the Town Centre will be holding their soup lunches for the 5 weeks of Lent.

Starting Tuesday February 19th with the last one being Tuesday March 19th. There will be a short Service at 12 noon in church itself followed by a choice of soup and roll with tea/coffee and biscuits in the church hall afterwards.

After lunch there will be a short reflection period based on 'Healing and Reconciliation'. The soup lunch is priced at £3.50 - proceeds will go to a chosen Lenten Charity.

You are very welcome to attend the service/lunch/reflection, or just part of it. Soup will be served 12.30. Come along for a mixture of faith and fellowship before the Easter celebrations.

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2 BEDROOM house in Horndale, excellent. £400. Tel 07866 622243

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Obituary**In Memoriam****Congratulations**

ROBERT HILL JACKMAN of Bluebell Close, Newton Aycliffe aged 90 years, peacefully at home after a long illness bravely borne, surrounded by those that loved and cared for him. Beloved Husband of the late Janet Jackman, will be sadly missed by Son Christopher and family, may you rest in peace.

ROBERT JACKMAN, passed away 11th February 2013, dearly loved Dad to Beverley and father-in-law to Douglas, a cherished Granddad of Paul, Katy and James. We will miss you so much Dad, night night, God bless, rest in peace now, your devoted Daughter Beverley xxxx

ROBERT HILL JACKMAN, beloved Dad to Leonard, father-in-law to Lesley, much loved Granddad to Craig, Simon, Sarah-Jane and Mireille and great Granddad to Madison, Mackenzie, Bryn and Aron, you will be sadly missed, rest in peace xxxx

We would like to thank Dr Brandmair, the Nurses and staff at Cobblers Hall Surgery, plus a very special thank you to Dads carers (Angels) Joan and Emma for their kindness and who were there to lean on at the very end. Thank you also to all family and friends for their love and support at this very sad time. For funeral date please see the Northern Echo.

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Bev
Happy Anniversary for
14th February 2013
All my Love, Rob
xxxxxxx

Maureen (Nichol) Mawson

14th February 2009 - "Valentine's Forever"

Until my memories fade, and my life will depart. You will live forever, here within my heart. There comes a time, we all must part. Though you left too soon, although it broke my heart. I know you are now at peace, thoughts and love, never to cease. You did many things for me, your heart, so kind and true. When I needed someone, I could always count on you. No one knows my sorrows, they've not seen me weep. Cries from a broken heart, while others are asleep. I treasured every thought of you, all along, on my own. Having a book of memories, that's not upon a shelf. But, locked away in my heart, "the key I keep myself". "Still missing you".

Loving Husband Derrick

Jim Smith

Passed away on
15th February 2012

No finer man the world could hold, two helping hands and a heart of gold. Thank you for the years we shared, the love you gave, the way you cared. Loving Wife Elfriede. We miss you Dad from Ronnie, Karen. We miss you Grandad from Nadine, David, Daniel, Emma, Annis, Marc, Craig Meitza

JOE CLISH 18th February, 2011. Two years have passed and the tears still fall. We all love and miss you so much. You are always in our thoughts and in our hearts. God bless you Dad. From Jo, Mick, Philip, Dorothy, Alan, Margaret, David, Grandbairns and Great Grandbairns xxx

PAUL STEVENS 17th February. To some you may be forgotten, to others part of the past. To those who loved and lost you, your memory will always last. Loved always, Mam and Dad xxx

PAUL STEVENS Sweet are the memories silently kept of my brother Paul who I will never forget. Julie xx

PAUL STEVENS Missing you Uncle Paul, we always will. Love, Daniel and Kelly xxx

JOE BARNETT February 12th 2002. If memories bring us close we are never far apart. Because you are always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts. Miss you. Loving Wife Eva and family

JOE BARNETT February 12th 2002. You left a place, no one can fill, we miss you now and always will. Daughter Betty and Family

Daniel Box

Happy 21st Birthday Son
14th February 2013
Lots of love,
Mam and Rob
Happy 21st Birthday
Love Nanna, Grandad,
Uncle Anthony and
Thomas
Happy 21st Birthday
Love Chantelle

Ella Mae Beadle

Happy 1st Birthday
13th February 2013
Happy 1st birthday
Princess! Love you sooo
much, one of the best gifts
we could have ever asked
for! Love, Mammy and
Daddy

Happy 1st Birthday
Have a fab day, lots of
love, your big Bro Jason
xxx

Happy 1st Birthday
Sweetheart. Love you lots!
Nana, Grandad Hodgson
and Uncle Arron xxx

Happy 1st Birthday Ella
Lots of love, Uncle Don
xxxx

Kasia Tegan

Happy 13th Birthday Treasure
"Little Cutie to a Teenage Beauty"
Love you, love you 2-10 - Hi 5, you won.
Auntie Pamela xxxxxxx
PS: Enjoy your party

Robert Mortimer

Happy 70th Birthday
Robert
Love from Joan
Happy 70th Birthday
Dad
Lots of love from Lisa,
Martin, Ashley & Kyle xx

Happy 70th Birthday
Dad

Lots of love from from
Karen, Kevin, Kayleigh &
Jamie xx

James Wren

Happy 16th Birthday
15th February 2013
Have a fab week off
with lots of treats to look
forward to! Lots of love
Mum and all the family
xxx

Gillian and Derek Currington

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

14th February 2013

Congratulations on your Diamond Wedding Anniversary (14th February 2013). Have a wonderful day. Love from all the family.

Stephen Howey

Happy 30th Birthday Stephen

Love you so much! All my love, Amy xxxx

Michael Charles Stewart

Happy 1st Birthday

To a very special little boy, our Grandson. Happy 1st birthday. Love you so much, Nanna and Grandad xxx

Happy 1st Birthday

To a special Nephew, happy 1st birthday. Lots of love, Uncle Paul and Aunty Emma xxx

Happy 1st Birthday

To a special Nephew. Happy 1st birthday. Love you always, Auntie Lyndsey xxx

Birthday Remembrance**BILL BAKER**

Remembering your birthday. Sadly missed. Barbara

GLADYS BEADLE 16th February. As we opened our eyes this morning, we look to the Heaven's above. We whisper "Happy Birthday" and send you all our love. From Ray, David, Sue, Michael, Julie, Gary, Sue, Angela, Dean and your Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

McKAY James Bernard, 17/2/1929-23/12/2006. Your vacant place no one can fill, we miss you now and always will. Thinking of you on your birthday. Your loving Wife, Heather

McKAY James Bernard, Special thoughts and wishes on your birthday. Your Daughter, Heather and Grandson Christopher

McKAY James Bernard, 17/2/1929-23/12/2006. You are always in my thoughts, even more so on your special day. Happy birthday Dad. Love, Alicia xxx

McKAY James Bernard, Happy birthday Grandad. We all miss you. Love, Dean, Wayne and Ricky xxx

Charlotte McAdam

Happy 13th Birthday
18th February 2013
Have a great day. Lots of
love from Mum,

Dad, Kieron and Pamela
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

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ZOE J happy birthday on 14th February 2013. Lots of love from Mam, Dad and Bobza xxx

HOWEY (Ste). Happy 30th Ste, love from Paul, Heidi and Olivia xxx

HOWEY (Ste). Happy 30th birthday Ste. Love from Mick, Tania and Kya xxx

HOWEY (Stephen). Happy 30th birthday Stephen. Love from Dad xxx

HOWEY (Stephen). Happy 30th birthday big lad. Have a good one, love you loads, Mam and Den xxx

HOWEY Happy 30th birthday to the best Daddy in the world. We love you so so much. From Princess Poppy and Thomas (The Chief) xxx

JESSICA GRAHAM congratulations on passing your driving test. Well done, keep safe! Love you lots, Nannie Madge xxx



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Successful Sportsability Festivals

Sedgefield School Sport Partnership held their annual Sportsability Festivals this week at Spennymoor Leisure Centre.

The primary event took place on Tuesday 5th February and children from Evergreen, Sedgefield Hardwick, Cleves Cross and Stephenson Way took part.

The young people took part in fun filled day of sports and physical activities including Boccia, Dance, Football, Tennis and Gymnastics.

On Thursday 7th February the secondary event took place with 82 young people attending representing Greenfield College, Woodham Academy, The Oaks, Whitworth Park, Sedgefield College, King James and Staindrop.

In the morning the young people took part in Dodgeball, New Age Curling, Boccia and Wheelchair Basketball. The activities across both events were delivered by coaches from the SSP, Durham County Council, The FA, South Durham Gym Club and Whitworth Park Sixth Form.

Whitworth Park Sixth Former's take part in the Sedgefield SSP Leadership Academy Plus programme which offers them training and opportunities to support

their leadership in school and the community. Prior to the event they attended an SSP Inclusion Training workshop and did a fantastic job leading the sport sessions.

In the afternoon Schools entered teams into Wheelchair Basketball and New Age Kurling Competitions. There was also an option of a Zumba session for those who would prefer it. 6 teams competed in the Wheelchair Basketball Competition and following some really close and exciting games Staindrop beat a Greenfield and Woodham Combing Team 4-0.

Talented young people were selected from the competition to represent Sedgefield SSP at the County Durham School Games Finals in March. In the New Age Curling The Oaks won the Y7/8 competition and Sedgefield Community College won the Y9/10 competition and will also represent Sedgefield SSP in School Games Finals.

The next SSP Inclusion event is Aquability on the 8th March 2013. At the event young people will have the opportunity to be selected for the County Durham School Games Disability Swimming Gala. Schools can book via the SSP website www.sedgefieldssp.org.uk.



Wildcats Calm Lion's Roar

Durham Wildcats claimed a vital victory completing their double over the London Lions this season after their 89-84 triumph at the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre.

It was the Wildcats who took the lead early in the opening stanza with Page and Guinane claiming the first baskets but it didn't take long for the visitors to make their way into the game coming back from a 6 point deficit to gain their first lead as Jackman and Stuart scoring from deep. The lead switched hands once again when the Wildcats lifted the tempo, finishing strong under the basket ending the first quarter with a 2 point lead at 28-26.

The tempo continued from Durham and it soon paid off as they produced an outstanding display at both ends of the court, turning steals into baskets, creating an 11 point lead midway through the second with the score at 41-30. The Lions struck back narrowing the score to within 6 points of the Wildcats with some clinical scoring from Martin and Lawson to end the half, 50-44.

A slow but steady start to the third as both sides struggled to find the basket despite an early push from London. The Lions brought the game back to within two points but the Wildcats resisted the storm and pushed hard with a few fast counter baskets opening up a double figure lead to 11 points as the third finished 71-60.

Durham burst out of the blocks to start the fourth with some quick fire scoring from Guinane and Bucci giving them their highest lead of the game of 14 points at 80-66. The Lions fought hard and brought the score back to within two points with 1.20 remaining with a brilliant defensive display as the Wildcats struggled to cope with the press from the Lions. Keith Page closed the game out in the final few seconds making 4/4 at the free throw line to clinch the win, 89-84.

Head coach of the Wildcats, Dave Elderkin spoke about the importance of winning this game but the play-off race isn't over yet; "First of all credit to the Lions after their valiant display." He said, "They are such an athletic side and tough to break down but I was very

pleased with the tempo from the lads. It's been a big double over the Lions and hopefully we can carry that momentum on into next week against Glasgow over at our Stockton Campus."

M.V.P – Keith Page; His very impressive 29 points and 4/4 at the free throw line in the final seconds secured the victory for the Wildcats.

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