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A new Community Shop managed by Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) as

part of the 'Active Aycliffe' initiative, officially opened its doors last weekend at the Healthy Hearts family event.

If you represent a local organisation/group that fits in with the "Active Aycliffe" aims and would like to run an activity or book a time slot at the Community Shop just opened near the Post Office please contact the Project Officer lindsay.manning@pcp.uk.net or call PCP on 321234.

'Active Aycliffe' involves organisations such as Durham County Council's Sport and Physical Activity Team, PCP, Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership (GAMP), Woodham Academy, One Point, Great Aycliffe Town Council, the Rotary Club and local

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Aycliffe Charity Gives a Helping Hand



Dear Editor,
 I want to encourage anyone who is struggling with debt, or have financial worries to call the 'Helping Hands Project.' as they have supported and encouraged us towards a better future.
 My husband and I struggled with money and our debt was mounting. We both work but our wages were not covering what was needed to cover the bills.
 A good friend suggested we phoned the 'Helping Hands Project.' I called and an appointment was made for us within a very short period of time. Alwyn and Malcolm visited us and we didn't need to feel nervous.
 We weren't judged or looked down upon - these friendly,

genuine people came in wanting to help and support us. A heavy weight was lifted as they gave us hope for the future.
 They gave us a box of food and household items which made such a difference. This freed up money to pay the most important bills and to buy school shoes.
 Now new friends have been made as they invited us to social events which were such fun. They truly care about us and it's wonderful that the project can help people like us.
 If you need a 'Helping Hand,' phone Alwyn on 07936 431262 Camilla Shergold

Students Reach for the Sky



A brand new Flight Club has been launched at Woodham Academy. Over a twelve week period, year 9 Engineering students are gearing up to learn about aero-engineering, the theory of flight, and how to build a radio-controlled plane.
 At the invitation of Teesside Model Flying Club, the Academy plans to fly the school plane at the flying club's annual Air Show as part of the fly past.
 Woodham Academy Flight Club is held at South West Durham Training Centre, which has strong connections with aviation. In the 1950's it was famously featured in the film "Reach for the Sky".

easter SUNDAY BIG SHOW

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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"

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 guitarists were on the tables and bar, hahah! 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 Pit 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.alanbweb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk

Saturday 9th March - "1 0 1"
 We are pleased to welcome back one of the Tubs favourite bands, who play a great mix of modern and classic rock. Tracks covered by: Led Zeppelin, Killers, AC/DC, Kings of Leon, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Kleser Chiefs, Nirvana, Razorlight, Pink Floyd, Green Day.
 Davys Rock Page Review: "All in all, a great night with a great atmosphere and a lot of people dancing, so if you want to hear newer covers with a good mix of older rock 1 0 1 deliver."

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

Busy March at Neville Parade Church

March is going to be a busy month at Neville Parade Church as we have a number of events planned.
 It starts with a Family Quiz on Wednesday 6th at 6pm organized by JAM & JAFFA proceeds are going to Callum Scott for his trip to Botswana. On Saturday 9th there will be a Craft & Gifts Fayre from 10am till 2pm there are still a few stalls available, tel 313397.
 Thursday 14th we are hosting An Evening with Pam Rhodes which includes a buffet supper - tel 310182 for tickets.
 Saturday 23rd at 10am JAM & JAFFA are having a Coffee Morning proceeds of which will go towards their weekend to Seahouses.
 Wednesday 27th 5pm - 6.30pm Easter Messy Church. Fun for all ages.
 We hope you will take time out of your busy lives to come along to one or all of these events. A very warm welcome awaits you.

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Mayor's Charity Collection Free Entry for Pirates

On the 2nd March KidzFlicks will be showing the film 'The Pirates' at 2pm. Anyone coming dressed as a pirate will gain free entry to the film club - which is in St. Clare's Movie Hall. Everyone is welcome!



The Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Val Raw and Mrs. Pat Johnson and Deputy Mayor, Councillor

Barbara Clare, were joined by ladies from the Butterwick Hospice (Bishop Auckland) and friends to raise funds at the Tesco's Store on Saturday, 16th February.

An amount of £330.70 was raised and the Mayor would like to give an extra special thanks to Beryl Anderson and Louise Gregson from the Hospice and Tracy and Angela from the Tesco Store for the help which was given to fund raise for this worthwhile cause. Councillor Val Raw would also like to thank everyone

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Town Artist Exhibits Work
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*Aycliffe Village Ofsted Outstanding
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24 NEW COPPERS!

A total of 24 new Durham Police Officers have been formally 'sworn in'. The officers started their service this week and took the oath in front of Chief Constable Mike Barton, other members of the Executive Team, and Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Hogg. After swearing an oath of allegiance to The Queen, which was accepted by Chris Shore, chairman of the South Durham Magistrates, they were presented with their warrant cards and become fully fledged student officers. They are now ready to start full training, which involves 11 weeks based in

the classroom, followed by ten weeks training with an experienced officer. At the end of that period they will be assessed as being capable of independent patrol and will be assigned to a particular area of work. The Chief Constable said: "I'm delighted that we've been able to recruit these new officers, and it's particularly pleasing that a number of them have previously been Police and Community Support Officers with us, so they will be building on their existing good work. "I look forward to them helping us deliver the force vision of inspiring confidence in

victims and our communities by protecting neighbourhoods, tackling criminals and solving problems, around the clock." Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Hogg added: "I was delighted to have been invited to attend the ceremony as Durham's first Police and Crime Commissioner to welcome these new officers into Durham Constabulary. I am confident that they will show the utmost commitment to the force and perform to the highest of standards as they join a police force which is dedicated to serving the people of County Durham and Darlington."

Poverty Levels Rising says CAB



Phil Wilson with different agency members at the Aycliffe Surgery

Poverty levels in County Durham are hitting worrying new levels, according to the Citizens Advice Bureau. Pauline Chambers, chief executive of Sedgefield and District CAB, who says she's seeing levels of hardship not experienced in 21 years. Mrs Chambers, speaking at MP Phil Wilson's welfare surgery in Newton Aycliffe last Saturday, issued a stark warning that things will only get worse. CAB telephone enquiries have increased by 100% in the last two months. Requests for help expected to further increase. People are struggling to pay for basic food and utilities. Poverty levels are rising. MP Phil brought a number of agencies together to help local people cope with the hard-hitting welfare reform cuts due in April. Around 50 people

sought advice from social housing provider livin, Durham County Council's Welfare Rights Service, Job Centre Plus, the Durham County Credit Union and CAB at Aycliffe Youth Centre. Mrs Chambers said the surgeries were useful for them to engage with people who are struggling. "We're being inundated with more and more enquiries and it's becoming increasingly difficult to cope with that demand. As a result of that we're more than happy to come along to these surgeries to meet clients and answer any queries they may have. "It's a very worrying time for people. Welfare Reform in general is causing a lot of concern. The increase in client numbers for us is steadily rising already and some have asked us for food vouchers, and I've never seen that in the 21 years I've worked for the service.

We know that poverty levels are increasing, and this type of event is something CAB really needs to talk to people." Phil Wilson said "In County Durham, 50% of households are on benefit of some description and some of the advice they probably didn't want to hear, because of the way the Government has drawn up this legislation, but we've just got to make sure we try to help as many people as possible. One of the major issues is the bedroom tax, which is cutting people's housing benefit if they're deemed to have one too many bedrooms. "The answer to all of this is not to penalise people but to build more houses. There are 1,600 households affected by the bedroom tax, but there are only 204 one-bedroom properties. A lot of people are going to be affected by this and I think it's a really spiteful bit of legislation."

Party Deal for Children

Having a party for your child? Make it a birthday they will never forget! Why not leave it all to us, no mess or hassle for you - just sit back & relax. The OakLeaf Sports Complex have party packages to suit all ages from 4 to 15 years including Football, Dance, Dance Mat, Team Games, Mini Dribblers & Little Tots Parties all include your very own party co-ordinator who will be there to assist throughout the party. All Parties include unlimited juice and a choice from our new exciting Menu choose from Hot or Cold Platters with lots of children's favourites. The Party Room is decorated with tablecloths & tableware. You only need to bring the Cake - we even supply the Invitations! For more details visit www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk or phone Reception on 300600.

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Also available from the Sports Club Bar or online at nafc-online.co.uk

MARKETING VOLUNTER

The Western Area Community Centre at Silverdale House are looking for an enthusiastic volunteer to help us to market our building. A knowledge of applying for funding bids would be useful. We have rooms for meetings with refreshment and parking facilities. Our rates are very reasonable, we have Internet and Broadband with a computer suite. Pool Room, Rest Room, outdoor fenced garden back and front, Disability toilets etc. It is an ideal facility for people who just want a place to meet and would be suitable for a Play Group etc. The position would suit a semi retired person and/or could eventually turn into an employed position. Ring 01325 308094/07967 901477

First Aid Course Starts

Woodham Village Community Centre offer an Emergency First Aid at Work Course leading to Level 2 National Qualification. It starts on Wednesday 6th March 2013 from 9 am to 4-30 pm. The subsidised cost is only £16-10, a fraction of normal charge. If in receipt of ESA or JSA the course is FREE. For further information or to book a place please phone David Sutton-Lloyd on 01325 316144

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Improvement Work Begins



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Art Exhibition at Greenfield Gallery

In March Greenfield Gallery will host an exhibition entitled "Miners' Art." This collection of works by some of County Durham's finest artists who were also miners has been curated and sponsored by Dr Peter Norton, in collaboration with Greenfield Arts.

Many previous exhibitions of miners' art have depicted the harsh conditions of pit life and the artists with work in this exhibition have been very successful in doing so. However, this exhibition has been assembled to show their skill in illustrating the social life and countryside around them with portraiture, landscapes and even abstract art. Many of the works included in this exhibition have not been exhibited before.

The works on show are, in the majority, by living mining artists, often self-taught, who all worked in the Durham Coalfield. The four main exhibitors all turned professional after their time in the coal industry. The exhibition is a fantastic opportunity to see works by Norman Cornish, Tom Lamb,

Bill Hindmarsh and Derek Slater who have contributed to the majority of the exhibition. Other fellow miners who have sadly passed away, such as Tom McGuinness and Tom Atkinson are also shown along with some lesser known artists who have all spent time "doon the pit". Many of the works will be for sale, whilst some have been kindly loaned from private collections.

Whether you are an ex-miner, social historian or an art lover we are sure you will find something of interest in this exhibition.

An illustrated brochure to accompany the exhibition will be for sale from the gallery, priced at £3.

The exhibition will run from Thursday 7th March 2013 until Wednesday 3rd April 2013. The Greenfield Gallery is open Monday to Thursday 10am to 9pm, and Fridays 10am to 4pm. Greenfield Community & Arts Centre is located on Greenfield Way in Newton Aycliffe. Please visit our website for more information www.greenfield-arts.co.uk



Get "Greased Up" for the Show

In the summer of 2003, CentreStage performed their summer production of 'All Greased Up', which was written by a member of the cast and well received at the Civic Hall, Shildon by many who came and enjoyed the show.

A decade on, and once again CentreStage will be performing an updated version, described as 'Grease' set in present day. This show is an all singing, all dancing production of what Grease would have been like if set in the present day with many characters you may recognise as well as some classic songs that come from that superb 70's film. The story is quite similar but with a twist and also a couple

rehearsals are well on the way for the acting side and we will be adding the music very shortly, but this is where we need your help.

We would love to have some new members for 'All Greased Up', and are looking for dancers to give that extra edge to several songs in this production, as well as choreography. We are an adult group so anyone who is interested please have a look on our 2 facebook pages, Shildon CentreStage or the All greased Up page, both have links to our website.

If you would like to join our group please contact me on 01325 313363. We look forward to any new members joining this very enjoyable production.

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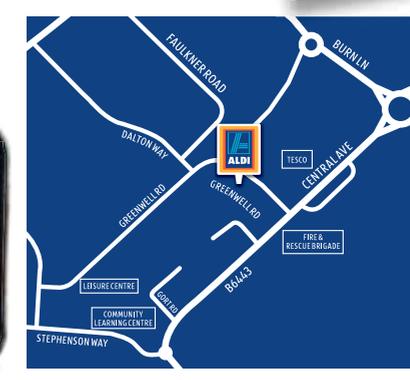
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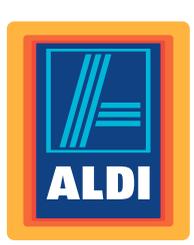


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Woodham Students Ski in Italy



Students from Woodham Academy recently returned from their annual week of snowsports in the Aosta Valley, Italy. The party was based in the

scenic resort of Pila, where beneath the towering peaks of the Matterhorn and Mont Blanc they experienced the exhilaration of developing their skills in skiing or

snowboarding. The resort of Pila provides tremendous challenge for students of all abilities. Wide blue runs provide a great environment for the beginners to hone their skills, whilst the ever increasing number of steep, narrow black runs as well as the infamous 'wall' provide a real test for the intermediate and advanced. Away from the mountain, as part of the après ski programme, amongst other activities, students experienced eating at a traditional Italian pizza restaurant as well as visiting the impressive Roman ruins that date back to 25BC. Only Rome has more Roman ruins than the medieval town of Aosta.

GENERATION GAMES

An Intergenerational Event is on Wednesday, 6th March 10.00am until 3.30pm at the Youth Centre, Burn Lane. The New Friends, New Places club are funding this event through GAMP and AGE UK are the organisers. Armchair Aerobics, Kurling, Healthy Eating and lots more activities are taking place. We would welcome older people's groups who will be able to pass on their knowledge to schoolchildren who will be attending. The last Intergeneration day that New Friends New Places held with the police was a great success. Come and join us for the day. Ring Cllr. Dorothy Bowman on 01325 308094 / 07967 901477 for further details.

PJ Charity Day at Sugar Hill



Staff and pupils donned their favourite pyjamas on Friday 15th February at Sugar Hill Primary school for a charity day. Money was raised for the Anthony Nolan Trust, with everyone making a donation so that they could wear their pyjamas and support a worthy cause. All those involved had a great day and reported that wearing pyjamas for school was a lot of fun.

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SO FAR SO GOOD!



Greenfield Community College is taking part in the Future Business Magnates competition for the 3rd year running. After having won runners up prizes for the last two years they are determined and striving for the top. After the first 2 challenges Greenfield Community College is at the top of the leader board with 129 points. The team consisting of 8 year 8 students have been working hard with Miss Thurley and Mr Tait alongside their business partner Emma Crocher from Temp Team. We hope to continue the success and the hard work into the next challenge and fingers crossed they stay at the top!!

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Dear Sir, Myself and other residents of Simpasture/Moule Close/Walker Lane would like to know when the police or traffic wardens are going to do something about the illegal parking in this area. It's getting so bad they are even parking on the grass and ruining the area with tyre marks. Customers visiting the shops at Simpasture are parking wherever they like, even if it means parking on the grass verges and pavements. I witnessed a lady in a wheelchair last week having to go onto the road to get past a wagon that had parked on

the pavement at the junction of Moule Close. It's not just cars but Bin wagons, lorries delivering to the shops, livin and many others. We are totally tired of making these complaints, but nothing is getting done! It is going to take a serious accident to happen before someone takes action. Can't the Council Highways Department place concrete bollards to stop people parking illegally and dangerously? Drivers coming out of Moule Close cannot see traffic coming either way along Simpasture Gate. Annoyed Resident name and address supplied

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Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre AFC Sportsman's Evening 2013

Join us for a fantastic night of entertainment with ex Newcastle United and current TalkSPORT presenter Micky Quinn

Supporting Micky will be Top Comedian Chris McGlade

Time /Venue: Doors Open 7.30pm
Tickets £20, Over 18's only,
Available from Newton Aycliffe WMC or via Darren Williams on 07712 134564.
Dress Code: Smart/Casual - No Football Shirts

Friday 8th March 2013
Newton Aycliffe WMC (Big Club)

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

The Council on 15.02.13 made 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: 22 February 2013



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

Village School Talent Show



Aycliffe Village Primary School held an end of term Talent Show where students, shown above, entertained the school with dance, gymnastics, comedy and musical acts competing for medals in front of independent judges. Everyone enjoyed the experience and the brilliant performances.

WATOTO CHILDREN'S CHOIR AT XCEL CENTRE



The Watoto Children's Choir have been entrancing audiences as they've toured around the world. Their vibrant, original African music, dance routines and life-transforming stories ensured they become unofficial ambassadors for Uganda. Their mesmerising performances have taken them to diverse places such as the White House, the Australian Parliament and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee at Windsor Castle. Watoto means "The Children". Established in 1994, the choir has travelled internationally as ambassadors for the millions of children in Africa, orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS, war and poverty. Each singer themselves has tragic and life altering experience of losing one or both of their parents to AIDS. Now, through their lively and inspiring performances, the Watoto Children's Choir shares their unique experiences, as well as their newfound joy and hope. You can experience all this for yourself at The Xcel Centre on Saturday 2nd March 2013. Don't miss out! Tickets cost

£10 with all proceeds to the Watoto Choir and are available online via www.xcelchurch.com, alternatively you can pay on the door. The concert starts at 6pm and we look forward to hosting what promises to be a great night.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 6th March 2013

Policy & Resources 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".

New Bus Passes for Durham Residents

80,000 people in County Durham will shortly receive their new concessionary bus passes from Durham County Council.

Passes which were issued when the scheme was first launched five years ago are about to expire and the new passes will entitle people to another five years of free and concessionary travel.

To make the transition as seamless as possible, Durham County Council will automatically send out new passes to all 80,000 eligible residents from February 18th. The council has taken steps to check its records before re-issuing the passes but if residents have moved house

or changed their personal details they are asked to call the council's Bus Pass Hotline on 03000 268667. If residents receive a pass which is incorrect or no longer required or, if they are entitled to a pass but haven't received one by March 18, they should contact the council on the number above. Cllr Neil Foster, Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "The council is committed to putting its residents first so we are delighted that the renewal scheme will see people receiving their new bus pass without having to leave their house or even complete a form.

We have also set up a dedicated Bus Pass Hotline to help anyone whose circumstances have changed since their pass was first issued or to answer any queries they may have." Under the English National Concessionary Bus Travel Scheme, the council issues travel passes to people over 60 or with certain disabilities, which entitles them to free travel or concessions on local bus services. In County Durham, pass holders can also get half price travel on certain local train services. Information about the process is available at www.durham.gov.uk/buspassrenewal

Gold & Silver for Woodham Students



Students from Woodham had a fantastic day participating in a Sportsability event at Spennymoor Leisure Centre. The event was organised by Sedgefield Sport Partnership for secondary schools in the county. In the morning the students enjoyed taster sessions of Basketball coached by a player from the Durham Wildcats, Wheelchair Basketball, Boccia, Dodgeball and New Age Kurling. The pupils were enthusiastic, enriching their experience of trying new sports and socialising with other players participating in the event. After a leisurely lunch, the afternoon session comprised of students competing in their chosen sport. Woodham Academy

pupils chose Wheelchair Basketball and New Age Kurling. Ryan Spoor and Jake Perry from Woodham made up a team with students from another local school. They chose to compete in Wheelchair Basketball, which seemed a very popular choice. The match was exciting as teams competed against one another. Jake and Ryan, alongside their team players, took 2nd place, receiving silver medals. This enabled the team to qualify for the Level 3 County Games to be held in March. Rebecca Arrowsmith gained a gold medal in her chosen sport of New Age Kurling. Sportsability is a wonderful opportunity to try new sports and get involved. All our students should be proud of their achievements.

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Customer Panel Meeting

The next meeting of the Customer Panel will be held on:

TUESDAY 5th MARCH 2013

The next meeting of the Customer Panel will be held on TUESDAY, 5th MARCH 2013 commencing at 6.00p.m. The Panel meet in the Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

The meeting will be to give an update of the Council's Aims and targets and the Council's Environment Officer, Steve Cooper will also be in attendance.

We are always looking for new members. If you would like to know a little more about us and our work this would be a great meeting to attend. The group are informal and quite often have lively debates about a wide range of Town Council matters.

Why not come along and join us at this meeting – we look forward to seeing and meeting new members.

Further information can be obtained from Christine Walton on 01325 300700
e-mail: Christine.Walton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting.

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Newton Aycliffe Needs a Sports Shop

Sir, Some years ago you kindly published a letter from me in which I bemoaned the lack of a specialist sports shop in Newton Aycliffe as, at that time, discussions were under way about re-vamping the town centre. Since then we have seen various improvements to the town (along with more structural work starting last week) including two very well used supermarkets (Tesco and Aldi), an Aladdins cave in Wilkinsons, a specialist computer repair shop etc all of which have supplemented

the existing long-standing excellent facilities such as Homeplan for DIY, Thames Butchers, Dry Cleaners, various hairdressers and many more. However there is still no dedicated sports shop. One would assume one of the big national chains such as SportsDirect or JD Sports would relish the fact of a concentrated customer base for such a facility. There must be hundreds if not thousands of people living in the area of all ages, male and female who undertake some form of sporting activity on a regular basis.

For instance on the town we have Moore Lane Sports Club hosting one senior and many junior football teams as well as several cricket and rugby teams; there are two Sports Centres with squash courts, indoor bowls, swimming pool, basketball, badminton, fitness club etc; there are bespoke tennis and artificial grass football facilities at Greenfield School; there are two golf courses including a driving range; a variety of fitness/wellbeing facilities at the Pioneering Care Centre; American football – the list is endless.

In addition to individual sports, many people nowadays also wear a variety of sports leisure wear such as replica shirts etc. One would assume that apart from specialist golf equipment available at the two golf courses, most people travel out of town to Bishop Auckland, Darlington or Teesside Park to buy their sports equipment/leisure wear (as I used to many years ago in my younger days). Surely there must be a demand for a specialist sports shop to be established in Newton Aycliffe to cater for such extensive and varied exploits? Paul Turgoose Yoden Court

FUNERAL SERVICE SUPPORTS HOSPICE



A Darlington and Aycliffe family-run funeral care service has raised £250 for their local charity. Whitehouse Funeral Services

raised the money in aid of St Teresa's Hospice by taking part in the Hospice's Giving to Life Tree campaign. Similar to the charity's popular Christmas tree in the Commill Centre, the firm encouraged staff and customers to hang messages of love and joy on a Christmas tree in their offices when making a donation to the Hospice. John Whitehouse said: "I am overjoyed and amazed at the response we get every year. Thank you to all our staff and customers. I'm absolutely over the moon that we have been able to help St Teresa's Hospice in this way." Funeral Services was one of the first organisations in Darlington to adopt the scheme, and staff have run it every year, raising £1,430 since Christmas 2008.

Could Your Business Benefit from an Apprentice?

Durham County Council has organised an information session designed to make local employers aware of the benefits of taking on apprentices. A joint event between Durham County Council and the National Apprenticeship Service will take place at the Radisson Blu hotel in Durham City on February 28 and all local employers are welcome. The event will feature talks from businesses who have already taken on apprentices and information on the many benefits they have seen as a result. Employers will hear first-hand about the wage and training incentives available for taking on apprentices as well as the scheme which sees apprentices 'shared' between more than one business. Starting at 8:00am, attendees will hear talks from three local SMEs who have already seen the advantages from taking on apprentices; Electrical Services North East, Middleton Design and Altec Engineering. This is followed by a drop in session between 9:00am and 10:00am where employers will have the opportunity to network and discuss the opportunities with other attendees. During this informal session, employers have the opportunity to raise questions specific to their business needs to ensure they get the best advice on the help, support and grant assistance on offer. David Steel of Altec

Engineering said: "I would encourage all local employers to come along to the event to learn more about the benefits of taking on apprentices. I look forward to sharing our experience of how the incentives offered by the council and the National Apprenticeship Service made taking on an apprentice easy and provided a boost for our business." Cllr Neil Foster, Cabinet member said: "The county has a high number of young and long term unemployed people so we are proud to lead the way in encouraging local employers to take on apprentices. The council is committed to working with the National Apprenticeship Service to show local businesses that, with the help and support we can offer, there has never been a better time to take on an apprentice." If you would like to book a place on the session and find out more about apprenticeships, the benefits they can bring to your company and the funding available, please contact Michelle Lamb from Durham County Council's Employment Team on m.lamb@durham.gov.uk or 03000 262009. Employers who are unable to make the session but would still like further information are also invited to get in touch as the council is also happy to come out and visit businesses to discuss taking on an apprentice.

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GREENFIELD AT THE COMMUNITY SHOP



Greenfield College and Greenfield Arts were so pleased to be part of the exciting Active Aycliffe events last week. The activities organised by Lindsay Manning from the PCP were a great success. The Arts Centre delivered sculpture making with GATC Environment Officer, Steve Cooper where healthy active people were created using recycled materials. Some of the students from Greenfield delivered sessions in the shop after weeks of planning. We are particularly proud of those year 10 students from Greenfield who organised their "community senses" quiz where members of the public were asked to use their sense of smell, touch and taste to identify some healthy food options! This included sticking your hand in a bowl of wet spaghetti, sniffing garlic and chomping on raw garlic! It was a real test, and those who took part will be ready for the jungle next! The students had been working with Lindsay and their teacher Miss Wharton to plan this half term family event, had helped decorate the space ready and were very excited to be part of a great community experience. Thank you to all involved.

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Stead Close Newton Aycliffe

2 bedroomed terraced house in good condition, situated in cul de sac within walking distance of town centre. Unfurnished with carpets, blinds & cooker. Hall, lounge/diner with gas fire, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom/WC with overhead shower. Gas CH, front forecourt & rear garden. EPC rating E. Rent £450 pcm.

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DISC Gain Award for Detached Youth Work

Investing in Children works to ensure that children and young people have a voice, and are able to influence the services they use. DISC Detached Youth Work has recently applied and achieved Investing in Children status. The work that we do meets Durham's 12 key improvement priorities: through improve places to go, things to do for teenagers. These priorities have been based on thorough evidence and consultation with children, young people and their families. The importance of delivering an effective service to meet this priority is central to improving outcomes for young people within County Durham. As such the DISC Detached Youth Work delivers flexible, innovative, service user-led provision. DISC Detached Youth Work provides regular sessions within Burnhope village, Hamsteels Estate in Esh Winning and Langley Park. These sessions are developed based on service user need and consultation. The

project also delivers in line with Every Child Matters and the national youth work framework. The project provides teenagers with the opportunity to access and achieve accredited learning and qualifications. In addition, informal learning is monitored and measured using recorded outcomes. The sessions delivered by DISC Detached Youth Work have been extremely varied in order to meet the needs of young people. Regular sessions have included: Football, Dance, Arts & Crafts, Informal Education, Off site activities have included: Quad biking, Fishing, Ice skating and Theme Parks Young people that take part have said: "Everything we do is decided as a group". "We can suggest ideas or sometimes the workers ask us what we'd like to do". Coming to the group keeps us out of trouble and gives us something positive to do" DISC, Sapphire House, Horndale Avenue. Tel: 01325 731 160

Ramseys Bring in Motability Specialist

When you call Ramseys, the happy, friendly voice you hear at the other end of the line is Elliott Ramsey, even if vertigo isn't on Elliott's list of phobias, the dizzy heights of his recent promotion to Service Manager have been well earned as Elliott follows in family footsteps as son of Financial Director, Gillian Ramsey. The aftersales team now lead by Elliott are VAG factory trained technicians which means they are fully trained to look after all your VW, SEAT, Audi and Skoda service requirements... but it doesn't end there. Ramseys have now become one of the area's busiest workshops for all makes and models. A new addition to the sales team is Motability specialist, Brian Nelson. Brian joined Ramseys in January 2013 and brings over 20 years experience in the motor-trade. Living locally and already aware of the family values associated with Ramseys, Brian decided it was time to move away from a large PLC group into the bosom of the Ramsey family. "I've lived in Aycliffe for many years", said Brian who is married with two children. As many local garages were swallowed up by large PLCs the shift from family values to increased profit (satisfying shareholders) meant those of us who were used to putting customers needs first, rather than focusing on sales targets, had now lost a lot of job satisfaction."



customers. In short its the same foundations upon which the business was built."

Having worked for Rover, SEAT and Renault as Motability specialist, Brian is also aware of the change in the way people are buying their cars. "Many customers are now looking for quality pre-owned vehicles with savings against cost when new, said Brian, the clammer for new car registrations is definitely a thing of the past." Ramseys have made this sector of the market their own over the years, offering, affordable, value for money vehicles, each hand picked by Sales Manager, Ian Ramsey to bring the best choice to local people. "It's good to back in an environment which promotes quality of service based around the customers needs and not the PLC bank balance", added Brian. "I believe people are a lot wiser these days, and even more careful how they spend their money. At Ramseys you know you're dealing with a company sharing the same family values as their

North East Manufacturers Must Invest to Keep Ahead

NORTH East manufacturers must invest in staff development to ensure that the region remains at the forefront of the sector, according to a leading training provider. SW Durham Training (SWDT), Aycliffe-based training company delivering courses for manufacturing and engineering firms, said that businesses in the region must ensure that they refresh and expand the skills base of their staff to keep the North East at the cutting edge. Michael Blades, business development manager, said that the region has carved out a reputation for innovation, but that ongoing investment in staff training and development, teamed with apprenticeships and greater collaboration between business and educational institutions, is the key to the future of the sector. Mr Blades said: "The North East has earned its reputation as a leading light in the engineering and manufacturing sectors and this is, in no small part, down to the skills and expertise we have in this corner of the country. "However, what is paramount is that we remain at the cutting

edge, and that is only possible with ongoing investment in training and development to ensure that the skills we have here stand up against our counterparts in Europe and beyond. "The continued investment that manufacturing businesses across the region have seen, means that we are proving that we can and do get it right here, but what is paramount is that businesses don't become complacent. Ensuring that our people are equipped with the skills and qualifications needed to be as effective and efficient as possible is crucial." SWDT, which has been providing training and apprenticeship services to businesses across the region for the past 45 years, and specialises in delivering courses for clients operating in the manufacturing and engineering sectors. Among the businesses currently working with the company for training and development programmes are Tata Global Beverages, 3M and Cummins. The company also works with some of the North East's biggest manufacturers and engineering firms, supplying apprentices to

names like Nifco UK Ltd and Tacle Seating among others. Mr Blades, who joined the SWDT team at the end of 2012, added: "The positive balance of trade we enjoy here in the North East is really testament to the strength of the region's manufacturing businesses, and if we're to continue to lead the way in this field, we absolutely have to commit, in a big way, to growing our skills base." For more information about courses at South West Durham Training Ltd, visit www.southwestdurham.co.uk or call 01325 313 194.

St Elizabeth's Woodham

2nd March - our monthly Coffee Morning, a chance to meet up with friends old and new over coffee and cake, 10am to 11:30am
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Heighington Village Hall

Coffee Morning - Saturday 9th March 10am-12 noon in aid of Kidney Research. Raffle, Cake Stall KR Merchandise and more. Celebrating 50 years of Kidney Research.
Table Top Sale & Coffee Morning - Saturday 23rd March 10am-12 noon for Heighington Scout Group. Admission £1 includes tea or coffee. Raffle, Tombola, Cake Stall. Tables £7. contact Vicki on 312151.

Apprenticeship Applications Rocket

ITEC North East has received over 200 online apprenticeship applications in February for vacancies available throughout the region, breaking all previous monthly statistics. Staff based at ITEC's Newton Aycliffe head office has seen unprecedented interest from young people keen to benefit from work-based skills, knowledge and the qualifications necessary for a successful career. This level of interest is currently being matched by local employers actively looking to recruit fresh young talent into their businesses accessing ITEC's free recruitment services. Young people aged between 16 and 24 are applying for vacancies in Business Administration, Customer Service, IT (Technical & User), Sales & Telesales, Supporting Teaching & Learning in Schools and Team Leading & Management as the credibility of apprenticeships is receiving year on year acknowledgment. Working with schools, academies, colleges and Connexions, the numbers of young people genuinely interested in gaining vocational qualifications is steadily increasing. Fortunately raising the profile amongst employers is seeing a comparable increase in vacancies to attract fresh new talent into local organisations. The government's continued support to employers with the AGE 16 - 24 Grant giving access to £1,500 has been extended for a further year to December 2013 and is proving a huge success to SME's currently employing less than 1,000 staff. ITEC's Regional Business Development Manager, Karen Johns comments, "Our Business Development Team are responding to an encouraging number of local employers, especially companies based on Aycliffe Business Park who are actively recruiting apprentices, some for the first time and some who have taken apprentices successfully for a number of years."

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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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POLICE COMMISSIONER & M.P. TO SPEAK AT GARA PUBLIC MEETING

The Great Aycliffe Residents' Association (GARA) hold their Annual General Meeting followed by a Public Meeting on Thursday 21st March at St. Mary's Church, Central Avenue at 7.00pm

MP Phil Wilson MP and Police Crime Commissioner Ron Hogg. Phil has raised the profile of Newton Aycliffe notably on Hitachi and has been instrumental in getting the Town Centre redevelopment

underway. Ron Hogg as our newly elected first Police & Crime Commissioner recently confirmed the demolition of the old police station and the rebuilding on its existing site a replacement providing the same level of service as the Parsons Centre which will subsequently be closed.

These two speakers will give members of the public an opportunity to ask questions. The Association will be electing its Management Committee. Standing for re-election are Chairman: Syd Howarth, Vice Chairman: Fr. Michael Campion, Treasurer: Barry Hutchinson Secretary: Arun Chandran, Derek Atkinson, Cllr Bob Fleming, Don Fraser, Cllr Bill Curtis, Chris Wheeler. It is hoped the meeting will see fit to re elect existing members of the Committee en masse. Also serving from affiliated bodies: Ken Robson representing the Acorn Residents' Association. Margaret Robson representing

Friends of Senior Citizens Neville Community Centre, and 2 representatives from the Town Council's Youth Council. All Aycliffe Organisations, Associations, Charities, Interest Groups are cordially invited to send representatives to GARA. Please contact our Secretary to be an affiliate and be represented on the Committee - Its free!

There are two vacancies on the Management Committee and nominations are invited, and must be received by the Secretary no later than 7th March - Arun Chandran, 88 Honister Place, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7DN. Email: arunmchandran@aol.com Tel. 313224

The Great Aycliffe Residents' Association aim is to ensure that Residents within the Parish of Great Aycliffe have a voice in their community and their aspirations are represented and acted upon. We exist to work with Councils and others to achieve these objectives.

Town Welcomes Romanians



Children at Vane Road Primary welcomed 17 Romanian Inspectors last week. The visitors were also touring other establishments in Durham as part of an international project sharing good practice in leadership and management. Deputy Headteacher, Miss Noble organised the visit following her study visit to Bucharest in October.

They were treated to a special Assembly during which the children exhibited their skills in singing, using musical instruments and dancing. The inspectors were very impressed by the children's high standard of behaviour and also the technology used in each classroom.

The party also called in to the Mayor and heart of the work Council Offices to meet the of the Town Council.

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WARNING ON £20 COUNTERFEIT NOTES

People are being advised to be alert about a number of counterfeit £20 notes in circulation. Police initially thought the fake notes were just being circulated in the Darlington area, but it's now likely that this is a

forcewide issue. Neighbourhood Inspector Mick Button said: "We need people to be alert about these notes, so please be vigilant about checking your change and notify us if you have any suspicions about £20 notes. "We've also been reminding shopkeepers to keep up their systems for checking notes." These are the things to look for to check your notes are genuine: Look for a watermark on the left hand side of the front of the note and that in addition to the Queen's portrait (watermark) there should be a £20 symbol, which should appear brighter (contrast) than the Queen's head

Use Gears To Go and Brakes To Slow

Block-changing contributes to a calm and planned driving style. It requires less driver input and so allows more time for other things like looking for problems or reading road signs.

A good driver will use the brakes or their acceleration sense to slow down, **not the gears**. Brake pads are cheaper to replace than clutches, so use the brakes if you need to.

When increasing speed, you can save on fuel consumption by skipping out gears, for example perhaps going straight from third to fifth.

When slowing on approach to a roundabout or junction, use acceleration sense and/or brakes to decrease speed, and then select the right gear for the speed you are driving at. This may mean skipping out several gears at once.

Gear changes should be made after braking but before turning the steering wheel.

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"That's Football!"

Dear Sir,
I am astonished that Gary Farley of Aycliffe FC finds it curious that gates have fallen and that this has led to "much head scratching" as to why.

Surely he has been on the football scene long enough to know that the answer is as old as the game itself - "fans" (from the word fanatic, of course) are far more interested in watching a winning team in a lower league than a losing team in a higher division.

Fans are only interested in their team winning - unlike true sportsmen and women who go to see the game for its own sake, hoping their team will win but more interested in a close contest and giving credit where it is due.

So there's your choice, Gary, if you want the fans you've got to suffer a season or two of relegation and start winning again with the talent available in your present squad, or up their quality and start consistently winning at your present level - the quandary facing every club at some time or another, apart from those who can maintain a spot in the top half of the Premier League. No response necessary. George Sutton

Greenfield Sporting Success

On Sunday 10th February at NALC, the Durham Wildcats hosted their first Girls inter-academy Yr 8 tournament. Greenfield entered 2 teams, and both teams played extremely well. Greenfield's 'A' team won all games and were delighted, after some outstanding defensive play, to beat Durham Johnston in the final 6 goals to 2. Greenfield's B team also performed very well and finished in 3rd place overall. To finish 1st against some of the top academies in the County is a fantastic achievement, well done girls.

The staff and pupils at Greenfield school would like to thank the Durham Wild Cats for their expert coaching and support. The Wild Cats coaching at Greenfield School is also open to Primary School students in years 4 5 & 6 - FREE. (N.B. Training is moving from a Friday to a Monday night 3.30 - 5.30).

For more information contact Michael Rippon (Sports facility Manager) on 07879117224. All abilities welcome.



Greenfield's Yr 7 & 8 Girls Cricket team travelled to the Louisa Centre Stanley on Valentines day to represent Sedgfield in the County Durham Cricket finals. They played matches against Cardinal Hume (Gateshead), Whitburn (Sunderland), St Bedes (Peterlee). The overall winners were Durham Johnson. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and performed extremely well, and all matches were very close.

They are now looking forward to the next Girls Cricket event in March, run by Sedgfield SSP and Sedgfield Cricket Club for our local schools. Thank you to Darren Brown (County Cricket Coach) for all of his support and coaching.

Sedgfield Cricket Club are launching a girls Cricket team this year. Contact Darren on darren.brown@durhamccc.co.uk or 07816 592676.

After the Cricket finals year 7 & 8 Netball players from the school travelled to Bishop Auckland to play a netball match against Bishop Barrington on Thursday, where they hoped to maintain their unbeaten record. Unfortunately the year 8 girls

lost their first game this season against a very strong Bishop Barrington team - 12 goals to 11. The standard of play was excellent. The year 7 team maintained their unbeaten record with a 7 - 0 victory.

At the same time Greenfields Yr 10 Boys Basketball team are travelled to Sedgfield to compete in the South West Durham Basketball tournament - to complete a fantastic week of school sport and particularly basketball for the school.

Sedgfield SSP hosted the Yr 7 County qualifying Basketball tournament on Tuesday 11th February at Greenfield School. Greenfield entered 2 teams - therefore sixteen of their Yr 7 students were given the opportunity to represent the school.

Both teams performed extremely well, and for the second time in three days Greenfield basketball teams finished in 1st and 3rd place. This result means the Year 7 boys (plus a number of girls) have qualified to represent Sedgfield in the County Yr 7 Basketball Finals at Maiden Castle on 22nd March. Good luck boys (& girls).



Monday is a training night for all interested badminton and table tennis players at Greenfield school. Badminton runs 3.15 to 4.30, table tennis runs 5.30 - 6.30 with Matthew Porter level 2 ETTA Coach. These are very important training sessions for both the table tennis and badminton teams, as three of the schools teams have qualified to represent Sedgfield in the County finals next month. Good luck.

Greenfields Table Tennis club is open to all ages and abilities. Community Table Tennis Club runs during term time Mondays 5.30 to 6.30, and a table tennis holiday camp is also planned for Monday - 18th February 10am to 1pm - contact Michael on 07879117224 to book or for more information.



Greenfield Community Netball Club is open to all players of all ages. U11 Wednesdays - 4.30 - 5.30, U16 Tuesdays - 4.30 - 5.30, Adult / Back to netball - Tuesdays 5.30 - 6.30 - Come along and join in our success. Contact Michael on 07879117224 for more information about this and our many Community Opportunities. All abilities welcome.

An amazing week. Greenfield have finished top in Sedgfield in a wide range of sports during the year, and are delighted that their basketball teams have joined the list this week. Well done & good luck in the County finals to:

- Yr 7 & 8 Girls Cricket team,
- Yr 7 & 8 Table tennis team,
- Yr 10 & 11 Badminton team,
- Year 8 & 9 Badminton team,
- Yr 7 Basketball team,
- Yr 9 Boys Basketball team

Greenfields wheelchair basketball team (Joel Wraith & Josh Jackson) are combining forces with Woodham, Sedgfield & the Oaks to form a combined wheelchair basketball team to attend the County finals in March - Good luck and well done for being selected.



Hewitts Staff Support Local Hospice



A respected Darlington and Aycliffe legal firm has chosen to support a local charity. Staff at the Darlington branch of Hewitts Solicitors, which has offices across the North East, have unanimously voted for the branch to support St Teresa's Hospice over the coming year.

The decision comes shortly after the team from Hewitts took home the trophy from the Hospice's annual quiz, narrowly beating their competitors. The trophy is now proudly on display in the

firm's offices on Haughton Road.

Consultant Solicitor Graham Hunsley said: "We look forward to a long and successful association with St Teresa's Hospice in raising money for a great local charity."

Staff have also donated unwanted Christmas gifts to the Hospice, and joined the St Teresa's Hospice T Box campaign - each person attempting to fill a small collection box with loose change.

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History of Woodham Glade Sought

Dear Sir
I am aware that Newton Aycliffe has a Family History Society but do not know of a more local organisation which could help me find out more on the history and development of Woodham Glade, but perhaps your readers could help me out.

According to maps the remains of this area is now only the little bit left after the rest was built on about 23/25 years ago. It now seems only to be the public walkways from the road at Burnhill Way as far as St Elizabeth's Close end of Woodham Way. It winds

along the backs of the houses of Woodham Gate, The Bride and the Spinney on the one side and those of Dudley Drive, Sorrel Wynd, Yarrow Court and Pemberton Road on the other, with a number of side turnings leading into each street or close. It is a popular shortcut and walkway for people living in the area and is also well used by dog walkers.

Originally it seems to have simply been a country glade with a footpath running through, later improved to a cinder track which was later developed, probably by the Council, into a tarmac footpath bordered by grass, trees and shrubbery along each side. There is the soggy ditch on one side and a reported 'ancient hedgerow' somewhere. The ditch seems largely collapsed or filled

in, by the creation of turnoffs into each estate and there is evidence of other activities. The hedgerow is hard to identify among so much wild vegetation.

I am keen to find out what the area looked like originally and how it was changed under housebuilding over the last quarter century. I would very much like to hear from anyone familiar with those changes from what seems to have been a pleasant country 'Glade' and it's stages of development to it's present state of neglect.

If anyone has information which they are willing to share, or photographs of the area which they are willing to let me see I will be grateful if they will contact me on 307038. email: doug558@btinternet.com JD Whittaker

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The family sessions have moved from a Saturday morning to after school on a Tuesday, 3.30 - 5.30pm and are free for the first 8 sessions. If families continue to come after these sessions a small donation is requested to help towards materials. Children attending must be under eleven years old

and accompanied by an adult. The mixed craft sessions for adults on a Monday morning & afternoon and Tuesdays 6-8pm welcomes people who would like to learn a new craft from professional artists who are working in the marketplace today. Plus all classes take place in pleasant surroundings and give everyone the chance to learn new skills, make new friends and relax in a friendly atmosphere. No artistic experience or quality

necessary! 'Colour your Life' is an Arts on Prescription project funded through the NHS and delivered through the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) in Newton Aycliffe. It aims to provide access to the arts to promote positive mental health and wellbeing amongst participants. Why not call today to find out more or book your place at the family sessions. Tel: 01325 321234 Email: colouryourlife@pcp.uk.net.

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Ofsted Give Aycliffe Nursery Top Rating

Little ones are thriving at an Aycliffe Nursery which has been rated good. Ofsted inspectors said Little Acorns Nursery is a good nursery in every area.

Fiona Smith the manager at the nursery is very proud of the staff, "We have a fantastic team of people here who work

very hard. It is a privilege to be manager of the setting." The previous inspection graded Little Acorns as satisfactory and the nursery has made vast improvements.

Ofsted inspectors were full of praise for the nursery saying: "Staff plan a range of interesting and exciting activities based on children's interests. Consequently children are motivated, keen to learn making good progress in their development." Children are well safeguarded due to robust recruitment and vetting procedures and staff's understanding of their roles and responsibilities in protecting the children in their care. The nursery has a well established key person system, which helps children form warm and secure attachments, promoting their well-being and ensuring they feel happy and safe. "Partnerships with parents are strong who speak highly of the nursery and the different ways staff support them in helping their children to settle and involve them in their learning." The inspectors said the staff skilfully enable children to follow their own interests. They give them time to explore for themselves but are on hand to sensitively support and extend their learning as needed, both indoors and outdoors.

To further improve the quality of the early years provision, the nursery should extend the opportunities for children whose home language is other than English, to see and use that language within the nursery environment. Also to enhance the opportunities preschool children have to develop their independence skills, for example setting up for lunch. Little Acorns Nursery are so happy with their outcome and are looking forward to making new changes to their environment and making further improvements in order to better their nursery provision.

Public Notice

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R.A.F.A. A.G.M. The A.G.M. of the Newton Aycliffe Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association will be held in the Canopus Club, Barrington Road on Wednesday 6th March. Doors close at 8pm prompt. All members are cordially invited to attend

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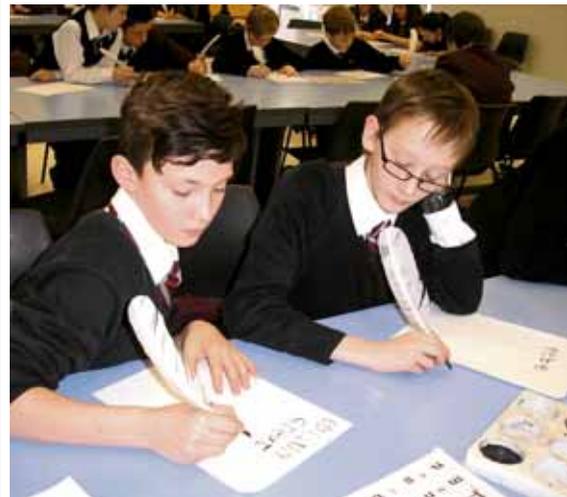
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A Lesson on the Lindisfarne Gospels



St John's School & Sixth Form College are very fortunate to have been involved in Durham University's Lindisfarne Gospels outreach programme for secondary schools. This programme aims to bring an introduction and understanding of the Gospels' significant religious and cultural importance over the last 1300 years to young people.

The school recently hosted a highly successful series of workshops by the Durham University Learning Team, one of which focused on the artist scribe, Eadfrith who was involved in producing the Gospels. The students enjoyed trying out various artistic techniques available at that time. They also looked at how the culture of the time influenced and was reflected in Eadfrith's work.

At lunchtime over 200 Year 8 students enjoyed a special assembly. The students all enjoyed the lively and imaginative presentations and we are grateful to Jane Crawford of Daisy Arts who arranged the visit.

A group of Year 7 students worked with Mr Nugent, an

art teacher at St John's, to create an impressive sculpture inspired by the Lindisfarne Gospels.

It is to be exhibited in the McGuinness Gallery at Bishop Auckland Town Hall as part of FebFest. The students attended the Official Opening on Monday 11th February.

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AFTER SCHOOL CLUB IN COMMUNITY CENTRE



Stephenson Way Rockets was established in April 2004. The Breakfast, After School and Holiday Club was located at Stephenson Way School, introduced by the Headteacher and a School Governor, who were fortunate to arrange funding to support the project. They appointed a Manager and Deputy, who made all the arrangements and completed all paperwork required by Ofsted.

Since opening we have gone from strength to strength. Staff numbers have increased from two to five to enable us to care for the numbers of children on our register, many who we have cared for from Nursery to senior school.

We stayed at Stephenson Way until August 2012 when due to the school's increase in numbers we needed a full time classroom. We found the perfect building at the Community Hall, in School Aycliffe. We have a secure large spaced area, which includes a first class kitchen, a gym sized hall, a quiet room and an enclosed garden area along with plenty of parking space. We are also close to a lovely park and nature reserve.

We arrange transport to take and collect children from various schools in the Newton Aycliffe Area (Stephenson Way, St Josephs, Vane Road, St Oswalds, Aycliffe Village, Horndale Infants, St Francis, Byerley Park and Greenfield) and will consider other schools if the need arose. We thank Horndale Taxis, whose drivers are CRB checked and Durham County Badged, for all their help and flexibility.

We offer the Children breakfast and a substantial daily snack, also fresh fruit is always available. We arrange lots of activities, creative or scientific, for the children. Other activities include board games, free play, role play and computer consoles for their amusement. Everything we plan is worked around the EYFS Framework and we believe we have a good working relationship with all Parents, Nursery and Reception classes as well as the older children.

Rockets are looking into the possibility of running a Parent & Toddler Group - watch this space! For any enquiries please contact us on 077498 44774, email info@stephensonwayrockets.co.uk or website www.stephensonwayrockets.co.uk.

Myself Lesley Dickons, Manager, or other members of staff will be happy to help.

Other activities at School Aycliffe Community Hall are Slimming World on a Wednesday am, Pilates on a Wednesday pm and Zumba on a Saturday am.

Please feel free to come along and look around the facilities.

Exchange

FROM 1 bedroom bungalow with garage Moore Lane area **TO** 2 bedroom bungalow with or without garage, anywhere considered. Tel 07748 474431 after 5pm

FROM 3 bedroom house with large garden, Neville Parade area **TO** 2 bedroom same area or Simpasture area. Tel 07712 562136

In Memoriam

MARY J. GALLAGHER. 25th February 2011. A little corner in our hearts is set aside for you, as long as life and memory lasts, we will remember you. Love always, Vince, Clare, Paul, Victoria, Amanda and Flynn

BOB KENNEDY 10/2/1938 to 23/2/2009. Remembering you with love. R.I.P. from Win and Family xx

ELLEN ATHERTON 25-2-2009. Those we meet don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved and, still missed and held so dear. Love, Julie, Mark, Kayleigh, Markie, Agnes, Georgie, Tracey, Jason, Mark, Kate and Kids

WILLIAM HALL (Bill) 25-2-2010. Our hearts are full of memories, with pride we speak your name. Though life goes on without you, it will never be the same. Love always, Mark, Julie, Markie, Kayleigh, Jean, Highie, Darren and Natasha

EDDIE HUBERY 17/6/1938 to 25/2/2011. Two years since we lost him. Lovingly remembered by Wife Gwyn, Son-in-Laws Richard, Stephen and Gary, Grandchildren Isobel and Dominic

JOHN ARRAN HUGHES 22nd February 1992. Missing you always, loving you forever. Always in our hearts and our every waking moment. All our love forever, Mam, Dad, Garry, Paul and Vicky xxx Thinking of my dear Dad. With lots of love, Maxine xxx

SAVAGE Edward Ralph (Ted). In loving memory of my Husband. 15/5/1930 to 29/2/2012. God saw that you were getting tired, a cure was not to be. So he put his arms around you and whispered, "come with me". With tearful eyes we watched you suffer and saw you fade away. Although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands to rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us he only takes the best. Loving Wife Maureen and family

Opticians

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Newton Aycliffe
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Thank You

THE FAMILY of the late Jean Harrison would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for all the cards, messages of condolence and flowers received during their recent loss. Special thanks to the staff and Aycliffe Care Home and Bethany House Day Centre for the excellent care provided for Jean. Many thanks to Whitehouse Funeral Services, Father Campion and helpers for the beautiful Service at St Mary's Church, also the Navy Club and Walkers Butchers for the refreshments/buffet provided. **ANNE CARR** would like to thank family and friends for all the help and support after the loss of her Husband Robert. Also to Father Dennis Tindale and the Co-op Funeral Service

Birthday Remembrance

John Robert Farmer

26th February

My birthday wish must be a prayer, God bless and keep you in his care. Beautiful memories I treasure forever of the love and happiness we shared together. Close in my heart you will always stay. Loved and remembered every day. Happy birthday John. Love and miss you, your loving Wife Mary xxxxx

Thinking of you on your birthday with sadness in our hearts for a very special Dad, from which we had to part. We cannot send a birthday card, your hand we cannot touch, but God will take our greetings to the one we love so much. Happy birthday Dad. Love from Paula, Brett, David and Christine xxx

Dear Angels up above, give our Grandad all our love. Hug him and kiss him, tell him we love him, tell him we miss him and will never forget him. Happy birthday Grandad. Love, Jack, Jayden, Harry and Oliver xxxxx

PAUL GIBSON Birthday wishes to a beloved Son. Dad xx

PAUL GIBSON Birthday prayers for a much loved Brother. Love always, Mandy and family xx

JIMMY CUNNINGHAM 21st February. Beautiful memories and love for a wonderful Son. Miss you every day. Love, Mam xxx

JIMMY CUNNINGHAM Happy birthday Bro. Always in my thoughts, Sue xxx

JIMMY CUNNINGHAM Happy birthday Uncle Jimmy. Love, Allan, Brett and Ryan xxx

Congratulations

Kay Anna Hughes



Happy Birthday for 19th February

Wow! You are 18 at last!
Now you can get all the drinks in!! Yey! xxx
Have a lovely birthday darling, love you to bits.
From Nan and Grandad xxxxxx

Kay Hughes



Happy 18th Birthday Kay

Our world completely changed 18 years ago when you were born. For our little angel had arrived, who'd bring sunshine every morn...
Love and hugs from Mam, Dad, Molly and Maisy xxxxxxxx

Alan Walls



Happy Birthday Walls "Pay Back Time!"

Ann xx

Andrea Shaw (nee Wheadon)



Look Who is 40!

Happy 40th Birthday 23rd February 2013
Hope you have a great year. Lots of Love Mam & Dad xxx

Maureen & Malcom Fraser



50th Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to very special Parents and Grandparents with love from all the family xxx

ANDREA SHAW Happy 40th Birthday. Life now begins! Lots of love, Denise, Andrew and James xxx

YVONNE REED 27th February. Happy 60th birthday. Lots of love, George xx

YVONNE REED 27th February. Happy 60th birthday Mam. Love Marc and Vicky xxx

YVONNE REED 27th February. Happy 60th birthday. Love, Cameron, Rhys and Jade xxx

YVONNE REED 27th February. Happy 60th birthday Nanna. Love, Callum xxx

YVONNE REED 27th February. Happy 60th birthday Nanna. Love, Jacob xxx

HAPPY 50th birthday CD, hope you have a fantastic time, enjoy! Love, BJ xx

SUE GREEN Happy 50th birthday. Love and best wishes, Connie, Paul and Daisy xxx

ELLIOT COATSWORTH Happy 18th birthday. Cannot believe you are all grown up now. Love from, Nan and Grandad xxx

ELLIOT COATSWORTH Happy 18th Birthday. Love from Nana and Grandpa xxx

CHLOE RICHARDSON, 26-2-2013. Happy 21st birthday. Lots of love, Scott, Lottie and Jamey Levi xxx

CHLOE RICHARDSON, 26-2-2013. Happy 21st birthday. Love and best wishes, Lynn, Danny, Keith and Dean xxx

WALKER Mr and Mrs Jean and John of Oakfield will celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 21st February 2013. Also happy birthday to Jean, 81 years on 19th February. With love.

MICHELLE ROGERSON Happy 40th birthday. Love and best wishes, Heather and John xxx

SUSAN GREEN Wishing my wonderful partner a lovely 50th birthday. All my love always from Andy xxx

Obituary

Cindy Florence Appleyard

Passed away peacefully aged 10 months on Friday 15th February 2013. Leaving a void in her parents hearts that can never be filled

GRAINGER February 6th. Suddenly in Portugal. Jack aged 74 years of Newton Aycliffe. A much loved Husband of Josie, devoted Dad of Julie and Colin, Tracey and Karen, also a dear Father-in-law and Grandad. Funeral to be held at Wear Valley Crematorium on Tuesday 26th February at 2.45pm.

HILL 15th February, peacefully in hospital, of Newton Aycliffe. Lillian (Lily), nee Hind, age 84 years. Beloved Wife of the late Ivan; Loving Mam of Mavis, Ivan and Linda; Nana to David, Daniel, John, Neil and Kerry; Great Nana to Blake, Josh, Daniel, Harry, Carl, Adam and Amelia. Special friend to Irene. Funeral on 1st March, will friends please meet at 12.45pm for Service in St Clare's Church. Followed by Interment in Stephenson Way Cemetery. All are welcome afterwards at the British Legion

Elliot Coatsworth



Happy 18th Birthday 25th February 2013

Have a great day, remember you are an adult now!! Lots of love from Mum, Dad, Alex and Niamh xxxxx

DO YOU NEED A POP UP BANNER TO PROMOTE YOUR CLUB OR ORGANISATION?

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Births

BURKITT Well done Kevin and Kirsty on the birth of your baby son. Lots of love, Mam and Dad Burkitt xx
BURKITT Best wishes Kev and Kirsty on your new baby. Love, Susan, Gary, Abbie and Lexie xxx

For Sale

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

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COMPUTER storage desk with doors, light beech, very slight damage to surface, 24" deep x 32" wide x 32" high. Tel 310169

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ELECTRIC cooker, 18 months old, as new, only £85. Can deliver. Tel 07587 736357

2 x DOUBLE wardrobe, brand new, still boxed, only £45 each, can deliver. Tel 07587 736357

GOOD quality 2 seater sofa, as new, only £75, can deliver. Tel 07587 736357

WOOD TABLE 6'x3', extendable to 9'. 4 chairs and breakfast bar chair. £300. 01325 300313.

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

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SINGLE white wardrobe, shelves and hanging space, plus overhead storage, £50. Tel 01325 313055

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MEDIUM Fish tank with accessories, £20. Tel 324754

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Running Club Meet the Challenge



Last Sunday 11 athletes and a dog called Billy travelled to Cowpen Bewley to take part in the popular Absent Friends Trail Race run over 4.5 miles. It was a fine sunny day though muddy underfoot, but the runners rose to the challenge. However, Billy found conditions a bit wuff! The best performance came from Dez Fielden, who finished 4th and was 1st 0/40 in 27m:38s, followed closely by Lee Wren 7th in 28:31, then Matt Heron 20th in 30:36 and Peter Milburn 25th and 2nd 0/50 in 32:12. Sue Milburn ran well to finish 56th overall and was 2nd 0/45 female in 36:22. Other Results - Peter Smith - 31st - 33:18; John Burnside - 35th - 33:48; Daz Moore - 43rd -

34:59
Kevin Greenhall - 48th - 35:21; Gary Minns - 71st - 37:50; Chris Forster - 97th - 41:03
Later that day 4 runners from the club made the short journey to Richmond to compete in the cross-country. In the Senior Men's 9.5k race Martyn Knox produced his best performance of the series, 33rd in 43:01.
Cross-country stalwart Colin Gibson ran strongly to finish 61st in 48:13. The club's two oldest members took part in the men's 0/65 5k race. Richard Harvey, far from his best after slipping on ice recently still managed to be 1st 0/70 and 5th overall in 28:48. He was followed by Ray Todd 30:58 and 1st 0/75.

'SNO PROBLEM FOR AYCLIFFE FELL WALKERS

Undeterred by heavy snowfall on 25th January, 29 dedicated members of Aycliffe Fell Walking Club, travelling by coach, headed toward the south-west of Whitby, North Yorkshire Moors for their monthly walk - this time the Hole of Horcum. However, due to road closure, the coach couldn't get through and they had to make do with a variety of circular walks from Sleights. As predicted, the skies were

clear of any further snow-threat and the sun was much in evidence. Our group split up to tackle various walks, some going via Aislaby and Hutton Musgrave, Egton and Egton Bridge, others via the north side of the river Esk, with a pub-stop at Grosmont, before heading for Beck Hole and then battling across open moorland through deep snowdrifts back to Sleights. One foot forward and three feet down was the pattern for much of the day and

rolling over dry-stone walls, since the gates couldn't be seen, was a new experience for some. Great fun was had by all. After the walk the group enjoyed a warming welcome and excellent ale at The Plough, Sleights before heading back home tired but happy - and not a single cobweb remained! (www.afwc.org.uk)
Aycliffe Fell Walking Club is currently being supported by the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership)

AYCLIFFE FACE PIVOTAL FIXTURE

UPCOMING FIXTURES
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
Saturday 9th March: Ashington (H) 3pm
www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk

Newton Aycliffe skipper Sean Tarling has warned his fellow players that they must not slip up against Newcastle Benfield this weekend. The Royal Blues pulled off arguably their most impressive away result of the campaign with a 2-0 win at Dunston last weekend, but the hard work would be undone if they were to slip up against the Lions. Benfield are 2 places and 3 points behind the Newtonians in the table with the relegation places six points further back. A win for Aycliffe would mark a huge step towards safety, and their captain wants to see the players take advantage. Aycliffe travelled to Dunston on the back of their first defeat of 2013 - a 2-1 home reverse against Celtic Nation - and were underdogs against the Fed.

The Newtonians made the brighter start. In the 11th minute Fred Woodhouse released Danny Lambert, who forced a save by Liam Connell down at his near post. Darren Craddock was booked after hauling down Lewis Teasdale and Scott Pocklington was forced into a good save from Craggs' resulting free-kick. Aycliffe took the lead just before the half-hour mark. Lambert played the ball through the home side's defence and Danny Earl evaded Connell's challenge

and walked the ball into an empty net for his 15th goal of the season. Pocklington was called into action again in the 51st minute. Teasdale's ferociously-hit effort from 25 yards was heading for the top corner but the keeper did brilliantly to tip the ball over the bar. Paul Broom then scored with 22 minutes remaining. Woodhouse burst past his marker down the left and pulled the ball back for the former Broom who steered a shot into the net for his 21st goal in Aycliffe colours. The home side brought on Andy Bulford and Stephen Goddard in an attempt to rescue something, but Aycliffe defended superbly and John Close celebrated his 100th club appearance with a well-earned clean sheet. Another clean sheet against Benfield this weekend would be another step towards safety. Kick-off at 3pm at Moore Lane Park, admission £5 adults and £3 concessions.

Indoor Bowls Contest



Great Aycliffe Indoor Bowls Club held their 2nd "Bill Potts Memorial Trophy Mixed Fours Open Competition", sponsored by local firm Gordon Fletcher & Sons Family Funeral Directors. Twelve teams competed over the weekend of 16th and 17th February, 2013 which everyone enjoyed. The winners were Ann Brown, Julie Robinson, Ian Robinson, Alan Metcalfe and Dave McDonald with 11 points/31 shots, followed closely by Dave Barron team with 10 points/36 shots, and in third place 2012 winners Sue Young team with 9 points/34 shots. Our thanks are also extended to Oak Leaf Sports Complex for their kind support and the excellent menu.

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