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## TOWN MAYOR'S CHARITY DINNER RAISES £2,143



The Mayor Val Raw and her guests piped into the Sycamore Suite



Staff from Barclays Bank with the Mayor and Mayoress



Chrissy and John Melvin

The Annual Charity Civic Dinner was hosted by the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Val Raw, on Friday, 22nd February 2013 at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. The fund raising was in aid of the Mayor's nominated Charities the "Butterwick Hospice (Bishop Auckland)" and "Combat Stress". This year the event returned to the Leisure Centre and proved to be well attended. Outside caterers T. & I. Bell from Washington provided an

excellent meal. A special thanks to Barclays Bank who match-funded the evening's Raffle and Tombola and a total amount of £2,143 was made for the two worthwhile charities. Roger Curtis, President of the Rotary Club responded on behalf of the guests, stating how well the Mayor represents the town in a very responsible and dignified manner. He also praised her work for the Butterwick Hospice and Combat Stress. John Melvin provided the music for dancing while Aycliffe vocalist "Chrissy" thrilled everyone with a rich variety of songs including a superb rendition of "I Dreamed a Dream" from Les Miserable.

The Mayor wishes to thank 'Chrissy' and John Melvin for their excellent entertainment. She also thanks everyone who supported the evening by supplying prizes or attending the event. Special thanks to friends and fellow Councillors for their generous help with the fund raising and also to Wilkinson Stores in our Town Centre who also gave support.

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## G.A.R.A. A.G.M.

The Great Aycliffe Residents' Association hold their Annual General Meeting followed by a Public Meeting on Thursday 21st March at St. Mary's Church, Central Avenue at 7.00pm  
**ALL RESIDENTS INVITED & WELCOME**

### AGENDA

1. Election of Committee & Treasurer's Report
2. Guest Speakers: Our Member of Parliament for the Sedgfield Constituency Phil Wilson MP and Police Crime Commissioner Ron Hogg

## READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



James Skerrett took this photograph of Aycliffe train track. If you have a favourite digital photo of Aycliffe please send it as a high res jpeg in to Newton News: syd@newtonnews.co.uk

## Demonstrator at Flower Club

The next meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club will take place on Monday, 4th March at 7.30pm at Shildon Civic Centre when area demonstrator Anne Simpson from York will design flower arrangements on the theme of 'Round and Round'. Entry is free to members. Visitors £5 - pay on the door.



**Newton Aycliffe Sports Club  
EASTER SUNDAY  
Ska and Mod Show from 4.00pm till late  
"Two live bands"**

**The Royal British Legion**  
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**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."

**Saturday 16th March - "Thyn Lizzy"**

"Just got back from the THYN LIZZY gig at the Sandy Outdoor Tent. All I can say is, Phil Lynott dead? I don't think so... Jeezus H Christ, the dual guitars were incredible and the drummer was outstanding and I was totally humbled by Glenn on bass. 'Don't Believe a Word' was cool as out with a blues intro (5 mins) and then the usual version to finish it off was such a contrast and skillfully done. 'Boys' was great and 'Dancing in the Moonlight' with Kenny Sax guesting was sublime as was the 'Kayleigh' inspired 'Emerald'. Awesome guys, made my hellbent weekend!" - *Gig Pit Review*

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

## A Place to Remember Your Mother

It's not long until Mother's day; it's a day of mixed emotions for many people out there, wishing their lovely Mum was with them to celebrate Macmillan Cancer Support has created a place where people can remember and celebrate the lives of loved ones they have lost to cancer.

Losing someone you love can leave you feeling lost, so, Macmillan Cancer Support have created a permanent place where friends and family can come together, share memories and even change lives. The website lets you create a lasting legacy for your loved one - a legacy that will help Macmillan support more people with cancer and their families.

Michelle Muir Fundraising manager said "With Mother's Day fast approaching, it's a time to remember your loved ones. By creating an online tribute fund at macmillan.tributeffunds.com/ you'll have a place to remember and celebrate their life. A place where you, your family and friends can come together, share memories, and support in any way you choose". If someone close to you dies

from cancer, Macmillan are here for you. Call the support line on 0808 808 00 00 to help you cope with grief, give you all the practical information you need, and when you're ready, offer ways to celebrate the life of your loved one. To find out more about Macmillan tribute funds, visit www.macmillan.tributeffunds.com, or contact the Fundraising Manager on 07809 554967 or email mmuir@macmillan.org.uk



## PUBLIC MEETING & AGM

*Come and listen to Guest Speakers Phil Wilson M.P. and Ron Hogg Police Commissioner. They will be available to answer questions.*

**THURS. 21st MARCH**  
**St. Mary's Church**  
**opp. Tesco's at 7pm.**

**Everyone Welcome**

## THANKS FOR DONATION

Dear Sir,  
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## COMMISSIONER INVITES PUBLIC TO HAVE SAY ON POLICING PLANS

Durham's Police and Crime Commissioner, Ron Hogg, is encouraging the public to give their views on his draft Police and Crime Plan for 2013-17. The plan sets out Mr Hogg's objectives for his policing priorities for County Durham and Darlington and how he will hold the Chief Constable to account for police performance over the coming years. Mr Hogg said: "My draft Police and Crime Plan reflects my vision for policing County Durham and Darlington. During December and January I asked the public to tell me their top policing priorities for the coming year, which I have

incorporated into my Plan. I hope that residents and partner organisations take the opportunity to view the draft plan and feedback any comments or concerns". The plan will be formally presented to the Police and Crime Panel, which scrutinises the work of the Commissioner, on 5th March 2013. Mr Hogg is also consulting on his Draft Equality Action Plan, which he plans to launch at the same time as his Police and Crime Plan, on 1 April 2013. Discussing his Equality Action Plan, Mr Hogg said: "I take equality, diversity and human rights matters in policing very

seriously and want to ensure all residents have a police service which is equal and inclusive to all. Therefore I also encourage residents to view my draft Equality Action Plan and let me or my team know of any comments or suggestions over the next couple of weeks". Consultation on both plans will close on Friday 8th March and are made available online at: www.durham-pcc.gov.uk, by email to: enquiries@durham-pcc.gov.uk or by telephone on: 0191 3835511.

## COUPLE & TWO CHILDREN RESCUED FROM HOME WITH NO SMOKE ALARM

*Fire Service Fit Free Alarms for All*

A fire in Walker Lane last week should be a warning to everyone to get a free smoke alarm fitted. A young couple with two small children were rescued when a fire occurred in the kitchen during the early hours of the morning. They were taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation and their home was smoke-damaged. Had they not woken up the result could have been more tragic and every house occupier in Newton Aycliffe is encouraged to have smoke alarms installed free by the Fire Service. Ring 0191 3324 222 or 0191 3324 205 to have yours fitted NOW!

## Open Evening at Hotel



The Honest Lawyer Hotel & Restaurant held an open evening for corporate clients last week demonstrating its many features including function rooms, 46 bedrooms, beauty room and top quality Restaurant facilities. The AA rosette hotel on the A167 just this side of Durham offers Steak and Fish Nights at very attractive

prices mid week and you can check them out on Tripadvisor who give them a Certificate of Excellence. The guests on the open night enjoyed a sumptuous buffet meal and an opportunity to play the table on the Casino provided by Gray Events.

## Easter Egg Collection

The Co-operative Funeralcare, in Macmillan Road, Newton Aycliffe is appealing to the community for help in collecting Easter eggs again this year. Staff are collecting eggs for local groups for children and adults with learning disabilities and children staying with their mums at Women's Aid Refuges in Darlington and Bishop Auckland. Jenette Sisson Divisional Manager of the Co-operative Funeralcare said "As a business at the heart of the community we want to put a smile on as many faces as possible this Easter." Eggs and Easter gifts will be gratefully received at our funeral home between Monday 4th and Friday 22nd March or at any local Funeralcare funeral home. For more information please call Barbara Bates on 300510

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Evenwood Village	Manager: Kerry Dixon	<b>01388 834161</b>
Newton Aycliffe	Manager: Vicky Hutchinson	<b>01325 315623</b>
Bishop Middleham	Manager: Natalie Richardson	<b>01740 651224</b>

\*Aycliffe Village Ofsted Outstanding



## Darts Event Raised £200 for Wishing Well Club



Last Sunday the Turbinia pub in Newton Aycliffe held the first annual Joe Ewin Darts Memorial Tournament. It's to be an annual event and this year £200 was raised and donated to the Wishing Well Club last night.

It was a wonderful gesture as the club relies heavily on donations to keep going. The club would like to convey their thanks to the organisers and Gary Soakell the pub landlord for their generosity..

Gary and organiser David Armstrong are in the picture donating the money to the club at their meeting at the PCP Centre.

## Greenfield College Students Ski in Italy

On Saturday 16th February a party of thirteen students and staff made their way to Sansicario in Italy for a full week of skiing in the famous Italian 'Milky Way.'

This was the first of two residentials organised by Greenfield College this year. Sansicario is combined with other resorts Montgenevre, Sestriere, Sauze d'Oulx and Claviere, providing the students with more than 350 kilometres of skiing.

The students enjoyed hours upon hours of skiing with their fantastic Italian ski instructors, who were so impressed with the group's skiing ability that they extended their allocated lesson time to allow them to develop even further.

All students made great progress over the week, with the more experienced skiers achieving 'Advanced Silver' level. The group used the Olympic Run used as part of the Winter Olympics in 2006, allowing the students to follow in the footsteps of world class skiers from the past.

The group bonded over the week together and made new friends from other schools. The staff were impressed with their level of maturity and support for each other throughout the trip.

The fun filled Après Ski sessions included a disco, team challenges, quizzes, and a quick visit across the border to France to sample one of the best pizza and crepe restaurants the group had ever been to. The group never stopped smiling and met every challenge with positivity and determination.

The students made the staff feel very proud with their attitude

and behaviour representing Greenfield and the community during the trip; Mr Butterworth and Miss Barnes were really pleased to have accompanied such a great group. One of the ski instructors commented: 'At the beginning of the week I met for the first time another group of students but by the end I have made some unbelievable friends. They were kind, caring and a joy to be around'. Well done to those students!



A PACT Meeting will be held at Neville Parade Methodist Church on Thursday 7/3/2013 from 6-30pm to 7-30pm.

Please come along to hear about updates and have your say on local issues in an informal and friendly meeting.

PC Alan Thompson and PCSO Richard Scott are your Community Police Officers and they want to hear your views and opinions.

Councillors from Durham County Council, Great Aycliffe Town Council and Livin Representatives have been invited to attend.

Great Aycliffe Town Council Representatives, Park Wardens and Durham County Council Neighbourhood Watch Wardens will attend when available.

For more information on what's going on your area please visit [www.durham.police.uk](http://www.durham.police.uk)

## Excellent Ofsted Report for Local Nursery

The management and staff of Playday Nursery are delighted to be graded 'good' in their Ofsted report. The report states the children succeed, are highly motivated and show great enthusiasm as they play, and are supported by staff who have an excellent knowledge and understanding of the children they care for.

The staff skilfully support the children in their learning, supported by a well resourced learning environment, which extends across all areas.

Planning and monitoring is very effective across the seven areas of learning and offer interesting and challenging experiences whilst meeting the children's needs, practitioners are able to demonstrate that all children including those with additional needs are progressing well towards their early learning goals. Children show high levels of confidence and self-esteem.

The nursery has exceptional procedures in place with additional dietary requirements; all children enjoy healthy, nutritious snacks and meals provided by the nursery. Staff demonstrate an excellent understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The strong partnership with parents is a particular strength in the nursery. Parents are very active participants in their child's education and are overwhelmingly positive about the nursery's effectiveness.

The inspector suggested free access to outdoor play for the babies and Playday were able to show this has already been identified with plans to develop this area.

Manager Linda Watts said: I

am delighted with yet another good Ofsted report and offer congratulations to all staff for their hard work, and thank parents for their continued support.

If you would like anymore information about the nursery please contact Linda on 01325 312050

## Spring Fayre

Middridge Village hold their Spring Fayre on 16th March at 10 am in the Village Hall.

Entrance is 50p with refreshments available. Craft Stalls and Chocolate Tombola!

If you wish to book a table (£5) - please contact Marion Cleland on 01325 321753 and leave a message.



### Playday Nursery

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## Teacher Defends UK Physical Education

With the recent Government report into school sport and physical education criticising some aspects of PE delivery in UK schools, Woodham Academy PE Teacher, Jon Tait was recently asked by local and international press for his views.

This follows the significant work that the Sports Academy has been undertaking in using sport as a vehicle to raise achievement in school and which has gained national recognition.

Since the report was published two weeks ago, Jon was contacted by local Radio station Radio Tees together with two American websites wishing to gain reaction to the report. Jon appeared live on Radio Tees along with a video interview by an American Physical Education website that streamed the interview live over the internet.

Jon defended physical education in schools by saying it is in safe hands in the North East and that "the many creative and innovative ways in which teachers are now teaching is helping to raise performance on the sports fields and in the classrooms around the region". When asked on his views about the Government criticism that Physical Education is



not strenuous enough, Jon's response was simple "At Woodham Academy we have developed 2 Olympians and 2 Premier League Footballers in the last 10 years, so we can't be doing that badly!".

Jon's work with Physical Education and the global links he is establishing is already creating huge benefits for the students of Woodham with links being established with schools across the world. The latest project has seen dancers from Woodham Academy collaborate on a live dance project with students from a school in Wisconsin, America, via a live Skype video link.



### Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre AFC Sportsman's Evening 2013

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Dress Code: Smart/Casual - No Football Shirts

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



## Fifty Foster Homes Wanted in Co. Durham

As a national appeal for foster carers across the country is made, Durham County Council is urgently looking for more families too. The Fostering Network, the UK's leading charity for foster care, has estimated that in the North East, 450 more foster families are needed this year to care for children and young people, so Durham Fostering Service is asking for those who can offer a caring home to a child to come forward. In County Durham there are record numbers of children waiting to find a long term family to call their own and therefore 50 new families are needed by the end of the year. Florence Coulter, team manager for fostering with Durham County Council, said: "We would like to encourage anyone thinking about fostering to come forward and find out more. "Foster families come in all shapes and sizes, some are single carers and some have children of their own but they all have one thing in common and that is that they have the right skills to care for children. In short, they are ordinary people doing an extraordinary job, which our carers tell us is very rewarding. "Many people don't realise the support that's available to our foster carers. We offer excellent financial support packages in recognition of the work involved in fostering." In Durham there is a dedicated therapeutic service for looked after children, which includes a consultant clinical

psychologist and a team of therapists. This means every aspect of available support is second to none and all of the council's foster carers rate this service extremely highly. There is an extensive training programme to develop parents' skills, local support groups and a wide range of professionals available for advice. Florence added: "Fostering in Durham is a team approach and we would welcome your interest in finding out more about this rewarding career and making a real difference to children's lives." If you have ever thought about fostering now is the time to pick up the phone or send an email. Anyone interested can get in touch with Durham County Council: Tel: 03000 269 400 Email: fostering@durham.gov.uk Web: www.durham.gov.uk/fostering

## TOUGH ON LITTERING & DOG FOULING

More than 80 fixed penalty notices for enviro crimes such as littering and dog fouling were issued during a one-month period in County Durham. Durham County Council neighbourhood wardens are working hard to stop people committing these offences to make County Durham a cleaner, greener place in which to live and work. They work in partnership with police community support officers to carry out enforcement action. In January, the council issued the following fixed penalty notices: 9 for dog fouling; 48 for littering and 27 for failing to comply with a litter clearing notice. Ian Houlst, neighbourhood protection manager at Durham County Council, said: "Littering and dog fouling are of great concern to local people and we are determined to continue to tackle those responsible. To help us achieve this, we are calling on residents to come forward

with any information they have regarding the identities of possible offenders." Throughout this month (February) neighbourhood wardens will be targeting their patrols on dog fouling hot spot areas across the county as part of the council's responsible dog ownership campaign. The wardens will be working with the council's civic pride officers in educating dog owners on how to be responsible as well as issuing fixed penalty notices to anyone who fails to clean up after their dog. If anyone can provide information on people who litter or fail to pick up after their dogs, please call 03000 26 1000 with as much detail of the incident as possible. Litter clearing notices were given to residents of properties with accumulations of rubbish in their yards and gardens. Failure to comply with a litter clearing notice results in a fixed penalty notice being issued.

## Ex-Newtonian in Row Over Banksy Mural



Readers may have recognised Newtonian Alan Strickland on T.V. last week being interviewed over the Banksy graffiti artwork which was taken from the wall of a London building and listed for auction in the US for around \$450,000. The former Woodham student continues to work in politics after graduating from Oxford University. He tried to succeed Tony Blair as our MP, but didn't get enough votes in the selection process. Slave Labour - the mural that was removed - appeared on the wall in Wood Green, north London, last May, shortly before the celebrations to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It depicted a boy hunched over a sewing machine making Union Jack bunting. It disappeared from the side of the Poundland store and ended up in an auction. Haringey Councillor, Alan Strickland is the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Social Inclusion and in the TV interview was discussing the legal ownership of the mural..

## FREE BUS SERVICE CONTINUES FOR AYCLIFFE STUDENTS

A free bus service for students at Bishop Auckland College from Newton Aycliffe is to continue next year. The service runs every weekday during term time, with pick-ups including Aycliffe, Midridge and Eldon Lane. In Newton Aycliffe there are stops at The Huntsman, Woodham Way, Burn Lane, Central Avenue, Pease Way, Station, Aycliffe Arms and the Labour Club. Pick-up points can be added,

depending on location. Students arrive at the college's main campus by 8.50am and leave at 5.15pm. As well as the free transport, other benefits for full time students aged 16 to 19 include an allowance of up to £500, free gym membership, free hair and beauty treatments, free printing and help with essential course items. The college, which has just been named among the top 25 per cent in the country

for student success rates, is holding an open event on Tuesday March 5th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at its Woodhouse Lane, Bishop Auckland campus, where tutors will be available to give information on courses starting this September. To find out more about the free bus service, visit www.bacol.ac.uk/school-leavers/free-bus-service.html or for information on courses available call (01388) 443000.

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# AYCLIFFE

## SHOPPING CENTRE

### ADVISORY NOTICE

Demolition of the existing spiral staircase is now in progress.

Installation of the new staircase and various other works will take approximately until 15th March. The opening of the new staircase for public access, will be Monday, 18th March, 2013.

*Please accept my apologies for any inconvenience these works may have caused.*

**Bryan Haldane**  
*Centre Manager*

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## £1500 from Charity Stall

Honest John's Fundraising stall has donated £350 to the Children's JAFFA club at Burnhill towards their annual trip to Seahouses. £250 was also given towards the purchase of a boiler for the Maddison family featured in Newton News recently. Newton Aycliffe Spartans Baseball team also received £400 and Newton Aycliffe Under 16's Football Club £500. John wishes to thank all those who support his stall. The generous donations of unwanted household goods is much appreciated.

## CHILDREN'S PARTIES AT NEVILLE PARADE

The main hall at Neville Parade Community Centre is ideal for Children's Parties. We can also arrange the catering providing a Macdonald's Happy Meal at £3 a head. To book and view the facility ring 313924. The Marske Fishermans Choir make a return visit for a Concert on Saturday 27th April at 7.30pm. This is a superb Show and must not be missed! Adults £4, Seniors £2 and children £1. To book and collect tickets at the door ring 313924. We are looking for raffle prizes to help swell the funds needed to keep our centre open. If you can help please ring the above number to arrange for collection. We also need volunteers to serve on our Fundraising Committee - no experience needed. If there is an activity you wish to run on a regular basis in the centre please ring Peter on 313924. He is also available for any Senior Citizen needing help with a problem.

## LIFE BRIGHTER FOR BLIND HOMELESS HOUND



A blind rescue dog found her furry tail ending when she was adopted by a new owner who immediately fell in love with her. When little Bella arrived at Dogs Trust Darlington in the summer, staff were concerned that they would have their work cut out finding a home for a six month old, completely blind puppy. However the tenacious little Terrier soon revealed she was a real character who would not let her disability hold her back. Bella quickly won the hearts of the Rehoming Centre staff through her bubbly, bouncy character and incredible zest for life. Bella was born blind and she was handed into the Centre in Sadberge when she was just a puppy by her owners who felt they could care for her as she was frightened of their other dogs. Fortunately she had only been at Centre for a month when she was spotted by dog lover Lindsey Claydon and it wasn't long before she was absolutely smitten with mischievous little Bella. Said Lindsey: "I had been to the Centre twice in search of the perfect pooch when staff asked me if I would mind taking a look at a very special little dog. As soon as I was introduced to Bella I knew she was the only dog for me. She is such an affectionate, sweet natured girl

and she has fitted into my life perfectly. The fact that she is blind has never been an issue because I expected adopting any dog to have certain challenges so I have only ever considered that Bella's condition makes her extra special and unique" "Bella is no trouble out on walks as she rarely bumps into things as she seems to have developed a sixth sense but I do let her know if I move anything around the house". Dogs Trust Darlington cares for around 120 abandoned and unwanted dogs at any one time. If you are interested in a rescue dog call the Centre directly on 01325 333114 or visit Hill House Farm, Sadberge, Co Durham, DL2 1SL.



**GREENFIELD/ MIDDRIDGE WARD**  
Wednesday 6th March 6pm at Evangelical Church, Ladybower. We urge any resident in the ward to come along and raise any concerns you may have or to catch up with the local Councillors and Neighbourhood Police Team. The new Beat officer PC Kathryn Pudney will be at the meeting and looks forward to meet residents in the local area. PCSO 7044 Scott Hodgson

**West Ward**  
There will be a PACT meeting for the West Ward at Burnhill Way Church on Thursday 7th March at 6.00pm. This will be attended by the Police, and local Councillors. Everyone is welcome.



## Spring Craft & Gift Fayre

On Saturday 9th March we are holding a Spring Craft & Gifts Fayre at Neville Parade Methodist Church. There will be over 20 stalls attending hoping to attract you with their various displays of crafts & gifts. Items on sale will include cards, jewellery, woodturning, pyrography, soaps, photography, needlework, toiletries, craft materials, paintings, door plaques, cakes etc. You can also try your hand at crafting by taking part in card making workshops being held throughout the day. And don't forget to sample our bacon butties and great value Methodist lunches & refreshments. We look forward to seeing you from 10am - 2pm. A warm welcome awaits you.

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## Heighington Village AGM

Heighington Village Hall association hold their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 12th March at 7pm. in the Hall.

The Committee is keen to welcome villagers who wish to hear about what has been done over the past year and receive reports from regular users.

Drinks and light refreshments will be served from 7pm before the AGM at 7.30pm which will include the election of Officers and Management Committee. New Committee members are always welcome.

The Village Hall is the hub of Heighington community and a lot of hard work is put into the day-to-day running of the building so it is there for villagers to enjoy. Without the hard work of the committee who are all volunteers the hall could not be open, so every bit of support they get is greatly appreciated.  
Karin Allison  
Hon Secretary

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# Men of Steele Town Fell Walkers Brave the Weather



Jason Steele's Aycliffe WMC entertain FA Sunday Cup legends Hetton Lyons at home this Sunday morning, 10.30am at Simpature. "It's a huge test for us," says Jason. "But we've got to be beating teams like Hetton if we want to win silverware this season." Steele's One to Watch this week, meanwhile, is Aaron Wright (pictured). Jason says: "A talented, two-footed player who has an eye for goal and a cutting-edge pass. Only trouble with Aaron is he loves a pint, and always turned up drunk on a Sunday morning!"

Aycliffe Fell Walking Club enjoyed another snowy day out on Saturday 23rd February; this time the walk area was beautiful Upper Teesdale.

Various routes were on offer and most club members chose to undertake the walk that started from Langdon Beck, visiting Cow Green Reservoir and Cauldron Snout on their way to Holwick. The group started the day with coffee and hot bacon butties in Langdon Beck Hotel before setting off.

It snowed steadily all day but all were well prepared and really enjoyed the conditions as they followed the infant Tees down beside the waterfall, then past Widdybank Farm and High Force (England's highest waterfall) before finishing with hot soup, chip butties and real ale at the Strathmore Arms in Holwick, where the hired luxury coach was waiting to transport them back to Aycliffe and Darlington.

If you would like to join us on a future walk (we hold monthly walks throughout the year) and would like



Aycliffe Fell Walkers pause for a photo at an isolated shepherd's shelter in upper Teesdale.

more information about our club, "probably the best fell walking club in the region",

why not visit our website [www.afwc.org.uk](http://www.afwc.org.uk) or give us a call direct on 01325 488225

# Information for Same Sex Couples Thinking About Having a Family

More same sex couples are being urged to come forward and find out about having a family through fostering or adoption.

Durham County Council is joining this year's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Fostering and Adoption Week. The council is holding an information drop-in session on Saturday, 2 March at Gala Theatre in Durham City.

Anyone interested can pop in between 11am and 1pm where there is the chance to meet some same sex parents to hear about their experiences and also the opportunity to speak to social workers.

Jessica Cowan, team manager, said: "There are a lot of myths that surround both fostering

and adoption and people often rule themselves without talking to us.

"One commonly held belief is that same sex couples cannot foster or adopt. We would like to reassure anyone thinking about becoming a foster carer or adopter that they can contact us and find out more. What is more important than anything else, is your ability to understand and care for a child and provide a stable family life."

Durham County Council's Fostering and Adoption Team will provide training and will support and help couples to understand what is involved.

In Durham there are a lot of different types of support. There is an extensive training

programme for both foster carer and adopters and also a dedicated therapeutic service for looked after children, which includes a consultant clinical psychologist and a team of therapists. Durham County Council also subscribes to New Family Social, a national charity which works with foster carers and adoptive parents. This means the support in every aspect is second to none and foster carers and adopters in County Durham rate this service extremely highly.

Jessica added: "Fostering and adoption can make a real difference to the lives of children and young people, if you have ever thought about it then now is the time to find out more."

## MEETING OF HORNDALE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Our second meeting will be held on the 6th March and follows the monthly PACT meeting starting at 6pm at the Evangelical Church.

Last year after several months of poor weather one of the biggest problems was anti-social playing of football. Footballs were kicked against shop, church doors, cars and the youths causing a nuisance to pensioners. This brought disgust so we asked what could be done to rectify the problem. The idea of building a Multi Use Game Area was proposed knowing the town had three but all a good distance away. We felt that our youth were being let down and this spurred us on to ask why our quarter of the town did not have such a play area. We

started to look at ways of building a MUGA and after several meetings the Town Council agreed to donate the land, do ground works to the value of £2000, maintain and insure the area for the lifetime of the structure.

We started look for funding and realised we had to a registered group so the Residents Association was formed and from this realised there was more we could do to make our neighbourhood a better place to live.

We call the group Horndale Residents Association as we hold meetings at the Church who offer their premises free of charge. The association covers all estates in the Greenfield and Middridge ward. Most members have lived in the area for up to 40 years. We want to make our community better, but can only do this with the help of everyone.

We have ideas like fun days, training courses, litter picking etc. Our first training day is on the subject of food handling which is to be held in March in conjunction with Skill Share and it is already full! We may be able to repeat it later in the year if we get enough people interested.

Please attend our meetings and help us fulfil our aims. It is also a good chance to speak to the Police, Councillors and Livin. You can speak openly during the meetings or to someone in private on any problems or concerns which are affecting your daily lives. The more people who attend gives us a bigger voice for the authorities to take notice.

The committee look forward to see you at the monthly meetings to work together to make some of the ideas a reality.

Philip Clark

## Woodham Academy Showcases Teaching



Woodham Academy held an open day for representatives from schools and Local Authorities to showcase highly effective teaching. For the last five years, the Academy has been working with the Australian Consultancy, Group 8 Education, to apply the latest research into how children learn. Whether in Victoria or County Durham, the same conditions seem to lead to students doing well. These include high levels of respect for other people, feeling safe in school, teachers who listen to their students and teachers who know their subjects well. As a result of this high quality teaching, Woodham has seen

year-on-year improvements in student engagement, behaviour and achievement, leading to the school's best-ever, examination results in 2012. Headteacher, Christine Forsyth, says "The collaboration with Group 8 Education in Australia has given our teachers an interesting opportunity to reflect on their own professional development. Woodham's success is due to the excellent teaching that takes place on a day-to-day basis." Woodham Academy is currently working with a number of schools in the UK, USA and Australia who are also interested in developing outstanding teaching.

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**Woodham Ward**

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## February Half Term at Greenfield Arts



Last week was an action packed half term at Greenfield Arts, with activities for children and young people every day! More than 60 children and their families joined us over the week for arts activities including making colourful geometric sculptures (now on display in the Arts Centre), Mask and wall hanging making, inspired by Chinese New Year, and jewellery making. All the sessions were great fun and the children created some fantastic artwork and accessories. We also had our popular cooking sessions, where families worked with Season to Taste to make spring rolls inspired by Chinese New Year, and cupcakes. Young people travelled with us to Newcastle to see

a fantastic performance of Rapunzel at The Stage – an inspiring performance which the young people thoroughly enjoyed!

We are now working hard on our Easter holiday programme, which will be announced soon. Greenfield Arts is also co-ordinating “Out of the Bag” a project offering free creative activities for families. For information please contact us on 01325 379048 or email [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk).

## CAKE & BAKE SALE

Don't forget to get your cakes ready for the Cake Competition and Bake Sale in aid of Comic Relief on Saturday 9th March. The competition is open to all, entry fee £1 per cake with all proceeds going to Comic Relief. For more information please contact Sue Beadle on 07971 849840

## Balancing the County's Budget

A freeze in council tax for the fourth year running; protection for 65,000 households by retaining the same level of council tax benefit payments for a year; increased investment in projects to kick start the economy and job creation; and higher spend on areas of adult social care. Those are amongst the headlines of Durham County Council's 2013/14 budget which was approved by Full Council today. (February 20). The budget document also outlines how the council needs to make increased required savings totalling nearly £190m for the period 2011 – 2017. Members heard that cuts in Government funding mean that initial forecasts of a total reduction of some 28 per cent to the budget are now more likely to equate to 36 per cent between the years highlighted above. In addition, should predicted further central Government funding cuts go ahead, that figure could be more like 40 per cent by 2017/18 representing an overall revised savings target of some £200m across the six-year period.

To meet these unprecedented targets, the council will stick to the plan supported by the public of protecting wherever possible front line services while continuing to reduce management and support service budgets to balance the books.

Leader of the council, Cllr Simon Henig, said: “I am grateful to the public for their feedback during our recent consultation which shows a high level of understanding of how we have managed spending reductions so far. However, there is no doubt there are many more extremely difficult decisions which we will have to make. We will make these while continuing our discussions with residents and businesses in the county and while protecting those who are most vulnerable as best we can.

“This includes our proposal to freeze council tax for the fourth year running, our

decision to protect council tax benefit payments for a year and our increased budgets for areas of adult social care as well as capital projects to boost the economy and job creation. “Our commitment to protect and improve our offer to residents wherever we can is also evident through the announcement of two new household waste recycling centres at Crook and near Barnard Castle plus a new customer access point for Stanley as well as our investment in Newton Aycliffe.”

The decision to protect council tax benefits to the most vulnerable households in the county for an initial one year period was approved by the authority's Full Council on January 9, 2013.

To date Durham County Council has already saved more than £90m of the required overall figure.

However, members will be advised that precise planning continues to be difficult in light of uncertainties surrounding some funding and complexities around the revised formula for public sector grants. The council's Medium Term Financial Plan balances the budget for 2013/14 and the authority is committed to further widespread consultation this autumn to identify where the remaining savings should be found.

Throughout the process of budget reductions the council has consulted with residents.

Most recently public feedback was sought so that the authority could understand how people had been affected by reductions or changes to services so far.

This was done via the council's 14 Area Action Partnerships, the Citizens' Panel and targeted questionnaires. 1,500 people responded and the results revealed there is a high level of public understanding of how the authority has managed a very difficult process. Included in the responses received was the fact that some 40 per cent of people felt that the introduction of Alternate Weekly Collections for refuse and recycling had had a positive impact on them, with only 12 per cent reporting a negative impact. The remainder reported no impact at all. This change alone is already saving the council over £2m a year.

Despite the financial pressures the council has been able to maintain a significant capital investment programme of £159m in 2013/14 in line with the council's regeneration and job creation priorities.

The programme is fully funded from capital grants, capital receipts from the sale of council assets and some prudential borrowing.

A full list of new projects plus more information on the savings and budget plan are available at

<http://democracy.durham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CI=153&MI=5040&Ver=4>

## Situations VACANT

### Greenfield Community College A Specialist Arts & Science School

Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham, DL5 7LF  
Tel: 01325 300378 – Fax: 01325 379058  
<http://greenfieldschool.net>



### LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR

Scale 1 Point 4-11 (£10,435-£12,658 pro rata)  
37 hours (term time only)  
Monday to Thursday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm  
Friday 8.30 am to 4.00 pm

6 ¼ hours per week 12.30pm – 1.45pm  
(term time only)

Grade 1, Point 4-11 (£6.29 – £7.63 per hour)

Greenfield wishes to appoint a Lunchtime Supervisor to start as soon as possible.

The successful candidate will work as part of a team to supervise students in all areas of the school at lunchtime. Additional duties may include cashier cover and contributing to the supervision of recreational and sports activities.

Please contact Mrs Susan Mouyiassi on 01325 300378 or email: [susan.mouyiassi@greenfieldschool.net](mailto:susan.mouyiassi@greenfieldschool.net) for further information and an application pack.

Only applications submitted on the school's application forms and completed in full by the specified date will be considered.

Greenfield Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of sex, race, marital status or disability

The school is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and require all staff to share this commitment.

All posts are subject to satisfactory CRB clearance.

**Closing Date: 12 noon – 11th March 2013**

Your place of work will be Greenfield Community College. The school is part of the Aycliffe and Shildon Schools Education Trust (ASSET) and you may be required to work in any of the school sites within the Trust.

## Japanese Culture Day at County Hall



Megumi Murakami and Right Akie Usuzaka of the North East Japanese Womens Association pour a cup of green tea for Council Chairman Cllr Linda Marshall JP.

The Chairman of Durham County Council, Linda Marshall hosted a Japanese culture event at County Hall. Councillors, council staff and members of the public learnt about Japanese etiquette, the formalities of a tea ceremony, parcel wrapping and the traditional Japanese art of paper folding.

The event was organised by Cllr Linda Marshall to show support to our Japanese

business investors Hitachi in Newton Aycliffe and follows on from the Japanese Tsunami disaster fund set up by former Chairman Cllr Mac Williams. Representatives from Japan Crafts UK were also on hand. Cllr Marshall was joined by Syoko Smith, Megumi Murakami and Akie Usuzaka of the North east Japanese Womens Association and Anjali bhattacharjee from Japan Crafts UK.



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### Mini Bus Driver

(Scale 3 Point 14 pro-rata)

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We are seeking a suitably qualified mini-bus driver for regular term-time runs, Monday to Friday between 7.15 am and 9.00 am in the morning and 2.45 pm and 4.30 pm in the afternoon to start as soon as possible.

For further details, please visit our website

[www.stjohnsrc.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsrc.org.uk) - vacancies

or during term time contact:

01388 603246/[sanderson@stjohnsrc.org.uk](mailto:sanderson@stjohnsrc.org.uk)

**Closing Date: Friday, 15 March 2013 - 12 noon**

'A Learning Community Guided by Gospel Values'





## Warehousing Training from ITEC North East

### Aycliffe Company Gain Accreditation

Learning provider ITEC North East are diversifying their long established work-based training portfolio with the addition of Warehousing & Storage to be delivered as an Apprenticeship.

Emma Booth, Operations Director, has spent time researching the potential demand throughout the region, "We have recognised the significant industrial capacity and identified we are not providing an opportunity for staff working "behind the scenes" who deal with the movement and storage of goods, an essential part of logistics operations. As a result we have spent time working with City & Guilds in order to now offer an Apprenticeship in Warehousing & Storage - Level 2."

Over 130,000 workplaces offer apprenticeships because they understand the benefits apprenticeships bring to their business - increased productivity, improved competitiveness and a committed and competent workforce. Growing numbers of young people are being attracted to apprenticeships



Emma Booth

for the support, training and job prospects delivered in a working environment and ITEC received over 300 online applications in February for a wide range of vacancies throughout the region.

Local employers can access training for their existing staff or work with ITEC's Business Development Team to recruit fresh new talent into their workforce. Eligible companies can access the AGE 16 - 24 Grant offering £1,500 towards wage costs, full details are available from staff based at our Newton Aycliffe Head Office - 01325 320052.

## Town Centre Postmaster & Newsagent to Retire

Barry Taylor the Postmaster has indicated he will not be renewing his leases when the time comes for the demolition of his end of the Town Centre. Barry intends to retire, giving up the Postmaster's position and also closing his Newsagency shop next door. Barry told Newton News he was not prepared at his age to take on a new lease, but would remain until the

demolition notice for his shops was received. Meanwhile he assumes the Post Office will be appointing a replacement Postmaster to follow his retirement, but does not expect that to happen until later this year. Barry said he was grateful for the support he has received from regular customers over many years in the town centre.

## Apprentice Exchange Takes Trainees to Germany

EIGHT North East apprentices are jetting out to Germany to put their skills to the test at a global manufacturing facility.

The students, who are signed up to manufacturing and engineering courses with regional training provider S. W. Durham Training (SWDT) Ltd, will undertake a 17-day exchange programme, working with Siemens in Mülheim an der Ruhr, Germany, to learn first-hand how the world-leading producer of turbo sets, steam turbines and generators works.

The learners, who are employed by businesses across the North East including car parts giant Nifco, flat bread producer Mission Foods and Nissan supplier Tacle will fly out to in Germany on March 1 to partake in the exchange, where they will learn more about advanced manufacturing. Nigel Davison, centre coordinator, who organised the exchange, the Leonardo

Project - now in its tenth year - said that it represented a unique opportunity for the young apprentices to gain the technical and life skills needed to succeed in their career.

He said: "Siemens is renowned as one of the world's most innovative and successful businesses, so the fact that our young apprentices have the chance to travel over to Germany and find out more about the cutting edge techniques they put in place is fantastic."

"However it is about much more than honing their technical skills. It is a chance for each of them to gain invaluable life skills that will set them apart when they embark upon their respective careers. Each year, we see this project doing a remarkable job in transforming students who take part in it, giving them so much more confidence, so we're delighted to be taking eight young people out with us on the 2013 exchange programme."

As part of the Leonardo Project, apprentices from Germany will visit the North East to learn more about UK manufacturing in June. The group, made up of employees from Siemens, will visit SWDT's multi-million-pound Newton Aycliffe CORE Centre from June 14 until July 5 to learn about the North East's growing engineering sector.

The exchange programme is designed to get their apprentices thinking about the opportunities that exist in manufacturing on a global scale.

Charl Erasmus, chief executive of the 45 year old training company, said: "The trip will provide our young people with an excellent opportunity to discover first-hand how their skills can be transferred to businesses right around the globe."

"The North East really is a hotbed for manufacturing and engineering, but we want to broaden the horizons of our young people and show them that their learning can be applied to businesses around the world, not just in the UK. Many of our former apprentices have gone on to have a career that takes them right around the world, so it really is an eye-opening experience for our young people."

He added: "The quality of the engineering and manufacturing apprenticeships we provide from our CORE facility are absolutely at the cutting-edge, and the young people who undertake the exchange will see very quickly that they will be well equipped to work with national and international firms once they have completed their training."

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

## AYCLIFFE COMPANY INVEST IN VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS

A top North-East media company has made two appointments to continue its investment in visual communications.

HPM Group, at Aycliffe Business Park, has evolved significantly in recent years to become one of the region's highly-rated multi-service marketing agencies.

The company employs 45 staff and currently has an annual turnover of £4.5m, has invested heavily to focus on new media marketing strategies and innovative i-publications as well as PR.

Ken Pearce, 45, from Durham, has joined HPM as business development manager after several years in the print industry for major organisations and paper merchants.

Ryan Bannison, 26, has been promoted from marketing trainee to business development executive, specialising in selling creative design and new media.

Ken said: "It's my job to generate new, long-term, business and create new relationships, reactivating lapsed accounts and generally improving sales."

Ryan, from Newcastle, joined HPM in summer 2009 after graduating from Northumbria University with a first class honours degree in marketing



management and has recently worked on prestigious projects such as Wynyard Hall, Auckland Castle and NetPark-based Reinnervate.

He said: "This is my first role from University and it's been a joy to work for HPM in developing my career in marketing."

Managing director Richard Mortimer, who helped with the launch of the Aycliffe Business Park website, said: "Ken is experienced in the North-East graphic industry and has led teams of salespeople."

"He's excellent at working with companies to build brands and is highly-experienced at mentoring the growth of small and medium-sized companies through marketing techniques."

"Ryan's progress and contribution to the group

has been excellent and we're delighted to see him climb the ladder, rewarding all his efforts. "He's now well-versed in developing web marketing strategies, from simple but effective websites to sophisticated SEO and SEM campaigns."

HPM boasts firms such as PWS, Wynyard Hall, Durham University, Teesside University and NHS Trusts among its client list, as well as football clubs including Liverpool, Sunderland and Middlesbrough.

The 100-year-old firm was the first company to reside on Park 2000 at Heighington Lane Business Park in Aycliffe when they relocated there from Bishop Auckland in 2000, and their impressive building was opened by Tony Blair.

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**2nd March: 10am - 12pm**

**14th March: 5pm - 7pm**

**17th April: 5pm - 7pm**

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

### South West Durham Training Ltd. Engineering & Manufacturing Excellence

**Durham Way South | Aycliffe Business Park  
Newton Aycliffe | DL56AT | www.swdt.co.uk**



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Adding your job vacancies and promoting special offers are all available **FREE OF CHARGE**. Listings can be amended, added to or upgraded at any time - over 200 Newton Aycliffe organisations have so far... **why haven't you?**

**Don't miss this great opportunity to promote your business or organisation.**



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## Three Dogs Killed Over One Year

Dear Sir,  
Yet again another pet has been killed in Newton Aycliffe, the third little dog I am aware of in the last 12 months. There are also many more who have suffered attacks. The irresponsible owners of these killer dogs should be punished more severely than just a fine. Owners of smaller animals are frightened to take their pets for a walk on a lead. Some owners of small dogs treat their pets like children and are devastated and traumatised when they are hurt or killed. I believe owners of these aggressive dogs should be sued for damages and trauma caused. Perhaps if they faced having to pay substantial sums of money and their dog destroyed, they might be more responsible.  
John Sisterson

### HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

We are always interested in local news stories. We like to feature good news and interesting items on achievements & community service

Tel: Syd  
01325 300212  
or syd@newtonnews.co.uk



LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## GIVING UP - LEAVING TOWN!

Dear Sir,  
There have been five large mature trees removed and two 'sticks' planted in the last week to replace them! I am not some eco nutter - or a Mister Angry who raves on about any old nonsense - I was born and have lived in Aycliffe all my life and I am just frustrated at the state of the place!  
The town centre is still a joke and our Council are clueless. Answer this - why do we need a Town Council? What do they do for our town? A firework display and 'Aycliffe Show'...

Do they really think a few seats and new paving is going to make people want to sit in the town centre and look at charity shops? We should buy back the town centre for the town - and get rid of the absent landlords before the damage is permanent - M&Co have now gone and more to come - why is this allowed to happen? What does this town have? No cinema, no Costa or other decent shops - what shops do we have worth visiting the town for? We have nothing - look at what has just been built around Tindale

Crescent. There are loads of people from Aycliffe going there to shop - M+S, Costa, Next, etc.

Why wasn't this done in Aycliffe? When people ask where you are from I bet you aren't proud to say 'Newton Aycliffe'. I don't know anyone who is proud to say that - most say Darlington or Woodham as if that is not in Aycliffe.

We are looking to move off the town before it gets any worse. Yes - we are giving up!

Anonymous & disgruntled resident.  
Name & address supplied

## Theft of Garden Seat

Dear Sir,  
Thieves have stolen the garden seat from my back garden at Hareson Road. Being old and disabled is bad enough and I do not deserve to lose one of the few remaining pleasures left to me. May God help them, they need it.  
Alan Keegan

## We Have to Resist the Bedroom Tax

Dear Sir,  
North East campaigners are organising opposition to the Government's 'nasty tax' on spare bedrooms. Aycliffe was built to house young families needing 3 bedrooms and changing social needs require spare rooms for carers, disabilities and children's visitation rights. Two bedroom stocks of houses cannot meet demand and one bedroom flats and bungalows do not meet modern day needs and many were demolished for that reason. It was heart warming to read of Housing Associations planning meetings to represent tenants fears and concerns and campaigners involving MEP's in defence of their basic human rights.

Alternative accommodation for an aging population to down size is not available. Taxing tenants unable to move is grossly unfair by the Government.

When 1701 people apply for eight jobs in a coffee shop, it shows why the North East tops the list for regional unemployment. Our youngsters cry out for work and this Tory-led Coalition must be challenged by those suffering most from it's unacceptably unfair actions.

Aycliffe can mount a powerful lobby supporting lawful challenges to the "Bedroom Tax" and could petition our MEP to bring it to the European Parliament. Will Aycliffe do it? I hope so!

Don Fraser, Woodham.

## PLEASE KNIT A FISH & CHIP JUMPER Aycliffe Target - 500



Newborn babies in Africa, many suffering from Aids, are called 'Fish and Chip' babies because they are sent home from hospital wrapped in newspaper for warmth. They need your help and we are asking knitters to make a small jumper which will be sent to Africa to clothe the infants. It's a quick and easy pattern using double knitting wool in dark or bright colours and stripes. No white or pastels please as these garments may not get washed.

### BABY JUMPER PATTERN

(KNITTED IN ONE)  
Needles - size 6 for tight knitters 7 for loose knitters  
Cast on 44 stitches and work 18 rows in K2, P2 Rib Work 30 rows in stocking stitch - K 1 row, P 1 row.  
Cast on 12 stitches at the beginning of the next 2 rows and change to K2, P2 rib Rib 22 rows  
Next row rib 21, cast off 26, rib 21 Next row rib 21, cast on 26, rib 21 Rib 22 rows  
Cast off 12 stitches at the beginning of the next 2 rows  
Work 30 rows of stocking stitch - K 1 row, P 1 row  
Work 18 rows in K2, P2 rib  
Cast off. Stitch side seams

Finished length is 11 inches or 28cm.

The finished garments are shipped to Uganda by TWAM (Tools with a Mission) where they are sent to 12 different African countries. Please hand in at the Youth Centre before April - Thank you from the babies of Africa.

D. Bowman

## WHY ARE HEALTHY TREES FELLED?

Dear Sir,  
Can someone please explain why four mature healthy trees have been felled on Emerson Way? The usual excuse for this is vandalism or they were dangerous or diseased, but this could not be claimed for any of these trees.

Replacements have not been planted and it seems that not a week goes by without further trees being chopped down around the town.

I would be interested to know who sanctions this and why? Has one of our esteemed councillors got a tree felling business? If this was happening anywhere else there would be uproar - it seem apathy rules when it comes to the residents of our town. A visitor to the town once commented how pleasant it was with so many trees and green spaces around out town, but that will not be the case for much longer if our Council continues to destroy it.

Conservationist  
name and address supplied

Editor:

We have to agree with this reader as too often trees are being felled, seemingly without reason, and certainly without notice. This upsets people who like to see trees from their homes and they

deserve an explanation. We have asked Durham County Council to comment as it is usual for consultation on any alteration to the environment, but it apparently does not apply to trees.

### Council Reply...

Jimmy Bennett, Durham County Council's clean and green manager, said: "The council has a responsibility to ensure that trees near roads and pavements are not at risk of falling onto the highway. We never remove trees unless it is absolutely necessary. "The trees in Emerson Way were inspected by a fully qualified and experienced arboriculturist and felled due to concerns over their safety. Two of the trees had ash heart rot and another was almost dead, probably as a result of phloia root disease. The fourth tree had a large cavity. However, all posed a risk to the safety of the public."

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Tel: 07774 921986  
to arrange an appointment

### GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 13th March 2013

Council Meeting - 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](http://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".

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# Wolves 83 Wildcats 79 Aycliffe Couple's Inspiring Life Table Tennis Popular

Worcester Wolves came out on top against the Durham Wildcats as they won 79-83 in this close encounter at the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre.

A few missed opportunities by the Wildcats were the difference in the opening quarter, despite a strong start from the home side. Worcester took a 17-19 lead going into the second quarter having been down by as many as 6 points early on but a last minute push from the Wolves gave them a 2 point advantage on the buzzer. A very tight encounter saw Worcester's lead only extend to a maximum of 4 points throughout the quarter but the Wildcats managed to creep the score back to within 1 after the referee's cancelled out a Kai Williams three pointer on the half time buzzer after a lengthy discussion the score stood at 39-40.

It was a poor offensive display for the Wildcats while at the other end of the court the Wolves were penetrating the basket as Worcester went on a scoring tear from behind the arc making a 9-0 run as the visitors held a 10 point lead going into the final quarter at 53-63.

The final quarter was very frustrating for the Wildcats with the referee's in the limelight after some interesting decisions at both ends of the court not going their way. The Wolves taking advantage of the situation, holding a healthy

10 point lead. The frustration turned into positivity for the Wildcats late on as they brought the game back within 3 points at 75-78 but a Arnas Kazlauskas three ended a last gasp comeback for Durham as the game ended with Worcester taking the win home at 79-83.

Head Coach Dave Elderkin felt that his team could still hold their heads high after a narrow defeat to a strong Worcester roster; "The Wolves have tremendous strength and depth to their squad and they showed that today." He said; "Keith Page was a big loss today after not having his impact which could have put the game in our hands but the guys were great tonight, just one or two things to focus on this week after tomorrow's rest day as we look towards next weekend's fixture against Glasgow Rocks."

M.V.P – Carlos Fernandez; 14 points, 10 rebounds and 7 assists. Fernandez recorded a double, double and came close to making it a triple, double. He Shot 86% from the field and had an all-round impressive performance. Durham Wildcats – Mike Baldarelli; 23 points, 6 rebounds; Andrew Keister; 22 points 14 rebounds; Brad Guinane; 14 points, 6 assists. Worcester Wolves – Alex Owumi; 24 points, 4 rebounds; Stanley Ocitti; 18 points, 8 rebounds; Kai Williams; 16 points, 5 rebounds.

Janet Furlong came to live in Aycliffe in 1962 where her four children were born. She was then Mrs Dundas and over the years taught at Vane Rd, St Mary's, St Joseph's and Woodham Burn Infants. At St Mary's School Janet was nurtured by Sister Siobhan and became a Catholic. She was very much involved in music and formed a group of seven children known as "Janet and the Rainbow". They entertained in homes for the elderly, clubs and churches; and donations went to the NSPCC.

After a divorce Janet taught for several years at Eldon Lane Primary School, then again at St Mary's and Sugar Hill School. In 1988 she remarried and moved to Blackpool and became a 'Born Again Christian' working as a carer

with Mencap. Music and art played a big part in her life bringing joy to disabled adults. Sadly her husband died after six years of marriage, and two years later Janet returned to the North East to be with her family. She joined her sister Brenda and her husband Cliff in work as missionaries in Eastern Europe, ministering in song, testimony and preaching. The trio helped renovate a property in Maletice to be used as a Christian Retreat. At an outreach meeting in Penrith where Janet was playing keyboard, she met Keith Furlong and was amazed to hear he did missionary work in Far Eastern Russia and Central Siberia. He played guitar and enjoyed painting as a hobby. They became friends and were married in 1999.



As a Christian, Keith learned at an early age the importance of God in his life. Over the years he was mocked and scorned because of his faith, yet never doubted God and the Lord Jesus Christ. He worked for over twenty years as a Hill Shepherd and Farm Manager in the Lake District and fully appreciated the beauty of God's creation. In Newton Aycliffe, one day, Janet met, and was persuaded by Frank Ridley, Headteacher of Sugar Hill School, to return to teaching. "Who could resist his charm? He always referred to me as the "smallest giant". I accepted a post at his school, where I was very happy. Frank, the staff and parents, encouraged and supported Keith and I in our work as missionaries", said Janet. This took the couple to the Czech Republic, South Bohemia and Moravia, always taking their musical instruments with them. "We travelled by coach and twice drove there by car, taking toys and clothes for the orphaned children. We went to gypsy orphanages, disabled centre's, schools for the blind, churches, old people's homes where we were loved and appreciated so much." said Keith.

Janet had to retire from teaching due to ill health and could no longer fly, but after five years is now completely healed. The couple attend Harvest Christian Centre at Woodham where they are encouraged by Pastors, Jeff and June Malvin and the wonderful people that attend. "This church really cares for and attends to the needs of the people" said Keith. Keith is now semi retired after working as a painter and decorator at Hardwick Hall Hotel. He now has time to write Christian poems and follow his love of art. Janet and family are so proud of his success, as in the last year he had two books of Christian poems published, and two of his paintings accepted for an exhibition from 2nd March at Bowes Museum. He will also exhibit three Paintings at Greenfield Gallery Open Art Exhibition commencing Wednesday. 10th April 2013. He has a website for his poetry "Keith Fulong Poet" and his paintings can be viewed on keithfurlongartist "Who knows what the future holds, but it is wonderful to know that if we have gifts and talents, it is never too late to use them". said Keith.



On Monday 18th February, a group of players attended Greenfield Table Tennis club for a 3 hour coaching camp with qualified coaches Matthew Porter and Ben Kelly. Whilst the main emphasis of the course was about the children having fun, they also had the opportunity to get a good grasp of the basic skills needed to play the game. Most of the players had enjoyed playing this popular pastime on holiday without any coaching. Matthew and Ben were astounded at how quickly the standards of the children's game improved in such a short space of time, with a series of

skills development and game play. In the closing stages of the day the participants rose to the challenge of an "It's a knockout" style competition, in which Matthew Davis won the championship in a closely fought match against Connor Elston. Due to the success of the camp, another is planned during the Easter holiday, Monday 8th April from 10am -1pm for ages 8+, costing only £5 Weekly sessions also take place every Monday (term time only) 5:30-6:30pm with Matthew. For further information please contact Michael on 07879 117224.



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Opening Times: Mon-Thurs 10am-12 Midnight • Fri-Sat 10am-1am • Sun 10am-11pm

## Short of Old People!

An event to bridge the generation gap is short of older people to mix with children. The fun event is to be held at the Youth Centre on Wednesday 6th March from 10am - 3pm and everyone is welcome to take part in the activities. Organised by the "New Friends New Places" club and funded by GAMP the event seeks to mix the generations and allow old people to pass on their life experiences. More information from Dorothy Bowman on 308094.

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## Objection to Two Tier Pension Scheme

Dear Sir,  
Since the Tories and Liberals are not listening to public opinion on the unfairness of the intended two tier pension scheme, I wrote to Ed Milliband asking Labour's support to oppose it. I said that although there is a wealth of discriminatory legislation to protect blacks, muslims, lesbians and so on there is no legislation to protect pensioners or the elderly from discrimination. There can be no legal redress against the Government as it discriminates between two groups of pensioners. I told him that the new scheme means new pensioners will receive £320 per month per couple more than existing pensioners. Ed Milliband replied: "I am grateful to hear people's views and suggestions as to how matters can be improved and believe that people like you who take the time to write into politicians provide a crucial input to the political process. Thank you for taking the time to get in touch about this important issue." So, in defiance of logic and sentiment you have the attitude of the Tories, Liberals and Labour towards this generation of pensioners. I am now writing to UKIP and the BNP asking them to state publicly their attitude on this two tier system to determine if any Party is worthy of a vote. Henry Ballantyne



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NewBuy enables those who



meet the qualifying criteria to purchase a new build property with as little as a 5% deposit. Lenders participating in the scheme will offer up to a 95% mortgage on homes up to the value of £500,000 in England.

With Miller Homes' Home Exchange scheme, the house builder will purchase 100% of the value of the buyer's property based upon an independent RICS valuation, providing a guaranteed buyer and removing the hassle of selling and uncertainties which come with it.

Stewart Baseley, Executive Chairman of the HBF, said: "We know there is a huge pent up demand for home ownership after years when large deposit requirements have prevented many people from buying their first home or trading up to a larger home. "Allowing people to part exchange their existing homes and buy a new one using NewBuy will also be a huge boost for those families stuck in their existing homes, unable to sell and without the required deposit to move."

"Over the coming years, NewBuy will make a real difference and help tens of thousands of people realise their ambition of home ownership. In turn, this will then help kick-start new home construction, creating economic growth and thousands of jobs across the country."

Miller Homes has 10 active developments across the North East, including Cobblers Hall in Newton Aycliffe catering for those looking to purchase their first home to growing families and downsizers.

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**CLASSIC WEDDING CARS** offer a superb collection of cars for your special day including Rolls-Royces, Bentleys, Jaguars, Beaufords and Daimler Limousines. View our cars at our Aycliffe showroom. www.classic-wedding-cars.co.uk 01325 789291 (Aycliffe) mob 07721 771113.

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**CHIROPODY**  
Mr P. Oliver  
BSc (Hons) - M.Ch.S  
for a Home Visit call  
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Sarah Jane Wilson  
MChS BSc Pod (Hons)  
State Registered  
Podiatrist / Chiropodist  
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**Tel: 01388 814518**

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A fast developing golden brown tan that develops within 2/3 hours for a light/medium colour or leave on longer for a deeper tan. (will continue to develop after wash off)  
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## Lost & Found

**FOUND** Small light brown tabby cat with fluorescent green collar and bell. Tel 319919 or 07792 181343

## Tuition

**ENJOY LEARNING** Guitar, Bass or Drums at home. Tel Roger 01325 321 444 - Friendly, Experienced, Local. **C. EXLEY A.L.C.M.** Piano Teacher. Contact details 01388 773588 or email colin.exley@btinternet.com-

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**FORD FIESTA 1.2** Studio, 55 reg, 39000 miles, 2 owners, taxed to end of March 2013, MoT to October 2013, excellent condition, £2995 ono. Tel 07886 634925  
**X REG CORSA** 5 door 1.2. dark indigo blue. 84k. 6 months tax and test, 3 lady owners from new, in same family for many years. Good condition for year. Ideal first car. £800 01325 265271 (D'ton)

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# Urgent Care Centres/Accident & Emergency Access Explained

How do you access medical treatment within our NHS Trust area? This is something many people find confusing even worrying, especially when confronted by a perceived serious medical situation.

I hope in this updated article, to offer basic guidelines as to when and how to access either Accident and Emergency, or, the care and treatment delivered by Urgent Care Centres.

Let me put your mind at rest about which telephone number you should ring. It is 999 for Emergency and 111 for Urgent Care Centres, with their focus on non life-threatening medical conditions. Both of these are FREE numbers.

Do not worry if you get it wrong, experienced operators will assess your medical situation and channel you towards the most appropriate treatment pathway. Accident and Emergency began in the 1960 s, and was known as Casualty, later Accident and Emergency and now increasingly so to avoid confusion, The Emergency Department.

When should you ring 999?

If a person is badly injured or showing signs of critical illness, such as poisoning or a stroke or heart attack. Other conditions would include severe blood loss, chest pains, shortness of breath, choking and blacking out, or other situations where speed is of the essence.

Within County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust area, there are two Accident and Emergency centres: Darlington Memorial Hospital and the University Hospital of North Durham (open Monday to Thursday 6 pm to 8 am. Then Friday 6 pm, through until Monday at 8 am).

You access these if it is not a medical emergency, but you still require treatment fairly quickly. You should ring 111. Remember calls to this number are FREE. Your situation will then be assessed and this is known as Triage. An agreed appointment time will be negotiated that is most suitable for you and your medical condition, at whichever UCC is the most convenient for you.

Calls to 111 can also be useful in finding out information about late opening chemists, out of hours doctors and emergency dental care.

Ambulances are provided for 999 cases only. However, dependent on the age or infirmity of the patient, any necessary assistance required would be assessed during '111' Triage.

If you have a chest infection, urinary infection, suspected eye infection, cuts, bruises, sprained ankle, toe, hand or wrist fracture, you probably need to phone 111 and then get yourself to an Urgent Care Centre. They are open 24/7 (except UHND and Seaham Medical Centre) and are manned by a doctor (usually a GP) as well as senior nursing and paramedic staff (primary care practitioners).

Several have X-ray provision, though this usually closes during the late evening/night time hours. If you turn up at an Urgent Care Centre without an appointment, you will not be turned away. They try to triage you within twenty minutes and either treat you then and there, or ideally offer you an agreed appointment time.

Urgent Care Centres are there for the whole week, however, they often come into their own from Friday evening onwards. Especially so on a weekend and at other times when their surgery is closed or when the provision

to replace them. The nearest Urgent Care Centres to us are at Bishop Auckland General Hospital, and Dr Piper House, King Street, Darlington (both open 24/7). Also, the University Hospital of North Durham (open Monday to Thursday 6 pm to 8 am. Then Friday 6 pm, through until Monday at 8 am).

You access these if it is not a medical emergency, but you still require treatment fairly quickly. You should ring 111. Remember calls to this number are FREE. Your situation will then be assessed and this is known as Triage. An agreed appointment time will be negotiated that is most suitable for you and your medical condition, at whichever UCC is the most convenient for you. Calls to 111 can also be useful in finding out information about late opening chemists, out of hours doctors and emergency dental care.

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Urgent Care Centres are there for the whole week, however, they often come into their own from Friday evening onwards. Especially so on a weekend and at other times when their surgery is closed or when the provision

offered by the Urgent Care Centre is more appropriate.

There are grey areas and potential overlaps between the services offered by A. and E. and the Urgent Care Centres. However, be assured, whether you phone 111 or 999, you will receive the appropriate advice and help.

I hope that this information will be of some benefit to you and I will try to keep you informed about other developments within our Trust area.

Derek Atkinson,  
Newton Aycliffe.  
Elected Council of Governors member (Sedgefield area) County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust.

## Accommodation

### TO LET

**3 Bedroom House**  
Cypress Grove, S/Aycliffe  
**3 Bedroom House**  
Derwent Place, N/Aycliffe

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**3 BEDROOM** large family house in Newton Street, Ferryhill available. Good neighbours, quiet area. Big deposit not required. Call 07921 214180

**2 BEDROOM** house to let, Moore Lane area. £435 per month. Tel 07798 707156

**5 BEDROOM** house with swimming pool, large garden and garage in Eldon to rent. £600 pcm with optional 3 bedroom bungalow (Granny flat). Tel 01325 307445

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

**3 BEDROOM** house for the price of a 2 bedroom house, £105 per week. Tel 07882 440377

**3 BEDROOM** house in Woodham with garden, drive way, central heating. £500 bond and £500pm 07723 379932

**3 BEDROOM** house in Airtown Place, newly decorated, GCH, £105 pw, bond and guarantor required. Tel 07850 861381 or 07780 333398

**3 BEDROOM** house in Rylestone Close, newly decorated with new GCH, £105 pw, bond and guarantor required. Tel 07850 561381 or 07780 333398

**3 BEDROOM** spacious mid terrace property is available to rent at Morrison Close in Newton Aycliffe. The property has enclosed gardens to the front and open plan grassed area to the rear. If you are interested then please contact Kevin on 07775 811527 for further details

**TO LET** single garage on Silkin Way, Newton Aycliffe. £18 per week. Tel 07831 833053

**2 BEDROOM** unfurnished property with gardens. Emerson Way, Newton Aycliffe. Gas CH, DG, £475 per month. References and bond required. Available immediately. No DSS or pets. Tel 07967 103934

**2 BEDROOM** property to rent in Deleval Close, £450 per month, £300 fee. Tel 07980 596563

**3 BEDROOM** house to let, full checks required, DSS welcome. Tel 07941 026326

## Public Notice

**"Ultimate Girls Night In"**  
The best fun you can have with your clothes on! To book a **FREE ANN SUMMERS** party or join the team  
call/text Carrie: **07584 065 123**

**WATCH BATTERIES** now available at Taylors Newsforce **DONATIONS** needed of Bric-a-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring Honest John 316 630

**RSPCA** Durham and District cats and kittens for adoption, fee applies to cover 1st and 2nd vaccination, also neutering and ID chip. Please Tel 311 215

**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

## Pets

## Mar le's Happy Hounds

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E: [paul@borg9.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:paul@borg9.orangehome.co.uk)

## Holiday

**PRIMROSE VALLEY**, Filey Luxury 2 bedroom caravan to rent with microwave, T.V. and ensuite facilities in a prime location. £300 per week. £450 per week school holidays. Contact Rachel on 07977 095033 for details.

## Property

### Claxton Court £159,950



Deceptively spacious 3 bed family house situated in Byerley Park. The property occupies a large plot with extensive gardens, and separate garage. The property offers large family size accommodation and is ideally located close to Byerley Park and Greenfield schools. Viewing is strongly recommended. Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Lounge, Dining room, 3 x Bedrooms, Bathroom, grassed garden to the front. Rear Garden has large grassed area, garden shed and play area leading to open aspect. Large Garage with electric socket and lighting. Tel 07772 790935



# Foster Families Take to the Ice



A local County Durham fostering agency took advantage of the Dancing on Ice phenomena by treating its foster carers and young people to an ice skating experience at Billingham Forum. Core Assets Fostering North East organise a variety of activities for looked after children and birth children of foster carers during the school holidays and this half term was no different with ice skating being top of the young people's wish list. Foster Carer, Margaret Newby took her eldest son, Robert, 9, and the young person she is fostering along for their first activity event: "It was a fantastic day and it was lovely to meet all the other foster carers and see the young people enjoying themselves. These activities really help new carers like me to get to know other foster carers." Robert said: "It was my first time on the ice but I really enjoyed it and by the end I was able to skate around on my own. It was nice to make some new friends and I will definitely be going to the ice rink again."

Core Assets Fostering welcomes single carers, married cohabiting and same sex couples from all backgrounds. To find out more, call Core Assets Fostering Freephone on 0800 023 4561 or visit [www.iwanttofooster.com](http://www.iwanttofooster.com). For carer stories search Core Assets Fostering in Facebook.

## OUT OF THE BAG FAMILY PROJECT

Thanks to GAMP AAP funding, a new project will start on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd March for families to get creative and work together at three venues across Newton Aycliffe. Creative family sessions will take place at Greenfield Arts, Woodham Community Centre and Agnew Community Centre on the first weekend of the month for the next 3 months. The sessions will be led by a creative practitioner and will encourage families to work together, to be creative and to explore new ideas – the first session is going to look at moving parts, and different ways to use everyday materials. Families who attend the creative sessions will receive a free "kit bag" filled with interesting materials and an ideas pack to allow you to continue to be creative as a family outside of the sessions. This is a fantastic opportunity for families to spend creative time together, learn new techniques and explore ideas. To book please contact Greenfield Arts on 379048, [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk), Agnew Community Centre on 321504, [agnewcommunitycentre@btconnect.com](mailto:agnewcommunitycentre@btconnect.com), or Woodham Community Centre on 300258, [woodham.community@gmail.com](mailto:woodham.community@gmail.com).

## For Sale

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

**6 BERTH** static caravan at Park Resorts, Whitley Bay. 2013 site fees paid, please ring 01325 316824 for more details

**32" TV** Sony Bravia, built in Freeview/High Definition. Will deliver for you to try. As new condition, absolute bargain at £50. Tel 316641

**WISPA** Mobility travel scooter, excellent condition, serviced, £200 ono. Tel 01325 789049

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

**3ft BOW-FRONT** aquarium on cabinet, complete with eternal filter, £275. Ring 01325 314412

**DYSON DC24** Vacuum cleaner, as new, £60. Tel 07875 654460

**LADIES** wardrobe, plus 2 matching sets of drawers, colour ivory, £50 the lot. Tel 321134

**HOOVER 1700w** good condition, clean working order, £25. Tel 321134

**DARK WOOD** corner cabinet, leaded glass doors, £65; Dark wood TV cabinet, leaded glass doors, £25; Sony five piece music centre, £35. Tel 07519 700364

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

## Obituary

**COX** - Newton Aycliffe. Margaret, peacefully at home on 24th February. Devoted Wife of Peter; Dearly loved Mam of Karen and Stephen and much loved Gran of Abbie, Joe and Flynn. Friends and family please meet for Requiem Mass in St Mary's Church, Newton Aycliffe at 10am followed by Interment in West Cemetery, School Aycliffe. No obligation to wear black. Family and friends are welcome to meet at Moore Lane Sports Club afterwards. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu in aid of the Butterwick Hospice will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6EN. Tel 01325 318600

## Thank You

**KDANZ** would like to Thank Heron Foods and the generous people of Newton Aycliffe for their contributions whilst bag packing last week, raising over £700

**I WOULD** like to thank my family and friends for all the help and support they have given to me following the loss of my beloved father, Arthur. I would also like to say a special thankyou to John Meynell Funeral Service for treating my father with the utmost dignity and respect, the Methodist Church for a lovely Service and to the staff of Unique Care who helped my father through his later months. Thank you, Sandra

## Anniversary Memoriam

**Maureen (Nichol) Mawson**  
27th February 1965  
"Reality or Dreams"

### Wedding Anniversary Memory

Where did we come from, tell me who we are? Did we come from another world, or from a distant star. Where do we come from? Are we what we seem? Are we really living here or are we just a dream? Trying to know about ourselves, about the way we feel, are we just a vision or are we really real? Where do we come from, angel, what do you say? Tell what is to know, our love forever will stay. "My sincerest love" Husband Derrick

## Sits Vacant

**LADIES!** Want to earn some extra cash? No start up costs! Flexibility. Look no further. Call Carrie on 07584 065123 to become an Ann Summers rep.

## Window Cleaner Wanted

for immediate start  
Must have at least 2 years experience.  
No time wasters please  
Newton Aycliffe area

**Ring David**  
**07749 401491**

## Birthday Remembrance

**JIMMY SMITH** 1st March 1973 - 4th May 1997. Today a special birthday of someone so special and loved. Yes Jimmy, he would have been 40 today and he'll dance with the angels above. We would have been having a party, a get together of sorts. Instead we'll buy flowers and send him good wishes as we share our own special thoughts. It should be a happy occasion, a time to be joyful and glad. But we know in our hearts even though we are apart, he'll be raising a glass with his Dad. So Jimmy, here's to you my Son, a birthday kiss sent up above. All wrapped up in dreams and tied with a bow, and sprinkled with your Mother's love. Happy birthday my Son. Love you always, Mam xxx

**JIMMY SMITH** Birthday wishes to our Brother Jimmy on his 40th birthday (1st March). Love from Steven, Graham and John xxx

## In Memoriam

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

**GEORGE SMITH** 5th March 2009. Beautiful memories we will treasure forever of the love and happiness we all shared together. Your presence we miss, your memory we treasure, loving you always, forgetting you never. We can't have the old days back when we were all together, but secret tears and loving thoughts will be with us forever. Your life was a blessing and your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure. Loved and remembered always, Madge, Sue, Roly, Christopher, Fiona. Love and kisses from Great Grandchildren Charlie and George xxxxx

**EDITH KELL** 3-3-2006. 7 years since you went away. In our hearts you will always stay. Love you, Bob and family xxx

**DERICK YOUNG** 2nd March 2005. Thinking of you every day, remembering you with love. Michael, June and all the family

**DERICK YOUNG** 2-3-2005. You left a place no one can fill, I miss you now and always will. Love always, Mary xxx

**DERICK YOUNG** 2-3-2005. In memory of a loving Dad and Granda. Always in our thoughts Love, David, Louise and family xxx

**BLOWES** Sylvia and Vic (5th March 1999 and 24th February 2012). To remember a wonderful set of parents, grandparents and great grandparents. There comes a time we all must part, you left too soon and broke our hearts. We love you loads and always will, and wish that we could tell you still. Within your illness you never complained, you never gave in. You fought a battle you just couldn't win. Missed. From all your loving family xxx

**JOE WHARTON** 2nd March 1988. Remembering you is easy I do it every day. It's the heartache of losing you that never goes away. I love and miss you Joe. Jessie xxxxx God bless Grandad. Love, Mark, Vikki, David, Hayley and Peter xxxxxx

## Congratulations

*Nicola Wragg*



**Happy 40th Birthday**

To my beautiful Wife who gets younger by the day.  
Happy birthday Nic.  
All our love, from John and Daisy xxxxx

*Mackenzie Jackman*



**Happy 15th Birthday**  
24th February 2013

Hope you enjoyed your birthday weekend Son. Lots of love from Mum, Dad and Madison xxx

*Alison Burn*



**BIG 40!**

28th February 2013  
Lots of love from your Husband Trevor, Bethany, Lauren, Adele, Jessica, Katie, Bonnie, Cougar and the two gold fish, plus Harry the spider

*Sienna Lily Ebdon*



**Happy 1st Birthday**  
5th March 2013

to our special little girl, Sienna Lily Ebdon A little princess, from a far off place, You light up the room, with your little cute face. You've changed our lives forever. Mummy and Daddy love you very much and hope you have a wonderful day x x

## Blessing

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Holy Mary be praised, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen  
To be said six times a day for nine days, prayers always answered.  
MRH  
Thanks to St Anthony for prayers answered

**ISAAC HUDSON** a big happy 1st birthday to Isaac, we love you lots little man. Hope you have fun. Love, Mammy, Daddy, Matthew and Lincoln xxx

**MATTHEW HUDSON** a big happy 8th birthday Matthew. Hope you have a good party and we love you loads! From Mam, Dad, Lincoln and Isaac xxx



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## LOCAL POLO TEAM BEAT MANCHESTER

Sedgefield hosted an Under 17 Tournament at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre in front of a full balcony of spectators who were treated to some excellent polo. Sedgefield entered 2 teams, the Greens and Orange. The City of Manchester the National Champions in this age group with a full team of nearly all GB squad players were the favourites. Sedgefield Greens started with a comfortable 12-2 win over Rotherham in their first group game. They were then against Manchester, and Sedgefield surprised them with some great play, tight defence and brilliant goalkeeping from Josh Lowther, to hold Manchester to a 3-3 draw. Sedgefield defeated St Bedes school from Yorkshire 12-1 to top their group on goal difference. Sedgefield Orange in their group lost to Lancaster and beat Darlington to be runners up in their group and this meant a semi final against the Sedgefield green team. In a hard fought game the greens triumphed 4-1 to reach the final. Sedgefield were up against Manchester

in the final again as they had won the other semi final. Sedgefield made some silly mistakes to find themselves 2 nil down but fought back hard to go 3-2, but Manchester showed their class with some clinical finishing to lead 5-3 with 2 minutes remaining. Sedgefield fought back to level at 5-5 with seconds left on the clock. There now had to be 2 periods of extra time which looked hard for Sedgefield as they only had really young players on the bench. Sedgefield showed great fortitude to dominate extra time and lead 7-5. Manchester pulled a goal back with seconds left but Sedgefield had triumphed 7-6.

Josh Lowther (14) was player of the tournament for Sedgefield with a great performance in goal. Joe Barker was Sedgefield's leading scorer and James Pratt gave a mature performance in defence.

The other members of the Sedgefield team were John Pratt, Jake Plant, Ben Turnbull, Adam Courtley, Kris Egginton, Michael Cousins, Connor Keeble and Richard Murray.

## Being Active in Aycliffe

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. The Half Term Healthy Hearts Activities were free for families and took place on Saturday 16th and Monday 18th February in the new Community Shop next to the Post Office and Leisure Centre in Aycliffe Town Centre.

The events were well attended with nearly 400 people having ago at the activities on offer or finding out more about local services available in Newton Aycliffe that aim to help people of all ages get fitter, healthier and participate in activities to improve their lifestyles.

In the shop children got their faces painted, made arts and crafts and balloon animals whilst adults chatted with stall holders from Get Active, Get



under the umbrella of 'Active Aycliffe'. 'Active Aycliffe' involves organisations such as Durham County Council's Sport and Physical Activity Team, PCP, Great Aycliffe and Middlesbrough Partnership (GAMP), Woodham Academy, One Point, Great Aycliffe Town Council, the Rotary Club and local sports clubs who have got together to run events and raise the profile of what's going on in Aycliffe.

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. I would like to express a huge 'thank you' to Greenfield College COPE group and Durham Tees Valley Probation's Unpaid Work Unit who were busy decorating the shop to get it ready for the launch 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 shop please contact the Active Aycliffe Project Officer [lindsay.manning@pcp.uk.net](mailto:lindsay.manning@pcp.uk.net)



Cycling, Stroke Association and NHS Cancer Information. Visitors were also treated to hand and arm massages from Age UK and healthy wraps and smoothies made by PCP Health Trainers. In the Leisure Centre families took part in cardio-tennis, aqua zumba, junior dodgeball and free health MOTs were on offer for the over 40s. The shop will be used by local community groups and organisations to promote their services and activities

## Kids Admitted Free to Town Football Matches

Newton Aycliffe FC has reacted to recent dwindling attendances by launching an exciting initiative for kids aged under 16, in the hope of boosting upcoming gates. For the remainder of the current Northern League campaign, any child under 16 who attends a game at Moore Lane Park - home of the first division outfit - will gain entry free, providing they are with a full paying adult. With 10 home games between now and the season's climax, the Newtonians are hoping to inject fresh impetus into their crowds, in the hope of securing longer term support for the club, which has seen average attendances drop to just 130 this campaign, a fall of 70 from previous seasons.

Chairman Gary Farley, who launched a plea against the falling numbers just two weeks ago, said of the scheme: "It's a new idea which we're trying out, in the hope of further creating exposure of the football club, by reaching out to a generation of support which we probably lack."

"Kids on this town have longed for accessible football, and not many are aware of the great facility we have here at Moore Lane Park. We're hoping to bridge this gap, and win some new support along the way."

The scheme will begin with next week's visit of Ashington (Sat March 9) and run until the end of the current season, with Aycliffe still embroiled in a relegation battle.

Though results have picked up of late, with the club currently fourth in the form table, Allan Oliver's side still have one eye fixed over their shoulder should any of the sides below them in the table hit similar form.

Please note, this offer allows one child free entry per one full paying adult. Children who appear over the age of 16 may be asked for proof of age in order to take advantage of the offer.

## Squash at the Oak Leaf

The Oak Leaf Sports Complex has four Squash Courts, running in 45 minute slots. There are Squash leagues for you to join, and Oak Leaf's very own friendly squash club who are always willing to help.

So no matter what level you are at, why not give it a go? If you just fancy a knock about you can hire all the equipment needed, but for a more competitive game telephone Reception on 300600 for more details.

Non Members are always very welcome. Visit [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/oakleafsportscomplex](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/oakleafsportscomplex) for more information.

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