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NEWTON NEWS

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Better off Without Disgruntled Resident

away, preferably out to space.

because this town will be a

better place without people

ED: We received many

letters opposing the view of "Disgruntled Resident"

and supporting the Town Council and the amenities

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that don't appreciate it!

Kane Shaw

offered.

Dear Sir.

After reading the letter from the disgruntled Newton Aycliffe resident, I felt I must reply by saying Newton Avcliffe is one brilliant town!. This person is correct when saying that our town centre is a dump but there is work being done to at least start to improve it.

This town has tons of walking space and of course, a HUGE Tesco and right next to that is a very nice park regulary monitored by wardens!

Our Council may, in this residents opinion, only focus on "The Great Aycliffe Show'' and the annual firework display, but those events bring enjoyment to people and that's good

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Great Mums Get Together enough for me! I hope this resident does move



Left to right: Clare, Hall Garth Hotel, Donna, Sophotogenic Photography, Emma, Event organiser & PartyLite, Janette, Nostalgia Cakes & China. Photo by Sophotogenic

Local ladies are set to be treated to a fabulous evening of shopping and demonstrations at a Ladies Night be held at Hallgarth Hotel in aid of CLIC Sargent, the children's cancer charity. The event is on Wednesday

13th March, doors at 7pm. A host of businesses, including national franchises Partylite, Jamie at Home, Herbalife and local independent traders, will be present providing an opportunity to browse, find out about the businesses make

SILVER REPUBLIC JEWELLERY Ne are now selling the ver special "Brain Tumour Charit" Bracelet" for £15 - £2 of which s donated to the charity. Th Th bracelet is unisex and fits adults or children. The friendship bracelet is embossed with the charity logo - please show your support for this vital cause Ne also sell silver and silver ellery. Please contact: MAXINE HENRY 01325 307214 07701 090497 verrepublic con

purchases and see a Hair at Hallgarth demonstration. The Great Mums Get Together, running between 10th and 17th March offers the chance to get together and raise money for children and young people with cancer and their family.Every day 10 young people in the UK hear the shocking news they have cancer. Treatment normally starts immediately, is often many miles from given home and can last for up to three years. Being diagnosed cancer is a frightening with

experience and the emotional, practical and financial implications of treatment are intensely challenging for the whole family.

CLIC Sargent is the UK's leading cancer charity for children and young people, and their families. They provide clinical, practical, financial and emotional support to help young people cope with cancer and get the most out of life.

There from diagnosis onwards CLIC Sargent aim to help the whole family deal with the impact of cancer and its treatment, life after treatment and, in some cases bereavement. Local mum and



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Newton Aycliffe Sports Club

EASTER SUNDAY

Saturday, 23rd March, 2013

Doors Open at 6.30pm Tickets £3.00 each available from the Legion or call 01325 312876



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The Very Best of Rock - Normally NO Cover Charge 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, Kieser 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 can say is, Phil Lynott dead? I don't think so ... Jeeezus 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

Saturday 23rd March - "Kimera"

We are lucky enough to have had 'Kimera' play for us twice before. If you haven't seen them play already then definitely do so, otherwise you're missing out on a real treat! They're a four piece rock covers band with amazing female lead vocals (check out their cover of Evanescence's "Bring Me to Life") plus musically, they're tight as hell. They've chosen a great set list, mixing old with the new. It's rare to see a pub band play with such enthusiasm, these guys manage to keep you captivated for a full 90 minutes, plus however many more songs you can manage to squeeze out of them, overall you'll certainly be impressed.

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

Hey Mamma I'm Mia

This is what members of a local youth theatre group will be saying at the Civic Hall, Shildon, on Thursday 14th, Shildon, Shildon Friday 15th and Saturday 16th March at 7.30pm with a final

performance on Sunday 17th March at 2pm. The C.A.T.S. group will be performing their version of the well loved Abba musical with all the well known songs like, I Have A Dream, Money Money Money, Take A Chance on Me, Chiquitita, and many more.

Amongst the 49 strong cast are local sisters Bethany and Lucy Elgey, Madalyn and Grace Patrick, Emily and Layla Neal, whilst Zara Baldwin, Laura Edwards, Ellie Williams, Eloise Ablett are in many of the dance routines in the 2 hour production. So get your Dancing Queen to prebook tickets which are all £3 each for the Thursday show only, and \pounds 4-50 Adults, \pounds 2-50 Children (5-16) \pounds 1 (3-4) and Concessions for all the other performances by ringing 01325 313363/ 01388 774838 www.cats-theatre.co.uk

businesswoman Linskey hosting the event said: "I decided to organise it in aid of CLIC Sargent as I am a local Partylite trader and CLIC Sargent are our nominated charity. Since 2005, we have raised over £161,000, from consultants organising fundraising events, donating a percentage from sales of the charity product range.

The evening is scheduled to finish at 9.15pm and a raffle will be held with prizes from a range of local retailers. To find out more about the Ladies Evening contact Emma Linskey via charity@ joel10873.plus.com.

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FUTURE OF AYCLIFFE

ACORN Residents Ass-ociation will be holding their monthly meeting on Thursday 14th March in the Leisure Centre at 6pm. Some of the subjects being discussed with representatives of livin, Councillors, police and others include. the imminent bedroom tax ramifications. Are Aycliffe Green areas being destroyed by inconsiderate motorists? Who owns the green areas? Review of Town Centre redevelopment. How can we help fill empty shops? Police priorities. Winter preparations for 2013/2014.

Town improvements - where to next? Do we need or deserve a GP out of hours service? If we do what do we want, extended hours at existing surgeries or a central treatment centre? Are we happy with current service?, Perhaps we could get a GP's view. Why not come along and get involved in issues that will affect

Why not come along and get involved in issues that will affect you or your children ? If we don't know your concerns we can't address them.

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01325 526140

Christine Fletcher www.Aycliffe-Acupuncture.co.uk Member of the British Acupuncture Council



Big Lottery Funds Village School Garden



Aycliffe Village Primary School has been granted £8,250 to develop a Stimulating Sensory and Edible Garden.

The Pupils in the school are delighted by the news of the Award. The pupils, staff and members of the local Community have worked hard over the last few years to develop features in the school grounds and this will allow the next phase to become a reality. The money will be used to provide a poly tunnel for growing things in. It will also provide a series of paths made from different materials and textures. These will give different sounds and feel as pupils walk on them.

pupils walk on them. The garden will contain plants that have different smells and will be a range of different

ary colours. It will also provide a bouldering wall to help pupils develop co-ordination skills.

In addition to the plants and paths, pupils will learn about food production on a local scale, a regional scale, a National scale and on a World scale as part of the Young Enterprise Scheme- again funded by part of the bid.

The School was supported during the application process for the bid by Michelle Postma, the School's Extended Services Co-ordinator. For her help, we are very grateful. The school has a year to

The school has a year to develop the garden and any local contractor that would be able to offer any help in the development, should contact
 Mr Gargan or Mrs Brown at the t school on 01325 300227.

The Big Litter Spring Clean

You are all cordially invited to join LitterFreeDurham's Big Spring Clean starting 18th March till 12th May. Individuals, schools and Community Groups are welcome to contact litterfreedurham@durham. gov.uk telephone 0300 266083 or 314622 to help remove litter from the highways and byways of Newton Aycliffe.

You need not be a member of a group or spend hours picking litter - you simply have to be aware of some litter grot spot and be prepared to do something about it. Equipment will be provided and your litter bags will be picked up after you have finished.

You will not be on your own, Newton Aycliffe has lots of people who are proud of where they live and are active in litter picking, many of

them all year round. It would be really good if the shops in the town and the factories on the estate could rally to the call and support this Co Durham and Darlington initiative. Currently M&S, Durham Wildlife, McDonalds,

Cummins Engines, Orange, Arriva and the Environment Agency are all contributing to make this year even better than 2012 when over 1140 volunteers turned out and 1245 large black plastic bags of litter was removed and over 5 tons of debris dragged from the River Skerne and Wear. Newton Aycliffe is a lovely town but it is blighted by litter. Readers of Newton often write and News complain about the state of some of the housing estates or the town centre. Some people blame our Councils but they are restricted by resources and the dreaded safety issues which increase the cost of a litter pick dramatically. Even our Local Authorities SO do what they can to fight this unacceptable mess that

blights our communities. In 2005 they spent £500 million keeping our roads clean in England alone. By 2007 this figure had increased by another £200m, by 2010 we spent £858 million and last year a staggering £1billion was wasted paying for a problem which can be easily be sorted by taking your litter

home. But until this penny drops, our options on how to deal with litter is limited.

We can raise Council Tax to pay for more Street Cleaning, we can leave the litter lying where it is dropped or we as communities can do something about it - we can ,organise ourselves to pick the litter up. LitterFreeDurham's answer is that we cannot and must not do nothing.

So please help us to help you to clean up that annoying little corner where litter gets trapped or the street where you live, or the park or the play areas where litter can be a danger to little ones. All support no matter how small will help improve where you live..

Gerald G. Lee *Chairman of LitterFreeDurham*

ards 207

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GRIM FUTURE FOR MANY NEWTONIANS

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Dear Editor

Myself and many Newtonians are highly concerned about the future of our community. In April we will see an unjust tax hit the poorest hardest. The 'bedroom tax' will potentially see thousands across our town who are struggling to eat and heat their homes hit abject destitution.

Most Newtonians I've spoken to signed their tenancy agreement when 'social housing' was still council housing. In practise, most single people and couples were offered two bedroom properties because the available stock for single occupancy or a single bedroom property was highly oversubscribed.

The bedroom tax is unfair on every person it is levied against, precisely because it is a retroactive tax. Millions will suffer nationally because the Tories refuse to implement changes that go against their free market principles. Other issues are at hand in

Newton Aycliffe that adds to that misery. We live in a region with little prosperity and wealth creation. Over the last decade, recruitment agencies have monopolised the scant local employment opportunities. The law sets a pitiful minimum

wage they cannot downgrade: but some recruitment agencies have found other legal ways to make themselves competitive at the expense of the worker. I've spoken to a number of workers on temporary contracts through recruitment agencies. who inform me that on their assignments, they've had to serve up to eight weeks unpaid labour under the guise of 'training', a ploy these agencies are using to compete with their

rivals unemployed faces a A typic Newtonian typical now tax on their retroactive accommodation and cannot afford to escape it. The local job market saturated by recruitment agencies will not entertain them if they've been out of work for over six months, leading to a cycle of permanent

unemployment. For those who find work, they are offered poverty wages, and in some cases asked to work unwaged for up to two months without benefit entitlement. The job they do is only a temporary contract which sees them periodically cycle between the unemployed and working poor without any hope of social mobility.

The bedroom tax, combined with other cuts and current social conditions sees 21st Century citizens face the same social reality that devastated communities in the 1930's crash. People who cannot afford the bedroom tax potentially face prosecution and eviction, those who direct money from their budget to meet the tax will have to make use of food banks. I'm not surprised the Con-Dem coalition have implemented policies which lead to these social conditions, they are

Hilarious Night at the Cricket Club

holding

Club

are

Steffen will be local entertainer Gary Avery and

Cricket Club Chairman Ian Palmer said "Work has been

going on throughout the

winter to prepare the Club for their debut season in the

North Yorkshire and South

Durham League and this is another link as we move

rapidly towards the season

start in April. The Club are keen to forge

stronger connections with the

Newton Aycliffe community

and we see events like this as

a step in the right direction.

We also feel that with the

Comedy Night being the

night before the Easter break it is an ideal way to get the holiday period off to an

Tickets for the Comedy Night

are priced at £5 each and are

available from Cricket Club

Committee members or by phoning 07976 392173.

hilarious start"

the "In a Spin Roadshow"

profoundly out of touch with how the vast majority of us live our lives and the challenges we

face. What does surprise me though, is how silent the Parliamentary Labour Party are on all of these issues. Each week, someone from the shadow cabinet following closely the sums of the coalition cries 'foul' over some administrative detail; this is just shameful political posturing in my view.

It shows that the Labour Party are pretty much singing from the same song sheet, raking around the fringes of Con-Dem policy, to see where they might shift a few quid here and there. After all, the Parliamentary Labour party doesn't suffer from a lack of public school boy millionaires; they dominate the political class of all colours. The staunch commitment against the bedroom tax found in the local Labour party representatives has no impact on Labour's national policy. Somewhere between Kinnock and Blair, the threads have been broken between Labour's front bench and Labour's voters. The Labour front bench should be its ordinary voters, from the factory, office and supermarket floor

Until the parliamentary Labour party furnish their shadow cabinet with talent risen up from the shop floor, there is no hope of ever hearing the voice of the ordinary person trumpet the needs of ordinary people in parliament. Warren Saunders.

School Buddy Bench at Sugar Hill School



Sugar Hill Primary School has taken delivery of its new Buddy Bench sign. The sign is to be fixed above a bench in the junior school playground and children who need help with any problems can go to talk to one of the school's many Buddie at the bench.

The school's Buddies are all pupils in years 5 and 6 and they take their roles very seriously. They are all committed to the aim of supporting any child who needs their help during break and lunch times



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Newton Aycliffe Cricket a fundraising Comedy Night at Moore Lane Sports Club on Thursday 28th March. Top Ramseys Garage trained Motability of the bill is Steffen Peddie engineers are always on hand to assist 'Big Keith' from the hit BBC with routine maintenance and rectify any series 'Hebburn'. Supporting

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Aycliffe Rock Band Release Debut Single



band 'The Local rock Unsound' have been in the studio and produced their debut single, a great rock interpretation of the popular song 'Crazy' and it has been a youtube overnight success with 600 plays within a few days.

The Band covers lots of popular songs which they give their own style of rock twist to as well as writing their own material. The band comprises of talented local musicians including Aycliffe's own Lee Wright (Lead Guitar), Lee is known for his guitar solos, he also plays Bass and Ukulele, he is currently studying and well on his way to becoming a great studio engineer.

Phil Smith (Vocals and Rhythm Guitar), Phil studied Creative Music Technology at University and now teaches, he also plays many other instruments including Bass and Drums. Aycliffe's own Scott Wilson (Bass Guitar), also studies Music Scott with Lee, he plays other

instruments including Guitar and Piano also finds time to work part time.

The final member of the band is, Aycliffe's own, the very busy Tom Bussey (Drummer and Vocals), who also plays guitar, bass, keyboard and any other instrument he can lay his hands on.

Tom is currently studying further maths, music & music technology as well as finding time to play in other bands, busking and even teaching maths and music.

Support Aycliffe's home grown talent and have a listen to their debut single and download it free and see them perform in a venue near you soon. Check them out at www.TheUnsound.co.uk.

This weekend you can see the full band performing on Saturday 9th March from 9pm. in the Oak Tree, preceded by Lee, Phil and Tom playing an acoustic set on Friday 8th March from 10pm. Everyone is welcome to both nights and it is free of charge.

Glasgow Rock Durham Wildcats overturned in a 73-99 defeat Andrew

against an impressive Glasgow Rocks at Durham University's Stockton Riverside Campus. Glasgow came out the blocks early on with some trigger shooting from beyond the three point line to open up a 9 point lead at 3-12. Sterling Davis started to work well in the low post and taking the Rocks lead into double figures deep into the first quarter with the score at 7-18. Guard, Brad Guinane found his range from deep late on but

it was to be of no a vale with Davis answered back almost instantly to keep a healthy 9 point lead on the buzzer with the score at 18-27. Glasgow started bright once

again to begin the second quarter with an 18-0 run locking down at both ends of the court with the score at 18-36. The Wildcats soon increased the intensity with some excellent ball movement to narrow the gap back to 10 points at 34-44. Davis closed out the half for the Rocks adding to an impressive first half shooting display as Glasgow finished the second a 14 point advantage with with the score board showing 38-52.

The third quarter was dominated mainly by the Rocks as they kept a stronghold on their 15 point lead with the Wildcats struggling to contend with the offensive pace of

Wedemire Michael Ringgold at the helm of the Rocks success under the basket ending the quarter with the score at 57-74.

Donald Robinson continued his shooting streak at the beginning of the final stanza as the Rocks opened a 21 point lead against their opponents at 70-91. Keith Page took a stumble late into the game forcing him to exit the game with a suspected knee injury. Glasgow comfortably played out the final few minutes finishing with a 26 point win with the final score showing on the buzzer 73-99.

Head Coach Dave Elderkin was highly complementary of their visitors performance "Glasgow today absolutely outstanding." He said, "They are a very good team, our aim was to make them work hard for their ball, especially Sterling Davis but they showed some excellent ball movement making it difficult to execute our plan. We put the pressure on Davis but Ej Harrison and Donald Robinson then stepped up strong for the Rocks and we couldn't find our scoring form. A truly great performance by

Glasgow, a top three team in mv eves." M.V.P - Sterling Davis; 30 points and 6 assists. A incredible shooting display in the first half and finishing on 75% shooting percentage.



VANE ROAD STUDENTS

VISIT ROSE LODGE

By Emily French and Emilie Dunn (School Council Members)

Tuesday 26th February the Vane Road **Primary School Council** visited a care home. Rose Lodge, near Cobblers Hall. We all put on a show consisting of various things we had learnt during the school year. We felt we should do more for the community, and were told that the residents would appreciate more visitors, we agreed on going so to this welcoming care

home. Many of the residents could not look after themselves and did not see their families very often. The School Council walked from Vane Road to Rose Lodge to entertain the residents.

show included: The dancers, guitarists, drummers, singers, a story teller and a puppet show. "We were nervous

nice and complimented us

at first but they were very

smartmoney@livin.co.uk

on our performances. We think it was entertaining for them, and us, and it was lovely to see them smile."

A resident said, "We were thoroughly entertained and I hope you come back in the future." We hope to go back soon, to perform again, as the audience enjoyed it. We think that we made a huge difference and hope other people will follow in our footsteps and help the community.

Does the bedroom tax affect you?

From 1 April 2013 the bedroom tax, one of the Government's Welfare Reform changes comes into force so you need to act now.

All tenants of livin affected by the bedroom tax will soon be receiving personalised information detailing the impact this will have on their benefits.

A dedicated support line has been set up for customers who are affected. If you require further information or have concerns about paying your rent

call now free on: 01388 581 031

The impact of the bedroom tax on tenants' benefits:

1 extra bedroom up to **£18 a week** shortfall

2+ extra bedrooms up to **£27 a week** shortfall

Even if you are not affected by the bedroom tax you may still be affected by future Welfare Reform changes so please contact us for support and advice.



livin, Farrell House, Arlington Way, DurhamGate, Spennymoor, Co Durham DL16 6NL



GAMP Projects Appreciated by Aycliffe Residents

After nearly four years since it was set up it's been a busy time for the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Area Action Partnership.

A number of local projects have been supported including a programme to gi schoolchildren a louder voice. give GAMP funding has been used to support the establishment of weekly sports session for eight to 11-year-olds. Sessions take place at the Leisure Centre on Wednesdays between 4.30pm and 5.30pm. The partnership has supported the initiative with £1,000 each from Cllr Joan Gray, Cllr Paul Gittins and Cllr Dorothy Bowman's

Neighbourhood budgets. The town's youth centre has been given a facelift with

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Zanussi

work including new flooring, signage and an updated Wifi computer room. Councillors Dorothy Bowman, Joan Gray, Paul Gittins, Mike Dixon and Sarah Iveson have supported the project. The refurbishment will improve the facilities for the community hopefully increasing user numbers.

Vince Crosby, chair of the management committee, said: "We are very grateful for the help given by the GAMP team. With further funding, by the summer we will have a completely refurbished centre. "We are currently in the process of purchasing new equipment such as a pool table and table tennis table for young people, who have been totally supportive of this project.

ELECTRIC COOKER VACUUM CLEANER

*** SPARE PARTS AVAILABLE

AAA REPAIRS Proprietor: A. Allsopp - Orchard Cottage, Redworth, Newton Aycliffe

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Viva Las Ay-gas

Friday 15th March 2013

Newton Aycliffe Sports Club

7.30pm to 11.00pm

Adam White, AAP coordinator said: "A key priority for GAMP is to support the local community and voluntary sector. The youth centre is a well used and a key resource in the town which we are delighted to support."

Local entrepreneurs have been given a step up into business with the 'Step into Business' project which aims to support anyone with a business start up idea, living in the Newton Aycliffe area with a package of grants. The project began in January and will run for a year. Cllrs Paul Gittins, Joan Gray, Sarah Iveson, Mike Dixon, John Moran and the late Enid Paylor have supported the initiative A popular skate park, built in 2004, has been extended in

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response to comments made by local young people and how they'd like to see the skate park

improved. Councillors Joan Gray, Paul Gittins, Mike Dixon and John Moran supported the project with $\pounds 20,000$. Newton Aycliffe Moran Town Council will maintain and operate the park once renovations are complete.

The Children and Young People Participation Project has also received support from GAMPS's Area Budget. The project aims to engage young people living in the Aycliffe area and gives them the chance to have a say on local issues that effect them. The Project will be led by the extended schools programme coordinator.

For more information on any of the AAPs in County Durham in 2009 or for more details on how to be a part of the decision making process by becoming a board member log on to: www durham.gov.uk or telephone the GAMP team on 01325 327441.

We Should be Told about **Tree Felling**

Dear Sir.

I was interested in the reasons givern for tree felling and you cannot argue against the fact that diseased trees should be removed.

However there is a case for notifying the general public of trees being felled in their area. After all we have to be very careful not to fell trees on our land without notification and permission from the Council, so it would seem only courteous for them to be just as informative. To just turn up and pull down

trees which to us are precious and look quite healthy is arrogant. It doesn't cost much to be



competition for Schools taking place at Greenfield School organized by the Sedgefield School Sport Partnership. Medals were up for grabs and so was the honour of representing Sedgefield SSP at the County School Games Final at Maiden Castle on

event was organized and umpired by School Games Volunteers Greenfield school Sedgefield SSP. matches were very competitive with all of the teams improving with each

nen

Byerley Park proved to be a very strong squad winning most of their matches comfortably and showing footwork excellent and passing skills. Sugar Hill with a squad of year 5's showed great improvement throughout and will be a strong team next year. Byerley Park were pushed hard by a fast moving Thornhill team in the final but ran out as the Champions and will go on to the County Games Final - good luck! **Final Placings:** 1st Byerley Park

2nd Thornhill **3rd St Michaels** 4th Sugar Hill

Tuesday 26th February nice does it? saw a very competitive Hi5 Tree Lover Netball Name & address supplied **Primarv** Greenfield Badminton March 22nd. The whole from and The

Greenfield U14 Badminton team performed extremely demonstrating well tremendous determination teamwork, tactical awareness skills in the County and Durham Badminton finals

In a very close event on Monday 4th March at Wolsingham School, Emily Farlow and Courtnie Mills in year 9 and Lucy Ryans and Becky Adams in year 8 played extremely well. They managed to beat the overall winners (Durham Johnston) in their last game, when Courtnie and Lucy were unbeaten in both their singles and doubles. With the team finishing 3rd overall. Well done

School has moved to a Friday night at 3.30, we are always keen to welcome new members, and looking forward to training towards our next interschool event. Greenfield pupils are invited to attend and join in our success.



Aycliffe Village Local History Society welcomes Chris Lloyd Deputy Editor of the Northern Echo who will give a talk entitled 'The Rocky Road to Rockcliffe' in Aycliffe Village Hall at 7pm on Wednesday 13 March. All are welcome, members £1 and non members £2. Further details 01325 301093.

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Great Aycliffe Town Council

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Email: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk • Website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

TOWN COUNCIL ONCE AGAIN FREEZES THE COUNCIL TAX

What do you get for your Council Tax?

For the fourth year running Great Aycliffe Town Council WILL NOT be increasing the Town Council portion of your council tax bill.

What does this mean for you? The current Town Council tax for a Band A property in Great Aycliffe is £136 per year. Had the council tax risen in line with inflation over the last 6 years you would be paying more than £20 per year extra on your bill.

For just £2.61 a week (less than the price of 4 pints of milk and a loaf of bread) you receive all of the Great Aycliffe Town Council services detailed in this Newsletter

Community Consultation

Extensive consultation and community engagement with the Youth Council, Customer Panel and attending community events across the town ensures that the Town Council provides the services that the residents want and we prioritise our spending, and savings, to reflect your priorities.

The Environment and Activities for Young People are always the top two priorities for investment whilst civic events and the golf course are the areas most often highlighted to make savings.

Services provided by Great Aycliffe Town Council:

8th March 2013

Management of Great Aycliffe Way, Woodham Burn, woodlands and nature areas Oakleaf Sports Complex – indoor bowls, sports hall, squash courts, bar and catering, children's holidays courses

Oakleaf Golf Complex consisting of an 18-hole golf course and 18-bay floodlit driving range

Stephenson Way Cemetery and West Cemetery

Aycliffe Angels Memorial Garden - provision and maintenance

2 pre-school learning centres – with 'good' Ofsted rating

5 allotment sites with 9 pigeon and 5 poultry facilities

11 parks and play areas at various locations

6 football pitches, mini-soccer and six-a-side pitches

Bus shelters with litter bins in various locations

A lorry park at School Aycliffe

- Special events:
 - Great Aycliffe Show
 Senior Citizens' Excursions approximately 1600 participants
 - Fun-in-the-Parks
 - Christmas lighting
 - Santa Tours several routes, with volunteer Santas
 - Children's Santa letters forwarded to the North Pole
 - Fireworks Display

Grounds maintenance and environmental management

Planning consultation

Liaison with principal authorities and other partner organisations

The present Council in its six year term of office has also achieved the following:



THE ENVIRONMENT

As part of our commitment to the improvement of green spaces in Great Aycliffe we appointed an Environment Officer and redeveloped the old Pre-School building at Moore Lane to provide an Environmental Centre. In addition, a Town Pride Team has been employed to keep our areas clean and tidy.

The Environment Officer works with all the Primary Schools in Great Aycliffe, as well as a number of other organisations such as Durham County Council Streetscene, the Probation Service and Litterfree Durham to name just a few.

The Town Pride Team, Environment Officer and Aycliffe Youth Council, in conjunction with all the Primary Schools and a few dedicated volunteers, undertake a Town Pride Environment Week each year which consists of a number of litter picks across the Town.

The Environment Officer also holds a wide range of school holiday fun including organised walks, creepy crawly events, making holiday garlands, making art using recycled materials.









KEEPING AYCLIFFE GREEN

A serious issue and major achievement for the Town Council was to secure the protection of the 'greens' of Newton Aycliffe from future housing development and retain the traditional appearance of the older parts of the town.

In addition, we have taken over the running of a number of 'green' areas from Durham County Council. For example, the Town Council is now responsible for the general maintenance for the whole of the Great Aycliffe Way and Byerley Park Nature Reserve.

Did you know that the Town Council works in conjunction with Durham County Council through a Winter Maintenance Agreement to clear certain key footpaths of snow? We are actively engaged in partnership working and try to work with as many partners as possible to provide the best services and facilities for Great Aycliffe.

EFFICIENCIES, SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT

Constant monitoring of spending by Officers and Members, and streamlining of services throughout the six years of the Council, have delivered significant savings against the Council's Revenue Budget.

These savings, together with external grant funding received, have allowed Council Balances and Reserves to be built up, which have been reinvested in the Revenue Budget in line with community priorities – enabling nearly $\pounds 2$ million of capital investment in community assets such as multi-use games areas, play areas, improvement of parks, additional allotments, disabled access works, and numerous environmental initiatives.

Some key investments over the last 6 years:

- ✓ We have employed an Environment Officer, 2 Town Pride Team Officers and 3 Park Patrol Officers
- ✓ Most of the play areas Town Park; Simpasture Park; St Oswald's Park; Byerley Park; School Aycliffe Play Area; Woodham Park and Horndale Park have had significant updating and refurbishment
- ✓ A new BMX Track has been installed at Woodham Park
- \checkmark An additional skate board area has been installed at the Town Park along with a toddler play area and sand play
- ✓ Outdoor fitness equipment has been installed at West Park
- ✓ Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) have been installed at Woodham and Simpasture Parks
- ✓ A formal garden has been created at St Oswald's Park
- \checkmark The area where the Great Aycliffe Show is held has been improved with upgrading to a tarmac running track
- \checkmark We have provided additional Fun-in-the-Park events







- ✓ The Moore Lane football changing rooms as well as the old pre-school building have been refurbished
- ✓ A new wood has been created and named 'Jubilee Wood' to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012
- ✓ A huge amount of asset management has been undertaken to keep our facilities safe, watertight and accessible has been undertaken
- Many energy saving measures have been installed in our buildings including solar panels, cavity wall and loft insulation as well as energy efficient lighting
- ✓ We have provided notice boards in various locations and improved our website to keep you informed about what is happening
- ✓ 63 additional allotment plots have been made available providing 205 plots in total

- ✓ We have created a Customer Panel which is regularly consulted and a wide range of issues including the budget
- ✓ We have created a Youth Council and provided them with their own budget

A typical investment and improvement programme can be seen in these before and after pictures. School Aycliffe play area was improved in consultation with the young people, who chose most of the equipment to be installed.







The skate board area within the Town Park is a great example of investment and partnership working.

This extremely popular facility has had the number of ramps and jumps doubled making this a great facility to hold competitions.







LEISURE AND PLEASURE ...

Many facilities at the Oakleaf Sports Complex have been refurbished and revitalised in recent years, including access for as many members of the community as possible. A whole range of additional activities for all age groups have been established.

Are you aware the Town Council continue to provide a wide range of special events such as Fun-in-the-Parks, the Great Aycliffe Show, Firework Display, Senior Citizens' Trips, Santa

Did you know the Oakleaf has the following?

- ✓ Indoor Bowls drop-in
- ✓ Indoor flying club
- ✓ Holiday programme for 4-7 year olds
- ✓ Female Sports Development
- ✓ Children's parties
- ✓ Table tennis coaching
- \checkmark Oaklife for the over 50's
- as well as a full range of sporting facilities.

letters and the Santa Tours on Christmas Eve?





Helping to Keep Aycliffe Tidy, Clean and Safe

As part of our investment and taking into account residents' views we appointed a Park Patrol Team. The 3 Officers patrol the parks and other Town Council facilities and are now able to provide weekend patrols. They also work very closely with the local Police Teams.

The Town Council also ensures we have a Police Authority liaison and representation on consultative committees.

We actively encourage responsible dog ownership by providing FREE dog poo bags.



Pre-School Centres

We have re-aligned and improved our Pre-School provision to ensure our young children are prepared for school and starting to raise their aims and aspirations from a very early age. Woodham Burn and St. Oswald's Pre-Schools both achieved an Ofsted 'GOOD' rating at their last inspection with some areas achieving 'outstanding'.



And Finally

To ensure that the Council's systems and services are operating efficiently and effectively and that all necessary checks and balances are in place the Council employs an Internal Auditor who prepares quarterly reports and provides recommendations for improvements to the Council.

In addition an external independent body, the Audit Commission undertakes a full review of the Council's finances every year. For the last six years the Council has received a clean bill of health from the Audit Commission. This means that the Council's financial management and governance arrangements are sound, its accounts are good and it is verified as providing 'value for money' to the local community.

Councillor R. S. Fleming, Leader of the Council and Independent Leader, Councillor B. Curtis would like to commend all of the Town Council Staff for their enthusiasm and hard work over the last 6 years.

Giving Nature a Helping Hand

The parish of Great Aycliffe has a rich variety of habitats such as woodlands, wildflower meadows and wetlands that support a wealth of wildlife. We are lucky enough to have species such as Great Crested Newts, Water Voles, Kingfishers and uncommon wildflowers such as Ragged Robin and various orchids such as the Bee Orchid right on our doorstep.

Unfortunately species such as these are under threat on both a local and global scale from the effects of habitat loss, climate change and pollution. There are ways in which we can all help to reduce these pressures – one of these is through conservation.

It's official that nature conservation work is good for you. Research carried out by Oxford

Brookes University has shown that planting trees, erecting fences, clearing out ponds and controlling wayward vegetation can use up as many calories as a step aerobics class, as well as, helping your local environment. Not only is the great outdoors a great place to get fit, it's also a great place to relax. Just being out in the countryside can help to reduce stress levels and combined with the physical health benefits of exercise, conservation work is a great tonic and you can have a real impact on Aycliffe's wildlife.

Great Aycliffe Town Council operate a twice weekly conservation volunteer programme which gives local residents the opportunity to get involved with site improvement works that while directly benefitting nature will also give the participants an opportunity to improve their own health and meet new friends.

Great Aycliffe Town Council are constantly looking for new volunteers or groups who may wish to improve their local environment. No experience is necessary and tasks can be tailored to an individual's or group's own abilities and fitness.

To find out more please contact the Environment Officer on 07779 090 842 or e-mail info@great-aycliffe.gov. uk

MAYOR'S CHARITY CIVIC DINNER

The Annual Mayor's 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 Mayor would like to thank her family, friends and fellow Councillors for the support she received. A special thanks to Barclays Bank who match funded the evening's Raffle and Tombola with a total amount of £2,143 being raised for her two worthwhile charities, the Butterwick Hospice (Bishop Auckland) and Combat Stress.







FOOTBALL FUN

Mondays 4.00pm - 5.00pm for boys and girls aged 4 to 7 yrs Learn new skills! Only £1.00

SQUASH COACHING

Tuesdays from 4.15pm - 6.15pm 1 hour coaching and 1 hour tournament For ages 8 to 15 years £2.40 members

PASS - SATURDAY MORNING CLUB

9.30am - 11.00am For ages 8 to 15 years try golf, table tennis, basketball, badminton, squash, archery, football etc... Only £2.00

OAKLIFE CLUB

Here at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex we have created a 'club' for the over 50's. Ideal for people with some time on their hands, who would like to feel a little fitter but the gym isn't for them.

8 WEEK ROTATING PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

14 Mar 2013	Dance Mats	Break	Team Games
21 Mar 2013	Volleyball	Break	Netball
28 Mar 2013	Badminton	Break	Squash
04 Apr 2013	Uni Hockey	Break	Target Bowls
11 Apr 2013	Bar Games	Break	Fitness

Bowls Drop In

Once again during the summer we will be running the popular Bowls Drop in Session, at the Oak Leaf starting Wednesday 15th May 2013, 6.30pm 8.30pm for 12 weeks only £1 per session.

If you have never tried Indoor Bowls before, come along and have a go, don't worry help will be on hand to show you what to do.

You don't need a partner to play, so come along on your own or with friends have a game of bowls, and get yourself a cup of coffee or a drink from the bar, and meet some new people. All will be made welcome.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DECISION NOTICE

The Town Council have received approval from Durham County Council to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan. **Town & Country Planning England**

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

Designation of Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Area

Applicant: Great Aycliffe Town Council

On 14th February 2013 Durham County Council approved the above mentioned application in accordance with the boundaries specified on the plan below.



PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRES



Children start to learn from the moment they are born, so why not bring your child along to one of our Pre-Schools to let them to continue their 'learning journey'. All children have access to interesting and challenging experiences, in safe and secure environments. With the help of enthusiastic and dedicated staff, they are able to develop the knowledge and skills that form a firm foundation on which to build for their future education.

St. Oswald's Pre-School is located in St. Oswald's Park, Wren Close (8.45am to 3.30pm) and Woodham Burn Pre-School is located in Woodham Burn Community School Primary School, Humphrey Close (8.45am to 3.15pm)



Open to all children from their 3rd birthday .

We provide full and part time places and will try to provide flexible hours to meet your individual needs.

FREE nursery funded places are available, the term after a child's 3rd birthday. We only charge £3.00 for a 3 hour session if funding is not available. Hours in excess of the first 15 are just

£3.50 each.

We provide nursery education through the 'new' Early Years Foundation Stage, which came into effect in September 2012

Both Pre-Schools have received a 'good' grading from OFSTED.

For further information please call into the Pre-Schools (no appointment needed) or contact Jackie Swainston on 01325 319880



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PAGE 13

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funding from the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership

Boxing Club has used the funding from Cllr Joan Gray and Cllr Paul Gittins Neighbourhood Budgets (£1,000 each) to help

provides boxing for the whole community, ranging from competitive boxing, beginners from recreational Aycliffe Amateur Club especially especially encourages young people to attend, giving them a focus,

The club promotes healthy lifestyle, self esteem, dieting programmes and a chance to participate in an Olympic sport, or just to have fun. The club is run by unpaid volunteers and relies on donations, sponsorship and fees paid by its members to cover running costs. Currently the club has 79 regular members

aged from 6 years upwards. The club is open to Men, Women and Junior boxers.

Until recently it was based at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre, however, as a result of the Youth Centre being unable to accommodate the club and its equipment, they had to relocate to private rented premises at Acorn House, Durham Way North on Aycliffe Business

James Lepoidevin (11) from School Aycliffe (pictured with Councillors Paul Gittins and Joan Gray) is the National Schoolboy Champion for Tyne Tees & Wear and Merseyside & Cheshire at the minor class under 40 kg. He is now waiting for the semi-final date when he will meet Lewis Profitt from Beartown ABC Liverpool. Anyone wishing to join the club

can either come along and join in, or ring Les Gibson 01325 30 88 30 for more information. Training times are Mon, Tues Thurs at 6pm for Juniors and 7pm for over 16's and Sat 10 to 12noon. Coaches are CRB checked and qualified by the ABA, England.

Aycliffe **Village News**

CLOTHES DONATION: It's time to don your red noses and raise some money for charity. To help raise funds for Comic Relief on Friday, March 15th. donations of clothes, curtains and bedding are being asked to be dropped off at Aycliffe Village Hall on Sunday, March 10th, from 10am to 2pm or 10th, from 10am to drop in one morning during the week when the caretaker is in. The last day for donations is Thursday, March 14th

MEETING: ANNUAL The annual meeting of Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association takes place on Monday, March 11th at the hall at 7pm. The meeting is of particular importance for villagers this year as, following a change in structure at Durham County County, the association is now looking at "association is now looking the association would assume responsibility for the village hall. This would be a major change in the way the village hall is run. This meeting offers villagers the chance to find out what it means for them. For more information, call Keith Johnson on 01325-314735.

COMIC RELIEF: Children at Aycliffe Village Primary School are putting on a fashion show of donated clothes on Friday, March 15th, as part of Comic Relief. There will be red noses to buy and refreshments after the show. The event is being organised by the school, Acle Scout group and the Village Hall Association. In the evening, from 6-8pm, at the village hall, there will be some fun events, including a dance mat. Proceeds from both events will go to Comic Relief. VILLAGE SALE: If you're

interested in picking up a bargain, there will be a sale of clothes at the village hall on Saturday, March 16th, from 10am to 2pm. Proceeds from the sale will go to Acle scout

group. WI MEETING: Aycliffe Village WI welcomes Olga Bainbridge to its meeting on Wednesday, March 27th, for a talk on her work as a magistrate, at the village hall at 7.30pm. For more information, call the president, Kath Round, on 01325-315732.



Keen Students Please

After representing my school and region across the world, I am now coaching and mentoring the highly talented boys and girls of Greenfield Community College.

Every lunch time we meet, train, socialise and progress our endeavours culminating in highly successful 'Race Nights on Friday evening. Over 200 pupils have tried their hand at indoor rowing on the school's four Concept 2 Model D rowing machines. The rowing club thrives, setting an example to pupils and staff alike, encouraging more and more to experience this challenging and rewarding sport. Many maintain that rowing is

not for the faint hearted but for the focussed, the motivated and the braver among us and I find no shortage of these young athletes at Greenfield.

Our first race night was on Friday 1st March. Four crews competed for the highly coveted national awards and our athletes' performance showed great promise (results to be published shortly).

aim is to carry our My performance onto water, with the potential for sessions on the River Wear in Durham. Who knows, perhaps we'll see a GSRC crew race at this year's Durham Regatta in July! As we promote values of integrity, teamwork

flexibility, our future looks very bright. Success is measured, as much

in our determination as our strength and in this, we never disappoint. I look forward to continuing this work throughout the remainder of the academic year and welcome all pupils and parents who wish to be involved in any capacity.

I'd like to take this opportunity thank the Year 7, 8 and 10 crews who took part in the Concept 2 league. I look forward to seeing you topple the rowing giants on this month's results sheets! Well done to all of you! James Goodman-Eastwood

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have proven to a company of Nifco's size, the value that

apprentices can bring. Mr Blades said: "We have

and apprenticeship courses

for more than 45 years, so

we're absolutely clear about

the benefits they bring to

'The fact that a company that

is of the size and significance

of Nifco is working with us

to deliver its apprenticeship courses speaks volumes about the work we do, and

we're really proud that our apprentices will be part of

the value and importance

apprenticeships

event that showcases

more information

courses at South

training

and

been providing

business.



Greenfield Community College A Specialist Arts & Science School

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LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR

6¼ 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 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

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3 x Fab & Welding Apprentice	Newton Aycliffe		
1 x Maintenance Apprentice	Tow Law		
1 x Fab & Welding Apprentice	Tow Law		
2 x Polymer Apprentice	Tow Law		
1 x Quality Apprentice	Tow Law		
Please contact Kirsty Haden to apply Tel: 01325 313194			



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Customer Service Apprentice £100 per week Spennymoor Please contact Laura Bell to apply

Telephone: (01325) 328443



Uni Student - Pet

Jane Louise Stevens (21) School Aycliffe is from currently on track for a 2:1 at Teesside University, studying for a BSc in Psychology and Counselling. She is an animal enthusiast

with a dog and 30 guinea pigs which she exhibits. Jane loves rodents and is also studying to be a Rodent Health Advisor. Jane who adores her 1 year old dog Rosie saw a gap in the pet market when she heard of someone who quit her job and set up dog walking.

The main issue Jane would have when looking for a full time job after university would be leaving her pets at home for long hours which she says would be a worry. As an outdoor person who enjoys walking her dog and spending time with pets in

general she wants to turn that passion into a career. She has registered "Charming HEALTH TRAINING

A new programme which

supports people with learning disabilities to be healthier is

proving successful following

Trainers who specialise in people with learning

disabilities, they are trained

to offer advice on diet and nutrition, physical activity, goal

setting, stopping smoking and

Groups from different day

services took part in the seven

what a healthy lifestyle consists

of and how attendees could

adapt their day to day life to

everyone to have fun and learn

it also included one to one

sessions. Some of the very

comments

becoming healthier,

encouraged

from

become healthier.

course

The

about

positive

well attended courses. The PCP Centre has Health

much more.

PROGRAMME AT PCP

Left-right Margaret Scarlett, Joyce Ridley, Mel Hannant (Health

Trainer), Michael Black, Linda Shaw, Shirley Lonsbrough

Pets" as a limited company. been CRB checked and is a member of the National Association of Registered Pet Sitters.

"I have also taken out insurance to use my car as a pet taxi to take people with their pets to the local vets or to the PDSA in Middlesbrough, which I know can be an issue for people on low income unable to find suitable inexpensive transport." said Jane

'I am enthusiastic, energetic and passionate about animals and our slogan is "providing the love your pets deserve added Jane.

As an introductory offer the first 5 customers that contact Jane can have their dog walked for 30 minutes for 5 days for £20, a saving of £10. All the information and rates is on the website www. charming-pets.co.uk.

North East Apprenticeships Showcased at Industry Event

NORTH manufacturing giant is driving home the value of apprenticeships at an event taking place in London this week.

Andy Dunn, engineering manager at Nifco, an Eaglescliffe based plastics car parts maker, is heading Nifco, to London along with two of the company's apprentices, to speak at an event during National Apprenticeship Week. Mr Dunn will highlight the benefits of apprenticeships as a means of plugging skills gaps, as part of an event arranged by The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) on March 11.

Mr Dunn will deliver a presentation to approximately 100 attendees including SMMT members, apprentices from across industry, political stakeholders, senior industry figures and a selection of media. He said that the event would provide a good opportunity to demonstrate to other businesses the value that apprentices can bring to the workplace.

He said: "In 2011, for the first time in more than a decade, Nifco recruited its first apprentices. The impact

'enita

FOR US?

in local news stories.

news and interesting items on achievements

Evening Appo

that they have had on the East

and

for the event with Mr Dunn are currently training at the Newton Aycliffe based business has been significant and as a result, we very quickly made a commitment to take on more apprentices Michael Blades, business development manager at SWDT, said that it was a real - and pledge to do that for every year that we are adding achievement for the centre to

to our number. We believe that it is absolutely vital to invest in

the skills and development of our people, and our work as a provider of apprenticeships is 100 per cent about doing that. Nifco is a major manufacturer, and has ambitious growth plans for the future, so ensuring that we have young, hungry and talented individuals as part of our employee makeup is vital. It's something we believe works and I'm delighted to be sharing that message with other people in the sector.

Nifco works with North East based training provider SW Durham Training (SWDT), the two apprentices making their way to London



West Durham Training Ltd, visit

training.

For

about

of



Fulbeck Road, Avcliffe Industrial Estate. 0782 5777966 Open weekdays and Saturday

L

said "the course helped me realise I was eating too much of the wrong food." Day centre attendee Margaret Scarlett said "I have really enjoyed the course, it's taught me what is good and bad for me, I now eat a lot healthier" Following this success

number of other day centres and week course which covered the health trainer service.

Health Trainer service contact PCP at The Pioneering Care Centre, Carers' Way, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham DL5 4SF. Tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net or visit www.pcp.uk.net.

attendees included support worker Beverley Wilkes who

organisations have expressed interest in running similar sessions to promote health to people with learning disabilities and encourage them to access

For further information on the





Leather and fabric uites. **Recliner** suites Beds and Bunks Wardrobes. Many other iten

Open Day for Job

Seekers at Livin HQ



Tallents Apprentice Challenge at Woodham



Woodham Academy Design and Technology department is working with Gestamp Tallent for the fourth fourth consecutive year as it looks to recruit more apprentices to its international engineering and manufacturing company. Students have the opportunity to work with a real life employer in a Lord Sugar style challenge. Over a four week period, students will compete in a range of challenges linked with business. These challenges will be judged on a weekly basis by representatives from the company. Students will visit the plant and go through a series of interview tasks at the plant. The company will overall decide the winner of the Apprentice

competition and award apprentice opportunities to those successful Woodham students, who have made a positive impact. Gestamp Tallent offer apprenticeships in Tool Making, Maintenance Business. and These apprentice opportunities offer students the ability to carry on studying in the workplace whilst also having the option to continue studying up to and beyond degree level. Woodham Headteacher, Academy Christine Forsyth, says "This is a fantastic opportunity for young people in Aycliffe. I am delighted to see our students taking up high apprenticeships quality within the local business community

Homes and communities organisation, livin, is offering job seekers the chance to join its nationally recognised programme as part of National Apprenticeship Week.

livin is hosting an Open Day on Tuesday 12 March at its headquarters in Durhamgate, Spennymoor as part of its 'livin Futures' partnership partnership programme, ran in conjunction with partners Mears, Bullock and Southdale. Representatives from the

partnership, local colleges, Gestamp Tallent Ltd, South West Durham Training, the local colleges, National Apprenticeship Service and Construction Skills will be on hand to talk to job seekers and school leavers about a wide range of training and employment opportunities. Attendees will also be able to hear first-hand from a number of apprentices currently employed

through the partnership about the benefits apprenticeships offer

Alan Boddy, executive director for livin, said: "Over 150 people attended last year's event and this year we have even more employers on board who are offering real apprenticeship opportunities.

"As a partnership we offer a broad range of apprenticeship as well as long term support for people once their apprenticeship is complete."

The open event will take place between 3.00pm - 6pm (booking not necessary) at livin's head office, Farrell House, Arlington Way, Arlington DurhamGate, Spennymoor, DL16 6NL.

For further information contact Helen Johnson, employability coordinator for livin on 0800 5874538, email futures@livin. couk or visit livin couk

Aycliffe Business Park Initiative Praised



Around 40 Aycliffe companies attended news and networking workshop staged

> **Cooker Repairs** Call A&R Electrics

by Business Park organisers at Ebac in Newton Aycliffe on 1st March.

Richard Mortimer, managing director of HPM Group, says the event was an eye-opener for him. "It's fantastic to meet so many of the wonderful businesses that are around us, said Mr Mortimer, pictured with Ebac MD Pamela Petty. "Some of them you know about, and some you don't. We're getting to meet companies that we didn't even know existed, and they're a stone's throw away from us. "It's great to see the new initiative being embraced by everyone. We should all work and trade together, which will only make us stronger as a group." More than 100 firms attended

the launch of Aycliffe Business Park's new website, www.aycliffebusinesspark co.uk, a month ago. It provides a FREE online business directory and also enables companies to promote news and events.

Vice chair of the group, Mrs Petty, said: "It's creating a real buzz around the park, we're all starting to talk to each other a lot more and what started out as an idea has really developed quite considerably. "We can afford to do business with each other without giving away any secrets. "Rival companies are actually coming together now and we're moving forward as one for the benefit of the whole park - it's brilliant." Aycliffe firms can register

their business on www aycliffebusinesspark.co.uk by emailing Business Durham on businessdevelopment@ durham.gov.uk

FROM SHOP FLOOR TO PLANT MANAGER



The new plant manager of the 3M manufacturing site at Avcliffe has returned to the factory where he started his career with the company on the shop floor.

Dave Watson was born in **Bishop Auckland and was** living in Newton Aycliffe when he first joined 3M as a maintenance fitter in 1987. He went on to gain an honours degree in engineering and take up a succession of management roles with the company around the country, most recently as site manager of its facility in Chadderton. Greater Manchester.

The 3M site is a leading Dave commented: manufacturer of respirators for worker safety and products for the vehicle aftercare market. Dave has taken over the role of plant manager from Shaun Morley, who has moved to the United States to become manager of a 3M site in California.

delighted to be back home in County Durham and particularly here at Aycliffe where my career with 3M all started. We have a tremendous business here and it's a real honour for me to have the opportunity to play my part in its plans for the future."



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Prepared to Care? - the 2013 Carers Week campaign - will focus on how the UK's current carer population is coping, how effectively Government is supporting the growing numbers of carers, and numbers whether the wider population is prepared for future caring responsibilities. Through Prepared to Care? Carers Week will highlight the impact of caring on daily life and, with an ageing population and higher incidence of

and higher incidence of disability and serious illness, encourage the public to think ACORN REMOVALS Full whether they could manage a house, part load or single items, local and national, Storage available. Tel: 300 557 or 0777 989 0006 www.acorncaring role. Prepared to Care? will also help those already caring to make sure they are accessing all the practical and emotional support STORE containers,

they need to care safely and look after themselves. A new report to be published for Carers Week will highlight to Government the changes required to improve the lives of carers and the people they care. Running from Monday 10 to

problem. Ring David on 01325 321567 or 07984 817111 Sunday 16 June 2013. Some 2,000 organisations will MOVING A THING? Call Phil from £12ph. 321084 or 07790 509 925 be involved in 10.000 Carers Week Prepared to Care? events BELL HAULAGE Single Carers Week has a wide range Items - Light Deliveries. Local, National, International. Very Competitive Rates. All goods fully insured. Tel: 314647 or of carers willing to share their experiences. Contact: Tel 020 7378 4955 or email: media@ carersweek.org Keep up to date with campaign developments at www. D&D VAN MAN Services, full loads, part loads, any item, anywhere, anytime from £10. carersweek.org

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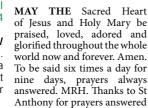
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Mothers Day Remembrance

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7 months since you were taken

from us. Yet we have never

been apart. As each and every day, we carry you in our hearts. Thinking of you on Mothers Day. Gary & Kathleen MAUD GRAHAM It's our first Mothers Day without you

Mam, we miss you so very

much. Our hearts are broken. We never got to say goodbye,

you are always in our thoughts every day. We laugh, smile, cry

you were a Mam and Nanna

in a million and were loved so

very much. From Rob, Lisa,

Jessica Laura and Mason xxxx

YVONNE MCKEE (Elliott)

"If tears could build a stairway

and memories make a lane. I

would walk right up to Heaven

and bring you home again." Mum, love and miss you, 'To

the Moon and back'. Tons of

SHEILA TWOHIG Mom,

we miss you so very much on every Mother's Day; and not

just then, but every minute since you went away. Carol &

24/03/36-07/07/00. A very dearly loved Mam, forever in

our hearts. Susan, Michael and

family xx FEATHERSTONE, Eleanor.

Missed and cherished always.

THOMPSON, Margaret Rose

Thinking of you on Mothers Day, wishing you were here.

Remembering you with a mountain of love and an ocean

full of tears. From your loving

Mothers Day

Greetings

special wishes to my Mam on

her very special day. Mandy

you make every day special and

care for me in so many ways. I feel so lucky to be able to call

you Mam as no one else can,

you make me feel special and I

want to tell you that I would be

DEBBIE LIVERMORE To a

very special Mam who has had a difficult few weeks with the

very sad loss of our beloved

dog Mack (aka Sonia). Chin

up, have a great day. Love always, Curt and Cloe xxx

JULIE HOWEY Happy Mothers Day Mam. We love you so much. Hope you have

lovely day. Love from Ste,

SYLVIA SPENSLEY Happy

Mick and Paul xxx

Fhomas and Massie xx

JENNY TARVIT Sending

you lots of love on Mothers Day Mam. Have a lovely day.

Love from all the family xxx

have a

XXX

lost without you. OKW.

Verv

MOTHER'S DAY

FISK

(Pat)

love, Lorraine xxxxxxx

family

PATRICIA

Tony xxx

family xxx

Congratulations

Bill Miller

8th March 1953

Hip hip hooray Bill's 60 today!

Wishing a very happy birthday to a wonderful

Husband, Dad and Grandad

with loads of love from

all our family.

Hope you enjoy your birthday bash - the drinks are on the girls! Haha xxx

WOODFINE and Coates.

Karon and Neil congratulations

on your Engagement. Wishing

you both happiness and best wishes! Lots of love from both

families and your awesome

kids xxx HEATHER MERCHANT

Happy 70th birthday. With all our love from all the family

Happy 50th birthday. I know things haven't been easy lately, but enjoy your weekend. All our love always, Debbie, Curt

our love always, Debble, Curt and Cloe xxx WILLIAMS, Chelsea Leigh. 9th March, 2013. Happy 18th birthday. Hope you have a fantastic day babe. Love and kisses, Mam, Abi, Scarlett, Max and Tink

Max and Tink JULIE FAWCETT - Happy 50th Birthday Julie. Lots of love from all the family x JESSICA ROBERTS Happy

16th birthday (11th March 2013). Love you loads. Dad, Sam, Mikey, Nora, Mags, Gary, Jessica, Callum, Lilly

SAM PEARSON Teenager at

last, happy 13th birthday. Lots of love from Mam, Dad, Harry,

George, Evie and all your

BROGEN SMITH Teenager

at last. Happy 13th birthday to a special Daughter. Love, Mam

KEN ROBINSON Welcome

to the 60s Club! All my love

KEN ROBINSON Happy birthday Dad. Love from

KEN ROBINSON Happy

60th. Love from Bryan, Kathleen, Jason and Kieran KEN ROBINSON Happy

60th, love from Tony, Leanne,

Jack.

KEN ROBINSON Have a

good birthday. Love, John ERROL DEARE is 75 years young. Have a good un. From Brenda, Ken and all the gang

Thank You

Fridge Repairs

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Brooke, Thomas and Leon

from Andrew,

Morgan,

Steven and Gemma

Courtney and Amber KEN ROBINSON Happy

family xxx

Bren xxx

birthday

Carmen

I IVFRMORF

MICHAEL

PAGE 19



Mam Have a brilliant day. Lots of love always, Scott, Jacky and Laura xxxx

Eddie & Kim Hall



12th March 2013 25th Wedding Anniversary

Mam and Dad, celebrating 25 wonderful years together. All our love, Rachael and Don xxx Nana and Grandad, congratulations on your 25th Wedding Anniversary. We love you loads, Jazmin

Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary Mam and Dad. All our love, Shaun and Janelle xxx

Happy Anniversary to a very special Nana and Grandad. We love you lots from Bailey, Kate, Evie and Joey xxx Hall Best wishes to my

lovely Daughter Kim and Son-in-Law Edward on your Silver Wedding Anniversary. Love from Mam Best Wishes to our Sister

Brother-in-Law Kim and and Edward on your Silver Wedding. Neil, Karon, Paul, Janet and Boys xxxx

Samantha Parker

Look who is 30 To the very best Daughter, Wife and Mammy. Happy 30th Birthday. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Grant, Kyle and Layla XxXxXxXx



KidzFlicks found themselves awash with pirates at their latest film show! The pirate's enjoyed watching a movie all about their exploits - everyone behaved and no-one was made to walk the plank! Well done boys and girls! The next film show will be in the Easter school holidays - 6th April at 2pm. Bring your friends - all are welcome. KidzFlicks is always on the

first Saturday of each month.

1st Four Kidz "Good" Ofsted

1st Four Kidz out of school club has been rated good following their recent Ofsted inspection. Liz Jones the owner of 1st Four Kidz is extremely proud of all her staff and her manager Sharon Lynch for her outstanding hard work and commitment to her job. Staff have worked hard to ensure that improvements since the last inspection have been implemented and the inspection result reflects the progress that has been made. Effective systems with clear action plans have allowed for continuous improvement to

take place. Children who attend the club are settled and secure and confident in their environment.

Ofsted stated that staff act as good role models and children benefit from a that well established key person system which ensures that the individual needs of children are continuously met. Children within the early vear's foundation stage are making good progress in their learning and development. Strong relationships with schools ensure that the activites in the club help to promote the learning children make in school, "well planned systems to identify children's starting points are in place." The club is dedicated to providing an environment that promotes the safeguarding of children at all times. This was reflected by Ofsted who said that 'the club gives a high priority to safeguarding". Polices and procedures were recognised as being comprehensive and risk assessments are described

Mothers Day Mam, hope you have a lovely day. Nobody could wish for a better Mammy than you, you are loved so much. Love from Julie, Den and family xxx TANIA HOWEY Happy as being detailed ensuring the safety of all children is Mothers Day Mammy. You are the best in the whole maintained at all times. The Inspector commented that wide world. Love from your staff are well informed about

Princess, Kya May xx NATALIE BELLAMY safeguarding procedures. The club has strong Happy Mothers Day Mammy. Lots of love and kisses from relationships with parents and feedback from parents is very positive. The inspector HEIDI JOBI IN Hope you said that parents described the staff as being friendly and lovely Mothers Day Mammy. Love you lots, Olivia approachable and that children

enjoy coming to the club". Staff at 1st Four Kidz would like to thank the staff of Sugar Hill Primary School for their

continued support. All staff are now feeling positive that they can implement the recommendations made by the inspectors so that they can achieve outstanding at their next inspection.

For Sale

BARGAIN BUYS Bosch washing machine to rent, £3.99 a week! No deposit, no more unwanted repair bills. Tel 321 HITACHI 500gb USB external

HDD with 50 HD quality movies. Use with PC, PS3 or TV. £100. Tel 07855 540225 (local) **KITCHEN** cupboard doors (18) in various widths and 4

drawers, all matching in pine with handles. Tel 07787 700690 SHARPS HOME STUDY for sale. 9 foot long cost £2000 accept £350 ono. Excellent condition, photos available. Contact Paul on 07876 752406 WARDROBE brown, good condition, £35, can deliver. Tel 07587 736357 2 SEATER + 2 chairs, light

floral pattern, drayon, good condition, £125, can deliver. Tel 07587 736357 **DESKTOP** computer, printer, scanner, copier, £120. Tel 320802 for details

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

ARGOS mango wood table and 4 chairs, £50; Coffee table, £10; Bookcase 325; Matching set. Good condition, Samsung fridge.freezer £50. Tel 321214 **PORTABLE** gas heater, £45 ono. Tel 01325 312114

PRO FITNESS rowing machine, excellent condition, £45 ono. Babyliss big hair, never used, £20. Tel 07840 402943 GARDENA powermis cordless mower, 36Li, ex display model, 3150. Tel 01325 307285 2 x 2 SEATER leather sofas in cream, VGC, £100. Tel 01325

313/26 RASCAL mobility scooter, good condition, Indicators, head and tail lights, £375. Tel 317178 mobile 07931 699588

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

Spare Parts Call A&R Electrics

Obituary

Nancy Giles

Way Cemetery.

Ambulance.

for 12.15pm

JIM

01325 320940.

WESTGARTH

Grainger). February 27th at home. Tracey aged 44 years of Newton Aycliffe. A loving

Wife, Mam, Nan, Daughter, Sister and Auntie. Funeral

Monday 11th March - would

friends please meet 10.15am

for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon. No

Service for Help the Heroes

BARRON

Remembering a loving Wife, Mam and Nanna on your birthday and Mothers Day.

Please forgive a falling tear, a silent wish that you were here. Others have lost like this I know, but you are ours and we love you so. We will always love and miss you. From all your loving family xxx

Births

LOIS & DEAN We always knew we would be "great" and you have done that for us. Well

done Lois. Thank you for our Great Grandson. Love, Nana

LOIS AND DEAN. Congratulations and thank you for our beautiful Grandson "Mason Cohen". We are so proud of you all. Lots of love Mam and Dad xxx

LOIS AND DEAN. Thank

you for making me an Aunty to Mason, he's beautiful. Lots of

Birthday

Remembrance

Irene

Miller

9th March

love. Faith xxx

and Grandad Richmond

GEORGE INNERD, 4th March 2013 and RENEE INNERD 10th March 2013. RLP Mam and Dad. Lots of love, Andrew and Julie xxxx

In Memoriam

RICK MILLER 22-12-1975 to 10-03-2011. Left us suddently and tradically, a great Son, Dad, Brother, Uncle and friend to many. Missed by all and never out of our

RICK MILLER My heart still aches with sadness. My silent tears still flow. For what it meant to lose you Dad, no one will ever know. Love you,

RICHARD MILLER 8th March 2011. Always in our thoughts and hearts. Peter, Sheila and Lisa

loving Husband, Dad and Grandad. Always in our thoughts. Love, Barbara,

dear friend and neighbour.

10th March 1999. Memories are a gift to treasure, mine of you will last forever. Valerie

BAKER

memory of a dear Husband Dad and Grandad. Always in our thoughts. Anne, Linda, Carol, Brian, Susan, Louise and David xxx

flowers by request, donations in lieu may be made after the 7th March 2013. It's been 11 years today Mam since that sad day which broke our hearts. And everything we thought was life suddenly fell Died peacefully aged 85 on Monday 4th March 2013. Beloved Husband of Joyce; Father of Christine. Details of the apart. Things will never be the same no matter what we do. Funeral are to be arranged, please contact Christine on disappeared when we lost you. From your loving family xxx

thoughts. Tiffanv x WALTER PURDY 11th March 2011. In memory of Stephanie and Katelyn ALMA HEINY Five years have passed since we lost our Always in our thoughts. Scott,

Jacky and Laura PETER ELLIOT SOULSON and Oscar xx

> Remembering you is easy, we do it every day. It's the realisation we have lost you, that never goes away. We miss you so much. From your Gang

MALCOLM HENDERSON Died 7th march 2007. In loving

THOMPSON, Margaret Rose I WOULD like to say thank you again to family and friends for the flowers, cards and presents I received for my 60th birthday. Yvonne Reed For the centre of our family

Slipped away quietly in hospital on 27th February 2013, aged 92. Dearly loved Mum of Jacqueline, Eileen and David: Mum in-Law of John, Dave and Melanie; dear Sister of Alice and Lilian. Dearly loved Grandma of Sue and Andy, Dawn, Michael and Angela; Loved Great Grandma of Connor, Lexie and Ben. Service at St Clare's at 12.45pm on Tuesday 12th March, followed by Interment at Stephenson Family, friends and former Carers all welcome to meet at the British Legion Club afterwards. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to the Great North Air

MITCHELL, Marjorie of Newton Aycliffe, peacefully in hospital on 26th February, aged 91 years. Loving Mother, Mother-in-Law and Grandmother. Family and friends please meet for Service at Neville Parade Methodist Church on Monday 11th March

(Nee

MARILYN

Three members of Aycliffe

Daffodil M.U.

Coffee Morning

On Saturday 16th March at

10am - the Aycliffe branch

of the Mother's Union will be

holding their annual Daffodil

Coffee Morning at St. Clare's

It would be lovely to see members, old and new, come

along, if you are interested in

The 'SHINE' choir will be

entertaining everyone with a selection of 'Songs for Spring'.

A selection of home made

goodies will be available to

'try and buy!'. Refreshments,

tombola and raffle. We would

UNDER NEW

MANAGEMENT

Day

becoming a member.

love to see you all!

Monday to

Church.

WILLIAMS TAXIS

01325 308899

B. & C.

YELLOWCAB

TAXIS



Popular Skate Park Extended



Avcliffe Great Town and Great Aycliffe Council and Middridge Partnership are pleased to announce an extension to the skate park in the Town Park, is now complete. The extension features

additional equipment, including a quarter pipe, street spine box combination, and fun

• We Call

We Pay

We Weigh

At a time to suit you

plus a roll in and quarter pipe combination, all chosen by users of the skate park. The extension is a result of requests from users and the success of skateboard

competitions, funded GAMP and organised by One Point Youth Workers. Great Aycliffe Town Council is grateful for support received

Cash 4 Clothes

Tel: 01325 490408

Tel: 07514 461501

40p PER KILO

from GAMP and from Durham County Councillors Joan Gray, Paul Gittins. Mike Dixon and John Moran, who contributed almost £20,000 from their Neighbourhood Budget allocations. The Town Council by will continue to maintain and operate the equipment. Hall, Councillor Brian Chairman of the Recreation Committee and Chair of GAMP, said 'We are delighted to extend and enhance the existing skate park facility,

working in partnership with GAMP and Durham County Council Elected Members. I am sure the young people will enjoy the additional equipment provided'. Adam White. GAMP

Coordinator, said 'The skate park is a fantastic resource for the local young people, which is heavily utilised. Further extension of the equipment was highly justified and very much needed'

SALA

Tandoori I ndian Take A way



Dave McKenzie and John Young at the Snake Lane 10

commendable 46th overall. 45:11, followed by Wendy Bake 347th in 47:39. Other times were; Shelley McCormack 365th in 49:32, Penny Johnson 375th in 50:28 and Tracy Warrior

Wren was first home for the club 573rd in 56:17 followed by Martin Knox 709th in 60:38. Other finishers were; Peter Milburn 861st in 64:42, Colin Gibson, who beat a rival for the first time in 3 years, 934th in 67:37 and Kevin Greenall 976th in

Depleted Aycliffe Defy the Odds

300222 **307478**

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club triumphed against travelling to Jarrovians with a weakened team of 14 men. With no prop forwards available, Drew Gibson and Craig Holmes agreed to put themselves up against the home side's large front row.

24 HOUR

TAXIS

The back row of the scrum featured three backs, Sam Daltry, Chris Knight and Luke Crossen. expecting a torrid afternoon.

After struggling in the scrums And strugging in the sections, Aycliffe's inexperienced pack were able to get enough ball to feed the backs and their advantage in pace created numerous chances. After a break from James Thacker, Crossen was in the perfect place to receive the ball and score. A good handling move saw Holmes cross the line in the

corner and then bump off a defender as he came round to touch down under the posts. After two attempts Thacker got his name on the score sheet with the third try. Jarrovians only response was a penalty kick, while three conversions from Luke Tinkler saw Aycliffe 21 - 3 ahead at the break. The hosts put pressure on

Avcliffe at the beginning of the second half, but never really threatened and only came away with another penalty goal.

the match was safe and the bonus point gained. Gareth Parsonage's mazy running gave Jarrovians nightmares. A fine try ensued when the feisty Mikey Dunn, at scrum half, found Tinkler making an incisive run through a gap; his incisive run through a gar, side steps added a further try. Michael Welsh, playing first game since October, moved into the front row and saw off pressure applied by his more experienced opposite number. Aycliffe's line came under concerted assault for the first time in the match but fine tackling saw the attackers knock on and, from the scrum Avcliffe broke back upfield. A fine pass from Thacker to Crossen completed the scoring and a further two Tinkler conversions in the half with the final score an impressive 45 - 6 to Aycliffe.

Two further tries for Thacker

Aycliffe's travelling supporters praised the spirit of the team, and in this form they are a match for any team in the Division. On 9th March Aycliffe host Yarm, the first in a run of 6 consecutive home games; kickoff is 3:00pm. Newton Avcliffe Rugby Club is sponsored by Workshop Supplies and Lift Right Forklift Training. Visit the website at www.pitchero. com/clubs/newtonaycliffe.

Hotpoint

Our ideas. Your home.



mile

Snow had fallen overnight They were led home by Susan Milburn 301st in and then thawed slightly, slimy mud which made it Bake to get a team together, and were not overawed by the fact that for most it was 404th in 54:00. In the Senior Men's race Lee their first appearance in the "Nationals", and finished a

70:26.



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