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COUNTY COUNCIL FORGET AYCLIFFE MARKET

A few weeks ago Durham County Council announced help for town centre markets. They listed those to be helped, but omitted Newton Aycliffe presumably because our market is on private land. Not happy with this Newton News contacted Neil Foster, the Cabinet member responsible, stating our right to be included in any promotion which used public money. He agreed we would get our share, so it was with some disappointment we saw a centrespread in the current "County News" magazine promoting markets but again omitting Newton Aycliffe. We have pointed this out to Councillor Foster and await his reply.

Closure of RFMD Shocks Aycliffe



RFMD RF Micro Devices has announced it will phase out manufacturing at its Newton Aycliffe plant over the next 12 months as it shifts production of semi-conductors from the North East to North Carolina. A buyer is being sought for the iconic factory on the edge of the Business Park. A spokesman said: "If a buyer cannot be found, the facility will be closed once contractual obligations are met." The group expects to make around £13m in cost savings annually following the move. Bob Bruggeworth, president and CEO of RFMD, said "We expect these structural changes to have a lasting positive effect on the company's cost structure, resulting in meaningful gross margin expansion." RFMD became the third owner of the Newton Aycliffe plant when it bought it for £12.5m in 2007 from Yorkshire company Filtronic. It originally

opened as a micro-chip plant operated by Fujitsu.

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Fishermen's Choir Concert

The Marske Fisherman's Choir appear at Neville Parade Community Centre on Saturday 27th April at 7.30pm. This is a Concert not to be missed as those who saw them last year will attest. Admission is only £4, £2 for Seniors and only £1 for children. To book and collect your tickets ring Peter on 313924. (Please bring your own drinks and glasses).

The Royal British Legion

presents a

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Saturday, 6th
April, 2013

Tickets £4.00
Contact 01325 312876
Doors Open 6.30pm



Nursery Support Red Nose Day



As part of the Early Years Curriculum at the Eden Nursery at Aycliffe Village School they look at other cultures so for Comic Relief material's from a Red Nose Day pack was used to help a little girl called, Ronika.

She lives in Kenya and her house is the same size as a shed with no kitchen or bathroom. She shares a bed

with her whole family. The children designed a house thinking about the nice things they had and those Ronika didn't have. They did a brilliant job designing houses giving her windows, a bed, a kitchen, a bath etc. Alongside the story of Ronika we held a sponsored event with an 80's theme, with the children and staff dressing in bright and brilliant clothing.

We had a chocolate raffle with prizes donated by parents. After the event we printed pictures of the things Ronika asked for and the children were thrilled that they had done such a brilliant job in raising £304.

Now Ronika has her own bed and the things she asked for which had a huge impact on the children's learning and confidence in helping others.

The Promise of Easter

Dear Sir,
Walking around the town centre last week I saw the latest regeneration programme underway, I could not help but try and visualise what our town would look like when all this is finished. I expect to many at the moment it looks more like a bomb site, than a beautiful area full of new seating, trees and a bright open aspect that will transform this shopping centre within the next couple of years.

Some have lost hope, as we have been waiting for a long time for this promise to happen, and in the ongoing process have lost many of our retail units dear to us, the latest one being M&Co. There is a well known saying, everything comes to him who waits, and boy, have we been waiting! But now we are moving, and moving fast. Let's hope this new phase will help everyone feel excited by the future of our Town Centre. Spring will have officially begun by the time you read this, and with it we hope to see changes in our weather, a little sun would be very welcome. It brightens every one's spirit's and puts a SPRING in your step (hopefully).

This world of ours with it's many problems and worries can be a daunting place for many. Easter brings fresh hope, it is the time when Christians around the world celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. The cross shows us that promise made by God to ALL, that one day we like His son who died on the cross for us, will have eternal life. It is a promise that He keeps. May you feel something of God's unconditional love for us all in your hearts this glorious Eastertide, and may God's peace and love be always with you, and those

who you love.
Pam Lovelass
(Town Chaplain)

WILDLIFE EXPLORERS MARCH MEETING

This weekend Newton Aycliffe Wildlife Explorers will be having the first of their monthly meetings for 2013. The topics are Ospreys, and identifying common birds using binoculars and telescopes.

A slide show about Ospreys will be given by Les Carr, a Newtonian who is a keen volunteer at the Loch Garten Osprey Centre in Scotland, who has helped monitor these fascinating birds for many years.

The meeting is on Sunday 24th March in the Moore Lane Eco Centre from 2:00 till 3:30. We will be welcoming new members as

well as seeing our existing ones.

If you are interested, please come along - we will be happy to meet you. Refreshments will be supplied. As usual, there will be a small charge of £1 except new members whose first meeting is free.

On April 21st we meet at Aycliffe Nature Park when we will be holding a nature hunt to try and spot spring flowers and wildlife. We would ask people to dress suitably for this meeting, depending on the weather. For more information about these meetings or the Wildlife Explorers, please contact: 01325 317347

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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.

Saturday 30th March - "Reload"

Recent Review: "With Reload you know what you are getting? Classic Rock Bands covering the spectrum from Free to Deep Purple and everything in between, played by a band that confidently knows what it is doing, and does it extremely well. Check out the music videos and music files on their website for a fair representation of what the band is all about. No one leaves when this band is playing" - Don't miss them! - "Classic Rock never sounded better"

Re-booked after a very successful debut gig last year at the Tuburnia - www.reloadonline.co.uk

Saturday 6th April - "F.M."

Was this our best pub gig ever? Probably!

What can you say about FM, this was rock and metal utopia, a classic journey through the rock and roll hall of fame. They did the lot, Kaiser Chiefs, Foo Fighters, Sabbath, AC/DC, Zep and no real cheese, OK, they did 'Whisky in the Jar', but hey!! FM put a great amount of effort into this gig, sometimes mid week gigs just don't seem to have the same WOW/OOMPH.

The atmosphere was great, as was the music, a superb night. What is particularly pleasing is that FM don't always take the easy option, ie: instead of sticking to 'Sweet Child Of Mine', they did 'Welcome to the Jungle'.

How long have FM been around now? Many a year and on this performance many a year to come. Thanks lads you were awesome - www.ffmpeg.co.uk

For more information on bands go to

www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

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Newton Press

Easter Deadline

Thursday 28th March - Easter Issue
Deadline: 5pm Tuesday 28th March

Friday 5th April - Back to Normal
Deadline: 5pm Wednesday 3rd April

Please be aware of the opening times below and deadline times above to ensure your advert is placed on time and in the correct issue

Advertisements can be placed at our agents:
WALKERS at Simpature,
NEWSFORCE in the Town Centre
or online at www.newtonnewsads.co.uk

Office Opening Times

Open until Thursday 28th March at 5.30pm
Reopening on Tuesday 2nd April at 8.30am

P.A.C.T. Meeting

Police And Community Together

Durham Constabulary is dedicated to making your neighbourhood safer. If you have any issues affecting your quality of life and want to discuss it with your Neighbourhood Policing Team then get involved in your local PACT meeting. This is an informal discussion with the police and local partners to resolve the issues where you live. It will be a great chance also to meet your local Neighbourhood Inspector, and direct any questions to him that you may have! The next Woodham Ward PACT meeting will be held on Monday 25th of March at Woodham Community Centre, St Elizabeth's Close at 6pm. We look forward to seeing you there! PCSO Chris Noble 7497 Tel:101 Ext. 6732682

Traffic Congestion at Simpature Shops

Public Invited to PACT Meetings

Dear Sir,
Members of the public are concerned with the traffic congestion at Simpature Shops especially on Fridays between the hours of 11:00 - 14:00. This has been highlighted at recent PACT (Police/Partners and Communities Together) Meetings and the residents who attend these meetings have placed this as a policing priority in this location. Meetings are held every six weeks at Simpature Court Coffee Lounge and up-dates are provided to residents attending. Members of Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Police teams have patrolled the area at the hot spot times when possible and appropriate action has been taken regarding any offending vehicles. Officers have also attended the area with local Councillors, rep-resentatives from Durham County Council Highways Department and Fire Service

officers where various possibilities have been discussed ranging from extra parking bays to additional signage. We are also working with local shopkeepers who are co-operating fully with the police and have placed posters in their shops highlighting the parking problems to their customers. The results of these meetings and any police action are always reported back to members of the public who attend PACT meetings. We would always encourage and welcome anyone with concerns to attend PACT meetings to work in partnership with Police and other agencies to find a long term solution to this problem. The next Simpature proposed PACT Meetings are Tuesday 30th April and Tuesday 18th June 2013 all at 6.30pm. PC1452 Thompson Neighbourhood Police Team

Middridge Litterpickers



As part of the Big Spring Clean 2013, eight hardy Middridge residents braved the cold weather on Sunday to help clean the village of litter.

Memory Lane Cafe

Bradbury House, Seaham Day Centre will be holding a free Memory Lane Cafe on the 4th Thursday of every month at Burnhill Methodist Church, Sid Chapman Drive, from 12 noon 3pm. Refreshments are free and there will be an activity or entertainment provided.

These cafes are for carers, family and their loved ones who have memory related issues such as dementia, strokes, Parkinsons etc.to come along and socialise in friendly surroundings. The first one will be on Thursday March 28th. For more information contact the Day Centre on 0191 5810880.

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"IT'S O.K. TO PARK ON PAVEMENT" says VAN DRIVER

Dear Sir
Regarding the van parked at Simpature - I feel the words 'Wreckless Driver' is a bit over the top! The resident could have asked me to move instead of childish, pathetic actions. If the police walked by and saw cars parked there then they obviously didn't think there was a problem, or is this resident trying to push the hand of the police?

I was working in the area and needed close access to my vehicle and there were no signs to say 'No Parking'. I left enough space to walk past with pushchairs, wheelchairs and I was there no longer than 15 minutes. The resident must have been curtain twitching and has too much time on his/her hand and needs to take up another hobby or job. I don't actually read the

Newton News so didn't realise there was an issue with parking at this point! As far as I'm aware there is no problem parking on a paved area as long as you are not restricting shop fronts and there is clear access for people to pass by. Name & address supplied
Newton News contacted the Police who said: In relation to the photograph, offences that may be considered are:

- 1) Parking in a no waiting area ie double yellow lines.
- 2) Wilfully causing an obstruction to any public footpath or public thoroughfare.

Money Left at Tesco ATM

Dear Sir,
I'm hoping that one of your readers will be able to help me. On Friday 15th March at approx. 12.30-12.45 lunchtime I visited the middle cash point at Tesco's, to make a withdrawal. Being distracted I walked away without taking the cash. Perhaps the person who next used the ATM and came across the cash wasn't sure of what to do or where to report it? If that person would contact me I would be very grateful.

My number is 01325 313788. (Please leave a message).

Causing a Stink

Some irresponsible dog owner is throwing dirty dog bags into the hedge of Woodham Sports Field and causing an awful mess. There is a dog dirt bin at the end of Wolsey Close and the culprit is asked to use it!

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Memorial of the Death of Jesus

Once each year in thousands of locations worldwide, Jehovah's Witnesses commemorate the death of Jesus. The next observance locally will be on **Tuesday 26th March, 2013 at 7.00pm**. We invite you to join us for this special occasion to examine what makes Jesus - and his sacrifice - so vitally important. The meeting, like all our meetings, is open to the public. Seats are free and no collections are ever taken.

The address for this special occasion is:
Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses
Rear of Allington Road, DL5 4LS

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*Aycliffe Village Ofsted Outstanding

Coffee Morning at Care Home

Rose Lodge Care Home at Cobblers Hall will be holding a Coffee Morning on Wednesday 27th March starting at 10:30 am. Come along and have a look, with lots of stalls and activities - there is sure to be something for everyone.

Family Fun at Academy Learning Day

Family Learning Days are a firmly established part of life at Woodham Academy. At the event on Saturday 16th March, children from primary schools across Aycliffe converged on the school with mums, dads, brothers and sisters. Based on the theme of

"Learning is Fun", the event ran on the lines of a masterclass with workshops in Digital Literacy, Mathematics and Dance. By 10.45 a.m., the college was buzzing with activity as workshops got under way. Miss Mulhearn hosted The Crystal Maze, a mathematical version of the television game show which had families pitting their wits against one another to crack the calculations. In the Digital Literacy workshops with Mr. Smith, families had great fun using Pivot Animator to create stick figure animations. The idea was to think of a story, design and create individual frames, and then watch their

works of art in action! Meanwhile, in Dance Central with Mr. Tait, parents and children danced together in front of the big screen learning the moves from four of the biggest dance songs in the last couple of years. Each 45 minute workshop ran twice catering for up to 15 participants, with well-deserved refreshments at changeover time. At the end of the morning everyone had the opportunity to sample a Woodham Academy light lunch. The event was voted a huge success by those attending, in the words of one parent "It's been excellent and couldn't have been better!"



Church Attendance Trebles in Four Weeks

After only four short weeks at the PCP Centre, Life Church have outgrown the room they hired on a Thursday evening. Their numbers trebled in that time as people called in to find out more about Christianity and for some of those people much needed practical support was offered through the 'Helping Hands Project'. To accommodate all on Thursday 28th March at 7pm we will be meeting at Art Space 1 & 2 at Greenfield School. We would love to see more new people who would like to be part of a local support network on a weekly basis with like-minded people. It is a relaxed and informal evening held between 7pm - 9pm and the meeting starts with the highs and lows of the week, and includes a bite size piece of study looking at life lessons such

as: **WORRY:** Life brings lots of worries; money, jobs, our families or future. Can we learn to worry less? **ANGER:** We all get angry, sometimes for good reason! In this session we explore when anger is unhelpful, and how to manage it. **SELF WORTH:** Have you ever wanted to talk to God but not known where to start? This session is for you! **FORGIVENESS:** Often a painful and difficult process, we will be exploring how we can begin to forgive others & the forgiveness God offers us. At 8.30pm everyone mingles over a cuppa and if we can support people through the 'Helping Hands Project' we process application forms there and then. If you would like to know more please telephone 07936 431262.

STUDENTS MEET WORLD CHAMPION SPOON PLAYER



On Wednesday 6th March a group of Year 7 and Year 8 students from Woodham Academy had the exciting opportunity to attend an intergenerational event, organised by County Durham Age UK, at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre. The event set out to bring together older and younger people from the community, challenging stereotypes and giving an opportunity to share experiences, skills and friendship. The event was planned to allow skills to be shared between the generations, allowing older people and younger people to learn from each other. Students participated in spoon playing, mosaic making, curling and keep fit, all alongside

the specialist volunteers who, very kindly taught the students new skills. World Champion spoon player, Bert Draycott was a big hit with the students who will now pick up a spoon and use it for a different purpose - to play a rendition of the 'Roker Ripple' taught to them by Bert!

Sunday PM Filmshow

The Sunday Film Matinee at St. Elizabeth's Church Woodham recommences with an afternoon film show at 2:30pm on the 24th March in the Church Hall. The film Skyfall will be shown and admission is £3 including tea/coffee. Please ring 0751 604 3318 to book your seats. All proceeds towards the cost of a replacement church sign.

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THANKS FOR SUPPORTING HONEST JOHN

Dear Sir,
May I thank the individuals and groups who sent letters of support for the nomination of Honest John for the County Council Chairman's Award. He was unsuccessful, but I know the whole community recognises the outstanding work John does for Newton Aycliffe organisations and charities. He does not seek reward for the support he gives, but he deserves our sincere appreciation for those he helps with his fundraising stall. May I take this opportunity to congratulate Sonai who received the award for her contribution to our community.
Maud Gray

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Cookathon at St. John's

St John's School and Sixth Form College in Bishop Auckland took part in the Childrens' Food Trust Lets Get Cooking - Big Cookathon 2013. The mixed group of 18 students from years 7-10 made lamb and vegetable samosas, Chicken Korma and Basmati rice. The purpose of the event was to get everyone in the UK cooking, the same food on the same day and encouraging more young people to

cook and try new foods. The event took place on Thursday 7th March and the students involved regularly attend the school's after school cooking club held every Monday as part of the extra curricular activities offered within Design Technology in the school. It is a great opportunity for our students to learn new skills and expand their knowledge of foods from other cultures.



Easter at Greenfield



We are looking forward to Easter here at Greenfield Arts (and hopefully some Spring weather!) with our great Easter holiday programme of activities for young people and families. February half term was such a success with all the sessions fully booked, we want to continue that with a range of activities, including making faces on our trees, making your own paint, creating photo frames, scrapbooking and family cooking. For more information pick up a leaflet from the Arts centre or call us on 01325 379048.

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LAST CHANCE TO SEE MINERS' ART



This is the last chance to see the fantastic exhibition in The Greenfield Gallery "Miners' Art" before it

closes on Wednesday 3rd April. The exhibition includes works by Norman Cornish, Bill Hindmarsh, Tom Lamb and Derek Slater amongst others and explores the work of these fantastic artists outside of the mining theme they are famous for. The works include landscapes, portraits and abstract pieces and is a fascinating mix by these talented artists. We are proud to have this exhibition on show at Greenfield Arts, showing the skill of these well-known artists and work not often seen in exhibitions. We would like to thank the artists for allowing us to show their work! The gallery is open Monday to Thursday 10am to 9pm and Fridays 10am to 4pm - please note we are closed Good Friday & Easter Monday. For more information call us on 01325 379048.

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Linden Place Newton Aycliffe

Recently decorated & carpeted 3 bedroomed link property, unfurnished with carpets, blinds & fitted robes. Hall, fitted kitchen, lounge/diner joined by archway with feature fireplace, rear hall, 3 double bedrooms, new bathroom with shower cubicle. Gas CH, enclosed front yard. EPC rating C. Rent £400 pcm



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Newly refurbished 3 bedroomed semi detached house within walking distance of town centre. Fitted with carpets, curtains, gas CH & hob. Hall, downstairs WC, lounge with feature fireplace, kitchen/diner with feature fireplace, rear garden, 2 double & 1 single bedroom, bathroom/WC with overhead shower attachment. Gas CH, gardens & parking. Rent: £550 pcm.

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Meeting Condemns Lazy Parents Who Park at School Gates

Problem Must be Tackled to Safeguard Children

Newton News was invited to report on an important meeting called at Sugar Hill School to discuss the problems of parent parking outside the gates at the start and close of the school day. Officials from the County Council, School Governors, Police, Parents, Teachers and neighbours all attended hoping to solve the dangers the current situation poses. Head Teacher Linda Cummins outlined the ongoing problems where parents clog up the road in their cars while dropping off and picking up children at the school. Apart from the obvious danger this presents to children milling about a heavily congested area, nearby neighbours complain their access is being denied and they are suffering abuse from parents when asked politely to move. Sheraton Road is also used by cars as a thoroughfare to Shafto Way and travelling at speed are a danger to children and adults who walk to the school to pick up their offspring. Alan Kennedy from Durham County Council said that congestion can be a traffic calmer and statistics show it prevents a

child being killed. "Speed is a killer for a child hit at 30mph while in a congested area, cars forced to travel at 7mph, cannot run a child over". said Alan. Lyn Swift, Chairman of the Governors was quick to point out that whatever speed a child is hit is unacceptable. Various measures were suggested including double yellow lines and road humps only to be ruled out as causing difficulties for residents. School Crossing Wardens have been taken away as part of the County Council cuts. A governor asked if £48 a week is a better saving than a child's life. A Zebra Crossing could not be installed as it does not meet the criteria. There was an improvement when the police were present and when they approached lazy parents, but these resources

are not available at all times. It was also suggested the school employ their own traffic patrol or install a fence at the road edge forcing children to leave the pavement at a specific point to avoid the danger of crossing the road inbetween parked cars. The meeting closed with no specific help from the County officials except to conduct a traffic survey. It became clear that any change to the situation would have to come from the school itself and be paid for from their own budget. The meeting ended at the same time as school closed and the problem was apparent for all to see. One parent's car was parked completely on the pavement outside the school. Police were alerted but the lady driver quickly left the scene as they approached.



Fantastic Performance by Greenfield Youth Theatre



The Youth Theatre performance of "We Lost Elijah" by Ryan Craig at Greenfield Community College on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th March was part of the National Theatre 'Connections' – a nationwide celebration of new plays for and about young people, with new plays commissioned and performances every year all over the UK. "We Lost Elijah" tells the story of the disappearance of Elijah, whose older brother and friends were charged with getting him home safely while riots were raging. Somehow though, somewhere on the route, something happened and they didn't make it home together. The play explores several themes including identity, manipulation, self-doubt, self-esteem, acceptance, rejection and deceit. Advanced Skills Teacher for

Drama at Greenfield, Lesley Watt, said "I chose this play knowing it would be challenging and interesting. I was certainly 'hooked' the first time I read it and felt this young and inspiring cast would relate to the complex issues it explores." Anna Jones, a director from National Theatre watched the play and discussed the performance afterwards with the cast and director/producer Lesley Watt. Anna was very impressed with the quality of the acting, the interpretation and the set design. All those who attended the performances enjoyed and appreciated the performances by the talented cast, well done to all involved. On Thursday 25th April at 7pm the play will be performed at Northern Stage in Newcastle. Contact the Northern Stage on 0191 230 5151 for more information and to book tickets.

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 our very own friendly squash club, who are always willing to help. So no matter what level you are at, why not come and give it a go. If you just fancy a knock about we can hire you all the equipment needed, for a more competitive game telephone Reception on 300600 for more details. Non Members are always very welcome. Visit our website at www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/oakleafsportscomplex for more information.

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COUNTY COUNCIL TAKE OVER PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Changes to public health services will enable Durham County Council to explore new ways of addressing inequalities. From Monday, 1st April, councils across the country will take over responsibility for public health services currently provided by NHS Primary Care Trusts. This includes Durham County Council, which will take on the role of promoting and protecting the health of the county's residents, helping them to stay well and avoid illness. As part of this role, the council will have a duty to ensure robust plans are in place to promote wellbeing across the county. This will take in a range of areas including nutrition, physical activity, tobacco and alcohol, sexual health, teenage pregnancy and children's health. The council will also be responsible for protecting the public during any outbreaks of infectious disease and ensuring

itself and other agencies are prepared for emergencies. It is believed that the changes will enable public health services to better link in with other services, which will, in turn, provide more opportunities to tackle health inequalities across the county. Anna Lynch, Director of Public Health in County Durham, said: "This is a great opportunity for us to improve residents' lives by considering how public health can be integrated into existing local services. "We will also be able to better empower individuals to make healthy choices and give communities the tools and resources to address their own health needs." By looking at the current health of the population, we examine the impact on health, lifestyles and social and economic factors. It aims to understand and address the causes of poorer health in order to improve overall physical and mental wellbeing.

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Help for Mayor's Charities from Agnew



Cllr. Val Raw, the Town Mayor along with her Mayoress Cllr. Barbara Clare visited the Agnew Centre to collect a cheque for £50 for her chosen Charities in her year of office. The money was raised by the Community Centre at a recent Table Top Sale and members were happy to support our Mayor. Val told the Committee/Trustees how happy she was to be able to visit and receive this cheque from the centre and that it would be well used by the local charities. Others in picture are Committee Members, Chairman Cllr. Paul Gittins, President Jean Cochrane, Secretary Ron Mitche, Audrey Armitage, and Jane Taylor with Bob Gibson.

NOMINATE YOUR DOG FOR PRESTIGIOUS POOCH PRIZE

Dogs Trust, the UK's largest dog welfare charity, which has a rehoming centre in Darlington will be hosting its 6th annual Dogs Trust Honours awards ceremony this summer and is calling on dog-lovers from County Durham to nominate their hairy heroes.

The esteemed Dogs Trust Honours has been the most yapped about event in a dog's diary since it launched six years ago. Aiming to celebrate the difference dogs make to our lives, the awards ceremony recognises heart-warming stories of devotion and courage.

Sue Embleton, Manager of Dogs Trust Darlington, says: "Dogs Trust Honours is now in its 6th year and we continue to be amazed by tales of courageous canines, devoted dogs and furry fabulousness!"

The awards ceremony reminds us why the faithful hound has earned the much deserved title of man's best friend.

We are urging dog lovers of County Durham to nominate their marvellous mutts and help us celebrate the very special relationship between man and dog."

The winning VIP's (Very Important Pooches) will be chosen by a panel of celebrity dog-lovers and will be awarded in July at the star-studded Dogs Trust Honours ceremony, the most sought-after date in the canine calendar!

If your dogs are hoping to get their paws on a Dogs Trust Honour, you can nominate by visiting www.dogstrusthonours.co.uk or by sending details and a good quality photograph to awards@dogstrust.org.uk. Nominations are also accepted via post; please send to Dogs Trust Honours, 17 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7RQ. Closing date for nominations is Monday 3rd May.

Join Newton Aycliffe Art Class at Agnew

A well established, friendly community Art class is looking for new members. We meet every Tuesday afternoon at The Agnew Centre, Morrison Close in Newton Aycliffe. All levels of expertise are welcome, from complete beginners to more advanced artists looking to improve their range of skills and techniques. The group

works in a wide variety of materials and methods. As well as developing your skills you can meet new people. Sessions take place from 1-3pm on a Tuesday and are only £4.80 per session. Students should bring their own materials. For more details please ring tutor Andy Taylor, tel: 0191 373 2485. Website: durhamartworks.co.uk

Students in Court!



Students from Woodham Academy found themselves in the court room last week as they experienced a mock case. Able and Talented students from Year 10 were taking part in an educational visit to Northumbria University to learn about courses and career opportunities in Law. They took part in a variety of activities designed to give them a true feel of life as a solicitor and barrister. This included a visit to Dickinson Dees Solicitors.

Keira Durham commented "This was a really enjoyable day. I learnt a lot about the skills needed to work in Law. I haven't decided exactly what career I would like to pursue but Law is certainly worth considering". This is one of several opportunities provided for the Most Able and Talented

students at Woodham. A further ten students have recently attended a conference at Durham University aimed specifically at able students. Students listened to a variety of inspirational, academic key note speakers, whose thought provoking topics stimulated the thoughts of those who attended. Opportunities for students continue into next week when a further group of Year 10 students will be visiting the University of York to discover courses and careers in Medicine.

Woodham Academy is committed to raising the aspirations of all its students, with the most able being no exception. In the summer exams Woodham Academy hit a record figure with 33% of its students achieving 3 or more A*/A grades at the end of Year 11.



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TOWN COUNCIL SELL LAND TO LIVIN TO BUILD BUNGALOWS

Report on Council Meeting,
Wednesday 13th March, 2013

At the start of the meeting, Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Hogg outlined his vision for the role, the developments at Aycliffe Heads, and his priorities for 2013-17, which are to tackle: Domestic abuse, Hate crime, Anti-social behaviour, Harm caused to individuals and communities by alcohol and drugs, careless or dangerous driving, and illegal or inconsiderate parking and generally to improve engagement with local communities, making police services visible and accessible.

In a lively question and answer session, Councillors expressed their disappointment with the loss of the police garage from Aycliffe (a decision made before Mr Hogg became Commissioner), but applauded his commitment to build a new police station on the present site in the

town centre.

Councillors welcomed a letter from Class 5 at Aycliffe Primary School calling for continued improvements to the environment, and asked the Council's Environment Officer to continue his work with the school.

Livin has approached the Town Council in regard to the acquisition from the Council land at Travellers Green, which will allow the construction of a number of new dwellings.

This is an exciting opportunity, not only for the Council to address the housing crisis, but to have a say in the kind of dwellings that are going to be built – the planned scheme will provide much-needed bungalows. Councillors unanimously approved the idea.

Little ACORNS Petting Zoo

Dear Sir,
After a very successful meeting earlier this month Little ACORNS announce they are inviting the drugs awareness team for a talk on drugs and the effects that they have in society, along with the early warning signs and who to contact if they think someone may have a problem.

Details will be published in the Newton News when a date has been confirmed and this meeting/event would be open to anyone.

We would also like to remind readers of our Petting Zoo event on 2nd April in the Leisure Centre, Tickets are £1 and available at the Centre and via Ken Robson on 01325 321471. Children under 16 need to be accompanied by an adult. Ellie Picken Secretary.

SPOT THE THIEF!



The male shown in this picture entered Newton Aycliffe British Legion on Monday 11th February 2013. He asked to use a telephone directory and then sneaked behind the bar and took a quantity of money before leaving the club. If you recognise him please contact your local neighbourhood Policing Team on 101 ext 673 2682 or dial Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

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Stop Bedroom Tax

Dear Sir,
On Saturday – along with a number of local Labour MPs, councillors and trade unionists – I attended a rally in Durham City Market Place to protest against the so-called 'bedroom tax'.

Nobody is pretending that there isn't a housing crisis, or even that there isn't a problem with under-occupancy, but a bedroom tax is the wrong way to deal with these problems.

The anomalies and injustices in the proposed tax are many, and I can explain them to you if you want to contact me. They boil down to the fact that indiscriminately forcing numbers of poor people into inappropriate housing will only add to our housing problems, not solve them.

Perversely, if it succeeds in harassing people on housing benefit out of their homes, the bedroom tax will cost the country £billions in extra housing benefit. There are no smaller houses in the social housing sector – so the only place for people to go will be the private sector, where rents (even for smaller houses) are higher.

The 'bedroom tax', as most Tory measures, hinges simply on the prejudice that – if you drive people on benefits to suicidal despair – somehow the problems will go away. Let's be honest: the 'bedroom tax' is just another Tory trick yet again to blame and bash people on benefits, and to turn people's attention away from their failure to build enough houses.

So, whilst there may well be some mileage in a less-brutal measure



to reduce unnecessary under-occupancy, the only permanent and socially just answer to the housing crisis is to provide more houses. Until we have a government brave enough to do that, we need to lobby our local councils to explore and develop zero-cost initiatives to expand housing provision.

In the meantime, the 'bedroom tax' is a failed measure, which will not solve the problem and will bring only untold misery, and we need to stand up and say 'no'. You could write to your MP, but he already opposes it. Perhaps the best thing you can do is to join the online campaign at <http://bit.ly/38bedroom>.

John D Clare

NEWTON NEWS

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APPRENTICESHIP FINALE AT GREENFIELD COLLEGE



Over the past few months all Year 9 at Greenfield College have been working on a GAMP AAP funded Apprenticeships project, where they have considered career pathways, their own skills and aptitudes to inform their future choices and decisions. The groups were set a challenge and worked with business mentors to explore ideas surrounding their own company, all the while considering the career options available to them, what employers are looking for, and the opportunities for potential jobs on their

doorstep on Aycliffe Business Park. Throughout this successful project the students have developed and expanded their confidence, creativity and presentation skills, with each group designing and delivering fantastic presentations on Monday 18th March to their peers and representatives from the businesses involved in the project and Durham County Council.

We would like to thank all of those involved in the project, including the representatives from Finley Structures, INEOS, Palram,

A-Tech Fabrications, DPE Automotive and Ebac, who hosted the students at visits to their facilities, and gave up their time to support the groups throughout the process.



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BUILDING APPRENTICESHIPS



Southdale's Human Resources Director Beverley Robinson with apprentice bricklayer Charles Bennett-Wilkinson, who is working on homes in Peaseway, Newton Aycliffe

As part of its 25th anniversary year, the construction development specialists Southdale is aiming to create at least 25 sustainable apprenticeships.

The goal is part of Southdale's ongoing ethos of creating a wide range of training and educational opportunities at its offices and sites across the North of England.

A wide range of apprenticeships, across a variety of building trades are, and will become available throughout the year, including the North East, with projects based out of Southdale's Darlington offices.

Southdale already has 10 apprentices among its workforce of 120, with 4 of those having joined the company this year.

Beverley Robinson, Human Resources Director, said: "With the exception of the company founders, Southdale's board of directors consists

entirely of people who have advanced their skills within the business. While we have yet to see an apprentice achieve board level, we believe our desire to develop people within our ranks shows that the sky is the limit for people in our industry."

Beverley, who herself joined the company as a book keeper in 1991, said: "It is vital that companies such as Southdale get firmly behind apprenticeships, because neglecting this important area risks leaving a skills gap when the construction sector grows again.

Bringing young people into the business, especially when the opportunity arises for them to work within the communities in which they live, is hugely rewarding."

Paul Moore, who became Southdale's Managing Director having joined the firm as a purchasing manager in 1994, added: "In years to come, the young talent which is

developed now will be at the heart of our workforce, if not leading it. That is why creating apprenticeships, engaging with schools and colleges and developing opportunities for people to

learn about and enter the construction industry is at the heart of every project we work upon." CVs can be sent to recruitment@southdale.co.uk

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Lift Right Forklift Training are pleased to announce Archie Gemmell of JAG Forklift Training has joined the growing numbers of instructors at Lift Right, allowing them to offer RTTB training.

"It's pleasure to welcome Archie, he comes with a wealth of experience within the industry working with 1 tonne up to 50 tonne forklift trucks" said Paul Robb Managing Director of Lift Right Limited." As a company we pride ourselves on offering courses that are current and relevant to our customers as and when

required. With Archie we feel we can reach out and accommodate a bigger market".

"When offered the chance to work with Paul at Lift Right I didn't have to think twice" says Archie "Paul is the instructor that instructors go to for advice, so working with him and his team is going to be as beneficial for me as it is for Lift Right".

Alongside the list of current courses, training will be given in Rough Terrain and Telescopic forklifts. You can contact Lift Right on 319167. www.lifttrightforklift.co.uk

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Forthcoming taster events:

17th April 5pm – 7pm:

9th May 5pm – 7pm

5th June 5pm – 7pm

To confirm your place on any of the above please call Kirsty Haden on - **01325 313 194**



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TOWN TEENAGER NEEDS YOUR VOTE

Claudia Smith from Newton Aycliffe is in the semi finals of the Miss Teen Queen competition. Only the top two girls from each heat will go through to the finals in London.

This is by public vote and all proceeds go to the Madventure Foundation (children's charity). If you would like to support Claudia and help raise money for charity please TEXT TQ41 to 81319 or call 09005961000 (landline) followed by 41.



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Aycliffe Schoolchildren Love To Dance



Sedgefield School Sport partnership organised three hugely successful dance festivals at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre attracting over 600 children from 26 schools across the Sedgefield area.

Local schools who performed included Vane Road, Sugar Hill, Aycliffe Village, St Joseph's, Greenfield, Horndale Infants, Stephenson Way, Thornhill and Timothy Hackworth. The children danced and clapped until they dropped and the atmosphere was so contagious that the crowd of mums, dads and grandparents were joining in on the balcony.

The children and young people had been practising hard at school in order to perform to a large audience - they were nervous but very excited too! We were lucky enough to see dances from 4 year olds, right through the ages to 16 year olds and a range of genres including: street, freestyle, country dancing, a Maori war dance, contemporary and ballroom. All the children and crowd enjoyed a mass warm up led by the irrepressible Maxine from Durham County Council that got the events off to a great start and then it was one brilliant dance after another amid loads of applause.

Great fun for all!

COPPING THE COP!



Dear Sir,

I was appalled to see a police car parked in a disabled parking bay in close proximity to the store entrance. This was at around 11.30am on Sunday morning (17th March). The car park had plenty of spaces, although not close to the entrance. How on earth are the general public expected to respect these bays if 'law enforcement' officers do not!

Mrs Campbell

Easter Weekend at Xcel Church

Join us this Easter at Xcel Church. Our Easter Weekend will offer times of reflection on Good Friday followed by a celebration for all the family on Easter Sunday morning, including kids programmes & giveaways. We would love to see you & invite you to be with us at any of the following services at the Xcel Centre, come early, enjoy a coffee & a hot cross bun too.

11am Good Friday Service
10.30am Easter Sunday
6.00pm Easter Sunday 'Jesus Is . . .'

We also meet in Firthmoor Community Centre, Darlington & at the Leisure Centre in Spennymoor every Sunday morning. For more information about our locations and all that Xcel Church does please check out our website www.xcelchurch.com or ring the office on 0845 4505871

We are excited about our new preaching series 'JESUS IS . . .' which begins on Easter Sunday where we invite you to join the conversation about who Jesus is. We hope that this will provide a great opportunity for you to discover a little more about who we consider Jesus to be. We pray you all have a 'Happy Easter' and hope to see you over the weekend.

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Live Performances at Greenfield College

Greenfield Community College are pleased to have played host to two live performances recently which have been funded by Durham County Council. As a specialist Arts College it is great to have the opportunity for our students to see a variety of fantastic live performances dealing with issues that are relevant to them. These are just two of the more than ten live performances have hosted since the beginning of the year, and many more have been planned for the coming months.

Last week Tiny Giants Theatre Company performed "New Wheels" a show designed to deliver road safety measures to the Year 11 students, in an engaging and memorable way. The performance was

very well delivered and well received by the students who seemed to take the message seriously commenting that the performance was "funny yet had a powerful message."

On Tuesday 19th March Enact Theatre performed "Destination Success," which was designed to inspire the year 10 pupils to see the benefits of Raising the Participation Age, switching them on to learning, raising their aspirations and inspiring them towards a successful destination in life.

The year 10 pupils thoroughly enjoyed the performance and left feeling inspired, one pupil said "It make me think about my future."

Many thanks to both theatre companies for their fantastic performances.

Medal Honours for Lee Green Dance Centre



The dancers at Lee Green Dance Centre obtained exceptional good results during their last medal test. All graded dancers received "Honours" and the younger ones received a "Pass" without hesitation whatsoever from the IDTA examiner, which is due to their commitment and constant hard work.

Drew Shaw, Amber Fenwick, Maddison McKinlay and Ryan Jones, our younger dancers, all received "Pass" in their sections. Kira Watson, Abbie Kennedy, Charlotte Rowley,

Rachel Bennett, Beatrice Lineton, Summer Fenwick, Jasmine Jones, Emily Kavanagh, Chloe Farley, Kasia Shaw, Kalya Shaw, Jade Wakefield, Stephanie Wilson, Daniela Winwood, Annis Race and Katie Bain received "Honours" in each of their Freestyle grades.

The results of the Rock n Roll partnership examinations were just as impressive. Amber Fenwick & Drew Shaw received a well-earned "Highly Commended", whilst Abbie Kennedy & Beatrice Lineton,

Chloe Farley & Brittany Knight, Daniela Winwood & Reegan Henn and Annis Race & Kalya Shaw received "Honours".

Anyone who has an interest in joining Lee Green Dance Centre contact 01325 318239.

Town Ex-Teacher and Student Co-Write Cheap Meal Cookbook

Just before Christmas 2012 Kyla Polley moved house to live next door to Jean Pearse a retired school teacher, who taught at St. Francis Junior School where Kyla Polley is now employed as a Breakfast Club Assistant.

They became friends and talked at length about ways of making cheaper meals. After reading in Newton News about people unable to cope at Christmas time through money shortages they were inspired to write a seven day cookery

booklet. They selected post war money saving recipes using simple ingredients and methods, to provide substantial meals for a family at the lowest cost. Newton Press has printed the booklet and it is now on sale at a reasonable price. Initially it will raise funds for charitable organisations in the town.

The booklet is called Austerity Cooking by Kyla Polley and Jean Pearse. Look out for it and please give generously to help support local charities.



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U18 Trials for Darlo

As Darlington Football Club head towards the final stretch of their first season in the Northern League, Manager Martin Gray is already beginning to put plans in place to shape his Under 18 squad ready for the 2013/2014 season ahead.

With current young players Connor Lowes, David Mitchell, Sam Reed and Andrew White breaking through the ranks to play in the Darlington first team, it's no surprise that Gray is keen to seek out players

with similar potential from the across the region.

The manager says, "Obviously I'm looking for players who display an ability to play a high level of football, perhaps already having played at county level or similar. Alongside a strong skill set, I need to know that prospective players will show a strong work ethic and be able to work as part of a team as well as excelling as an individual talent."

The Quakers manager is looking for current Year 11 students who believe they have what it takes to be part of the Darlington Football Club U18 team, and they are invited to attend a two day trial over the Easter school holiday period.

Taking place at Greenfield Community College on Tuesday 2nd & Thursday 4th April 2013 between 10am and 2pm, players will be put through their paces by the Darlington first team coaching staff in the morning before taking part in a series of practice matches later in the day.

As well as outfield players, goalkeepers are welcomed and will also receive specialist coaching. With limited spaces available, players are asked to register an interest by contacting the Martin Gray Football Academy team on 07921 334577 or by email at mgfa@hotmail.co.uk. as soon as possible.

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LABOUR CANDIDATES ANNOUNCE MANIFESTO FOR MAY ELECTION

The Town Council elections are on Thursday 2nd May 2013, and the town's Labour Party candidates have launched their election manifesto.

It starts by expressing disappointment that, at the last election, some candidates made promises they could never keep and failed to fulfil. The Labour manifesto promises to pursue objectives which are 'realistic, costed and achievable', namely:

1. To expand the role of the Town Council as 'the voice of the people', continuing to campaign for a good deal for townspeople from the Hitachi development and the Business Park, the town centre management, and from service-providers such as the NHS, the Police and Arriva buses.
2. To work with Livin and other housing providers to explore ways to address the housing crisis.
3. To continue to protect the positive aspects of Great

Aycliffe's environment, particularly through the development of a Neighbourhood Plan

4. To defend as far as possible the services provided by the Town Council against devastating government cuts in revenue ... whilst continuing to seek efficiency savings, and keeping the Town Council's element of the Council Tax as low as possible

5. To seek proactively the views of increasing numbers of townspeople of all ages, listening and responding genuinely to what they say. The Labour Town Council candidates would welcome debate and discussion of these objectives in the Newton News so that they can explain and promote their vision for the Town Council for the next four years.

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Young Performers for Beastly Show

After recently completing another successful show, the C.A.T.S. Youth Theatre Group is now about to start rehearsals for their next production "Beauty and the Beast" which will be staged in October.

A spokesperson said "The group is on the lookout for young people aged 8 to 11 years old in the area who like or would like to Act, Sing or Dance in this production. It doesn't matter if you haven't done any of the above before as full training will be given. Maybe you might want to

brush up on your present skills? You'll have lots of fun, meet new friends and play crazy games too. All we ask is you come along with plenty of enthusiasm and a smile. The group rehearse Fridays 6.30pm - 8.30pm "

For more information ring 01325 313363 / 01388 774838 or www.cats-theatre.co.uk

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NEW VENUE FOR ZUMBA CLASSES

Helen Smith Zumba will no longer be teaching Zumba at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre as from Monday 10am the classes will be held at School Aycliffe Community Centre.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee at the Community Centre and Stephenson Way Rockets for their support.

If you can't make a Monday why not try our Saturday 10am Class? Zumba is a fun way to dance and giggle your way to a fitter you. We have a great little group who will make you feel very welcome. If you would like to come and join us (and EVERYONE is welcome!) Please TEXT or CALL Helen on 07506984556

MEP Visits St John's

Students from Years 9 and 12 at St John's School, many of whom live in Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding areas, had the opportunity to listen to Stephen Hughes, a Member of the European Parliament, speak on his own career and role in local and European politics.

Born and raised in East Durham and now the Labour representative for the North East region, Mr Hughes gave students an insight into the way in which he first became interested in politics and described his weekly duties in Brussels and Strasbourg.

Mr Hughes responded to a wide range of questions from students regarding his role at an international level. Could it be that in the future we may see some young politicians emerge from St John's?

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2 BEDROOMED property with garden to rent. Emerson Way, Newton Aycliffe. Good condition. £475 per month. Available immediately. No DSS please. Tel: 07967 103934.

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Room Naming at Agnew Community Centre



The current Committee/ Trustees of the Agnew Community Centre wanted a permanent record of how and why the New Community Centre came about. They came up with the idea of naming the Hall & Meeting Room after people connected to the building and Centre. It was decided to name the Hall after Cllr Agnes Armstrong who was the

Leader of the Sedgefield Borough Council at the time of us receiving £278,000 from their LIP Funds to build the centre and provide a security perimeter fence, 4 years ago. Agnes who said she felt honoured is shown in the photo with the Chairman Paul Gittins (left). The Meeting Room is named after the late Katy Gibson who was associated with the centre

for countless years in the old wooden hut and became the first President in 2009. Her son Bob attended the ceremony and is shown with the current President Jean Cochrane who was both a friend and colleague of Katy. Bob said he was very impressed with his first visit to the centre and was proud of his Mother's association with the community.

Story Sacks Course at the Community Shop

If you're a parent, grandparent or someone who cares for children, this course will be of interest to you. The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) is running a 5 week 'Story Sack' course at the Community Shop, next to the Post Office in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre. Story sacks can capture a child's imagination and support their learning and development. The 5 week course starts Thursday 25 April 10am - 12noon and costs £22 or free if you

receive JSA or other benefits. The course will give parents, carers and anyone who's interested the skills they need to make and use story sacks. After the 5 weeks the group may want to carry on without tutor support, it could be the first step towards a story sack library! Learners will be able to use and adapt story sacks to support a child's learning of numeracy, problem solving, confidence building and of values and morals. To book your place, get

in touch today: Call PCP on 01325 321234, email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net or visit www.pcp.uk.net

In Memoriam

Tina-Louise Allan

21st March

I remember your smile, your passion for life, your hopes and dreams, your love. You are with me always, you live in my heart, my Sister, my friend. Jacquie

MARGARET KELL 24th March 2009. Forever in my thoughts. Love you always. Paddy xxxx
MICK BONAS (21/03/92) 21 years have passed since we lost you Dad, but the memories never fade. Love always, Lee, Julie, Sarah and your Grandchildren xxxx
FRANK REED 17th March. Always in our thoughts, greatly missed by Wife Vera and family xxxx

Birthday Remembrance

Paul Clark

17th March 1957 to 8th July 2009

No cards or presents for one so dear, just special thoughts and a silent tear. My heart still aches as I whisper low, "happy birthday Paul, I miss you so". Love always, Carole xxx

Missing you so much. You are always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts. With all our love, Adam, Matthew and Sarah xxx

PATRICIA FISK (Pat). 24th March 1936 to 7th July 2000. Fond memories of our dear Pat on her 77th birthday. Cherished always. Tony, Susan, Michael and family xxx

Obituary

HOLMES (nee Jameson)



Glynis, aged 65 years, passed away peacefully on March 17th of School Aycliffe. Beloved wife of the late Dave and a dearly loved Mum, Grandma and Sister. Funeral Monday March 25. Would friends please meet for Service in St Michael's Church, Heighington at 10am followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired may be sent for either the Butterwick Hospice or the Great North Air Ambulance Service c/o Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe. DL5 6EN Tel: 01325 318600. At Glynis's request purple or orange clothing only, no black.

EMBLETON March 16th (suddenly in hospital) of Newton Aycliffe. John aged 47 years. Dearly loved Husband of Lesley; Loving Step Dad to Chris; Dearest Son of Molly; A very dear Brother, Brother-in-Law, Son-in-Law, Uncle and good friend to many. Would friends please meet in St. Mary's R.C. Church on Wednesday, 27th March for a Service at 12:00 noon followed by committal at Durham Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if desired, may be left in the collection plate at Church for the Children's Ward at James Cook Hospital. At the families request, no dark coloured clothing, Leeds United colours if possible.

THORNTON, Frank of Newton Aycliffe (ex coal merchant) Peacefully after an illness bravely borne on March 17 aged 86 years. Beloved husband of the late Freda. Much loved Dad to Peter, Father-in-law to Sharon. Devoted Grandfather to Lauren and Partner Christopher. Step Father to Colin. A dear Brother and Uncle. Family and Friends please meet for Service at St Clares Church on Wednesday 27th March for 2.45pm. Will be sadly missed.

CHARLES HEDLEY (Charlie). Peacefully on 4th March, in hospital, Charles (Charlie) aged 87 years of Newton Aycliffe. Beloved Husband of the late Joyce, Loving Father of the late Michael, Also much loved Brother, Brother in law, Uncle and friend. Will family and friends please meet for the Service and Cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Monday March 25th at 2:45pm. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu, if so desired, may be given to the British Heart Foundation. Plate provided at the Crematorium.

Congratulations

Richard Thomas Fothergill



of the Royal Army Corps, Light Dragoons Formation Reconnaissance

Congratulations Richard on your Passing Out Parade on 15th March, 2013 at St John Moore Barracks (Winchester)

Well Done Son, I am proud of you, Dad and Bethany xxx

You made me very proud. Good luck for your future in the Army. Lots of love from Nanna xxx

Congratulations Rich on your Passing Out, good luck for your future career in the Army. We are so proud of you. Lots of love, Grandad, Grandma and Dean xxxx

Congratulations on your Passing Out, good luck in the Army. From Auntie Liz, Uncle Lex and Andrea

Paige Brittain



Happy 18th Birthday 26th March 2013

Have a great 18th birthday. Enjoy your weekend. Love, Mam and Dad xx
To my lovely Sister on your 18th birthday. Have a great time. All our love, Amy and Tom xx
Paige, Happy 18th birthday. Have a great weekend. Love from Tom
To our Granddaughter Paige, Happy 18th birthday. We love you more today than we did yesterday. Have a great day. From Nanna and Grandad Whitton xxx
To my lovely Niece on your 18th birthday. Love you always. Uncle Ian, Sharon, Samantha and Christopher xx
To my lovely Cousin on your 18th birthday. Have a lovely time. Love you loads from Matthew xxx
To our Granddaughter Paige on your 18th birthday. Have a wonderful day with lots of love from Nanna Rita and Grandad Geoff xxx
Have a fantastic 18th birthday. Loads of love from David, Jean, Katie and Rachael

ANN McCULLAGH Happy 70th birthday. Love, Lesley, Andrew, Joanne, Andrew, Lynsey, Andy, Craig, Rachel, Matthew and Jamie xxx
ANN McCULLAGH Happy 70th birthday Granny Annie. Big hugs. Love, Miles, Jake, Joel and Ellis xxx

JOEL Happy 2nd birthday. Lots of love, Mammy, Daddy, Ellis and all your family xxx
CONNOR BLAKEY "Bestest Boy No 4". Happy 11th birthday. You are so special to me, more than words can say. Hope you enjoy your special day. Have a great time paintballing. Love you billions, Grandma
HUGHES, Chloe Jasmine, 23/03/07. Happy 6th birthday. Love and miss you always. Lots of love, Daddy and Grandad Hughes

JULIE BUSBY 24-3-13. Happy 40th birthday to a wonderful Sister and Auntie. Love you lots, Karen, Phil, Katie and James xxx

JULIE BUSBY 24-3-13. Happy 40th birthday to a lovely Daughter Julie. Loads of love, Mam, Dad, Adele and Grandad Burkey xxx

JOHN WILSON 21st March 2013. THE BIG 50. Happy 50th, now you are older than me, enjoy your day. Love, Susanne

JOHN WILSON Happy 50th birthday Johnny. All my love, Mam

JOHN WILSON Have a fantastic 50th birthday. Love, Gemma, Luke, Margaret and Arthur

JOHN WILSON Happy 50th Dad. All our love, John, Brodie and Natasha

JOHN WILSON Happy 50th young un. Have a great birthday. Love from your Brothers and Sisters in law and the rest of the family

GOTCHA!



40

You said it wouldn't happen! Lots of love, Paul and the Tribe

Craig Townsley



Happy 21st Birthday

Have a fantastic birthday Son. All our love, Mam, Dad and Ryan xxxx

Happy 21st Birthday

Lots of love, Grandad and Grandma in South Africa.

Happy 21st Birthday

Lots of love from Nana and Bryan xxx

Julie Busby



Fabulous at 40!

24th March 2013

To a special Wife and Mam, Happy 40th birthday. Hope you have a great day. All our love from your Hubby Lee, Daniel, Aaron and Amie xxxxx

Nathan McCaffrey



Happy 21st Birthday

22nd March 1992

Hope you have a great day and party. Love from Mam, Dad, Dale, Liam and all the family xxx

Obituary

GOLIGHTLY, March 16th (peacefully in hospital) of Newton Aycliffe, Isabella aged 85yrs. Dearly loved Wife of George, a much loved Mother of Kenneth, Carole and Pauline, also a very dear Nanna and Great Nanna. Would family and friends please meet at St Andrews Church, Aycliffe Village on Wednesday 27th March for a Service at 10.00am followed by interment at West Cemetery.

Thank You

PAMELA, Simon and Sian would like to thank Dr Welsh, Andrea (Macmillan Nurse), District Nurses and Ward 31 (Darlington) for looking after our late Husband/Father Derek Taylor. Thank you to all who attended the Funeral on 15th March 2013 and thank you for the donations to the Macmillan Nurses

BOWLES: The family of the late Anne Bowles would like to express sincere gratitude to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and support. Also special thanks to the Co-operative Funeralcare, to Rev Martin King, and to all medical staff involved with Anne's care. Words simply cannot express our appreciation of everyone's thoughtfulness.

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AYCLIFFE FACE FIXTURE PILE-UP

Newton Aycliffe face a hectic end to the season after another game fell foul of the weather.

The planned home match against Bedlington Terriers last Saturday at Moore Lane Park was called off due to a waterlogged pitch.

It leaves the Royal Blues with nine home matches before the end of the campaign.

And fellow strugglers Billingham Town took full advantage of Aycliffe not playing by beating Penrith to move within two points of the Newtonians.

Relegation is a real possibility for Allan Oliver's side, in their second season in the Northern League first division.

But with the league table incredibly tight, a run of good form could see the club catapulted towards mid-table.

Just five points separate 21st-placed Aycliffe and

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Billingham Synthonia (A) Saturday 23rd March 3pm
South Shields (H) Tuesday 2nd April 7.30pm
West Auckland Town (A) Saturday 6th April 3pm
Spennymoor Town (H) Tuesday 9th April 7.30pm
Shildon (H) Saturday 13th April 3pm

17th-placed Marske in the division, and the Newtonians have Newcastle Benfield, Norton and South Shields still to play - all at home.

This weekend sees the club face a tricky trip to Billingham Synthonia, who are 11 places - and points - ahead in the table.

October's meeting between the two sides ended in a 1-1 draw, with Tom Hinchley heading in a dramatic stoppage-time leveller to earn a point.

The Newtonians will hope former Synners striker Danny Earl enjoys a fruitful return to Central Avenue, as he looks to add to his 14 league goals already this campaign, but vice-

captain Darren Craddock will miss the game through suspension.

Following the game, Aycliffe will only face one away game in their 10 fixtures - a trip to local rivals West Auckland.

The rest of the games will be at Moore Lane Park, and will include visits by FA Vase semi-finalists Shildon and Spennymoor.

The next planned home match is on Tuesday 2nd April, when South Shields make a visit to the town.

Admission for the game will be £5 adults and £3 concessions, with free entry for under-16s if accompanied by a full-paying adult.

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Do You Have Talent?

We are looking for people living in Aycliffe who have a talent, to take part in a charity event designed to display the town's most talented residents.

We know there are lots of you on the town, as it has been seen at school level lots of times. With the recent success story of Aycliffe rock band 'The Unsound' releasing their debut single 'Crazy', we should see what other talent there is in Aycliffe. Maybe we can help them to success whilst helping local charities at the same time by putting on a talent show, and you could be part of it.

If you are part of a group, a solo artiste, a singer, a dancer, whatever you are we are looking for you! Tell us about your talent and maybe we can help you get on the stage in a display of Aycliffe's best acts. Contact us at CharityEvent@Aycliffe.biz or text 07704 646346 with details of your self and your talent.

Greenfield Girls Rugby Team in County Finals



Karl Stephenson, Level 2 Rugby League Development Coach, trains Greenfields KS3 girls every Tuesday FREE. This is organised through Sedgefield School Sports Partnership and the sessions have been well supported and very effective. Greenfield's Year 9 girls beat Durham Community Business College 36 - 8 last week to qualify for the U14 County Finals, which take place on Tuesday 19th March. Well done and good luck. Many of the girls were introduced to rugby in their Primary Schools again through Sedgefield SSP, and have continued their interest since attending Greenfield. The Year 9 Team includes Nicole Ward, Georgia Heads, Britney Cooke, Samantha North, Ellie Stevens, Amber Peake, Jamie Leigh McConville, Emily Gough, Amber Dolby, Elle Dewar and Laura Stewart.

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