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Redevelopment Work in Town Centre on Schedule



Town Centre Manager Bryan Haldane, told Newton News this week that the work in the town centre is going very well and on schedule.

He apologises for any inconvenience to traders and shoppers, thanking them for their patience. The new staircase to Upper Beveridge Way is now open and work on demolishing the ramp is planned to take place when the replacement ramp is erected.

As a temporary arrangement the small car

park opposite the stairs to the Leisure Centre on Greenwell Road is to be restricted to parking for disabled people. More details in Newton News later.

Cafe Pronto at the top of the ramp is moving into the old Post Office (Julies Pet Shop) premises. Work has started ready for the Cafe to open during the first week in May.

The former bank premises opposite the new Cafe Pronto site is being converted to retail premises with office space available on the upper floor.

A reader asked whether the new pedestrian area would affect the number of stalls on Market Day. Bryan has

given an assurance that the 49 market places offered at Aycliffe would remain unchanged.

The wall at Aldi, preventing access to the town centre from the multi storey car park is still under consideration and is not ruled out for removal is good news for those people who would find it useful and more convenient to get to shops through this point.

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ELECTION ADDRESSES

As usual around election time Newton News will allow each candidate to send in an Election Address stating their intentions should they be successful. To give a fair and balanced opportunity to each candidate we request the article be no more than 300 words. Some candidates are standing for both Town and County Councils and they will be allowed an address for each Council to which they are seeking election. Please e-mail your Election Address to syd@newtonnews.co.uk

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"Hoodies" Terrify Pensioner

Dear Sir,
I wish parents would not buy their children hoodies and teach them, respect, honesty, and responsibility instead, Hoodies help to hide the faces of children and last Saturday night I had three of them at my door wanting to be in and wanting money from me. Being disabled and elderly with limited mobility and being harassed by these youths is no joke! I was terrified at what was going to happen next, as I refused to open my door. It may have been funny to them but to someone like me it could have caused a heart attack, fit or seizure. How would they feel if it was their grandparent? I am still pleased to say not all youths are rotten like these who scared me and there are some good kids out there. Harassed Resident.



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RETIRING AFTER 21 YEARS AT GREGGS



Sheila Mulley (centre) was born in Carterton, Oxfordshire in 1951. After leaving Burford Grammar School she worked at Barclays for 3 years before joining the RAF, based at Brize Norton. She worked with her husband-to-be, Bob and they married in 1973 and two years later had twins Paul and Mandy. On leaving the RAF Sheila became a housewife and the family followed Bob on his tour of duties across the UK and Germany. They moved to Newton Aycliffe in 1989 and Sheila joined Greggs in 1992 after leaving Iceflow following its closure. She retired on 21st March after completing 21 years service. Sheila likes to read

Catherine Cookson and Danielle Steele books. She is partial to a glass of wine or three and likes to dine out. Sheila and Bob like to travel the UK and abroad and recently they visited family in Canada. She and Bob are going to Rome this year to celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary. Sheila is looking forward to putting her feet up and spending time with her four grandchildren and will also be making use of any spare time, going wherever her bus pass will take her.

Apology to "Our Boys in Blue"

Dear Sir,
Re photo published of police car in last week's issue. I believe the parking bay the police vehicle is parked in, while immediately adjacent to the disabled bays, is not restricted. It is disappointing that negative and inflammatory comments can be made without the simplest of facts being confirmed. I would fully support the reader and photographer, had the constabulary used a restricted bay as I firmly believe these bays should only be used by those they are intended. However on this occasion I believe both the photographer and the Newton News have done our 'boys in blue' a huge disservice in publishing incorrect information. Jo Dixon
Mrs. Campbell and the Newton News stand corrected on this matter and offer a sincere apology.

PARKING FINES & RETURN OF TRAFFIC WARDENS!

Dear Sir,
Having been to the Simpature PACT meeting recently I was surprised at how many people turned up to discuss the illegal and inconsiderate parking, once again, in and around the Simpature area. It was good to hear from the police at the meeting that something is finally going to be done about this problem, and that parking tickets would be issued to drivers for illegal parking. Up to Friday 22nd March two vehicles have already been given parking tickets for inconsiderate parking, and I can foresee many more tickets to follow. DRIVERS ARE WARNED THAT THEY WILL GET A PARKING TICKET FOR ILLEGAL PARKING IF CAUGHT. We were also informed that as from May 5th 2013 there will be two traffic wardens employed in the town, so they too will be issuing parking tickets to those who flout the law on illegal parking in all areas. YOU HAVE ALL BEEN WARNED!
Brian Sowerby

easter SUNDAY BIG SHOW

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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 Songs 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

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Two 18 year old Students in Town Council Elections

Youngest Ever Labour Candidates

30 years ago two 25 year olds Eddy Adam & Arun Chandran stood for election to the Town Council in West Ward for Labour. After winning their seats they reformed local politics and the Council, by putting the community first. They served four consecutive terms introducing moderate, and progressive policies.

After a period on the sidelines Eddy and Arun are back again standing together for election in West Ward. But this time they bring with them two even younger prospective councillors, Dan Summers and Tom Twissell both aged 18, making them the youngest ever to stand for election in Newton Aycliffe. Dan Summers has lived in the West Ward all his life; he is currently finishing his final year as a student at Darlington College, studying Creative Media.

He is an active member of the local Labour Party and is also involved within County Durham Young Labour, Dan is also an observer on the Town Council. If elected Daniel's major aim is to improve the lives of the people in the West Ward as well as making key decisions based on the needs of the people. Daniel believes greatly in the potential of young people, ultimately if elected as town councillor for the west ward he will be working actively with young people as well as acting as the voice of the people in Aycliffe West. Tom Twissell has lived in West Ward, for over 12 years. He is currently finishing his final year as a student at Darlington College studying Computer Games Development. Tom's aim is to improve the local area for all ages in his ward, making it a better place to live. He strongly believes in



Dan Summers



Tom Twissell

giving the youth a voice to improve their area and is open to any suggestions from the public about what changes they feel need to be made. If elected he will be the much needed voice of the youth in Great Aycliffe and play an active part in making important decisions within the whole community.

Flower Club Demonstration

The next meeting of demonstrator from Shildon and District Flower Club is at an evening of flower arranging entitled: 'That's Entertainment' Monday, 8th April at 7.30pm. Free to members, John Dalton, a Visitors tickets £5.00

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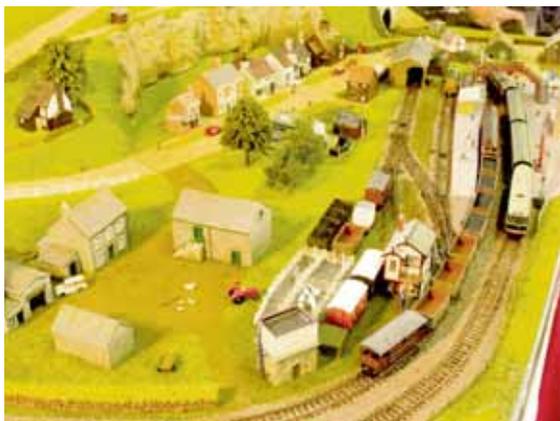
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Rose Lodge Care Home at Cobblers Hall are holding a Come Dine With Me Lunch on Tuesday 16th April at 1pm. Come along and enjoy a 3 course meal cooked by our head chef, followed by an afternoon of fun and entertainment. To book a place call 01325 304156. Donation of £3.00 suggested.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE AT MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION



Saturday 20th April will see the third annual Model Railway Exhibition at The Youth Centre, organised by the Rotary Club to raise funds for the Smile Train charity which operates throughout the third world to carry out surgical procedures on young children with facial deformities. The Model Railway Exhibition will feature 17 working layouts in a variety of scales from "Z" to "0" some of which will be travelling from as far away as Welshpool and Scarborough to attend the event. Many of the layouts are being shown for the first time whilst others are firm favourites on the local exhibition circuit.

based railway engineering company Free all day parking is available at St Mary's R C Church. (opposite Tesco) Full disabled access available to the exhibition which is open from 10am to 5pm. Entry is £4 for adults, £3 for concessions, 50p for children (3-15) under 3's free For further details ring John Burrows on 07870-210269 or email jandeburrows@tiscali.co.uk

Newtonian Receives Sheriff's Community Award



Toni McMillan of Aycliffe has received the High Sheriff Shirevalty Award for Courageous and Community Spirited Action. This is made annually to young people who have made a difference in their community and is presented by Durham Agency Against Crime. Dorothy Bowman has successfully nominated three young people from Aycliffe over the past seven years.

Town Council Half Term Nature Events

Great Aycliffe Town Council are again providing a bumper series of free public countryside events this half term. On Wednesday 3rd April at 2pm the exotic animals of Krafty Kritters will be again visiting Moore Lane Eco Centre to help us understand a little more about the animals which live on our doorstep. Following the handlers talk participants will explore the park in search of the hidden creature which makes the area home. Appropriate footwear is a must and booking will be essential. There will be an opportunity to try some pond dipping at Aycliffe Nature Park on Thursday 4th April starting at 10am to see which animals are about despite the recent cold weather. Bring along your wellies, nets and buckets if you

THE BUDGET IN LAYMAN'S TERMS

Dear Sir,
George Osborne announced the new budget was for an 'aspirational nation'. All we aspire to is an unbridled continuation of the rich getting richer, and the poor getting poorer. By 2018, debt is set to double to over 1.3 trillion pounds; while workers bear the sting of real terms cuts in their wages for the next four years. The aspiration Osborne talks about, is home ownership. Where people can afford to put down a 5% deposit on a new build house, the government will pay 20% of the mortgage. This is an ideological budget aimed at the middle class. For Osborne, on the other side of the class divide, what he understands to mean poor, are people who have £10,000 in the bank to put down on a modest £200,000 home. Perhaps he thinks this is the answer to the council housing crises, in much the way Marie Antoinette is fabled to have thought that

cake was an option for those who had no bread. The Office for Budget Responsibility predicts the current budget will produce no growth in the economy. Even the most optimistic forecasts have slashed their figures in half, predicting that it'll take until the end of 2016 to see the economy where it was on the eve of the Leeming Brothers collapse. Meanwhile, 48 000 young people have joined the dole queue to bring the youth unemployment register back up to a million. The 22 billion in benefits cut from poorly paid hard working families will plunge children back into poverty which will cost 25 billion to loss adjust in other parts of the economy. The chancellor will borrow 245bn more than expected, corporations sit on over 750bn. All the while, the banks refuse to lend to small businesses which would see universal job creation across the country. The international capitalist class have absorbed and hoarded all of our nation's wealth. Osborne's answer is to give them more, as if it were like adding water to a glass until it eventually overflows and

some of it trickles down the sides. The chancellor has thrown a scrap from the table to industry, a meager 3bn on infrastructure spending, but not until 2015! Here in the North East, unemployment is up by 3000 to a total of 127 000. The new 10k income tax threshold looks like good news, but in context it is a damning indictment to say that in our region 140 000 people will be taken out of tax altogether. That's 140 000 people working in part time jobs for poverty wages when what is necessary is massive investment in job creation in our region to offer people the hope of a future in a full time job on a living wage. Then perhaps, we might find ourselves able to put down our five percent on a new build family home. Only, Osborne knows that, if the carrot he dangles ever became within the reach of the poor, he wouldn't have implemented the policy in the first place. The old principles of capitalism never change, free to those who can afford it, very expensive for those who can't. Warren Saunders
Newton Aycliffe

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Your AAP Needs YOU

Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership
wants Public Representatives

Have you ever fancied being a part of the decision making process in your community? Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership (GAMP) is looking for public representatives to sit on their Board and have a say on how cash is spent locally. A Public Rep can serve on the AAP Board for up to four years and would be expected to attend Board meetings which would take place at least once every two months. They can also get involved in a variety of Task & Finish Groups which are designed to look at the community's concerns and develop ideas and possible solutions to address these. Over the next 12 months, GAMP will be mainly focusing on how it supports work within:

Activities for Young People Employment, Enterprise, Education & Training Support to Community & Voluntary Sector

So if you are aged over 16 and live, work, volunteer or study in the GAMP area, then we would like to hear from you. Anyone expressing an interest will receive an application pack which they will need to complete and return by 2nd April 2013. Interviews for the positions will be held in April and people would take up their position as a Public Representative from May. For more information on the Partnership, please visit our website at www.durham.gov.uk/gampaap or call on 01325 327441.

MILLER HOMES HIGH SCORE FOR CUSTOMER SATISFACTION



Miller Homes has once again demonstrated its commitment to customer satisfaction after retaining top marks in the home building industry's customer satisfaction survey and finding that 97% of its customers would recommend the leading housebuilder to their best friend.

Miller Homes, which has 10 active developments located across the North East, has retained its five star rating in the Home Builders Federation National New Home Customer Satisfaction Survey for the second year running. Additionally, the results of Miller Homes' own independent customer satisfaction survey, completed by customers once they have settled into their new home to evaluate the level of service received before, during and after the home-buying process,

revealed that 97% of customers would recommend Miller Homes to their best friend.

Chris Endor, Chief Executive of Miller Homes, commented: "We are delighted to have retained our five star rating for customer satisfaction in the HBF's survey and that this recognition is further reinforced by our own customer satisfaction survey, which revealed that, once again, 97% of our customers would recommend us to their best friend.

"It is our aim to provide the best possible experience for all our customers throughout the entire home buying process and these results demonstrates our commitment and determination to meet that goal. More importantly, this also provides buyers and potential buyers with real confidence when they purchase a new home from us." Miller Homes' North East developments, which includes Cobblers Hall in Newton Aycliffe, cater for a wide variety of buyers, from those looking to purchase their first home to growing families and downsizers.

In Support of 'Bedroom Tax'

Dear Sir,
Once again John D. Clare has decided to blame the Coalition Government for the farce that was the Benefits System inherited from New Labour. My father had a phrase which describes his politics, "Selective indignation".

Inadvertently, he has properly called the proposed benefit cut a tax. All taxpayers have paid throughout the new Labour era so that New Labour could buy votes from those on benefits by subsidising empty bedrooms and under occupancy of Social Housing. Unfortunately, New Labour's mismanagement of the economy and failure to regulate the banks has meant that tax payers and the country at large cannot afford to continue to finance what is a waste of the State's resources.

All politicians agree that a major factor in the recovery will be the speed of growth in the economy. To grow the economy we need jobs and to attract qualified workers. Clearly, when Hitachi starts up there will be an increased demand for bedrooms for workers who will pay tax and bring money into the local economy.

In an ideal world some of those on housing benefits should get one of the new jobs and therefore be able to pay the economic rent that Social Housing provides and still be in a position, via income tax, to assist in financing those that are unable to work and need subsidised accommodation.

It appears to me to be good for the town, the region and the whole country (and taxpayers) to encourage a single person on Housing Benefit, living in a three bedroom Social House, to down-size and make way for a family that needs and can afford the rent of the three bedroom house. Tax payers are in a win-win situation. They do not have to subsidise two spare bedrooms and there is an extra tax payer to share the load of paying benefits to those who really need them.

Of course there will be special cases and a lot of hardship, however, that is not the making of the Coalition Government. Instead of squandering tax monies on subsidising under occupancy of the Social Housing Stock (to ensure re-election by the beneficiaries) New Labour should have spent this tax money on single and two bedroom accommodation so as to free up family houses for families, many of whom are having to rent in the more expensive private sector while still subsidising under occupancy of our housing stock.

John D. Clare needs to get into the real world and stop wasting his time attending rallies. He is too late; he should have rallied against the minimum wage, tax credits and New Labour creating a reliance society and the misappropriation of tax money to buy votes to achieve re-election. Indeed, the movement he supports hit a new low when they had

a grieving mother, who had recently lost a child, appear on TV and say that she could not afford to keep her child's bedroom as a shrine as her housing benefit was being cut. That to me was sickening! I find it abhorrent that national television should use a grieving mother in such a fashion. Also, the implication was there that the Coalition Government's policy was to blame for the pre-mature death of a child! This was gutter politics at its lowest.

Again, we need to guard against knee-jerk reactions to policies that will allow us to continue to afford to give benefits to those who are reliant on them.

New Labour wrecked the economy and harsh measures are needed to effect a recovery. Jobs which are

subsidised by tax benefits and housing benefits are not the answer. We need jobs that pay a living wage (not New Labour's minimum wage that has to be subsidised by Tax Credits and housing benefits). We need to properly and fully utilise our previous investment in Social Housing assets to revitalise our local economy, fairly and for the benefit of all in our society. If our economy goes the way of Greece and Cyprus all people on housing benefit will suffer whether they are in under occupancy or not!

This is the true legacy of New Labour and John D. Clare's selective indignation at the Coalition Governments necessary policies, and his intermittent ranting against them, will not change this fact.

Alastair P. G. Welsh

Pharmacy Bank Holiday Opening Hours



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Newtonian in Finals

Bethan Lee from Aycliffe wishes to thank all who voted for her in the "Miss Teen Queen" Semi Finals. Your generosity and kindness has secured her a place in the finals this summer.

Holiday Activities at the Library

The town Library is holding two craft sessions for children on Friday afternoons during the Easter Break.

Both sessions run from 2.15 - 3.15pm and there will be a charge of 50p per child. The first session is 'Make your own Bookmark' on Friday 5th April and the second will be 'Mask Making' on Friday 12th April. Booking would be appreciated, please contact Library for further details.

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Breakfast Time Help for Horndale School



Horndale County Infant and Nursery School received a boost last week after food company Kellogg's awarded a grant worth £450 to help fund the school's Breakfast Club.

Horndale County Infant and Nursery School is one of 600 schools from across the country to receive a grant after research revealed more children than ever are going to school hungry.

Money troubles and a lack of interest from parents are forcing more and more children to literally fend for themselves in the morning leading to many sitting at their desks with empty tummies, according to a report by Kellogg's.

School breakfast clubs are widely regarded as a cost-effective way to tackle child hunger in the morning, however, recent reports reveal that 40% of breakfast clubs have closed in cash strapped schools across England in the last year.

Kellogg's launched the 'Help Give a Child' a Breakfast campaign last October to help bridge the funding gap for schools as research showed the detrimental impact the closure of breakfast clubs could have according to teaching professionals across the UK.

Mrs Courtney, Head Teacher, said "Breakfast clubs are a lifeline for many children, but with budgets being tight they could sadly become an unaffordable luxury in future. The grant will really help our club and we'll look forward to providing a free breakfast for the children who attend as well as buying some new crockery and cutlery!"

Kellogg's is donating £300,000 in total through the campaign to provide one million breakfasts for the children that need it most in the UK and Ireland.

School Visit Theatre to See Dahl Play

On Thursday, 7th March Year 3 and 4 pupils from St. Mary's Primary School went to Darlington Civic Theatre to watch 'James and the Giant Peach'.

Children have been examining the work of Roald Dahl and his unique writing style and the exciting way he describes his characters. They have been reading the story as part of their class reader and children have all learnt a lot seeing their story being brought to life on stage! We hope this will be the first of many cultural experiences for our children.

Here are some of our children's thoughts about the play....

"I think the story is like Cinderella, because Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker are like the ugly sisters as they are bossy and make James do all the work."

"I think the story is like Jack and the Beanstalk as James is given some magic beans, just like Jack."

"The play was exciting! I cannot wait to go to the theatre again."

"James and the Giant Peach is like all traditional tales as they all live happily ever after." *By Year 3*

STUDENTS FROM ST. JOHN'S IN LONDON

Eight students from Year 8 at St John's School in Bishop Auckland were selected, on the basis of excellent achievement in RE, to attend the Commonwealth Day Observance Ceremony at Westminster Abbey in the presence of the Duke of Edinburgh and a number of other dignitaries. Unfortunately, due to illness, the Queen was unable to attend this year's ceremony.

Students watched performances by Beverley Knight and The Noisettes.

Sir Richard Branson gave the address, speaking on Enterprise and the Commonwealth.

Taking advantage of being in London, students also visited the Science Museum and saw Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament.

The eight selected students were also required to participate in the Commonwealth Essay Competition 2013, the chosen topic being change. We await the results with great interest!



ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE AT ELECTIONS?

People in County Durham are being urged to make sure they are registered to vote. County and parish council elections will take place across the country on Thursday, 2nd May and anyone wishing to vote at these elections needs to be on the electoral register.

To find out if you are registered, or to request a registration form, contact Durham County Council electoral services on 03000 26 12 12 or email electoralservices@durham.gov.uk.

Anyone who is listed on the electoral register can request a postal vote. You should also contact the electoral services team to apply for a postal vote.

The deadline for returning registration forms and postal vote applications is Wednesday, 17 April.

Anyone who would like to stand as a candidate in the council or parish elections should contact the electoral services team. The deadline for nominations is noon on Friday, 5 April

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Agnew Indian Night



Have you ever wondered how a real curry tastes? Last Saturday 50 people had the amazing opportunity to experience "Taste of India" in the Agnew Community Centre. The event was set up as a fundraiser by three young people who work as volunteers for the Pais Project, which is a Christian Charity Youth Work Organisation. The guests went through an evening of Indian food and culture, got involved in a traditional dance and music and a real Indian Curry could not be missed. "We are really happy that people support us in such a generous way and responded so well to this evening", said team leader Immanuel Fernando who comes from South India and is spending his second year serving as a youth worker in

Great Britain. The multicultural team is working in local schools and sets up school activities like Assemblies and Lunch Clubs with young people to help them grow, become self-confident and encourage them in good morals and positive lifestyles. The Pais Project works with schools and churches in different countries all over the world and has 10 teams in Great Britain. "We are looking forward to have more teams in our country from this summer on and to get into more local schools" said 18-year old Chris Meyer who joined Pais after college. "It is all about young people and we are really pleased that the community shows their interest through financial support to our organisation."

Apprenticeships are 'Key to Recovery' says Aycliffe Director

John Finley, managing director of Finley Structures on Aycliffe Business Park, has taken part in another awareness programme with local youngsters and says introducing schoolchildren to apprenticeships will play a key part in the country's recovery. A number of firms recently worked with young people from Greenfield College on an Apprenticeship Awareness Programme. The scheme, run by the Engineering Development Trust and funded by Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP), was successfully piloted with Woodham Academy last year. Year 9 students from Greenfield visited company premises on Aycliffe Business Park and getting an insight into their operation and what they have to offer school-leavers.



Back Row (L-R): Dan Taylor (DPE Automotive), John Finley (Finley Structures), Carole Jordan (Ebac), Pauline Hadwin (Finley Structures), Leanne Kennedy (INEOS), Barry Wilkinson (INEOS), Wayne Harris (Ivlin). Front Row: Jennifer Manners (A-Tech), Ben Haddon (EDT), David Priestley (Greenfield College), Katy Milne (Greenfield)

The youngsters then gave presentations based on their experience during a special

event at Greenfield. Mr Finley, who went straight into a labouring job in a Bakery after leaving school, says there aren't enough skilled youngsters available these days as the majority of school pupils go into further education.

"We need more school-leavers to go into Apprenticeships," says Mr Finley. "It has been well documented that we face a skills shortage which is set to increase over the next 10 years, and with an ailing construction industry, I think it's imperative we look at the basics and start educating children that they can enjoy good, successful, well-paid careers through apprenticeships. Ultimately it will help the manufacturing, construction and engineering industries which will play a key role in this country's recovery." David Priestley, head teacher at Greenfield, says his students have benefited hugely from the programme. "Companies from Aycliffe Business Park have enabled our students to go out there and learn about some of the world-leading businesses that exist right here where we live. "I thought all presentations were exceptional and it was impossible to single one out from another. They were all winners. "The whole process has been extremely useful, and we're grateful to all the companies for letting our children go to them to explore the world of work. "It has provided invaluable experiences, and I feel this is just the beginning of what could be a very worthwhile exercise in the long-term."

Healthcare Workshop



A Specialist Day for health and social care saw students taking on the role of different healthcare professionals in a workshop based on a multi agency team meeting and a case study. The workshop, led by school nurse, Kate Devine, focussed on a young person needing support. The team had to identify a range of issues and suggest different types of help and guidance. Playing the role of professionals not only gave students the opportunity to learn about local and regional support for adolescents but it also gave them an insight into different professions in healthcare. The day ended with students trying out one of the support suggestions, which was a stress busting relaxation therapy session.

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



"Thanks to DCC for keeping roads clear" by Mike Baker

New Exhibition Soon!

It's that time of year again; opening soon in The Greenfield Gallery is "Open Art 2013." This year the exhibition features more than 60 local artists, and over 100 artworks, ranging from photography to portraiture and printmaking – a real variety of techniques, styles and genres. This exciting exhibition will open with a preview event and craft fair on Wednesday 10th April, from 6-8pm. The craft fair will include stalls by local crafters and makers, a chance to pick out a unique handmade item. The opening event is free, and a great opportunity to meet some of the artists and be the first to see the exhibition, which will continue to be on display until Wednesday 1st May. At Greenfield Arts we are pleased to be able to continue to offer local and regional artists the chance to showcase their work, and are looking forward to seeing this year's Open Art exhibition installed!

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

Notice is hereby given that:

A meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee of the Town Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on:

**WEDNESDAY 10th APRIL 2013
at 6.00pm**

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend. The Public entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings. Agendas and Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 10th April 2013

**Environment Committee
Recreation Committee
from 7.15pm**

QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 20 minutes has been set aside for an elector to ask questions, give evidence or make representation on any item of business included on the agenda of the Council, its Committees and the Planning Sub-Committee. With the exception of the Annual and Extra-ordinary Council Meetings members of the public can submit a written question for the Council Agenda as long as it is submitted 7 clear days before a meeting. If members of the public have any questions it would be appreciated if they could make them known prior to the start of the meeting. Agendas/Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk) The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend. "The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".

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National Apprenticeship Week at Woodham

The past few weeks have included two special occasions in the Careers Education calendar: National Careers week and National Apprenticeship week. Woodham Academy has marked the event with a series of workshops to highlight the importance of impartial and independent Information, Advice and Guidance to support students in moving onto their post 16 pathway of choice.

Year 11 students have been working closely with Peter Clough, Human Resources Manager at Greggs in Gateshead on securing an apprenticeship in a variety of sectors. They have looked at designing professional CVs and covering letters and also had a focus psychometric testing. Jordan Howe, a budding Year 11 apprentice, said "The sessions gave me an insight into how to apply for a job and how I can make the best impression possible. The workshops have really

helped me in preparing for my next steps." The government's recent announcement that the apprenticeship route will become equal to a university qualification comes at a key time for Woodham Academy as it continues to develop links with local employers to secure the future of students within Newton Aycliffe.



Award for Aycliffe Seafood Supplier



Collins Seafoods, based in Newton Aycliffe, marked a strong first quarter of 2013 this month after picking up the Brakes Best Supplier 2012 Fish & Seafood award. Brakes is a Europe-wide catering giant and the accolade was given to Collins for its excellent support and service as well as its impressive track record in delivery and quality.

And the company is now gearing up for more success this year after doubling the size of its North East base to more than 10,000 sq ft to accommodate more staff and building a new sales team to focus on growing its presence in Yorkshire.

Collins is one of the UK's leading suppliers of Frozen At Sea fish and lists fish and chip shops across the North of England and wholesalers throughout the UK and Ireland among its customers. Operations director Claire Swinbank said: "We were greatly honoured to receive an award from such a huge and highly regarded organisation as Brakes.

"We are consistently supplying a top quality product at the right price, with good distribution links through our own new fleet of vehicles and we are the main distributor for Samherji (Icefresh), one of the biggest suppliers of Frozen At Sea fish in Europe. We are looking forward to continue growing our business this year and in the longer term."

As part of its ongoing expansion, Collins recently added Elaine Armstrong, Gina Mclean and Martin Robson to its sales team, and internally promoted Christine Searle, from sales to a business development role, to help drive growth at the firm.

Collins sells an average of 10,000 tonnes of frozen fish every year from its base on Heighington Lane Business Park. For more information on the company visit www.collinsseafoods.com.

Aycliffe Business Community Strengthens Links with Schools



Another successful meeting of the newly formed Aycliffe Business Community was held last week at the Work Place.

The topic for discussion was improving involvement of Aycliffe businesses with local schools by helping students choose a career as apprentices. The opportunities at Aycliffe Business Park were numerous.

Discussion among the employers present centred around the attitude and work ethic of young people and what schools could do to prepare them for work.

A number of employers had already worked with schools and found it very useful. It was clear by opening this



dialogue it would bring benefits all round.

Various training organisations were present to facilitate group discussions and Career Teacher Sarah Mcginity

from Woodham Academy brought students Eden Hancock, Joseph Cox and Jack Hodgson to participate and gain experience. Sarah addressed the meeting and said recent initiatives by Aycliffe businesses in presenting opportunities available to young people was invaluable. "It is important each student is encouraged to find the route their future will take" said Sarah.

A local businessman said: "Young people are our future and they must engage with industry to enable them to know clearly where they can use their skills and aptitude."

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- 9th May 5pm - 7pm
- 5th June 5pm - 7pm

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Abbey Warburton, Megan Lothian, Tamara Gale and Captain Lucy Ryans

Table tennis is really taking off at Greenfield School since the introduction of their Community club, which runs every Monday 5.30 to 6.30 in the sports hall. The club is open to all ages from Primary school to adults, and the progress of all attending has been significant, thanks to the expert coaching of Matthew Porter ETTA level 2 Head Coach. The school is also offering Table tennis during the Easter break with Matthew. Anyone interested in joining the club should contact Michael Rippon Greenfield's

Sports Facility Manager on 0787 9117224 for more information. Greenfield's Yr 7/8 Girls Table tennis team gained SILVER medals at the County Finals on the 22nd March at Freeman Quays. Lucy, Abbey, Tamara and Megan played extremely well, beating Weardale 7-0 and Chester le Street 8-0 to get through to the final. They eventually finished in 2nd place with Easington finishing in Gold medal position, and Durham Johnston in 3rd place. Fantastic achievement girls - 2nd in the County, Well done!

THE REAL ENEMY AT LOCAL ELECTIONS IS INDIFFERENCE

Dear Sir,
The forthcoming elections this May are of vital importance for Aycliffe. A letter in the Newton News the other week informed us that the government is cutting £190million from the County Council budget, 2011-2017. Just taking that amount of money out of the local economy will damage the community, never mind the carnage nobody can prevent it making of Council services. At the same time, these elections will be a judgement on the Coalition government. I am currently running an online facebook diary of my election campaign (you can follow it if you wish at bit.ly/JDClare). One of the threads I started was a list of ways this government has harmed the less well-off; it got to 40 within an hour. It was an horrific catalogue of injustices - from ATOS, through Bedroom Tax, Crisis Loans abolished, DWP coercion, EMA ended ... right through to Universal Credit, VAT rise, Workfare abuses and many, many more. Every one of the measures directly damaged the income or the rights of the less-wealthy (you can see the full list on my blog at bit.ly/ListofShame). Writing it, I was amazed at how extensively, how deeply, and how quickly the Tories have moved to mount their attack on the poor. This is not a Party political issue (some people will read the list and agree with it). My point is that - whatever one's attitude to the government - this election is crucial to the future of the County, and to Aycliffe, through the most difficult of times. The election has started, the calling cards are printed, and I have begun canvassing. I am looking forward to talking with you about the challenges facing the County Council, and how we might address them. If you live in Aycliffe North and Middridge Division, and wish

to make sure I speak to you, you can phone me on 01325 318333, or email me at johndclare@sky.com.
John D Clare

Aycliffe Triathlon Club Brave the Elements

On a very cold, snowy and windy Sunday 24th March four members of Aycliffe Triathlon Club took to the road for Stokesley Duathlon. The multi sport event was made up of a tough 5k run - 35k cycle - 5k run course which was made even tougher by the terrible weather conditions. First home for Aycliffe Tri Club was David Greatorex with 1:52:57 then Robin Horn coming in at 1:59:51 followed by Andrew Robertson at 2:13:41 and Kevin Greenall 2:23:38. The four club members thoroughly enjoyed the event describing it as "Character Building". If you would like more information about training times and the club then check out the club's website www.aycliffetriclub.onsport.com or email the club at aycliffetriclub@gmail.com

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Aycliffe's New Friends New Places Club funded their 2nd Intergenerational Day where young people from local schools joined with older people from the community. The young people were taught to knit and both age groups enjoyed hand massaging. All age groups joined in the dance and armchair aerobics and the youngsters were out of breath before the older people, possibly because they go to various exercise classes every

week. Line dancing and armchair aerobics are held at the New Friends New Places Club twice a month. Mosaics and spoon playing were enjoyed by all ages and an excellent buffet was provided. This was the second Intergenerational Day that New Friends New Places has funded. Come and enjoy our club which is held every Tuesday at the Navy Club Burnhill Way at 2pm. For further details ring Dorothy 01325 308094

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Greenfield Student Sport Leaders



Greenfield Yr 7 & Yr 9 basketball teams, four of their Gifted & Talented leaders and two of Greenfield's wheelchair basketball players and volunteer Sophie Elliott.

Durham County Sport hosted the County Durham Level 3 finals at Maiden Castle on Friday 22nd March. Four of Greenfield's gifted and talented leaders and two of Greenfield's top basketball leaders were invited to help lead this fantastic event. Well done to Courtnie Mills, Amber Dolby, Sam

Dobinson, Rubi Alderson, Callum Ridley and Sam Morgan, who were selected by Sedgfield SSP. One of the Olympic and Paralympic legacy's is the increased involvement of leaders and volunteers. Greenfield's sport leadership programme encourages all interested students to develop their leadership skills and to

volunteer their time, and it was great to see so many of them recognised at County level. The event involved the top leaders and performers from the following School Sport Partnerships in the County - Sedgfield, Chester le Street, Durham City, East Durham, Derwentside, Wear Valley & Teesdale.

Gold Medallists



Sedgfield SSP ran trials to select their Wheelchair basketball team earlier this year. Greenfield's Yr. 10 wheelchair basketball players were both selected to represent Sedgfield in the County Durham Finals at Maiden Castle on Friday 22nd March, along with two students from Woodham, one student from Sedgfield Community College and one student from the Oaks. The team performed extremely well, and it was great to see the team spirit and teamwork between all players from the four schools.

After a couple of draws against Durham, Wear Valley and Teesdale, they reached the final with a 6 - 0 win against Derwentside. eventually winning the final 2 - 0 to be crowned County Champions and taking the Gold medal. Well done to Joel Wraith & Josh Jackson from Greenfield and the students from Woodham, Sedgfield and the Oaks. A fantastic team effort and a brilliant day for all involved.

Water Polo Academy at Woodham



Woodham Sports Academy is about to offer elite coaching in a new sport, water polo. Students are already able to enjoy professional coaching in football, gymnastics, dance, cricket, basketball, table tennis, softball, American Football and swimming. The idea came from Woodham Academy's student Governor, Richie Howe. Richie, who lives in Chilton, is a keen water polo player with Sedgfield Water Polo Club and was keen for his classmates to be able to use Woodham's pool for training. His coach, George Carpenter, will be providing the training. George has been involved with water polo in the region for over 40 years. He played for the Great British men's team in 1984 and 1985, becoming the first player ever to score over 100 goals

in a season. George founded Sedgfield Water Polo Club in 1997. His teams have won many awards, including four National Junior titles. Woodham Academy has a long history of producing successful water polo players. Pictured with Richie is former Woodham student, Angela Winstanley-Smith, who played for Team Great Britain in Women's Water Polo at the London Olympics. Richie was given the honour of carrying the Olympic torch in recognition of his charity work for Diabetes UK. Chair of Governors, Christine Robinson, says "We listen carefully to what our students want. Governors are delighted that Woodham Sports Academy is able to give students the chance to experience such an exciting sport."

Bronze for Greenfield at Finals

Greenfield Yr 8/9 Basketball players gained Bronze medals at the County Finals on the 22nd March. Well done to Max Spittlehouse, Charlie Maxfield, Keiran Kemp (Captain), James Hindhaugh, Sam Dawson, Thomas Burn, Carl Natrass & Ross Parkin (Pictured above).



After losing to the eventual winners Parkview (Chester le Street) by 1 basket, to miss out on a place in the County Final. Greenfield were delighted to come away with a bronze medal, after beating St Bedes 6 - 5, Consett 7 - 0 and Parkside 6 - 0. Overall result - 1st Parkview, 2nd Framwellgate, 3rd Greenfield. Well done lads. Well done to also Greenfield Yr 7 who beat Consett 6 - 4 to finish 5th in the County. Overall result 1st Durham Johnston, 2nd Parkside, 3rd Hermitage.

academy they run at the School. This enabled their students to finish top in Sedgfield and therefore take part in the County

finals, the Wild Cats also ran the finals at Maiden Castle in partnership with Durham County Sport which was a fantastic day.

Greenfield school would like to take this opportunity to thank the Durham Wild Cats for the Basketball

Soup-a-Lunch for £3

St. Elizabeth's Church, Woodham - Come and join us for our monthly 'Soup a Lunch' on Wednesday the 3rd of April at 12:30pm, we have a choice of two soups, two desserts and tea/coffee for only £3.

St. Elizabeth's Church, Woodham - Our monthly Coffee Morning is on Saturday the 6th of April from 10am, we have pies and cakes for sale at very reasonable prices, all welcome.

TOWN COUNCIL SPORTS SKILLS BIKE DRAW WINNER



The Oak Leaf Sports Complex February 2013 Super Sports Skills bike draw winner was Savannah, aged 12, from Newton Aycliffe.

The Mayor Cllr Val Raw presented Savannah with her new bike on Monday 25th March 2013 at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex. For your chance to win a new bike get involved in our Easter 2013 Super Sports Skills programme. Further information can be obtained by visiting our website www.great-aycliffe.gov.co.uk or to book your place, please contact Oak Leaf Reception on 01325 300600.



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Public Notice

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RSPCA Durham and District cats and kittens for adoption, fee applies to cover 1st and 2nd vaccination, also neutering and ID chip. Please Tel 311 215
HAVING problems with benefit forms? These can be solved in your own home. Call 07443 040215
POUNDS for LBs A weight loss programme in Newton Aycliffe is offering residents to win pounds for losing pounds. The Arriba Community Weightloss and Wellness Challenge starts at Agnew Community Centre, Newton Aycliffe, on 18th April at 6.30pm and provides 13 weeks of weight loss education, coaching and support for just £39! Cash prizes worth £600 are awarded at the end of the challenge! Book today call: Jules 07966 968388
TABLE TOP SALE - There will be a table top sale and coffee morning in aid of St Michaels Church Funds in Heighington Village Hall on Saturday 13th April from 10am to 12noon. The price for a table is £7 and bookings may be made through Anne Dobson on 01388 772360 or Val Curry on 01325 312124. Stall holders may set up at 8.30am. Admission 50p

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Athletics News

Last Sunday a handful of runners from Aycliffe Running Club braved the cold to take part in Thirk 10 mile road race. The first half of the race wasn't too bad, but in the second half a really strong headwind slowed the runners down.
Floyd Jones was first home for the club and 1st O/50 in the superb time of 63m:27s and 55th overall. He was followed by Richard Campbell 129th in 68:46 and Tom Porter 134th in 68:55.



For Sale

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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

Trish Kay was suffering with hamstring and achilles problems, but kept going to finish 346th in a commendable time of 83:17. It was the first time Yvonne Williams had raced over 10 miles, and she found the last few miles really hard, but with some encouragement from Trish Kay completed the race in the good time of 1hr:41m:15s.
The previous weekend, prolific cross-country racer Kevin Greenall was the only representative from Aycliffe R.C. competing in the British Masters Cross-Country Championships at Sunderland. Running in the 8k race for veterans up to the age of 64, Kevin ran well to finish 16th O/60 and 136th overall in 41:21.

Property

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2 BEDROOM House, Warburton Close, Newton Aycliffe, £425 per month. Tel: 01325 351212
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Aycliffe Hinch their way Towards Survival

Tom Hinchley's early strike secured a vital victory for Newton Aycliffe at Billingham Synthonia as the Royal Blues moved five points clear of the drop zone. A stunning sixth-minute strike from the former Stockton Town midfielder was the only goal of the game as the Newtonians marked Paul Broom's club-record 150th

appearance with a vital three-points. It was Hinchley's third goal for the club and second against the Synners. He

FIXTURES

- Tuesday 2nd April - South Shields (H) 7.30pm
- Thursday 4th April - Newcastle Benfield (H) 7.30pm
- Saturday 6th April - West Auckland (A) 3pm
- Tuesday 9th April - Spennymoor (H) 7.30pm
- Saturday 13th April - Shildon (H) 3pm

headed a dramatic stoppage-time equaliser at Moore Lane Park back in October, but this strike came much earlier. Only six minutes had passed when he received the ball from right-back Stephen Gibson on the edge of the area and the midfielder - who replaced Fred Woodhouse in the starting line-up as Allan Oliver chose to utilise a three-man midfield - curled a brilliant effort into the top corner to give Aycliffe the lead.

The conditions were terrible - bitterly cold with a strong wind affecting both side's rhythm - but Martin Young used the conditions to his advantage as he let fly from 30 yards but his effort dipped narrowly over the crossbar.

Aycliffe's strong start continued in the 10th minute as Danny Earl's knock down found Danny Lambert but the winger's half-volley was well saved by Tim Griffiths.

Earl had a glorious chance to extend the lead against his former club on the stroke of half-time. He robbed possession from Paul Johnson on the edge of the area but blazed his shot over the bar.

Synners improved after the break and were denied a 52nd-minute equaliser by a terrific block from Josh Knox. Nathan Jameson found Nathan Porritt in the area and the former Middlesbrough man steered the ball towards goal only for Knox - deputising in defence for the suspended Darren Craddock - to prevent the equaliser with a last-gasp challenge.

Then former Newtonian Nathan Wilson was released through on goal but his attempted chip was well saved by Scott Pocklington. Synners wanted a penalty after the hour-mark as Aidan Cattermole tangled with Gibson, but the referee waved away the appeals and Aycliffe avoided conceding a spot-kick for the fourth consecutive game.

Aycliffe were put under severe pressure but the defence - marshalled superbly by John Close and Knox - stood firm. The last chance fell to defender David Abel but his effort was blocked by Knox.

The victory was greeted by delight by the travelling Newtonians, and these celebrations grew louder when news reached the ground that Billingham Town had lost to South Shields, meaning the gap to the bottom three was extended back to five points.

Fist Sign of Spring



This lovely photo was sent in by Brian Dutton. Identified as ERANTIS HYEMALIS it's growing in a raised bed in his rocky. Send your digital photo to syd&newtonnews.co.uk

REMEMBER?

Set Your Clocks Ahead!

EASTER EVENTS AT

The Huntsman

St Elizabeths Close, Woodham Village

Good Friday - 12noon to 12midnight
Karaoke 8.30pm to 12midnight

Easter Saturday - 12noon to 12midnight
Karaoke 8.30pm to 12midnight

Easter Sunday - 12noon to 11.00pm
*Carvery 12noon-2.30pm
Karaoke 8.30pm to 11pm*

Easter Monday - 12noon to 11.00pm

THE IRON HORSE

Emerson Way, Newton Aycliffe

Live Rock Show by

DIRTY LOVE

on Friday 5th April, 8pm

AC/DC, Muse, Queen, ZZ Top, Bon Jovi, Thin Lizzy, Pink Floyd, Guns n Roses, Stereophonics and more

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Obituary

PEARL MITCHIE (nee Wright) - March 19th at St Teresa's Hospice with her family present, Beloved wife of Ron. A dearly loved Mum of Kevin, Alan and Stuart; A dear Mother-in-Law of Sue; Grandmother of Claire, Andrew, Chris, Sonia, Fiona, Rebecca and Rachel; Great Grandmother of Bethany, Krystal and Joshua. Would friends please meet at Wear Valley Crematorium on Thursday 4th April at 2.00pm for the Service. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for St Teresa's Hospice may be left in the collection plate at the crematorium. **FRANK SWINBURNE** aged 71. (24th March 2013). Died peacefully at home after a short illness. Beloved Husband of Pauline; Dad to Diane and Frank; Brother to Billy; Father-in-Law to Kevin and doting Grandad to Hannah and Luke. Service to be held at St Clare's Church on Wednesday 3rd April at 1.15pm. With special thanks to Dr Jones, District Nurses and McMillan Carers

Thank You

MARGARET BURKE would like to give a huge thank you to all family and friends for cards, gifts, flowers, drinks, cake and good wishes received on her 80th birthday

In Memoriam

John Robert Farmer

2nd April

They say it's a beautiful journey from the old world to the new, someday I will make that journey, which will lead me straight to you. And when I reach that garden, in which there is no pain, I will put my arms around you and we will never part again. Miss and love you John, your loving Wife Mary xxx Dad. It's lonely here without you, we miss you more each day. For life is not the same to us since you were called away. To your resting place we visit and our thoughts with you we share, but no one knows our heartache when we turn and leave you there. Miss you Dad. Love from Paula, Brett, David and Christine xxx Grandad. When we look up at the sky and see the twinkling stars, we know that you are with us and watching from afar. Lots of love from Jack, Jayden, Harry and Oliver xxxx

Birthday Remembrance

Theresa Williams



30/3/1938 - 15/6/2012
Happy birthday, your first away from us. Missing you, loving you always. Husband Jack, Brother Frank and all your family. Also 57th Wedding Anniversary on 31st March 2013 xxxxx

DES WALKER 29th March. Our birthday wish must be a prayer, this special day we cannot share, but in our hearts you are always there. Love always, Wife Julie and family xxx

TINA ALLAN Birthday Remembrance on 30th March. Cherished memories of you a very special Daughter on your birthday. Forever in our hearts. Dearly loved and missed. Mum, Jacque and Christopher xxx

KEITH WILSON Happy birthday, 1st April 1950. Thinking of you today and always. Love from Pauline, Ian and Family

GRANT EDGAR A darling Son on his birthday, 27th March. It's sometimes hard to know why some things happen as they do, for so much joy and happiness was centered around you. It seems so hard to comprehend that you are no longer here, but all the happy memories will help to keep you near. You are thought about with pride, Son, with each mention of your name, death cannot change a single thing. The love will still remain. Lots of love, Mam, Paul, Lee, Andrew and family xxxxx

RONALD MAYOH Wish we could have said happy birthday on the 28th Ronny. Miss you so much. Rose and family

Margaret Kelly

24th March 2009

Forever in my thoughts. Love you always. Paddy xxxx

David Smith

28th March 2011

Our hearts still ache with sadness, silent tears still flow. For what it meant to love you Dave, no one will ever know. All our love, Ann, Emily and Claudia

JUDY COLLEY 27-03-2004. In loving memory of a very special lady. Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts. **JEAN COOK** Fondest memories of a very dear friend Love, Pat, John and Family **JEAN COOK** 30th March 2009. Treasured memories of a very special Wife, Mam and Grandma. Loved and remembered every day. Love from all the family xxx **FREDERICK JONES** 24-3-2012. 12 months since you left us, but warm memories always in our hearts and thoughts. Missing you, but know you are at peace and always with us. Chris, Julie, Sophie, Michael, Tony and Luke xxxx

NEWTON NEWS

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Congratulations

Tom and Ann Sutton



Happy 40th Wedding Anniversary
Mum and Dad hope you have a great night. Love from your Daughters, Son-in-Laws, Grandchildren, family & friends xx

Garry Parker



50 TODAY! Happy 50th Birthday

29th March 2013

You're getting old now babe . . . LOL. Hope you have a fab day and enjoy all of your weekend. Lots of love always to my soulmate. Love, Vicki xxxxxx
The best Daddy in the world is 50! We hope you have the best birthday Daddy. We love you lots. Love from Analise, Jack, Ashton-Bailey and Harvey Jay xxxx

Emma Taylor



Happy 16th Birthday

29th March 2013

Wishing our beautiful Daughter an amazing 16th birthday. Lots of love, Mam, Dad and Nathan. Also lots of love from Nana, Grandad, Uncle David and Joanne xxx

Hannah Bain



Teenager at Last

31st March 2013

To a special Daughter on her 13th birthday. Hope you have a great day. Love from Mam, Dad and Nathan xxx

Garry Parker



Happy Birthday Garry
29th March 2013
You are an old man now! 50 Today. Lots of love, Mam and Dad

Mel West



Happy 60th Birthday

30th March 1953

Happy birthday to a wonderful Husband, Dad and Grandad. Hope you have a great day. Love from Eleanor and all the family xxxx

ANN HOBSON 31st March 2013. Happy 50th birthday Ann. Have a great day. Lots of love, Bri xxx

JADE COOK It seems only yesterday we announced your birth. On the 30th March 2013 you will be thirteen, so happy birthday teenager! Lots of love, Nanna, Grandad and Woolf from Teddy xxx

TONY THOMPSON Happy 85th birthday on 4th April. No card, but lots of memories. Your loving Wife Grace **THOMPSON**, Kiara Jade. Happy 13th birthday. Teenager at last. Lots of love always, Mam and Dad xxx **THOMPSON**, Kiara Jade. Happy 13th birthday to the best Sister ever. Love, Imogen xxx

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£1.5m Soccer Factory Moves a Step Closer

Ambitious plans to build a state-of-the-art indoor soccer arena in Newton Aycliffe have moved a step closer to reality.

Plans for the £1.5m facility, to be housed on Aycliffe Business Park, were first revealed mid-way through last year, following the granting of planning consent. There has been a delay in the programme due to difficulties in sourcing private investment funding. But the project is now back on track and work is expected to start soon.

Dan Lewis, managing director of The Soccer Factory, explained "We had a couple of local individuals who had agreed to provide the funding we required to open the facility. Unfortunately that didn't materialise, and as such has set us back slightly. "However, this delay has allowed us to build a stronger

structure to the business, and to refine the business model to ensure the company is more sustainable. "We now have funding agreed, and are working through the process of finalising the new private equity we require, which will hopefully mean we will be back on track to start the refurbishment of the property very soon."

The Soccer Factory will provide seven 3g five-a-side courts, as well as a brand new health and fitness suite, multipurpose studio, café/ bar and sports injury clinic.

It promises to bring at least 15 new jobs to the town, and along with other leisure facilities on the Business Park ensure Aycliffe becomes a popular destination for people from the whole of the South West Durham as well as further afield.

Dan, who is general manager of Ebac Northern League

first division club Newton Aycliffe, added: "We're really excited to be opening the first of our centres on Aycliffe Business Park.

"We think the combination of the second largest business park in the North-East, as well as the size of the town, coupled with the strong sports history in the area makes it an ideal location.

"We have worked very closely with some excellent companies on the Park all ready to provide some of the marketing materials, and look forward to welcoming the business and general community through the doors".

You can follow the progress of the project on Twitter @TheSoccerFactory and Facebook www.facebook.com/TheSoccerFactoryLtd, or for more details contact Dan Lewis directly djl@thesoccerfactoryltd.co.uk

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Sports Event for Primary Schools



On Tuesday 19th March, Greenfield school KS3 Sports leaders ran a fantastic Yr 4 multisports event for their Cluster Primary schools. This was the 25th Primary sports event hosted by Greenfield school in partnership with Sedgfield SSP for local Primary Schools since September. The year 4 students showed some excellent skills and team work. They competed against each other in a wide range of sporting challenges, including athletic challenges, table tennis, tennis, netball, basketball, football, golf and boccia. Pictured above Yr 7, 8 & 9 sports leaders from Greenfield, the Yr 4 runners up from St Josephs and the overall trophy winners Byerley Park. It was great fun for all who took part, and a number of students gained special certificates for demonstrating the Olympic values of Friendship, Respect, Determination and Excellence.

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