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This year the PCP celebrate 15 years of 'improving health, well-being and learning for all' and will be launching a "Friend" scheme to thank people for their continued support.

PCP was established as a registered charity and company limited by guarantee in 1998, it runs the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe. The organisation was initially set up to support local people who may have become disadvantaged through caring responsibilities, age or ill health. Fifteen years on people from all across the North East travel to use some of the charity's high quality services which include therapies and treatments, a hydrotherapy pool, community learning courses and specialist exercise classes such as back



care. Admiring comments from PCP service users over the years has encouraged PCP to launch a 'Friends of PCP' scheme which will provide additional support and access to the many activities that go on within the Pioneering Care Centre and out in the community.

PCP Supporters will receive monthly e-bulletins featuring items of interest, news and events, invitations, discounts and promotions. It will also give people more say regarding current and future PCP services. Jane Hartley, Chief Executive of PCP says "The scheme will give us a greater appreciation of the needs of our beneficiaries and how we can support them. Their allegiance will also help us in our work, as the more supporters we have the more weight we have with people who allocate funds.

Informed supporters are also important in spreading our message and convincing others to think about improving their own health and wellbeing." There is a way, big or small, in which everyone can help PCP achieve its mission 'to improve health, wellbeing and learning for all'. You can

become a 'Friend of the PCP' by subscribing on the website at pcp.uk.net and clicking on the 'Support PCP' page. You can also befriend them on Facebook, follow them on Twitter or donate through their Local Giving page. Further information from the Pioneering Care Centre, Carers' Way, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham DL5 4SF tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net www.pcp.uk.net.

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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, i.e. 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

Saturday 13th April - "Tony Little Band"

Bio: Tony has fronted many bands and has undertaken world tours with legendary musicians including 60's super group 'The Animals', 'Oliver/Dawson's Saxon', 'The Tygers of Pang Tang', 'Strangeways' and American rock band 'Little/Rush and Thrall'. He has also been produced by Kevin Elson, record producer for the legendary American band 'Journey'. Reviews: 'The room was full, and the sound was deafening with a mixed bag of people being entertained with the likes of Toto, Rainbow, The Cult, Bon Jovi, Bryan Adams, Judas Priest, Led Zep, Stereophonics, Whitesnake, AC/DC and Boston - my favourite 'More than a feeling'. Jon on bass/keyboards seems to be having a good time in the now settled line up; Ade looking Ice Cool out front with the shades on; Tony being his cheeky self cracking on to the crowd. Tony and co always deliver the goods and he has a cracking sense of humour. They sound even better now their set list has been re-vamped' One of the most talked about bands on the circuit.

Saturday 20th April - "Mugshot"

Bio: A four piece band from the South Shields area playing modern and classic rock covers by bands such as Bon Jovi, Chili Peppers, Kings of Leon, Metallica, Muse, U2, Van Halen and Whitesnake to name but a few. 'We hadn't seen this band before so we didn't know what to expect and boy did they rock The Hearts!! Something for everyone in the set that had the dancers on their feet, the one's I remember were U2, Whitesnake, Killers, Kings of Leon, Tom Petty, Nirvana, Guns n Roses, The Cult, Radiohead... etc, all played and sung brilliantly. If you haven't already seen this band, go and see them, you won't be disappointed. www.myspace.com/mugshotrockband

For more information on bands go to
www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034
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SPREADING FRIENDSHIP



During the last three weeks, Mr. Lumb, Deputy Headteacher at Woodham Academy, has visited all of the primary schools in Newton Aycliffe to talk about the importance of friendship.

The key message to all of the youngsters was the importance of friends and making sure we have people that we can trust and help.

All of the schools undertook a poster competition with Easter Eggs as prizes.

Pictured is the winning Year 5 student from Sugar Hill Primary with her poster.

No Access to MP's Office for Disabled



We have been informed that wheelchair access

to the Constituency office will not be possible for at least the next four weeks. Any Constituents who were intending to come to the office during this period should call 01325 321603 to arrange a home visit. We are sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause

Red Cross Syria Appeal

The British Red Cross Shop is appealing for goods to sell through our chain of shops to support the ongoing Syria Crisis appeal such as quality clothing, books and unwanted gifts.

Money raised from any goods expressly donated in support of Syria, and sold during the period of our appeal will go towards the British Red Cross Syria Crisis Appeal.

Any stock that is unsalable or remains unsold after this period will be recycled or sold to help raise funds for British Red Cross work, wherever and whenever we are needed.

For more information see: www.redcross.org.uk

Residents Association Runs Adult Courses

The Horndale Residents Association held a Food Handling Course on Wednesday 20th March in partnership with Skill Share. Eight residents took part in the course which gave them a Level 2 certificate, this will enable some to further their employment skills and one person has just started work in the pub trade, others work in the volunteer sector providing food.

The course was free and the Association feels strongly we need to help people move forward and better their skills. We will advertise further training courses at our monthly meetings. Most of the courses are free and range from First Aid to Business Studies and the Volunteer Sector.



Jumble Sale

Spring is here and a new outfit would be fine. We are all looking after the pennies so a bargain is essential. Ladies & Gents fashions. Children's Clothes Accessories & Bric a Brac Come and discover all that we have to offer at our Jumble Sale at St Elizabeth's Church, Woodham Village on Saturday 20th April at 10am. Free admission and refreshments available.

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Election Candidates ARUN CHANDRAN

Arun Chandran has lived in Newton Aycliffe over 50 years (West Ward over 30 years) active in local politics since 1974 age 16. He was elected at the age of 25 to the Town Council in 1983, and served for over 13 years holding the chairmanship on the Environment, Parks, Recreation and Finance committees and was elected unopposed as Mayor in 1991 at the Age of 32.

He reformed the Council's finances and procedures, initiated many ideas and has a proven record of experience and achievement, from preventing the Blue Bridge from being demolished in 1992 to having a Tree Preservation order made on the North Agnew Plantation. He also forced British Rail to rebuild Codling Bridge which was a public right of way and led many campaigns including Ambulance Station closure, and saving The Cubby. Arun was first in proposing OAP trips in 1984, got Woodham Community Association its freehold in 1987, proposed Safety surfaces in all our Parks in 1988, persuaded the Town Council to take over the deed of transfer for the Aycliffe Nature Park (working with Syd Howarth of the Rotary Club). He set up the first Crime Prevention



Panel in Newton Aycliffe in 1988 to name but a few, and served as a school governor for 10 years at Woodham Burn School.

Arun is currently on the Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre Management Committee, and is Secretary of the Great Aycliffe Residents' Association which recently led a successful campaign in getting the new Police & Crime Commissioner to commit to rebuilding the new police station in the Town Centre. He attends Pact (Police and Community Together) meetings and Residents Association meetings. He believes that the quality of our Environment and combating anti social behaviour should be a high priority.

RAY BOWMAN

Ray Bowman first moved to Newton Aycliffe with his parents in the early fifties when he was 17yrs old. He worked for Tarslag when they were building the Blue Bridge.

On his return from National Service, he worked for Aycliffe Development Corporation constructing Shafto Way. He moved away from Newton Aycliffe to run his own haulage company returning to the West Ward area in 1998.

In 2002, Ray spent several years helping to run the Junior Neighbourhood Watch Disco at the Southerne Club, providing heated food in the kitchen and a tuck shop.

He was involved with



setting up playgroups for the young people in his local area and has been active in the community with the young people at Silverdale Community House.

In 2007 Ray became a Town Councillor, a role he carries out by attending meetings and helping members of the public with their problems.

Election Candidates Defying Purdah

Dear Sir,
The Labour Party announced their Manifesto in the Newton News on 22nd March which was unsigned.

Also a Labour candidate was in a photo which appeared in an article against the Benefit Cuts - all I believe against "Purdah" rules which says there should be no self-promotion during an election period.

The rules clearly state proactive publicity involving candidates must cease and they must not be involved in any controversial issues. Care should be taken on the

use and content of websites and all responses to events and enquiries should be factual and non Party political.

They are asked to avoid proactive events and if they do need to attend, candidates should not be involved.

Requests for advice and information from candidates or their Parties should be treated with even handedness.

Great Aycliffe Town Clerk has issued these rules to all candidates, but it appears some sitting councillors are failing to adhere to them.

Maud Gray

EDITOR: We asked a Labour Party member to respond to this letter and received the following reply:

The guidance in the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity in the pre-election period, says that "a local authority" must not at any time publish any material that in whole or in part appears to be designed to affect support for a political party or a candidate.

The restrictions apply six weeks before an election and up to and including the day of the election. Councillors can attend events but the same restrictions apply about quoting them in any council publicity. Councillors can create their own publicity, the restrictions only apply about quoting them in any council publicity.

Individual councillors can generate their own publicity during this period. The restrictions only apply to official council organised publicity including press releases or events. The rules in the councillor and officer protocols about use of council facilities must be observed.

The Elected Members Code of Conduct contains a general obligation upon councillors to have regard to the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity. Councillors involved in the election will not be quoted in proactive news releases issued by their Council.

The Code of Conduct covers areas of individual behaviour such as Councillors not abusing their position or not misusing their authority's resources, it does not apply to Candidates or Parties. This means that any current County or Town Councillor can be called Councillor and can have any publicity in a newspaper, as long as they do not purport to be speaking or acting on behalf of their Council

The only restrictions are that the County Council or Town

Council itself as corporate bodies, and staff and facilities should not be seen in the election purdah period as giving publicity to Councillors seeking re election . . . thus Councillor John Clare has not broken any rules whatsoever, nor the Labour Party nor Newton News. Free speech continues.

Arun M Chandran



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

**Aycliffe Village Ofsted Outstanding*

Police Ask Drivers to Take More Care



“PC 2688 Kathryn Pudney of Newton Aycliffe requests the help and support of all Middridge residents, in particular those who live on Northside. It appears that vehicles are driving and parking on the grassed areas of Middridge Village green. The result of this inconsiderate ‘off-road usage’ is that the grassed areas are being churned up, leaving an unsightly mud track! PC Pudney urges residents, and also any visitors to the village to respect, and take pride in Middridge. Please

be considerate to other road users by not parking in a way which causes an obstruction, or makes it difficult for drivers to pass. It is particularly important that enough room is left on the road for the general waste and recycling vehicles to pass freely down Northside on Thursdays. PC Kathryn Pudney would like to hear views of residents and visitors regarding this matter. Email; Kathryn.pudney@durham.pnn.police.uk or by calling 101 and asking to speak to PC 2688.”

HELPING HAND FOR AYCLIFFE FAMILIES

Dear Sir,
These are very exciting times for the Helping Hands Team and we are sure you share our hope to see many more people in our local community reached with practical help to those facing financial crisis. We are so encouraged by the generosity of people like you that we have already met. The Helping Hands Project is asking Newton News readers who have a wardrobe bulging with clothes that they seldom wear to be invited to ‘spring clean your wardrobe’ and donate new/nearly new children and adults clothing to our charity. Helping Hands project support Families and individuals in crisis where members have lost their jobs, are struggling to pay basic living costs or have other personal circumstances that leave them in need of our support. We are sure you will be as moved as we were when you read just one of the messages we received this week “I don’t know how to thank you all. When I got home and saw what was in the boxes I cried. As the saying goes - so there is light at the end of the tunnel” With your help we envisage the Helping Hands project will support 300 families in 2013 and already we are well on our way to meeting that target. If you would like to donate your new/nearly new clothing to the Helping Hands project then please ring 07936431262 for us to arrange collection. Alternatively, if you are reading this and need our help then please ring the same number. We look forward to keeping you up to date with the progress we are making through the Newton News Thank you in advance for your support. Helping Hands Team

Livin Demolish Garages to Build Houses

Dear Sir,
Tenants who use seven garages at Linden Place have today been informed they have to vacate them by 19th April as they are to be demolished to make way for 4 new houses. These garages are all occupied and Linden Place has lots of cars that have to park on the road. We have a bit of green which is constantly used in the summer and Livin are also going to take this away. Can they just decide to build where they want without consultation with tenants prior to building? At my end of the street there are quite a few house owners and I know these property owners are not happy. Anne Kemp

Livin Reply . . .

“Two of the seven garages at Linden Place are currently unoccupied and require costly repair work to be let. We have experienced very low level demand for garages in this area for many years and have a number of empty garage blocks in close proximity to Linden Place. Importantly all affected licensees of the garages in Linden Place will be given the opportunity to apply to rent a garage from neighbouring sites. “However, it is also the case that there is a huge shortage in affordable housing in Newton Aycliffe with over 2,000 people currently registered for this type of

housing. Because of this we carefully select sites that offer development potential for new homes and the low demand for garages at Linden Place marks it as a site that could offer much needed affordable homes to local people. We will always consult with local residents regarding development plans and we will always include consultation responses as part of our planning applications to Durham County Council. In this particular case we will, subject to planning permission, ensure the new homes we build are available to let at affordable rent under a local lettings policy that gives priority to current residents of Newton Aycliffe.”
Ian Brown
Head of Development & Allocations for livin

Richest Man In Darlington

Aycliffe Village Local History Society will meet in Aycliffe Village Hall at 7pm on Wednesday 10 April when Charles McNab will speak about ‘William Barningham - the richest man in Darlington’. All are welcome. Members £1 non members £2, at the door. Details from 01325 301093.

New Art Gallery at Woodham Academy



Woodham’s Year 11 Art & Design Students, together with site staff and contractors have all been engaged in frenzied activity. The aim was to have the school’s new gallery area fully functioning with its first exhibition of student work before the Easter break. Controlled assessments have taken place following the examination briefs and students are putting the final touches to development work in their portfolios. A spacious area adjoining the Art Department has been completely refurbished to

provide the best possible surroundings to exhibit the work to its best effect. Lynsey Tait, Woodham’s Head of Art, said, “After the success of last year’s Art Exhibition in Woodham’s Performing Arts Studio, we felt we needed a space to display student work all year long. I am delighted that the work has been completed so quickly. We look forward to being able to present the fantastic work of Year 11 to visiting examiners and then being able to open the gallery for public viewing during our annual exhibition on Tuesday June 25th.”

100 EGGS COLLECTED TO HELP HOSPICE

Dear Sir,
You published that Lifestyle Fitness were collecting Easter Eggs in aid of St Theresa’s Hospice and readers may remember us doing the same thing last year when 80 eggs were collected for the Hospice. With your help, the generosity of Newtonians and members of Lifestyle Fitness, we have collected over 100 eggs. These went to the Hospice before the Easter weekend which helped this fabulous cause immensely. I would like to thank the Newton News and everyone involved with the collection of the eggs; I wish I could name them all but there are of course far too many. Anyone who received a free pass to use our facilities can do so as and when they like, but it would be most



helpful if they could contact us on 03000 266 446 (Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre) or by emailing me on alister.ruddick@lifestylefitness.co.uk, prior to coming down so we can be sure to accommodate the end user of the pass. Alister Ruddick

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Swimming in Memory of Grandparent



Elizabeth Reeve and her 11 year old son James from Aycliffe are entering a huge nationwide Swimathon on 28th April to raise money for

Marie Curie Cancer Care. They will dive into the world's biggest fundraising swim at The Dolphin Centre as one of over 600 pools across the UK. The Swimathon sees thousands of swimmers challenge themselves through 5k, 2.5k and 1.5k individual challenges or Team 5k/1.5k challenges to provide care and support for terminally ill people. The Reeves are hoping to raise at least £100. "My children lost their Grandad to Cancer 4 years ago and we are all still finding it very hard without him. Any money raised towards helping cancer victims is an amazing thing in my eyes", said Elizabeth.

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Council Help to Brighten Communities

Residents in County Durham are being encouraged to get involved in an initiative aimed at brightening up communities. The Royal Horticultural Society's It's Your Neighbourhood campaign is aimed at volunteer-led groups who work to clean up their area and make it more attractive using plants and flowers. It's a free non-competitive scheme which gives smaller community groups the chance to take part in the wider Britain in Bloom initiative. Groups who are successful in obtaining a grant will be supported by Durham County Council's Civic Pride Team in developing and implementing their improvement scheme. For further information people can contact the Civic Pride Team on 03000 26 1000 or email civicpride@durham.gov.uk

Major Art Project at St. John's



Year 8 students from St John's School, many of whom live in Newton Aycliffe are enjoying a major creative arts' activity, in the form of a literacy project, Roots in Our Community. The Ernest Cook Trust awarded the school some funding towards a project linking literacy with environmental awareness and rural crafts. All classes are having lively sessions with performance poets Jeff Price and Ruth Dixon, creating haikus for burial in a poetry capsule, for display, and for distribution as illustrated postcards. Forty students have enjoyed workshops with artist Serena Hodgson constructing butterflies, dragonflies, spiders and bees in willow. With artist Susan Warlock another forty students have demonstrated their creativity recycling old

books, producing not only art works in their own right but stimuli for storytelling. Twenty students are learning the art of felt-making with artist Jackie Stonehouse and next term two other groups will have the opportunity to try their hand at dry stone-walling with craftsman Steven Bainbridge. In April there will be a series of falconry presentations and displays at school. At a later date outings are planned to places of environmental interest locally and further afield. Students have been fully focused on the activities offered, have appreciated the opportunity to learn new, unusual skills and expressed great pride in what they have created. Now serious thought needs to be given to how and where to display their wonderful work!

GENEROUS AYCLIFFE RESPONSE TO BABY KNITWEAR APPEAL



Members of 'New Friends New Places' Noelen Jones, Dot Alderson, Dorothy Bowman, Eva Bage and Mavis Taylor are shown with some of the 500 African baby jumpers knitted by readers responding to the

recent appeal in the Newton News. Dorothy Bowman set the target and would like to thank everybody for helping. "The response has been fantastic and on behalf of the babies in Africa thank you. The newborn will now go home from hospital in warm knitted garments rather than wrapped in a newspaper," said Dorothy. Groups who supported the appeal include St Marys Church and the Mormon Church, but a lot of individuals helped and delivered their knitting to the Youth Centre. Dorothy personally visited 28 houses to pick up the knitting.

SCHOOL DINNERS NOT WHAT THEY USED TO BE!



Do you have happy memories about your School Dinners - or was it all semolina, tapioca and lumpy rice pudding? At St John's School and Sixth Form College in Bishop Auckland, school dinners have been given a totally new image by the in house catering team, headed by Marcus Baker a former RAF Chef. Marcus has introduced a varied menu, a carvery one day a week, hot soup and a roll in the Sixth Form Bistro and many new and exciting additions. He also endeavours to use local produce wherever possible.

Comments such as "much improved and larger portions" and "more choice" are being made by students and staff on a regular basis. Marcus said "I find it so rewarding to see people enjoying their food, whether it's one of the new meal deals we offer, a slice of pizza or something light or healthy, there is something for all tastes. I can honestly say that I'm enjoying the challenge of making lunchtimes something that people look forward to and there's plenty more to come - you will just have to wait and see"

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New Bungalows - New Lease of Life



Lee Barras, home choice advisor for livin with Jeannie Reid in her new bungalow

A couple from Newton Aycliffe are celebrating after moving into the first purpose-built bungalows by homes and communities organisation livin. Mr & Mrs Reid applied for a new build bungalow after Mr Reid began suffering from arthritis resulting in him struggling to remain in the couples terraced home.

The bungalows which occupy a former under-used garage site involved investment of over £300,000 including funding from the Homes and Communities Agency. Built in partnership with Southdale the bungalows have been designed specifically for older people and those with mobility problems.

Jeannie Reid, tenant, said: "Our bungalow has given us a new lease of life. Everything is so much more accessible. We can enjoy sitting in the beautiful garden and we can get Joe's mobility scooter out so he can go to the library and visit

friends. The walk in shower has made life so much easier too."

Ian Brown, head of development and allocations for livin, said: "We received over 200 bids for the properties so we know this type of development is in high demand. We are making good progress with a number of new build developments in Newton Aycliffe and the wider communities and will continue to let properties to people in the most housing need."

The properties are part of a wider investment project by livin to build up to 350 new homes by March 2016. The organisation has also recently commenced build on a 22 new home development on the former Greenfields site in Newton Aycliffe as well as sites in Ferryhill and Fishburn. To find out more about the new build developments including how to apply for a home visit www.livin.co.uk

£4000 GRANT FOR AYCLIFFE CHARITY

Lifeline Community Action received a grant for £4000.00 from Sherburn House towards their 'Helping Hands' project. Alwyn White Helping Hands' Project Leader says 'This grant will enable us to get resources to the value of about £28000 because we only have to pay for handling costs of the products.

We are absolutely delighted that we will be able to support another 50 families in the Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas. Our target this year is to help 300 people." The Helping Hands project has been developed to support people in crisis living in the Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas. The project supports them through the

provision of basic goods such as cleaning products, food, clothing, blankets, personal hygiene products etc. We access these products and using volunteers, we get these supplies to those who desperately need them.

Individuals and families apply to us using a very simple form to access the support, and then our volunteers work to distribute the goods they need. Redundancy, illness, benefit delay, domestic violence, debt, family breakdown and paying for the additional costs of heating during winter are just some of the reasons why people find themselves in crisis. If you are in crisis please phone the Helping Hands team 07936431262

Easter Competition at The Cubby



On Easter Monday The Cubby Egg Competition was judged by Rev Julie Wing on her day off and the winner was Brooke aged 7 from First for Kids Out of School Club.

All entrants were of high standard but there can only be one winner and all received a prize just for entering. Well done to all!

Pensioner's Bag Stolen

Dear Sir,
This Tuesday at 2.15pm I was assisting a friend to board the town bus near the Leisure Centre and I forgot to pick up a second Tesco bag. I returned to the spot 10 minutes later only to find the bag empty. I hope the thief is happy with themselves as they definitely have no conscience. There is a CCTV camera in this road but I will not contact the police as they are busy people. As a 71 year old pensioner I can ill afford this loss but I'm glad that my purse was in my trolley as this would have been taken too.
Ann Dunn

Woodham Connects With Global Audience



As the teaching profession continues to look for inspiration and ideas to continually improve and raise the bar, many teachers are turning to each other for the answers.

Where better to get the magic formula than from fellow teachers who are successful practitioners in their own right? And with physical education recently being on the radar of the government, there had never been a better time for PE teacher and assistant head teacher at Woodham Academy, Jon Tait, to organise a global gathering of PE staff.

Although local TeachMeets have taken place before, including an incredibly successful event at Woodham last year, the idea was to widen the catchment to include teachers from the length and breadth of the UK and across the world using the power of the internet.

Teachers from as far away as Australia and Dubai signed up to deliver an online presentation. This event epitomised what is fast becoming a revolution in teacher training and professional development. TeachMeets are springing up everywhere, attracting teachers from all subjects and teaching groups, all with the desire to learn from each other and share good practice. Add modern technology to this and you suddenly have a potential global audience with endless collaboration possibilities! Utilising Adobe Connect technology, presenters were able to showcase their ideas easily, sharing their desktops, presentations and screencasts. This proved to be extremely successful with PE teachers from around the world who were able to take away some real gems they could use the very next day to improve their own practice. The event was also followed by hundreds of other teachers on Twitter.

Due to the popularity of the event, last week, the PE department at Woodham hosted a PE department from Sheffield for the day who came to look at the outstanding practice on display. Their day culminated with their participation in the International TeachMeet. Organiser of the event, Jon Tait, said "The ability to connect with teachers from around the world and share outstanding practice is superb. It's

great to know that our students at Woodham are benefitting from this desire to continuously look for the best ideas and practices from around the world and by transferring these to the classroom and the field".

FUN FAIR IN TOWN

A Theme Park style FUN FAIR has arrived in NEWTON AYCLIFFE opening to the public on THURS 5th April until SAT 13th of April weeknights 6pm weekends 2pm, There are fun rides to suit all ages and families from Newton Aycliffe are more than welcome, The FAIR is sited on Simpature Way next to the Iron Horse.

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EASTER EGG COMPETITION



Pupils and parents were invited to take part in Vane Road School's annual Easter Egg Competition and staff were overwhelmed by their creative and imaginative designs. Generous prizes were donated by the friends of the school and these were presented after an amazing performance of the Easter Story by class 11.

Countryside for Trees

Dear Sir,
All these letters about trees - I think these "Huggers" should have one near their house which cuts out the sun from the garden and blocks light through the windows and then has leaves to cope with in the Autumn, blocking drains etc.
And, now we are to get trees back in the new town centre layout producing more claims from people slipping on wet leaves. It will make a change from falling over paving stones. The pigeons will also have somewhere to perch and make more mess!
The only place for trees is in the countryside and forests where they look beautiful.
Mrs Chilman.

COLOURFUL CREATIONS



Open Art Exhibition

The artworks are arriving, and we are getting ready to install this year's Open Art exhibition in The Greenfield Gallery. This year we have over 130 artworks by more than 60 local artists, on a vast range of subjects, we are looking forward to seeing the final exhibition! To launch this fantastic exhibition we are holding a preview event and craft fair on Wednesday 10th April from 6-8pm. The event is free, and we hope that local people will join us in celebrating the local artists in the exhibition, and the crafters selling work at the fair.

Thank you to those who have submitted work for the exhibition, and our fantastic volunteers for helping install the work!

We started the Easter holiday festivities at Greenfield Arts today with artist Paul Belcher helping us decorate our trees with faces! The colourful creations brighten up this dull weather, and even convinced the sun to come out this afternoon. Thank you to those young people and their parents who braved the cold and wet weather to join us for the session.

There are still places left on some of our activities in the second week of the holidays, for more information please contact us (01325 379048) or visit our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

Knitted Bible Comes to Aycliffe

The Knitted Bible grew out of a project at St George's United Reformed Church in Hartlepool. Over the past two years it has attracted countless visitors - and even made Tyne Tees TV headline news on Easter Day when first put on display!

Now the KNITTED BIBLE is coming to Burnhill Way Methodist Church from 19th to 22nd April. Local schools will be visiting and refreshments will be available

Skydive for Charity



Brian Green, (left) and Richard Ord will cement their 25 year friendship by skydiving from 10,000 feet in May in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. Richard Ord, 49 from Ferryhill and Brian Green, 42 from Newton Aycliffe, have been friends for 25 years and the two pals are about to take part in one of the most memorable events in their long friendship. For Richard's birthday, the two are each going to take part in their first tandem skydive from 10,000 feet for charity. Richard is a Collection Driver for Royal Mail in Durham and Brian is Managing Director at HSEQ Smart Ltd in Shildon. The skydive takes place on 17th May at Shotton Airfield, weather permitting. Richard has chosen the charity in memory of his father, while Brian supports the charity in memory of his grandparents. "It is going to be one of my most memorable events," said Richard, "I'm so looking forward to it and it's all for a worthy cause." "It's going to be a great challenge and it's such an excellent charity to be raising funds for." The pair have placed sponsorship forms for the public to sign at the Ferryhill Community Hub and anyone who would like to donate via the internet can also donate to either Brian or Richard via their Justgiving pages. <https://www.justgiving.com/briangreenskydive/> and <https://www.justgiving.com/Richard-Ord-Skydive/>

SPELLING BEE BUZZ AT WOODHAM

Year 7 students from Woodham Academy joined students from schools across the North East to put their multi-lingual spelling skills to the test. Year 7 students at Woodham Academy have been mastering the art of speedy spelling in French. They have been competing in class and school competitions to find the 4 top spellers in Year 7. On Tuesday 26th March the school champions: Charlotte Lough, Euan Wilson, Lucy Ratcliffe and Josh Blackburn represented Woodham Academy at the regional final at Sunderland University. For this regional final, the students were provided with a list of 150 words to learn and the Regional Final gave them the chance to compete against students from other schools for the first time. A memory test and a speaking competition rolled into one, 11 year-old students had one minute to spell aloud as many memorised words as they could in French. Hearing in one language and speaking in another is one of the skills perfected by interpreters, known as 'switching'. The students thoroughly enjoyed this exciting challenge. Mr Coley, Head of Modern Foreign Languages at Woodham said: "It was such great fun! Our students did exceptionally well and I'm very proud of them all. They worked very hard and have been thoroughly committed."

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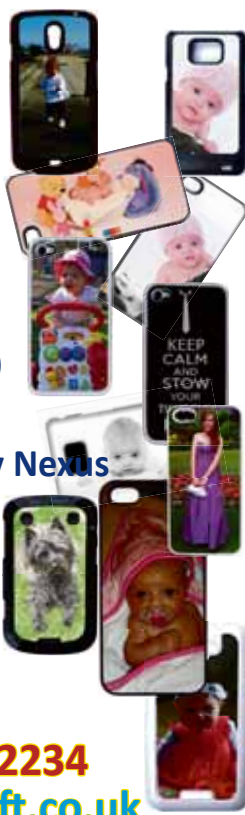
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The school is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We want to develop a more diverse workforce and we positively welcome applications from all sections of the community. Applicants with disabilities will be invited for interview if the essential job criteria are met.

Please contact Mrs Lorraine Cox at the school for an application pack.

Closing Date: 9.00am Tuesday 16th April 2013



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



Woodham Academy

Spanish Students Visit St. John's



19 Spanish students and 2 staff from Colegio del Salvador Catholic School in Zaragoza, Spain joined host students' families from St John's School and Sixth Form College for a week in March. This event was organised by Mr P Robertson, Subject Learning Co-ordinator of MFL, supported by a range of staff from within the school. The students stayed in homes all around the area from Bishop Auckland, Shildon,

Newton Aycliffe to Crook, Stanhope and Frosterley. St John's set up a range of visits during the stay, including Beamish Museum, St James' Park, Durham Cathedral and also a weekend trip to the Lake District. However, due to the British weather and consequent road closures, the Lake District trip had to be cancelled. This led to frantic re-organising to ensure that the weather did not take anything away

from the experience. Mrs L Maddison Subject Learning Co-ordinator of Technology came to the rescue organising a range of activities which were enjoyed by all. Host families arranged a variety of activities, swimming, bowling, sledging, lazerquest, etc, to ensure the students had a fulfilling and enjoyable visit to the North East. All have commented on the huge success of the exchange and how much it has helped their children to appreciate a different language and that despite some language barriers we are in all global citizens.

Students built new friendships through sharing of culture and language and the whole experience was an unforgettable one for the school community. The tearful goodbyes at the farewell party and then Newcastle airport showed the impact the experience has had on St John's students and their new friends from Spain. The feedback received from host parents has been incredible, thanking the school for an unforgettable experience that has enhanced not only the love of Spanish but also a new found fondness of their local community. Students and families have got on so well that many are planning to spend holidays together in Spain this summer and Spanish students were desperate to stay longer.

The Spanish teachers were blown away by the welcome by St John's school, parents and most of all the students; they can't wait to return the favour in Zaragoza. Mr Robertson commented, "Both sets of students now appreciate the magic of speaking another language and where it can take them in life. They can also see the relevance of what we try to do in the classroom and the exchange will live long in their memories".

For three nights last week, Woodham Academy students entertained audiences with their production of "We Will Rock You". The musical, written by Ben Elton, is a tribute to the music of Queen. Now in its eleventh year in London's West End, the show tells the story of Galileo. Together with his girlfriend, Scaramouche, Galileo sets out to save the world from the evils of computer generated pop. This involves breaking free from Radio Ga Ga, finding Somebody to Love and slaying the evil Killer Queen (Another One Bites the Dust).

All of the leading actors performed brilliantly - Rhys Kingston as Galileo, Victoria Gerlach as Scaramouche, William Kirton as Killer Queen and Francesca Porritt as Khashoggi. There were also tremendous performances from Keira Durham, Gaynor Lambert, Robyn Teasdale and Ryan Metcalfe as well as the Teen Queens and the chorus of Bohemians. However the highlight for many was the band, made up of current students, Alex Hindmoor, Callum Smith, Rhys Morton, Haydn MacLean, Amy Taylor, Abbie Finn, Rebekah Varty, together with two former students, Tom Bussey and Abbie Finn.

The last night's audience, in a packed hall, included a group of visiting high school staff and students from Mo Steel in Florida. They were unable to believe that the oldest cast members were only 16 years old and enjoyed the production so much that they've booked to see it again when they visit London next week. Another audience member was overheard commenting "There's more talent on stage at Woodham than in the whole of the X Factor"! Mr. Bickerdike, Deputy Headteacher at Woodham Academy, said "Taking part in We Will Rock You will stay with these young people for the rest of their lives."

He went on to thank all of those who had helped to make the show possible - the backstage crew of students and staff, the teachers responsible for the musical direction (Miss Jackson), vocal coaching (Mrs Taylor), stage direction (Mrs Drew and Miss Cheverall) and choreography (Miss Minervini). At this point, he was interrupted by Galileo (Rhys Kingston) who expressed the view

ROCKING WOODHAM



of the students with the words "These women are fantastic." Headteacher, Christine Forsyth, said "Although tackling a full-scale musical is highly ambitious and involves a huge amount of rehearsal, the benefit to the students is immense. I am so fortunate to work with so many talented students and dedicated staff."



GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 17th April 2013

Policy & Resources 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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WACKY EASTER TIME AGAIN

If you are bored and nothing to do, why not get along to the Young Entertainers Wacky Easter Workshop at Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Shildon on Wednesday 10th April.

A spokesperson said "This crazy fun day now in it's 7th year, is open to all young people aged 8 - 15 years to come along and have a fun filled day of crazy games, music and lots of laughter. Please bring a packed lunch with you and a smile".

The event is from 10am to 3pm. Cost £1.20p entrance to the Centre. For more information ring 0774 7826324.

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Local Decorators Brighten up “The Cubby”



Cubby Chairman Bill Blenkinsop would like to thank Bob Walker and Tim Bradley for kindly giving their Sunday up to repaint the Cubby’s kitchen and toilets free of charge. Sally Symons, kitchen manager adding her thanks and said the work carried out makes a tremendous difference and it looks so bright now. “Bob and Tim are local decorators in Newton Aycliffe and the work they do is a very professional and I would highly recommend them to readers” said Bill. Contact Bob and Tim on 07500 142351.

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ROGUE BANKERS - CAUSE OF HARDSHIP

Dear Editor,
I am not a member of any political party and owe no allegiance to John D. Clare. but he is the only political candidate to have knocked on my door in the last year. He spent thirty minutes on the doorstep listening to my concerns and answering my questions. I was pleased to learn that he attended an anti bedroom tax demonstration. Whether you agree with Mr Clare or not, the fact that he took part in the demonstration proves to me he has the courage of his convictions. I would like to ask Mr Welsh if he expressed his convictions by attending a public demonstration? When I searched the internet, I couldn’t find any pro bedroom tax demonstrations, and I assume because, the policy doesn’t carry any unified support. Mr Welsh states that ‘we need to guard against kneejerk reactions to policies that will continue to give benefits to those who are reliant on them’. I wonder if he is aware that six out of ten people who

are entitled to these benefits are poorly paid working families who rely upon some small entitlement to subsidise their low wages so they can afford to be productive members of society? Mr Welsh states that ‘jobs which are subsidised by tax credits and housing benefit are not the answer’. I couldn’t agree more! Two of the commitments the Labour Party have made if they are elected in 2015 are, the guarantee of a job for everyone paying a living wage, and a starting ten pence tax rate. Combined, the six out of ten benefit claimants who do work, will find that they are lifted out of benefits altogether. And those who are unemployed will find that work really will pay, but where are the jobs? The coalition have permitted the banks to absorb 750bn - an obscene sum which should be loaned to small businesses to create jobs throughout this country. The only direct investment in job creation the coalition have announced, is a meagre 3bn, and not until after the next election. Mr Welsh accuses Mr Clare of ‘selective indignation’. The only selective indignation I’m aware of is the coalition government who label ‘shirkers and scroungers’ those who do work for poverty wages whose benefits they’ve cut, and those who the government refuse to create jobs for who are desperate to find work. The 22 billion the coalition government have saved in benefits will push 600,000 children from low paid hard working families back into poverty. ‘Hardship is not the making of the coalition government’ Mr Welsh asserts. I agree; international capitalism in the cause of hardship, namely, rogue bankers. The coalition government play Fairy Godmother to these gambling addicts, who see their debts waved by a magic wand onto the shoulders of the poor as cuts in their living standards and services. Warren Saunders Newton Aycliffe

Easter Fun for ACORN Residents’ Association

ACORN Residents Association junior members ‘Little Acorns’ braved the chilly temperatures in the Town Park on Easter Monday to exercise parents and grandparents, challenges of Chuck a Duck, Egg n’ Spoon races and rounders got the blood pumping while a series of Easter Egg hunts ensured children received an ample supply of chocolate. On Tuesday Little Acorns hosted a Petting Zoo and face painting at the Leisure Centre which drew crowds of children and parents eager to see and get hands on with a selection of reptiles including a Boa Constrictor, Royal Python, and Corn snake. The skunk loved the attention and was a very friendly furry friend. Chicks also proved very popular with queues forming to hold them. A rather large Squirrel was an instant attraction with many youngsters having photographs taken with him. Harry Potty was kept busy face painting until long after the event and wouldn’t leave until every child who wanted their faces painted Well done to all concerned for organising and for taping part. ACORN and little Acorns will be holding their next meeting at the Leisure Centre on Thursday 11th April with Little Acorns starting their meeting at 5.30pm and the main group at 6pm. ACORN are planning the next event on their calendar to be held at the Leisure Centre on 20th April at 7pm till 10pm - a Party / Disco with pie and peas to celebrate St George’s Day and the Birthday of our greatest writer William Shakespeare, Yes we know these



celebrations should be on the 23rd April but for reasons beyond our control the Saturday previous to the event is more convenient for most. Quiz with prizes and fancy dress should ensure a great night. This is a family party where parents can let their hair down knowing the kids

are safely under their own supervision. Tickets will be on sale from the Leisure Centre at £1 per person. Ken Robson (Chairman) ACORN Residents Association 01325 321471

Obituary: RIP NHS 1st April 2013, aged 64

Dear Sir,
The demise of the National Health Service this week will have taken many by surprise, since it was presented by the government merely as a re-organisation – the handing over of control to the GPs’ Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). Hidden in the small print, however, and largely unreported by the media, ‘Section 75’ of the new rules includes a requirement to put out NHS services to competitive tender. Thus, when the new legislation came fully into force on 1st April, the NHS ceased to be a service provided by the state, and started instead the process of becoming a service paid for by the state, but provided by such private providers as have won the various contracts. Already, £250million-worth of contracts have been given to private companies; it is estimated that, in the coming year, another £750million of contracts will be similarly outsourced. It has been a small scandal that some GPs have been caught awarding contracts to companies in which they have a financial interest. From the user’s point of view, our health services may seem little changed. We are certainly not suddenly going to have to start paying for treatment. The new providers all operate under the NHS logo, so we won’t know whether it is a private company or the old NHS supplying our medical care. But, behind the scenes,

the provider of our medical services will likely have changed from the state (doing it for civic duty), to a business corporation (manipulating it for profit; they are going to make a fortune out of our ill-health in the coming years). There is little that we, as ordinary people, can do about this. The Labour Party has promised to repeal the legislation but, by 2015, many of the profitable bits of the NHS will already have been sold off and lost. There are just two positives. Firstly, there is an organisation being set up in County Durham called ‘Healthwatch Durham’, which will promote the needs and the views of users; it is based in Aycliffe Business Park and it is this organisation, after the election, with which I would wish the Town Council to get involved. Secondly, Durham County Council has set up a ‘Health and Wellbeing Board’ which will work with the local CCG on the commissioning process. In our new ‘marketised’ NHS, well-written contracts will be our first line of defence against cut-price care, and it is vital that the ‘Health and Wellbeing Board’ is an effective body. This is just one more reason that the elections this May are of vital importance to us as a community. So when your candidates knock your door, ask them how they think the Council should engage with the NHS changes. John D Clare

OSTEOPOROSIS

Fracture Risk Scans

Osteoporotic fractures are common in post-menopausal women and can cause pain, deformity and loss of independence. 3 out of 10 hip fractures prove fatal. Osteoporosis can be prevented if weak bones are detected early enough, but scans for assessing risk of future fracture are not always readily available. However, you can now have a non-invasive scan for £22.00

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Town MP Wants National Memorial to WW2 Munition Workers

Phil Wilson made a passionate Westminster speech to support a campaign for a permanent memorial to the 'Aycliffe Angels'. MP's are planning a cross-party campaign to try to raise £100,000 for a tribute at the National Memorial Arboretum, in Staffordshire, to celebrate munitions workers during World War Two.

There are also calls for a badge to be awarded to the surviving munitions workers. At its peak in 1943, the Royal Ordnance Factory number 59 - situated where Aycliffe Business Park is today - employed 17,000 people, 90% of whom were women. That was out of about 65,000 people in the country who had the highly-dangerous job of filling shells and bullets.

During a Commons debate Phil Wilson, whose grandmother, Isabella Woods, was an 'Aycliffe Angel' made an impassioned eight-minute speech in the House.

"Their work was very important and the factory was visited by Winston Churchill, King George VI and even Gracie Fields, who I understand gave a beautiful rendition of the Lord's Prayer," said Phil.

"At Aycliffe they produced over 700 million bullets. Work was very dangerous, but there was high levels of companionship among the women, who risked their lives on a daily basis. They became known as the Aycliffe Angels, because Lord Haw-Haw (British traitor William Joyce) said in his broadcasts that the 'little Angels of Aycliffe won't get away with it'."

Phil applauded efforts by Great Aycliffe Town Council, who have done their bit over the years to remember the Aycliffe Angels. Our MP said: "They produced special certificates for survivors. My grandma was awarded one posthumously because she died 30 years ago, but that certificate still sits on my Mam's coffee table to this day."

"The council erected a memorial in the town centre for the men and the women who worked at the Ordnance Factory.

Newton Aycliffe is now a thriving town, with the second biggest industrial estate where the Aycliffe Angels once worked, and this is a proud history of that town.

"The Aycliffe Angels should be recognised - they weren't on the front, they weren't fighting in the desert or in the jungle or at Normandy, but they were helping to keep the war effort going, and some lost their lives. I think a permanent national memorial is something that would suit their endeavours."

Mr Wilson quoted Dorothy Addison. "Our job was to weigh cordite, put it into linen bags and sew gunpowder on top. This was put into '25-pounder shells' and the next block had to put the detonator on top! I remember one girl in the next block getting her hair in a machine and later died.

"German bombers often came over and all the lights had to be out. The siren went and we all had to go into the shelters. The sky was lit up with hundreds of 'chandeliers' - our name for bombs."

Heart-felt speeches were made by other MPs during the debate, and in reply the business minister Matthew Hancock said he would "consider the points that have been made in the debate", while Michael Fallon, a fellow Conservative minister in the same department, will meet with the all-party group on 23rd April to discuss its campaign.

But Mr Hancock warned: "The lack of records and the difficulties in verifying entitlement raise practical questions about how to recognise formally the contribution of individual civilian workers."

You can see Mr Wilson's speech in full at his website, www.philwilson-labour.co.uk

St John's in School Games



St John's participated in the Level 3 School Games Swimming Competition at Freeman's Quay on 22nd March. All events were team swims, consisting of 4 x 50m freestyle and 4 x 50m Medley.

Ten teams entered the competition and St John's achieved 2nd place overall. Outstanding performances from the Junior girls in both events led them to achieving two Silver medals, whilst Intermediate girls were 3rd in the Medley race. All students thoroughly enjoyed the competition.

Also, the under 14 girls netball team participated in the level 3 competition at the Louisa Centre in Stanley. After getting off to a fantastic start beating Sedgfield convincingly and Consett Academy by a 1 goal margin the girls struggled against some of the more challenging competition. The girls were fantastic throughout and showed dedication and commitment to the team.

LOCAL SPORT

MIXED SOFTBALL SESSIONS LAUNCHED

As Newton Aycliffe Spartans Senior Baseball team prepare for their second season in the British Baseball Federation League, they are delighted to announce that Co-Ed Softball and Junior Baseball sessions are now available.

Co-ed slowpitch softball is a recreational, social and enjoyable game that's easy to learn and play, even for people who are not "athletes" or don't have much experience of team sports - and the game offers particular opportunities for both men and women to play together.

The game is like baseball in terms of the rules, but because the ball is pitched slowly to each batter it's easy to hit the ball and succeed at the sport's central skill. The fact that males and females play together in the same team and on an equal level gives the sport a real social buzz.

The Softball sessions will be run by Manny Dabuet, who as a qualified Softball Coach is well placed to deliver his passion, knowledge and experience, gained both in the UK and overseas into

enjoyable sessions. It is hoped the Spartans can enter softball tournaments during 2013.

The softball sessions will be held outdoors, at Sunnydale Leisure Centre in Shildon and will commence on Saturday April 6th and run each Saturday from 11am - 2pm. The cost is £5 for those aged 16 and over and £3 for under 16's.

Junior Baseball training, for both girls and boys aged between 8 and 16, continues on Tuesday evenings from 6pm to 7.30pm, at Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Shildon. The cost is just £2 per session and will be run by qualified baseball coach, John Johnston. The Spartans hope to enter various junior tournaments in 2013 with a view to entering the British Youth Baseball League next season.

For further information contact John on 07593 951879 or email john@newtonaycliffespartans.co.uk. Next week we will have a preview of the Senior Spartans Baseball team as the commence action in the BBF Northern Division.

FOOTBALLERS WANTED

Is your child in year 5 and interested in playing football? If so we are NAJFC U10's and play football every Sunday morning in the TJFA league. This season we reached the quarter finals of the challenge cup and we are looking to recruit new players for the coming season.

If your child is interested please contact Paul Gibson (manager) 07871 539507 or Michelle Turner (team secretary) 0770 7913684.

Tai Chi in the Village


Our popular Tai Chi class starts up after our Easter break on Wednesday 10th April. We meet in Aycliffe Village Hall from 3.30-4.30. The cost is £5 per class and includes light refreshments.

Tai Chi is particularly suitable for the more mature adult, and the classes are suitable for all levels of ability and experience. For more details and to book your place, please ring Kathy Round on 01325 315732

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Achievement Recognised



Adam Billany aged 13 from Woodham has been nominated for an Achievement in Sport Award from Carmel College. He is passionate about football and despite having mild cerebral palsy took a trial and was accepted into North East Centre of Excellence squad where he trains every Saturday. Adam has a consistent academic record and enjoys swimming and sailing. His Form Tutor describes Adam as a lovely student with a cheery disposition, conscientious and modest. The nomination states "Adam is a real inspiration to others and his success deserves public recognition".

100% EXAM PASS RATE FOR AYCLIFFE DANCE ACADEMY



In February Aycliffe Dance Academy entered students for dance exams with the IDTA (International Dance Teachers Association). They had a 100% pass rate again with many students receiving incredible results and feedback. An impressive 67% received over 85/100 marks achieving Distinction, the highest mark possible and 33% received over 80/100 marks achieving Merit. Karen Noades, a parent said: 'I'd just like to say how thankful we are for the energy and enthusiasm of

Emma! Katie got fantastic tap exam results and that's down to Emma's dedication and that extra mile she goes for students. Katie is loving her dancing at ADA!' Emma Cox, Principal, said: 'A massive well done to everyone who took dance exams this year! You all worked so hard in class and practiced your socks off at home! It shows what hard work and dedication can achieve! I am proud of every one of you and I hope you are too - never give up on your dreams!' Students at ADA are now working extremely hard on their next dance show at The Xcel Centre on the 5th & 6th of July. Fundraising events will be taking place over the next few months to raise money for costumes. A Family Fun Day on Saturday 20th April (10am to 2pm) at the Bethany Centre, Woodham. Everyone is welcome - free entry! Any local businesses or individuals interested in donating raffle prizes or sponsoring the show are asked to call Emma on 07908 162 868.

Woodham Swimmers Perform Well at County Games



21 students from Woodham Academy competed at the County Durham Sainsbury School Games at Freeman's Quay Durham on Friday 22nd March. Woodham's team was made up of club swimmers from Sedgfield 75 and Woodham Swimming Academy. The event was well attended with over 10 schools taking part with club swimmers and non club swimmers competing in Medley and Freestyle events. Since the development of Woodham Sports Academy there has been a significant improvement in Woodham's sporting performances and this was evident on Friday as Woodham Swimming Academy enjoyed a fantastic day, finishing 6th overall. The junior boys team won their medley team race and intermediate girls finished 3rd in the freestyle team race.

RUNNING CLUB NEWS



It was a very Good Friday for Aycliffe Running Club with personal bests aplenty at the Mermaid 10K at Marske by the Sea. Despite a light snow shower before the race conditions were perfect for the runners as they made their way along the seafront. Results were: Dez Fielden 35:25; Lee Wren 38:27; Richard Campbell 39:17; Robert Young 43:26; John Burnside 43:31; Naomi Kellet 46:43; Trish Kay 48:58; John Young 49:37; Shelley McCormack 50:06; Dave McKenzie 52:42; Judith Porter 53:01.

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Dear Sir

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We would so like to thank the Rotary Club and Helping Hands for their valuable support and immediate help given to our clients recently - where would they be without you!

Thank you
Kind regards
Brian Crawford Wilson

Divisional Secretary

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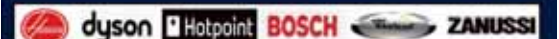
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Disabled Receive Help for House Adaptations

Housing Minister Mark Prisk today confirmed £180m to help councils fund the adaptations disabled people need to live independently in their own home - £10,405,604 of it in the North East.

Councils across England will receive a share of the £180 million Disabled Facilities Grant, which provides financial help to install a wide range of housing adaptations or modifications such as wider doorways, stair lifts and level access showers.

Mr Prisk said that the grant was essential to help thousands of people stay in their homes if their circumstances change, providing the support that disabled or vulnerable people need to live independently and comfortably, whether they

are homeowners, social tenants or living in rented accommodation.

Ministers have protected the Disabled Facilities Grant programme for the last 3 years, with a further £185 million expected in next year's funding.

Housing Minister Mark Prisk said:

"For many people, the security of being able to stay in your own home in difficult times can have a real impact on their health and wellbeing.

"That's why we've protected the Disabled Facilities Grant. The £180 million I've allocated today will help to support people across the country through disability and provide some of our most vulnerable with the help they need to live independently for as long as possible."

Public Notice

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TABLE TOP SALE - There will be a table top sale and coffee morning in aid of St Michaels Church Funds ion 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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Petting Zoo Success

Little ACORNS held their first Petting Zoo in the Leisure Centre and by all the little smiley faces it was enjoyed by everyone. We would like to thank the Leisure Centre for the use of the sports hall and to ACORN for finding the funding to run the event. We would also like to thank Animal Story and Fancy That of Spennymoor for the animals and the costume hire.

A massive thank you to local shops that helped us in donating raffle prizes: W. Slater & Sons Butchers, Creations hairdressers, Stephen Russel hairdressers, Aycliffe Framers and Engravers, Occasions, Eastern Spice Takeaway, Grannies Choice and Poundstretcher. Without these lovely people we could not have held our raffle.

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

3 BEDROOM house in Rylestone Close, £100 per week + 3 bedroom house next to Horndale School, £110 per week. Tel 07780 333398

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

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Obituary

DAVID ASHBY (Ash) 45 years old, of Newton Aycliffe. Died at home 29/03/2013 after a short illness bravely borne. Sadly missed by his two Sons, Daughter, Mother, Father, Sister, other family members and friends. Funeral to be held at Wear Valley Crematorium on Friday 12th April at 12.30pm. Family flowers only, if desired donations to be made to Macmillian Cancer Support. **PEGGY CRISP** Newton Aycliffe, 2nd April, (suddenly yet peacefully. Peggy, aged 96 years of Rose Lodge Care Home. Beloved Wife of the late Billy; dear Mother of Dorothy and the late Pat; Fondest Mother-in-Law of Charlie; much loved Nana of Julie and Tony; Special Great-Nana to Michael and Sophie. Sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral on Tuesday 9th April. Would friends kindly meet for Service in Darlington Crematorium at 1.45pm. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu in aid of Cancer Research UK, may be given or will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6EN - Tel 01325 318600

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Anyone for a Walk?

A new programme of guided walks is available to download. Almost 200 walks throughout County Durham's spectacular countryside are taking place between April and September and residents and visitors are being encouraged to download a copy of the programme and take part. Maria Murphy, countryside development officer, said: "By downloading the programme you will undoubtedly find a guided walk that is suitable for you. "We have walks under two miles right up to the more strenuous 17 miles and the walks cover many interests such as nature, history, photography, art and creative writing." All guided walks cost £4 per person with no need to book, simply turn up and enjoy. Request a hard copy by emailing: countryside@durham.gov.uk or by calling the Countryside Service on 03000 264 589.

BROKEN GLASS A DANGER TO ALL



Dear Sir,
 On taking my 6 month old son for a walk on Sunday I had to dodge broken glass all the way from Silverdale House to the back and side of Stephenson Way School only still to get a puncture. This has resulted in me now having to buy a new tyre for my son's pram as the glass has caused a 2inch gash.

On monday I walked 20 minutes to the town and counted 14 separate piles of broken glass! It's bad enough that my pram got damaged but this is near a school and what would happen if a child or elderly person was to fall? Do the people who break glass not realise the damage or injury they can cause? It only takes a second to put a bottle in a bin or put it in a carrier bag and take it home in the bag they got from the shop where they bought the alcohol. This would keep the streets safe and clean. When these people grow up and have children of their own they may realise their mistake, but it will be too late for those people they have injured. Maybe if they were caught and made to clean it up it may start to sink in a little bit. They have stopped having glass bottles in most pubs and clubs so why can't this be extended to all alcohol being sold in plastic bottles in shops and pubs? Not only

would it be safer it would also be better for the environment. I would like to know why Counc Bowman who is always at Silverdale House has done nothing about all the glass in that area. Sally Symons, Langdale Place

Births

ROSS Neil and Beccy would like to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful Daughter "Marcy Grace Ross", born on 25th March 2013, weighing 9lb. A gorgeous little Sister for George

Birthday Remembrance

KARMEN

Your special day we cannot share, but in our hearts you are always there.

Love you always, Mam Nadine, David, Daniel, Ronni, Karen and Families

ADA HUTSON 4th April. A bouquet of roses we sent to you, sprinkled with teardrops instead of dew. And in the middle a forget-me-not, to let you know we haven't forgot. Happy birthday Mam from all your loving family xxx
ADA HUTSON 4th April. If only I could hug you and kiss your smiling face, then perhaps this broken heart of mine would fall back into place. To my darling Wife Ada on your birthday. Love as always, Dick xxx

GEORGE SMITH 9th April 1948. Remembering my darling Brother on your 65th birthday. It doesn't take a birthday George to see your lovely face or hear your voice and talk to you. No one can take your place, you are with me every minute. I can feel your presence near, you can never really lose someone you hold so dear. So I am sending all my love to you on this your special day, it's wrapped up in all our memories that no one can take away. Happy birthday George, love always and forever, Margaret, Tommy and family

GEORGE SMITH 9th April 1948 on your 65th birthday. A Mother's love is eternal, as a Son's is for his Mother. There is no greater bond my darling Son, than we have for one another. Love always and forever, Mam xxxxx

GEORGE SMITH 9th April 1948. Cheers George from all who knew and truly loved you **GEORGE SMITH** Treasured memories of our Dad on his 65th birthday on 9th April. Gone, but will never be forgotten. Steven, Graham, John and the late Jimmy xxxxx

RONNY MAYOH To a very special Grandad on your birthday. Happy birthday from all of us on 28th March 2013. We all wish you were here so we could say "Happy Birthday", but you are not. Love from Granddaughter Kimberley
RONNY MAYOH. (Died 25th August 2012). To a special Dad, wish you were still here, we miss you a lot. Now it's your 78th birthday on 28th March. Love from Maria, David, Rose, Ian, Anita and Christine

Congratulations

Rebecca Jarps



Happy 21st Birthday - 1st April 2013
 Happy birthday and all our love, Mum, Dad and Adam

AMBER MURRAY Happy birthday, 16 today. Love, and big hugs, Mam and Shaun xxx
AMBER MURRAY Happy birthday Amber. Love, Grandma and Grandad
AMBER MURRAY Happy 16th birthday Amber. Love, Katie and Chris
AMBER MURRAY Happy 16th birthday on 6th April, 2013. Love and big hugs from Lewis and Stacey
AMBER MURRAY Happy 16th birthday today Auntie Amber. Love and big hugs from Skyla
GARY SIMON 8-4-13. Happy 50th birthday. Lots of love from Mam, Tracy, Nige, Jack and George xxx

In Memoriam

IRENE HOOD

Died 24th March 2003



We walked together my Wife and I, The wind on our cheeks and the sun in our eyes. It makes me sad to walk alone, instead of side by side. We will walk again my Wife and under a blue umbrella sky. Your loving Husband, George xxxxx Family, Graham, Valerie, Maureen, Warren, Drew, Michaela and Great Grandchildren Kyle, Ella and Brittany

MIRIAM ROSSITER 08-04-2004. Another year passed but still left with a lifetime of happy memories. Time moves on but we never forget. Always in our hearts and thoughts Mam. Missing you, Lesley and Tony xxx

ALEXANDER HUMBLE Died 8th April 1992. Cherished memories of a dear Husband and Father. Still missed after all these years. Audrey and family
ROBERT REDHEAD Loving thoughts of my only Son, died 1st April 2012. It's one year since you left Son, the saddest I have known, but your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, loved beyond words and missed beyond measure. Loving Mother Laura

JEAN COOK Fondest memories of a friend and neighbour. Love from Jacky and Lilian

ALF SAXBY Always in our hearts and thoughts. Loving you forever, miss you always. Love, Wife Eileen and family
ANN McLUCKIE Dear Ann, 10th April 2002. The moment you died my heart was torn in two, one side lives for Tony and the other died with you. Much love, Mam, Tony and family

ARNOLD LINDLEY (Arnie). 7th April 2012. Loving Dad and Grandad. God saw him getting tired, a cure was not to be, he wrapped him in his loving arms and whispered come with me. He tried so hard to stay with us, but his fight was not in vain, God took him to his loving arms and freed him from the pain. Lots of love, Colin, Claire and Rebecca

ARNOLD LINDLEY (Arnie). 7th April 2012. Sadly missed along life's way, quietly remembered every day. No longer in our lives to share, but in our hearts he is always there. Loving Wife, Pat xxx
RAY WHEELER 9-4-12. Simply the best, in my thoughts all day and every day. Love and miss you so much. Mildred
BRIAN FIRTH 3-4-1999. Miss you more than words can say. Love and miss you every day. Loving Wife, Hazel xxx

SUSAN HARCUS 30/4/1963 - 5/4/2010. We do not need a special day to bring you to our minds, The days we do not think of you are very hard to find. Each morning when we awake we know that you are gone, And no one knows the heartache as we try to carry on. Our hearts still ache with sadness and secret tears still flow, What it meant to lose you no one will ever know. Our thoughts are always with you, your place no one can fill, In life we loved you dearly Mum, in death we love you still. Three years on and still can't express how much we miss you Mum, we love you so much. We hope you're watching over us and that we make you proud. Your loving children Kelly, Scott, Dean & Rebecca x

SUSAN ELLEN HARCUS Died 5th April 2010. The pain of losing you never goes away I love and miss you so much every day. Till we are together again, God bless my dear Daughter. Love, Mam and all the family

WENDY GRAHAM 5th April 2009. Memories of my beautiful Wife Wendy. Miss you so much. Love you always. Loving Husband Charles xxx
WENDY GRAHAM 5th April 2009. Thinking of you our special Sister, missed dearly. Love, Kay and Mandy xxx

Easter Egg Competition



Noelien Jones Dot Alderson, Dorothy Bowman and Mavis Taylor won the Egg competition at the Easter meeting of New Friends New Places. Please go along and join them each week from 2pm until 4pm at the Navy Club Burnhill Way. For further details ring 01325 308094.

LIFT RIGHT SPONSOR CRICKET CLUB

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club are delighted that Lift Right Fork Lift Training have agreed to continue as the main senior shirt sponsor. For the third consecutive season both the first and second teams will wear the Lift Right logo on the front of their cricket whites. Club Chairman Ian Palmer said "We are delighted that Lift Right have agreed to continue their sponsorship of the senior teams, particularly as we prepare for our first season in the North Yorkshire and South Durham League". It has been a busy time at the cricket ground as the club prepares for the forthcoming season. Substantial funding, obtained with the help of GAMP, has seen new sightscreens and covers arrive at Moore Lane during the last few weeks and this weekend's NatWest Cricket Force will see an army of volunteers down the ground painting and generally

tidying up to make sure that the ground is pristine for the start of the season on Sunday 14 April.

The first weekend sees Newton Aycliffe 2nd team away to Seaton Carew before a home double header weekend on 20/21 April.

On Saturday 20 April Newton Aycliffe 1st team welcome Yarm 2nd team before on Sunday 21 April Newton Aycliffe 2nd team welcome Darlington RA 3rd team.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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 or syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Thank You

CAROLYN WEASTELL would like to thank everyone who came to her party, helping celebrate her 40th birthday. You all made it a wonderful evening. Thank you for all the gifts

NANCY GILES The family of the late Nancy would like to express their sincere thanks to family and friends for the kindness and sympathy that was shown to then during their recent bereavement. Also for the letters, cards of condolence and beautiful floral tributes, donations gratefully received for the Great North Ambulance. Special thanks to Dr Scott, Dr Anderson and the staff at Pease Way Surgery, also Jan Carr of St Clare's Church for a special Service

EMBLETON Lesley and Chris would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for all the kindness, cards, flowers and donations received during the recent sad loss of John. Thank you to Father Campion for the lovely Service and Gordon Fletcher Funeral Directors for their help and guidance at this difficult time
GORDON STACEY and family would like to thank everyone for all the kind words and cards received after the sudden death of his Wife Maureen Anne Stacey on 20th March 2013. A special thank you to David Scott and Rev. Emma Morgan for their support and also for the many donations received for the Alzheimer's Society which amounted to £205.

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SCHOOL FOOTBALL

The Sedgfield School Sport partnership Primary schools football competitions held at Greenfield School reached an exciting crescendo for all 10 teams with the last matches being played with great intensity and in freezing temperatures. Byerley Park proved the outstanding team in one group and remained undefeated, running out champions with Aycliffe Village. St Johns played consistently well and were also undefeated but had 4 draws which meant they were silver medallists. The bronze medal place was a close run thing with 3 schools placed equally - Trimdon Juniors, Chilton and Stephenson Way who secured the bronze medal having scored more goals. In the other group the winners position was only decided in the last match where Aycliffe Village secured a 1-0 victory to take top place over a gallant Woodham Burn team. St Michaels took the bronze medal.

SECOND PLACE FOR WOODHAM GYMNASTS



On the 21st March Woodham Gymnastics Academy attended the regional floor and vault competition at Space 2 gymnastics centre in Stockton. It was a monumental event for Woodham Academy as it was the first time boys have competed for the gymnastics academy. Woodham had two teams in the event, an under 14 girls' team, an under 14 mixed team and an under 19 mixed team. Competitors were required to perform a floor routine and two vaults. All teams performed extremely well, with each team coming second place in their categories, with the under 19 team just missing out on first place by 0.4 marks. The Gymnastics Academy has done extremely well, especially as for many it was their first competition. The academy is going from strength to strength and the gymnasts are continuing to train hard, with the hope of getting gold next year.

Aycliffe Suffer Severe Setback

Newton Aycliffe's bid for survival in the Northern League first division took a big blow on Tuesday night as they were beaten 3-2 by fellow strugglers South Shields. A fortunate goal 10-minutes from time gave the Mariners a scarcely deserved victory and left the Royal Blues just one point above the relegation zone.

It made Thursday's clash with Newcastle Benfield a massively important fixture and also means they need to get something from this weekend's derby clash against second-placed West Auckland - the club's last away game of the season.

Following that, all games remaining will take place at Moore Lane park. FA Vase finalists Spennymoor visit on Tuesday April 9th, before beaten semi-finalists Shildon make the short trip the following Saturday. The Newtonians will need to put in a much improved display in those games than they did against South Shields on Tuesday night.

After an impeccably observed

FIXTURES

Saturday 6th April: West Auckland (A) 3pm
Tuesday 9th April: Spennymoor (H) 7.30pm
Saturday 13th April: Shildon (H) 3pm
Monday 15th April: Bedlington (H) 7.30pm
Wednesday 17th April: Ashington (H) 7.30pm
Monday 22nd April: Norton (H) 7.30pm
Thursday 25th April: Whitley Bay (H) 7.30pm
Saturday 27th April: Guisborough (H) 3pm

minute's silence for club legend Frank Swinburne, Aycliffe flew out of the blocks and took an early lead through Danny Earl's close-range finish.

But Andrew Thompson levelled a minute later with a thumping drive from 30-yards.

Aycliffe were left incensed after Kris Hughes was pulled down in the penalty area but the match officials did not feel the challenge warranted a penalty.

South Shields went 2-1 up in first-half stoppage-time as Jonny Wightman tapped in but the lead lasted barely 30 seconds as Stephen Gibson teed-up Tom Hinchley who netted his second goal in as many games.

The home side were on top for

much of the second half but were hit with a sucker-punch in the 80th minute as Stephen Ramsey's mis-hit cross looped over Scott Pocklington and into the Aycliffe net.

Pocklington almost made amends with the last kick of the match as he struck the post with a well-struck volley after joining the attack for a corner.

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