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AYCLIFFE'S NEW £8m BIOGAS PLANT OPENS SOON

A new anaerobic digestion (AD) facility at Aycliffe is only weeks away from completion as the project reaches the end of its first phase of construction and commences commissioning.

With the north east's first commercial food waste facility at Emerald Biogas nearly finished, the team are now on the second phase after successfully securing a number of contracts for food waste.

The firm is also exploring the potential of biogas injection technology, which will upgrade the biogas to a higher-grade product that can be injected into the local gas grid, plus a vehicle fuel station.

At full capacity, the biogas plant will process 50,000 tonnes of food waste a year and generate 1.56 MW of electricity, enough to power 2,000 homes. Phase two will double the capacity of



the facility

With planning and permits already secured for phase two, as well as two additional phases beyond this, Emerald Biogas is now putting the wheels in motion and preparing a plan for the additional construction on site.

Adam Warren, Director, Emerald Biogas said: "Despite the difficult winter and the associated problems it brought, we are now ready to begin testing the facility. We are confident that waste processing and energy production will begin in June and therefore we are keen to progress with the second phase."

"The next few months will see a flurry of activity on site as we gear up for phase one to become fully operational. Once at full capacity, we can look forward to creating renewable energy for neighbouring industrial companies and producing quality fertiliser from the digestate for use by the local agricultural community."

Three partners with a wealth of experience and expertise in agriculture and recycling formed Emerald Biogas in 2009. Owners of food waste collection and animal by-

product recycling business John Warren ABP, Antony and Adam Warren have joined forces with Ian Bainbridge, who runs the diverse farming, land and resource management business Agricore.

Together their track record in the industry and network of existing clients will help to grow the business and build on their customer base to help achieve their ambitious targets.

For more information about contact Emerald Biogas at www.emeraldbiogas.com

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HITACHI CONTRACT FOR NEWCASTLE COMPANY

Hitachi Rail Europe Ltd. have announced it has selected British company Nomad Digital to provide an On Board Server solution for the Intercity Express Programme (IEP).

Keith Jordan, Managing Director, Hitachi Rail Europe said: "Nomad Digital is already an existing supplier for our Class 395 train as one of the leading companies in Europe for supplying OBS solutions. We are now extending our working relationship with them. As the IEP contract is a long-term commitment for Hitachi Rail Europe, we will be working with Nomad Digital to future-proof the technology to ensure that it will be the right solution over the duration of the contract.

We are very pleased to be working with a supplier, based almost on the doorstep of our new train manufacturing plant in Newton Aycliffe in County Durham."



The Education Network
Suite 9, Enterprise House
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The Education Network have recently opened an office in Spennymoor and are working in partnership with schools across Durham & Darlington.

We are looking to recruit local teachers and support staff for our local schools.

We are holding a registration open day on **Thursday, 9th May** and would love to hear from anyone in the area looking for work.

Drop in and meet the team between 9am and 7pm, email your CV to durham@ednetwork.co.uk or call us on 01388 810273.

We look forward to seeing you there!

New PCP Chief Executive Appointed

After 15 years as Chief Executive of Pioneering Care Partnership Jane Hartley is stepping down at the end of September 2013 to pursue pastures new as a freelance business development consultant and performance coach/mentor.

Jane has been with the PCP since its inception in 1998 and was a leading figure in the development of the Pioneering Care Centre, the award winning healthy living centre in Newton Aycliffe. She has led the organisations growth from humble beginnings to an organisation employing nearly 70 staff and running the Pioneering Care Centre and 14 different projects to improve health and wellbeing across the region. Jane's successor has been named as the PCP's current Business Development Director, Carol Wood. Carol is local to Newton Aycliffe, she attended Woodham Comprehensive School and then went on to work for Sedgfield Borough Council, Bishop Auckland College and Aycliffe Learning Town Partnership before joining PCP in 2002. Carol has been part of the PCPs Senior Management Team for a number of years and has led on the development of many successful PCP projects and is known and well respected by many local and regional organisations and partners. 'I am more than confident Carol will be an excellent Chief Executive given her understanding and passion for the organisation. She has also already built strong working relationships with external partners and stakeholders and



Left to right: Carol Wood, Jane Hartley and Carol Briggs

I am sure her appointment will ensure these stakeholders will continue to have confidence in PCP as a key regional charity supporting people to improve their health and wellbeing' said Jane Hartley.

Carol said, 'Having worked alongside Jane for over 10 years I am honoured that the Board of Trustees has appointed me to be her successor. Jane's commitment and vision has been outstanding and I'm delighted that she will continue to be involved in the organisation supporting business development in the future. I am really looking forward to the challenge of taking PCP forward in achieving its mission of 'Health, wellbeing and learning for all' through leading the highly skilled committed team of staff and volunteers who continue to provide excellent services and projects for the local community.'

Chairperson Carol Briggs said: "I welcome Carol to the new role of CEO. All directors of PCP could not think of anyone with more knowledge and expertise for this position. In the 10 years Carol has been with PCP she has always been respected by the staff and volunteers and we are delighted she has accepted the position when Jane leaves. Jane decided to step down as CEO at PCP and we are very sad to see her leave.

We have always considered ourselves to be one large family and I am sure Jane would not mind me saying she been a mother hen looking after everyone. She instigated the development of PCP from what was a dream to today employing 60+ people plus volunteers, serving not just Newton Aycliffe but

surrounding areas as far afield as Redcar, Teeside, Durham, Sedgfield, Shildon, Middlesbrough and more.

I cannot praise Jane enough for her undying commitment, devotion and energy shown over 15 years. All Staff and Directors wish Jane every success in the future and even though she will be missed we forward to Jane keeping in touch. Our grateful thanks always for a job well done". Carol Briggs, Chairperson.

Joe Wins a Bike



The Town Council Easter Super Sports Skills Bike Draw winner was Joe Bedford, aged 11 from Newton Aycliffe. The Mayor Cllr Val Raw presented Joe with his new bike on Tuesday 30th April 2013.

For your chance to win a new bike get involved in the Whit 2013 Super Sports Skills programme. For further information visit www.great-aycliffe.gov.co.uk To book your place please contact Reception on 01325 300600.

Sponsored Walk in Aid of Carers

Durham County Carers Support are organising sponsored walks across the County to raise funds for carer and volunteer services. We are a voluntary organisation that provides a range of high quality services and support to unpaid Carers living in the Durham County area. We provide support, information and advice on a variety of issues that are important to Carers.

In addition to this we have a range of volunteer's services including our transport service which takes carers and the person they care for to medical appointments, a counselling service for those who are waiting to access mainstream services and we have a fully accessible minibus which we use to take groups of carers to events.

We would very much like for these services to continue however lack of funding is making it increasingly difficult to keep our volunteer services

running. By organising these sponsored walks we hope to be able to kick off a fundraising campaign to save these services whilst raising awareness for the unpaid carer.

Our first walk will take place along the Great Aycliffe Nature Trail on Wednesday 10th July starting at 10am and ending at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre where people are invited to bring a picnic and join us in the park or meet inside should the weather be unkind. We would like to open up the walk to anyone who would like to take part.

Joining fee is £5 per person, adults can bring children along free of charge. Participants are welcome to seek sponsorship to help raise funds no matter how small all donations are welcome. Full route details will be provided in a joining pack which you can request from joanne.jones@ccarers.org or by calling 01325 313123.

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Saturday 4th May - "Uncle Gilbert"

RIFFS ONLINE REVIEW - "An excellent night with some classic rock covers done by mainstay of our rock fraternity both Bill & Gary gave the thumbs up to the performance - as did all the other punters in the venue tonight. For a band to stay together for that long you just know they're doing something right - this band have just earned themselves a promotion into the premiere league".
covering tracks by - BAD COMPANY - BILLY IDOL - BON JOVI - CULT - DEEP PURPLE - GARY MOORE - HENDRIX - SATRIANI - PINK FLOYD - RORY GALLAGHER - SANTANA - U.F.O. - ZZ TOP & much more - www.unclegilbert.co.uk

Saturday 11th May - "Trilogy"

Four guys that are making a big name for themselves in the North-East, packing pubs out & always getting return bookings.
"There was a great party atmosphere at The Duke tonight and not solely due to the support the band brought with them as the regulars liked them just as much." covering tracks by - Foo Fighters - Jet - White Stripes - AC/DC - Ozzy Oz - Motorhead - Blur - Oasis - Manic St Preachers - Green Day - Killers - T-Rex - Arctic Monkeys - The Who - The Clash - The Undertones - The Buzzcocks - The Sex Pistols - The Beastly Boys - Alice Cooper - Bon Jovi - The Darkness - The Beatles.

Saturday 18th April - "Bullet"

RIFFS MAGAZINE review - TURBINIA 07 "The prognosis from tonight's performance is definitely a thumbs-up - passion, energy & excitement are what BULLET deliver & watching the crowd at the TURBINIA go crazy for them, then it's obvious they are on the way up very quickly. BULLET seem to have got it right & given the odd break or two could seriously be set to worry some of the more established bands - Watch out for BULLET, they could just have your name on them"
See whole review on www.zen76308.zen.co.uk/Riffs/MYDOCUMENTS/BANDREVIEWS/BITS/BULLET
Tracks by - GUNS & ROSES - PEARL JAM - DEF LEPPARD - BON JOVI - IRON MAIDEN, - U2 - OZZY - FOO FIGHTERS - VELVET REVOLVER & More www.bulletband.co.uk

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Bank Holiday Show - Saturday 4th May
NEWTON AYCLIFFE SPORTS CLUB
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Plus Fantastic Vocalist Paula Delaney

Swimming Opportunities for Primary Schools

Year 5 and 6 students of St. Francis and Byerley Park primary schools have been busy enjoying swimming lessons in the pool at Woodham Academy this term. As part of the lessons, students have been having a great time developing their water confidence skills and

swimming techniques under the watchful eye of qualified swimming coach, Heather Brewster. The sessions cater for all abilities of swimmer, from non and beginner swimmers, through to advanced club swimmers and have been set up to support one of the key requirements of the Key Stage 2 National Curriculum. This being, to ensure that all students can swim 25m by the time they leave primary school and make the transition into secondary education. So far the sessions have been a great success and both staff and students are looking forward to the rest of the term!

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Record Maths Results at Woodham



Having celebrated tremendous initial results for Maths GCSE in January, students at Woodham Academy were delighted last week when a further nineteen converted lower grades to Grade C. This adds to the eighty-three students already holding a higher grade, mostly at grade B or above. The school has now guaranteed that the Class of 2013 will provide record results, and it may not stop there. If remaining students continue the improvement made over the last 2 months

then breaking the 70% barrier is a distinct possibility. On Higher Tier papers, Rhys Kingston and Ryan Metcalfe, recent stars of Woodham's "We Will Rock You", went on to add to the A* tally. Deputy Headteacher, Ian Bickerdike commented, "Given the hours spent preparing and delivering the show, I am so impressed that Rhys and Ryan have also demonstrated such outstanding academic excellence. The recognition of their achievement is fully deserved."

KDANZ Dance School Hit the High Life

KDANZ would like to thank the Public for their support xx KDANZ, the biggest dance school in Newton Aycliffe, has just finished another amazing successful Wildcats basketball season and is now hitting the high life with shows planned at the Gala Theatre, Durham and Pineapple Dance studios performance arena, London. The KDANZ family, now a CIC - community interest company, have really pulled together lately, working hard to raise money for costumes for their show and to also help disadvantaged children access dance.

Amongst the activities, parents and pupils have raised funds through 8 bag packs across Newton Aycliffe, Shildon and Bishop Auckland, arranged and ran a charity and comedy race night and performed across Sunderland raising money for other worthy causes. KDANZ would like to take this opportunity to THANK EVERYONE who has donated money to our appeal. We hope anyone who popped pennies into our buckets realise how grateful we are!! We have a few events coming up that we hope everyone will be interested in coming to - 1. Saturday 18th May 2013 11am - 3pm KDANZ SUMMER FETE held at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre. There will be something for everyone to enjoy from a bouncy castle air track with free stunt

coaching, to tombola, hook a duck and high tea for Ladies that lunch, art and craft stalls and so much more. We hope to see you there.... 2. Our Main performance is coming up fast now, a one night only event held on Sunday 21st July 2013 at the Gala Theatre, Durham and we would like to invite anyone and everyone to come and watch our show. Tickets can be purchased via the Gala Box office - 3. We will then be planning another trip of a lifetime, one to surely mirror the Disney trip in 2011, by attending Pineapple Dance Studios and performing in London. Should anyone be interested in joining our dance school please contact Kay, Principal Director on 07900 365 892 or visit our website www.kdanz.co.uk for more details

Dance Centre Festival Results

Results of the qualifier freestyle competition held at Norbreck Castle Hotel in Blackpool on 27th and 28th April, 2013:
6-8 years Rosette - Solo
Ryan Jones - 1st Place



Ryan Jones
6-10 years Stardance - Solo
Summer Fenwick - 2nd Place
10-13 years - Solo (Girls)
Kasia Shaw - 3rd Place
Rachel Bennett - Qualified
Beatrice Lineton - Qualified
Kira Watson - Qualified
6-8 years Rosette - Rock n Roll Syllabus
Drew Shaw - 6th Place
Amber Fenwick - Qualified
6-10 years Stardance - Rock n Roll Syllabus
Summer Fenwick - Qualified
10-13 years - Pairs (Girl/Girl)
Abbie Kennedy and Beatrice Lineton - Qualified
10-13 years - Rock n Roll (Girl/Girl)
Abbie Kennedy and Beatrice Lineton - Qualified
14-17 years - Solo
Annis Race - 3rd Place
Kalya Shaw - 5th Place
Brittany Knight - Qualified
18-25 years - Solo



Kalya Shaw & Annis Race

Jade Wakefield - Qualified
14-17 years - Pairs
Annis Race and Chloe Farley - 3rd Place
Daniela Winwood and Reegan Henn - 7th Place
Brittany Knight and Kalya Shaw - Qualified
14-17 years - Rock n Roll (Girl/Girl)
Kalya Shaw and Annis Race - 1st Place
Reegan Henn and Daniela Winwood - 5th Place
Chloe Farley and Brittany

Knight - Qualified
GRADED EVENTS
14-17 years - Solo (Silver and Gold)
Jasmine Jones - 4th Place
14-17 years - Solo (Bars, Stars and above)
Annis Race - 1st Place
Well done to everyone who took part and thanks to all parents for their continued support. Anyone who has an interest in joining Lee Green Dance Centre can contact Tel No. 01325 318239.

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Fishburn Primary School	Manager: Carol Woods	01740 620683
Evenwood Village	Manager: Kerry Dixon	01388 834161
Newton Aycliffe	Manager: Vicky Hutchinson	01325 315623
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Miami School Visits Woodham Academy

Continuing Woodham Academy's recent international relations, a school from Miami, Florida recently visited Newton



Aycliffe. The Michael Anne Jewish School initially became friends with

Woodham Academy when the American Football team from Woodham played the Miami school in the 2009 World Championships in New Orleans. Since then the two schools have enjoyed a close friendship including playing each other at American Football twice and Woodham hosting the American students in Newton Aycliffe on two separate occasions.

During their time at Woodham, the students

were treated to a 'day as a British student', following a British 'buddy' through their full timetable of lessons throughout the day. The American students also held an American Football coaching session for a large group of Woodham students in their normal Physical Education time.

Although the American students were treated to a British school experience, the teachers also got in on the act. Lessons at Woodham were designed specifically to include the American teachers, including a lesson on hurricanes and tornadoes. The American teachers were able to pass on knowledge based on first hand experience. Feedback on their experience of a British school was fantastic. David Fried, lead teacher from the Miami school, said "The day here in school at Woodham has been amazing. The teachers are so kind and dynamic. I just wish our students could experience this back home every day".

Bingo, Films & Concerts

Join us for Bingo every Monday and Friday at 7pm. Old and new clients welcome.

On Saturday 27th April we enjoyed the Marske Fishermen's Choir who gave a superb Concert to a capacity audience. A big thank you to them and to all who supported the event. Our next FREE family Film is on Saturday 11th May at 2pm. It is a Disney film "Brave" and we need your support. These film shows are provided by the PCSO's funded by GAMP.

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 18th May at 6.30pm a Folk Concert.

Sunday 19th May - Aycliffe & Brancepeth Brass Band Concert at 3pm.

POLICE COMMISSIONER HOLDS DOMESTIC ABUSE SEMINAR

Ron Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham held a seminar on Friday 26 April, attended by partners from across County Durham and Darlington. 'To reduce the impact of Domestic Abuse, particularly violence against women and girls' is one of Mr Hogg's personal priorities which he recently announced in his Police and Crime Plan 2013-17.

Mr Hogg said: "The purpose of hosting this seminar was to identify gaps in service delivery and create a mechanism where partner organisations can work better together in the future. The ultimate goal is to improve outcomes for the public and to increase confidence for individuals to report incidents, instead of suffering in silence."

The seminar was well attended by approximately 90 representatives from a broad range of organisations including, public and voluntary sectors, victim services and community groups who contributed by giving individual feedback and action points about how they would like Domestic Abuse services improved.

Volunteers from across the organisations were asked to work together over the coming year in small groups to take the actions forward, to ensure that partners continue to work together to achieve the same goals and to improve confidence for the public. Mr Hogg announced that

a follow-up seminar on Domestic Abuse will take place again next year to review how actions have progressed.

Mission Accomplished

Elizabeth Reeve and her son James successfully completed their Swimathon this week, enjoying every minute and ready to sign up for next year.

They raised £250 for Marie Curie Cancer Care. James swam his 1.5k in an amazing 35minutes and Elizabeth swam 2.5k in 1hr 25minutes, breaking her record for this distance.

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(ROAD B6444 HEIGHINGTON LANE AYCLIFFE) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2013

The Council intend in not less than 7 days from the date of this notice to make an Order under Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, as amended. Its effect will be to close to vehicular traffic a 30m length of B6444 Heighington Lane equidistant from the centre of Heighington Station Level Crossing, Aycliffe to enable level crossing maintenance works to be undertaken.

The maximum duration of the temporary closure under the Order is 18 months and is required from 10 May 2013 and for the duration of the works anticipated to be until 31 May 2013 commencing on selected nights at 9.00pm until 7.00am the following morning including 10 May 2013. However, on rare occasions, alternative dates for closures may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

An alternative route will be available to vehicular traffic from the eastern side of the closure from B6444 junction with A167 at Aycliffe Village, southerly via A167 to Coatham Mundeville Interchange (J59), south westerly along A1(M) to Burtree Interchange (J58) then northerly along A68 and A6072 to the western side of the closure, and vice versa. A local (non-HGV) diversion will be signed from the eastern side of the closure, northerly via Whinbank Road, left onto Horndale Avenue then south westerly along School Aycliffe Lane to the A6072 Roundabout junction with B6444 to the western side of the closure and vice versa.

Dated: 3 May 2013



Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal & Democratic Services
County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL

SSAFA New Branding

Change for Armed Forces Charity

On 10th April 2013, the Sedgefield Division of military charity "SSAFA Forces Help" changes its name to "SSAFA" as part of a rebrand aimed at improving awareness of the charity amongst members of the Forces community. The rebrand is designed to help SSAFA reach more clients by describing the charity, and the support it provides, in a more clear and consistent way.

This is particularly important at a local level where SSAFA's teams of trained volunteers work hard to ensure that help and advice are always close at hand. Last year alone, Sedgefield Division supported 100 veterans and their families in our local community.

SSAFA's long history of supporting the Forces and their families has made it Britain's most trusted charity. But a recent brand audit found that many people thought that the charity needed to modernise its identity to better reach its key audiences. The charity is increasingly helping younger veterans, many of

whom are in their 20s and 30s.

Families have always been at the heart of what SSAFA does and they have been put at the centre of the brand. A new descriptive strapline reiterates the charity's commitment to families as well as those who serve. The change of name is supported by a modern new logo with a three colour underline to represent the charity's lifelong support to the Navy, Army and RAF. Colonel Charlton, Chairman of SSAFA Durham said:

"These changes follow a long period of consultation with volunteers and staff as well as members of the military community. SSAFA has supported our Forces and their families for more than 125 years but the work we do now is more vital than ever before. It's really important that those who serve and those who used to serve in our Forces know that SSAFA is here for them and their families for life."

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Pet Killed in Field by Uncontrolled Dog

Dear Sir,
I worry about people walking their dogs in the field close to Bates Close and I wish to issue a warning.
Last Tuesday afternoon 23rd April I joined my sister to take her dog for a walk on this field when from nowhere an old Staffie dog appeared and attacked her dog which was on a lead. The owner did nothing to stop this attack!
This was very upsetting and due to the injuries sustained her dog had to be put to sleep. Life is so unfair to lose a much loved family pet to an animal which is obviously unsafe and should have been on a lead under the control of the owner.
A kind man did stop to help my sister with her dog and we are grateful. However others walking their dogs in this area should be aware of an irresponsible dog owner who uses this field to exercise his dog without a lead.
Mrs L Musgrave



Great Aycliffe Town Council

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 15th MAY 2013

7.15pm

Agendas are available on Notice Boards, by request at the Council Offices (01325 300700) and 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".

Greenfield Students Perform at Northern Stage

Greenfield Youth Theatre performed 'We Lost Elijah' at Northern Stage, Newcastle on Thursday 25th April. The group is made up of Greenfield Community College students with a passion for theatre, and is directed by Advanced Skills Teacher Lesley Watt of Greenfield. The play, which was also performed at Greenfield in March, was part of the National Theatre Festival 'Connections' - a nationwide celebration of new plays for and about young people. Each year National Theatre commissions renowned playwrights to write plays for 13-18 year olds. "We Lost Elijah" tells the story of the disappearance of Elijah, whose older brother and friends were charged with getting him home safely while riots were raging. Somehow though, something happened and they didn't make it home together. The play explores several themes including identity, manipulation, self-doubt, self-esteem, acceptance, rejection and deceit. Advanced Skills Teacher at Greenfield, Lesley Watt, said "I chose this play knowing it would be challenging and interesting. I was certainly 'hooked' the first time I read it and felt this young and inspiring cast would relate



to the complex issues it explores". A director for the National Theatre, Anna Jones, watched the home performance at Greenfield in March, and spent time discussing the process and final piece with the cast and director / producer Lesley Watt. Anna was very impressed with the quality of the acting, the interpretation and the set design. Unbeknown to the cast playwright Ryan Craig was part of the packed audience at



Northern Stage on Thursday evening. He asked to meet the cast after the performance and answered questions about his development of ideas and

intentions for the script. This was an amazing ending to the day. He congratulated the talented cast on their fantastic programme. Headteacher, David Priestley said "this was an excellent experience for the cast

working with professionals. They have shown commitment to the process and produced a quality piece of theatre; working with professionals has allowed them to take skills to the next level."



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Teaching Girls to Drive at the Youthy 6 Week Vehicle Course

Are you female 16-21 years old. Are you a driver or learning to drive? Thinking about learning to drive soon? Newton Aycliffe Youth Development Team have a 6 week vehicle education programme just for you! "First Gear and on Two Wheels" is a vehicle education programme for young people aged 14-21 years living in the Newton Aycliffe area. The programme aims to educate young people to become safe and responsible users and owners of vehicles. Young people have the opportunity to explore a wide range of areas from spending time with a driving instructor

and learning practical driving skills, to being cut out of scrap cars and watching shocking videos of crash scenes with the fire service. Young people spend time on a vehicle maintenance course at a local college and have the opportunity to gain a recognized qualification through ASDAN Activity Award. If you are interested the programme is running from Friday 7th June - Friday 12th July 10-4:30pm. To book your place please ring 01325 307522 or pop into Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre to leave your details. Two more programmes will be run later for boys or mixed groups.

Council Warning on Parking Fines

Durham County Council is raising awareness of parking issues with drivers in South Durham ahead of taking responsibility for enforcement in June. From May 31st, the Council will take over parking enforcement across the former district areas of Teesdale, Wear Valley and Sedgefield to bring South Durham into line with the rest of the county. To ensure that drivers who park in these areas are ready for the changeover, the Council will begin by issuing warnings to those found to be parking illegally instead of penalties. Starting on May 6th, advice letters will be issued to any drivers found to be contravening restrictions to increase their awareness of the rules. Although the

council will officially take over enforcement on May 31st, for the following 10 days the letters of advice will be replaced by warning notices for first offences. **FOLLOWING THIS PERIOD OF GRACE, THE COUNCIL WILL START ISSUING LIVE PENALTY CHARGE NOTICES ON JUNE 10th.** Adrian White, head of transport and contract services, said: "We hope that the advice and warnings will inform drivers who are unaware of parking restrictions in South Durham and help them avoid being issued with a penalty once we take responsibility for enforcement." Information on parking and enforcement across County Durham can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/parking

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101

IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

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WHEN SHOULD I CALL 101?

To report less urgent crime or disorder and for general police enquiries, for example:

- if your car has been stolen;
- if your property has been damaged;
- when you suspect drug use or dealing;
- to report a minor traffic collision;
- to give information about crime in your area;

or

- if you would like to speak to your local police officer

TEKMAR AT NEWTON AYCLIFFE TRIPLE EXPANSION WITH 30 NEW JOBS

Tekmar, the leading subsea technology company, has announced a £1million investment programme, which will more than treble the size of its North East England facility and create in excess of 30 new jobs.

The Newton Aycliffe-based company is the market leader for the supply of offshore wind cable protection systems and will use this growth as a catalyst to expand its operations back into the Oil & Gas sector.

The expansion includes adding a further 75,000 sq. ft. to its current 27,000 sq. ft. facility. Due to Tekmar's hard work and dedication, this growth has enabled it to take on an additional building adjacent to its existing facility, on the Newton Aycliffe Business Park.

This investment will help transform its current facility into a state-of-the-art Research and Development Centre while its existing operations will be expanded to meet the demands of the sector by operating out of the additional larger building. Currently employing 75 people, Tekmar, which is a member of business development organisation NOF Energy, will also be investing in recruitment and training with plans to take on more than 30 new members of staff during the next 12



Tekmar CEO James Ritchie (left) and Mark Henderson, Head of Sales & Marketing outside the company's facility at Aycliffe.

months.

This announcement follows on from Tekmar recently securing the highly regarded ISO accreditations for 9001, 14001 and 18001.

James Ritchie, Chief Executive of Tekmar, said: "This expansion will enable Tekmar to expand its offerings in the oil & gas sector while continuing to grow our presence in the offshore wind sector. We have existing, high quality transferable skills and technologies that are applicable to the oil & gas sector, which we can deliver through this investment.

"We operate in a global market

and this investment will enable Tekmar to maintain and grow its position in the supply chain building upon our impressive track record. Over the last five years we have supplied more than 1,000 cable protection systems for the UK & European offshore wind market."

He added: "We are very proud to be at the forefront of the subsea technology sector and this growth demonstrates the increasingly prominent role UK companies have in the energy sector supply chain. It is also very satisfying to be able to create new jobs in North East England. It demonstrates there are opportunities for skilled

people in this region and that the North East is an attractive proposition for engineers and skilled technicians looking to develop their careers."

Joanne Leng MBE, Deputy Chief Executive of NOF Energy, said: "Tekmar is part of the strong North East England subsea sector that is well-

respected and well-utilised by global industry. Its expansion highlights the confidence members of the supply chain have in the future of the energy sector and their ability to deliver the technology, skills and services to ensure they remain at the heart of the growth of the sector."

CANCELLATION OF HEALTH COURSE DISAPPOINTS USERS

Dear Sir,

I read your lead story "Become a Friend Of PCP" a scheme designed to encourage and thank people for their continued support. The article included the PCP's mission statement which is 'improving health, well-being and learning for all', which I found to be entirely ironic.

I have attended the PCP, since September 2012, joining the class 'Tai Chi for Health' because of residual health issues following chemotherapy. Following a great deal of research I decided that this low impact controlled activity would best suit my needs and was encouraged to discover it was recommended on NHS Websites.

The class was attended by others who had joined for a variety of reasons many of which included health matters. Whilst the numbers attending fluctuated there was a core group of regulars.

The instruction given by Ken

Hornung was of the highest quality. He was clearly very experienced, extremely knowledgeable, very understanding and targeted his tuition so that those attending benefitted enormously from what he did. My personal health improvements have been quite marked.

I was dismayed therefore to discover, the classes were now cancelled as they were not cost effective. I do acknowledge the centre has running costs but I would suggest that Jane Hartley, Chief Executive of PCP, amend the mission statement to read 'improving health, well-being and learning for all as long as it is cost effective'. A pity that the health benefits were not taken into account.

I would also suggest the PCP has now lost a number of potential 'Friends' who are left without an easy to reach accessible venue to continue their health improvements.

Paul Wray, School Aycliffe.

CHARITY CANNOT RUN COURSES AT A LOSS says PCP

Dear Mr Wray,

I am writing in response to your letter commenting on the cancellation of our provision of Tai Chi classes, due to them not being economically viable and the irony of PCP's Mission statement being 'Improving health, wellbeing and learning for all'.

You suggest that our mission statement should perhaps read, 'Improving health, wellbeing and learning for all as long as its cost effective' and there is some truth in your suggestion, as sadly as we do not receive any public sector or grant funding to support lifestyle classes in the Pioneering Care Centre and we cannot afford to run classes at a loss.

We have not come to the decision lightly; we have tried to keep the class going for 2 years despite it not achieving sufficient attendance to generate enough income to break even. We have also tried to promote the class more widely to generate interest, but despite our efforts and due to the economic climate we are operating in, we simply could no longer afford to run it.

We are always reluctant to stop running any class that is benefiting individuals to improve their health and we

constantly try to secure further funding to fund and subsidise our activities. Therefore we will now be working in partnership with Nouveau fitness, who have some funding which will mean classes will be offered at a reduced rate. A new timetable will be published soon which includes low impact physical activity suitable for those with health or mobility problems.

In the meantime I understand that Age UK run a Tai Chi class at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre on Wednesdays 12-1pm for people over the age of 50, and there is also a Tai Chi class at Agnew Community Centre, Wednesday 6.30 - 8pm which may be of help to you.

I hope this letter has gone some way to explaining our situation, that as a registered charity we do not receive any grant funding to run the Pioneering Care Centre and its activities; therefore we have to ensure that all of our activities are funded in some way.

Some of our activities such as 'Colour Your Life' art classes are funded through the NHS which means we are able to offer this activity for free, but sadly this is not the case for our Tai Chi classes.

Jane Hartley
Chief Executive

Market Day Chaos!

Dear Editor,

Today I visited Newton Aycliffe town centre and what a disgraceful carry on. I live in Ferryhill and often call at the town centre to shop and visit the market.

We parked in the covered car park only to find we could not get through to the shops. There was a man there to tell us that to get there we must go up in the lift, walk across the car park and descend to the shopping area by going down the new stairs. This is no easy task if you have a pushchair or if you are not in the best of health.

When we got to the town centre the market had been moved to the car park where the market traders normally park their vans. There were no

signs to say there was a market on.

I think it is a disgrace the way the market traders have been treated, and there seems to have been no thought for them when the arrangements were made for the town centre improvements.

If the Town Centre management or the Council want rid of the market they are doing a good job. They want to remember a good market brings people into the town and if the traders continue to be treated this way I can see them leaving one by one and then Newton Aycliffe will no longer be called a market town.

Helen Cox

Ed: This problem would have been alleviated had there been no wall erected next to Aldi.

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Tonight 1 in 8 children will go to bed hungry – but there is enough food for all to eat and have their fill if changes are made. This is an upsetting but true statistic. Christian Aid is an organisation which

has a global vision to end poverty. For years they have relied on hundreds of volunteers delivering and collecting those distinctive red envelopes, and although

this will still be happening in some parts of town, fewer volunteers with less spare time has meant a need to try something different. This year on MONDAY 13th MAY 'SHINE' the Church and Community Children's Choir along with Parish Youth will be hosting 'SING AID' – a sponsored event! The choir will be singing for a full hour 4.45-5.45pm in St. Clare's Main Hall and serving cups of tea and coffee and cake @ £1 with all proceeds to Christian Aid.

Please come along and join in with the singing and fundraising. The choir will be singing a selection of songs they have learnt over the last year and a special song for Christian Aid called 'Make Someone Happy'. We encourage everyone to come along and play a part in ending global poverty. Entry is free and you can sponsor the choir on the night, or by phoning Helen McCormick on 319002

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Innovations Celebrate 10th Birthday



Innovations who specialise in providing a day service for adults with learning difficulties throughout County Durham recently staged a show at the Civic Centre, Shildon, in celebration of 10 years' service. The show was enjoyed by

Family, Friends, Carers and other professional organisations. The Drama and Performing Arts group have been preparing for this event for several months and although a little nervous put on a grand show for all.

Aycliffe Runners in Sunderland Marathon

On Sunday 28th April members of Aycliffe Running Club travelled to Sunderland for three of the Marathon of the North Events. Weather conditions were not ideal with blustery wind and showers. Despite the conditions, though, there were some really good times achieved.

In the 10K race Shelley McCormack was first back in 49:47 and a new PB for her. Then followed Kat Aspey 58:28, Ronnie Pluck 61:32, Emma Scott 66:09 and Elaine Pearson 72:45. Laura Knox and Tracey Warrior also competed in this race but their times are still to be confirmed. Despite still suffering from calf problems Trish Kay led Aycliffe home in the Half Marathon in an excellent time of 1:45. Next was Penny Johnson, in training for Edinburgh Marathon, in 1:55 and Julie Nisbet in 2:10. Yvonne Williams knocked 18 minutes off her last half marathon time by finishing in 2:15. Craig Robinson, although feeling unwell, finished in 2:18. In the Marathon, Martyn Knox had a great race to finish in 3:38. He was followed by

Wendy Bake, who smashed her previous marathon time, in 3:53. Next was Rob Nicholson in another good time of 4:35. Susan Clark, in her first marathon, was delighted with her time of 4:56. There were about 5000 competitors, in total, in these events and they were cheered

on by supporters and marshalls along the routes. Members of the Quakers running club in Darlington had also given up their time to marshal and gave great support and encouragement to Aycliffe Running Club.

On Tuesday 30th April Lee Wren represented Aycliffe

Running Club at the NYSD track event in Darlington and was 1st in the 1500m in an excellent time of 4:47. Aycliffe 10K and fun run is being held on 16th June 2013. For further details and application form please visit <http://www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk/>

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Fuel Quality Blamed for Car Breakdown

Dear Sir,
I wish to complain about poor quality fuel from Tesco being the cause of my daughter's car breaking down on the motorway and there is proof from a garage that this was the case. I complained to Tesco and received a reply stating their fuel is checked regularly and that they were not at fault. I have since

spoken to the customer service manager who more or less said the same thing. I have now asked to speak to someone higher up and I am awaiting a telephone call from the Claims Manager on this matter.

Tesco is such a huge company with profits in excess of millions and no apology or refund was offered in way of compensation for the distress caused to my daughter. She lost her shift off work in Newcastle and as a student the £150 breakdown cost is a lot of money.

I feel more people should know that their cars breaking down could be due to the poor quality of fuel from Tesco and would be pleased to hear of similar occurrences.

Name & address supplied

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM REWARD SCHEME PLUS FREE TRAVEL

Young people choosing to study at an 'Outstanding' County Durham college will be able to take advantage of an enhanced Rewards scheme from this September.

All full-time further education students aged 16-18 will be eligible for a £200 'Cash for College' reward plus an additional £200 for those with a household income below £26,000; this is as well as free travel to College on Arriva or Go North East buses for students that live at least two miles from the College.

Students aged 19 and over can also take advantage of a means-tested cash reward and travel support up to the value of £400 if their household income is below £26,000.

John Widdowson, Principal and Chief Executive of New College Durham said: "The College is delighted to announce our new Rewards package for September 2013 to financially support students with the additional costs that arises from studying high quality vocational and academic courses. We have made a substantial investment

in this package and want to make coming to New College Durham as easy and accessible as possible."

The College will also offer separate bursaries of up to £1,200 for students in care, or care leavers, students on income support or those with a disability. There is also assistance with childcare via a Government Care to Learn scheme.

Stacey Ayre aged 16 from Ferryhill will be starting the second year of her A-Levels in September. She said: "This is fantastic news for all full-time students, as I live more than 2 miles from College, I already get free travel to College on Go North East, so to get this again from September is a real bonus. The new reward 'Cash

for College' is going to help me and my friends get the things we need for our course. It makes sense that if your attendance is good, and you're up to date with your course work and working hard, that you are rewarded with cash that can help towards your study costs."

The Flex and Travel scheme offer free transport and is also a great help for students studying at New College Durham. It offers 16-18 year old full-time students, who are studying further education, the opportunity of free travel to and from the College. The students can travel on services operated by Aviva or Go Northern on weekdays, during term time. The great benefit of this is that allows students to travel on

the buses which best suit their timetable, giving them greater flexibility around their studies. Students will be eligible for other financial rewards while they study at New College Durham including free sports activities, discounted gym membership plus a wide range of onsite facilities, activities and services..

New College Durham is the first choice for many young people in County Durham, with achievement rates amongst the best in the country, and success rates placing the College in the top 10% of colleges nationally. For full terms and conditions for all the New College Durham Rewards go to www.newcollegedurham.ac.uk/rewards or telephone 0191 3754040.

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Fun Run

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(accurately measured with kilometres marked)

Entry Fees: 10k Run £10.00 Club Runners/£12.00 Non Club Runners
£2.00 extra to enter on the day
3k Run £4.00 All entries

Enter online at ayclifferrunningclub.org.uk

Cheques to be made payable to 'Aycliffe Running Club'

Entries (enclosing 9 x 6 S.A.E.) to: Colin Gibson,
12 Ainsty Hunt, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7PH
Closing Date for Entries Sunday 9th June 2013

If for any reason the race is cancelled at short notice (which in the 15 year history has never occurred) Aycliffe Running Club can not return your entry fee as the club is committed to the organisation cost of the event regardless.

Surname Forename(s)

Address

..... County Post Code

e-mail address Telephone No.

Date of Birth Age on 16th June 2013 Athletics UK Affiliated Club

10k or Fun Run please tick 10k Fun Run male female
(For 10K runners must be over 15-years on 16th June 2013)

UKA Reg Number for club member

Declaration: I wish to enter the 3M 10k or fun run and I declare that I am an amateur as defined by England Athletics Laws and certify that I am medically fit to run. Furthermore, I agree that the organisers will not be held responsible for any injury or illness as result of my participation in the events. I understand that my details will be stored on the entry computer, but will not be distributed to any other organisation or running club.

Signature

Date

AYCLIFFE
RUNNING CLUB

Town Groups Can Use Shop Free of Charge

Raise Funds, Recruit, Meet & Promote



A new Community Shop managed by Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) is available for groups and organisations to use free of charge.

A new sign has just gone up which has very kindly been donated by Newton Press. The shop has been offered by Bryan Haldane, Town Centre Management until such time it is demolished as part of the redevelopment.

The shop is next to the Post Office in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre and is ideal for information days, meetings, table top sales, exhibitions, knit and natter groups, recruiting new members, or simply raising awareness of your service/activity.

Community groups can book the shop free of charge for a week or two, or on a weekly basis to demonstrate their activities and raise their profile.

Groups using it have represented a diverse range of interests such as cycling, health talks, environmental issues, art for positive mental health, local history, credit advice and a parents group.

It also provides a useful venue for displays and consultations relating to plans for Newton Aycliffe. Great Aycliffe and Middridge Area Action Partnership (GAMP) are



holding a 'Meet the GAMP team' event in June, keep an eye on local press for further details nearer the time.

Kirsty Deacon-Brown, Marketing and Arts Co-ordinator for the PCP says "We want people to visit the 'Community Shop' to discover the huge variety of local activities and services that people can access on their own doorstep. We want people to have fun, try something new and celebrate what Aycliffe has to offer."

The shop idea came from a local partnership called 'Active Aycliffe' which involves organisations such as Durham County Council's Sport and Physical Activity Team, PCP, Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP), Woodham

Academy, One Point, Great Aycliffe Town Council, the Rotary Club and local sports clubs who have got together to run events and raise the profile of what's going on in Aycliffe.

'Active Aycliffes' aim is to help get children, young people and families fitter and healthier and participate in activities to improve their lifestyles. The shop will showcase the activities of local clubs and associations and provide a market place of information.

If you represent a local organisation/group and would like to run an activity or book a time slot at the shop please contact Angie Cooke, Project Admin Officer at PCP on 01325 321234 email enquiries@pcp.uk.net.

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Please contact Laura Bell to apply
 Telephone: (01325) 328443

Thousands Eligible For Funding To Beat Rising Fuel Rates

Newton News readers could receive help to make homes warmer

Residents in Newton Aycliffe that are struggling to meet the demands of rising fuel rates could be eligible for a free boiler upgrade, aiding savings of up to £310 a year on heating bills. The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) initiative is a government programme designed to reduce energy consumption in Britain by providing energy improvements in the home.

Under the new scheme Newton residents who meet the following criteria could be eligible to replace their old, inefficient boilers with a new A-rated model for free. The scheme is open to residents who:

- live in privately owned or rented accommodation
- have a gas boiler that is faulty or old/inefficient
- have a wall-mounted gas boiler
- are on certain income related benefits

Those that qualify for the scheme will receive a free A-grade boiler. The ECO programme also provides a one year parts and labour guarantee on top of the manufacturer's warranty. Carillion Energy Services will be writing directly to eligible people this week with more details of the offer and a full list of eligibility criteria. Dave Robinson from Carillion Energy Services said: "The ECO initiative recognises that people may

struggle with rising fuel rates and offers the opportunity to reduce heating bills as well as protect the environment. We are urging people who may qualify for the initiative to get in touch to receive the help they are entitled to".

If you do not receive a letter and think you may qualify for ECO funding, or would simply like further information contact Carillion Energy Services free on 0800 408 7651 now, or visit www.carillionenergy.com - Lines are open Monday to Friday 8am-6pm and Saturday 9am-5pm.

P.A.C.T. Meeting
Police And Community Together



A PACT and Neighbourhood Watch Meeting will be held at Aycliffe Village Hall on Saturday 11th May from 11am to 12 noon.

PC Alan Thompson & PCSO Richard Scott are your Community Police Officers and they will take the PACT Meeting.

Neil Langthorne is your Community Liaison Officer and he will take the NHW Meeting. Please come along to hear updates and have your say on local issues.

Councillors and Living Representatives have been invited to attend. For more information about what's going on your area visit www.durham.police.uk

FINDING INVENTORS OF THE FUTURE

NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR 11 - 14 YEAR OLD STUDENTS

An exciting competition has been launched to encourage children across the UK to submit their designs for a new product, gadget, gizmo or toy and win the opportunity to turn it into a real-life prototype.

The "We Made It!" competition aims to show 11 - 14 year olds the range of exciting opportunities that a career in engineering can offer and help them understand that manufacturing is about design and creativity as well as the hands-on making of products.

MPs up and down the country will work with businesses in their area to judge entries received in their constituencies, choosing a young person to represent them. The best entries nationwide will then be invited to one of seven UK "Fab Labs", digital fabrication laboratories, where they will use the very latest high-tech methods to bring their ideas to life with the help of the Labs' experts. The final products will then be officially launched at an exclusive awards reception at the Houses of Parliament in December.

It is the second year the competition has been held. Last year saw winners Adam Kassell and Joseph Kruczkowski beat over 360 other entries to create their winning designs at the UK's first Fab Lab in Manchester. Eddie Kirkby, Charity and Operations Support Manager at The Manufacturing Institute, which owns and runs Fab Lab Manchester, said:

"Last year's competition was a huge success and saw hundreds of really inventive ideas submitted from right across the country. This year, the competition is set to be even bigger and better, with seven Fab Labs on board - from Northern Ireland right down to Cornwall.

"There is a real need to get young people excited about working in engineering and manufacturing and help them understand what the industry can offer them as a career. That's why we're so pleased to be involved in "We Made It!" for a second year running."

To find out more about how to get involved with the competition just visit www.wemadedituk.co.uk

CSI at Woodham Academy



This week Woodham Academy has launched an innovative new project designed to encourage students to read more widely. Over the course of the next few weeks the school will be releasing to students mock press releases, TV interviews, CSI reports, suspect profiling and other information based upon a fictional event where suspicious items were found buried on the school grounds. Amongst these items was an old war medal and students are required to track the information on the school's virtual learning environment and

explore them for clues.

Successful students who manage to put all of the pieces of the story together and identify the culprit will be invited to a secret reward event and have the opportunity to win a secret prize.

Literacy Co-ordinator Josie Geatches said "This is going to be excellent! Students are already enthused over the project. We are getting a lot of excellent feedback already."

There is even a clue for Woodham Academy students hidden in this article!

UNWANTED COMPUTER AND LAPTOPS RECYCLED FOR CHARITY

You can donate it to Helping Hands and help us raise money so that we can support more people that facing financial crisis?

Did you know that over a million computers from the UK end up in landfill every year? That's enough to give away two to every person living in the city of Manchester!

Helping Hands is taking part in the Money4Computers scheme making it easy for us to turn your old unwanted laptop and desktop systems into money for our charity!

That's right, not only will you be helping to stop computers going to landfill, you will also help us to raise much needed cash for Helping Hands in the process!

Simply phone or text Helping Hands team on 07936431262. We will gladly arrange collection. Alternatively you can e-mail lifeline.action@googlemail.com with your details and we will get straight back to you. Once we have collected 15 machines, Money4Computers will collect them, safely destroy all personal data, then value and recycle them. We will

receive money back as extra funding for our charity

We will also distribute some of the computers back into the community to families who couldn't otherwise be able to afford them.

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. If you need help just phone 07936 431262. We offer a ring back service.

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Getting Married?

We remind those who are planning to get married they can have their wedding recorded in Newton News at no charge. Send in a photo and details by e-mail to syd@newtonnews.co.uk or call in at our offices on St. Cuthberts Way.

Free Family Workshops



This weekend is the last of our free family workshops as part of the AAP funded "Out of the Bag!" project, which is being co-ordinated by Greenfield Arts. For the past 3 months families have joined our fantastic artists at three local community centres to explore their creative ideas and receive a free bag of fun materials.

This Saturday & Sunday 4th and 5th May, the workshops will take place at Woodham Community Centre, Greenfield Arts, and Agnew Community Centre. This might be the last family workshop but it isn't the end of the project!

On Saturday 1st June the project will culminate in a Free Family Fun Day at Greenfield Arts, featuring free live performances, free food, free creative sessions and much more! For full details of this event, and to book for this Saturday & Sunday please contact Greenfield Arts on 01325 379048, or visit our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

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Girl Guide Change of Commissioner

Girlguiding Newton Aycliffe Division would like to say a huge "Thank you" to Sara Layfield-Carroll at the end of her term of office as Division Commissioner.

Sara had many roles in Girlguiding over more than 30 years and has been Division Commissioner (not for the first time!) for the past 5 years, so will be known to many. Sara was succeeded as Division Commissioner by Becci Barnett on 1st May 2013.

Sara will continue to be an Assistant Brownie Leader in the town and is to be congratulated on her new role as Events Coordinator for Girlguiding Durham South County. She will be instrumental in helping the Brownies of Durham South celebrate their 100th Birthday in 2014.

If you would like to know more about Girlguiding, please visit our national website www.girlguiding.org.uk. To register your interest as a volunteer or to

find an appropriate local unit for your daughter go direct to www.girlguiding.org.uk/ interested.



Sara Layfield-Carroll



Becci Barnett

Did They Hope We Wouldn't Notice?

In Aycliffe we have been busy this month fighting a local election campaign over who gets the right to go to County Hall to implement the Tories' draconian cuts to local government spending. So you might have missed what the government has been smuggling in under the smokescreen of the election and the Thatcher funeral.

I have made people aware through the Newton News of some of the changes – the 'bedroom tax' and the benefit cuts – as well as the millionaires' tax cut and the passing of 'Section 75' (which 'marketises' the NHS).

In fact, April also saw significant Tory attacks on our human rights:

- On 1 April, the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act came into force; it cuts the legal aid budget by £350m by removing entire areas of law from the scope of legal aid – so that fewer people now have access to free legal representation than at any time since legal aid was introduced.
- On 15 April, on a disastrous day for human rights in Britain, the Commons voted:

1. to SCRAP Section 3 of the

Equality and Human Rights Commission's duties, which obliges it to 'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation'.

2. to REMOVE from the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill a provision outlawing caste discrimination (which is therefore now legal in Britain).

• On the same day, Hansard reported a string of complaints by Parliament's Human Rights Joint Committee that the government's practice of fast-tracking bills was not giving it time properly to scrutinise legislation with human rights implications.

• That same day also, MPs voted for the 'shares-for-rights' scheme that will allow people to set up businesses without giving their employees full rights, provided they give them shares in the business instead (the Lords later rejected this proposal, so we will 'watch that space' on this one).

• On 17 April, quietly on the day of the Thatcher funeral, Justice Secretary Chris Grayling issued plans to reform the legal aid system, including packaging legal aid into 400 contracts for which big firms like G4S will be encouraged to bid; it is the 'marketisation' of legal aid.

• On 19 April, the Guardian reported a proposal by Eric Pickles's Department for Communities to control and censor the content of newsletters issued by local

councils.

• That same day, a left-wing blogger revealed that a Jobseeker personality test required by the DWP (with sanctions if you refused) was a 'behavioural control' fake designed by a US counter-terrorism and psychology team.

• On 22 April, at 11:30pm in an almost-deserted chamber, the Lords agreed to amend the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill so that the burden of proving what caused an accident will now fall on the injured worker, or the family of someone killed, rather than the employer – a rule-change that overturns century-old legislation and will affect 70,000 cases a year. This month, in fact, saw the abolition of a raft of safety regulations, including the scrapping of the head protection regulations.

• On 23rd April, after yet another failed attempt to deport Abu Qatada, the Tories again floated the idea of leaving the European Court of Human Rights; talk like this should alarm British workers, whose employment rights are based substantially on European legislation.

If you have been interested to know about these developments, you can keep yourself up-to-date by joining the Newton Aycliffe Labour Group of Branches facebook page – at bit.ly/NALGOB – which usually records such things as they happen.

John D Clare

Market in Temporary Location



The Town Centre Market moved to its temporary location this week pending work on the main pedestrian area in the Town Centre. The date for its return will be notified. During this period the public car parking area will be closed.

St. Mary's Visit Town Library!



On Thursday, 18th of April Year 3 pupils from St. Mary's visited the library. This is the third time our class visited the library, as part of our Literacy lessons. We love to read and our class teachers, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Clausen thought by going to the library regularly, we would enjoy reading even more! On our last visit we were given a tour of the library by the friendly, helpful staff, so that we know where to find the books we enjoy reading.

We already know some famous authors, whose books we like to read, e.g. Roald Dahl, Enid Blyton and Julia Donaldson. We go to the library every 3 weeks and are allowed to choose a book on our class ticket. Some of us were already members of the library, while some of us have recently joined; now visiting the library in the evenings and weekends. Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Clausen hope that by regularly visiting the library, we will enjoy

reading more and develop a passion for reading that will last a lifetime!

This is what some of us think ... Jamie, "It has encouraged me to like books and I read more now." Lily, "It inspires me with my writing, as I get lots of ideas from books." Jack, "I managed to get a book from one of my favourite films." Dylan, "I will never stop reading." Hannah, "I now go to the library outside of school and read more books."

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Art Exhibition at Greenfield Flower Club

Next week sees the opening of a new exhibition in The Greenfield Gallery at Greenfield Community & Arts Centre. From Thursday 9th May until Wednesday 29th May "Vermeer to Eternity" a retrospective

exhibition of the work of local artist Reg Mechen will be on display. The exhibition will include painted works on canvas, on board and some mixed media work. This is a great opportunity to see the range of work Reg has produced. Reg Mechen is a member and frequent exhibitor with EDAN and Interface artist's networks. The Greenfield Gallery is open Monday to Thursday 10am to 9pm, and Fridays 10am to 4pm. For more information please visit our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk.

On Saturday, 4th May Shildon and District Flower Club will be supporting the National Flower Arranging Day with a display of flowers in Shildon Library, together with information about the Flower Club whose next Open Meeting takes place on Monday 13th May at 7.30pm in Shildon Civic Centre. John Thexton, Area Demonstrator from Cumbria will present an evening of flower demonstrating entitled 'Admire, Inspire'. Tickets costing £5 for members, £7 for visitors are available from Terry Hall (01388) 763430 or pay on the door.

CRAZY KDANZ THRILLSEEKERS AT YOUR SERVICE



The crazy KDANZ team have completed some amazing thrill seeking activities in the past and are now asking the people of Newton Aycliffe if there is any charity event they can help with. KDANZ principal Kay Thompson has just taken part in a zip wire to raise money for cancer research. On Sunday 28th April, Kay from Newton Aycliffe, along with her fellow teachers at Portland Academy in Sunderland, Pete, Gordon, and Suzanne, jumped off the Sunderland bridge and flew down a long wire across the River Wear. The special needs teacher has taken part in many outrageous charity events to raise money for good causes, within the last 2 years has walked on fire, ran a 10k obstacle race, walked on broken glass, ran a marathon, jumped out of a plane on a sky dive and double bungee jumped with partner Phil Harrop (a local business owner of Workshop Supplies on the Business Park). Phil and twin brother Mark, both 38 also from Newton Aycliffe, are as mad as Kay. Their next up coming physical challenge is IRON MAN BOLTON, consisting of a 2 1/2

mile swim, 112 mile bike ride, and a 26.2 mile marathon. All this to support a boy from Chilton with infant batons disease, a degenerating illness affecting sight and mobility. Following in the footsteps of Kay, another dance teacher at KDANZ, Toni Bridle, from Newton Aycliffe, is flying high on a sky dive at Peterlee, next month. The first event of this kind for her, she said, 'I love being part of KDANZ. The team are like another family to me and we at KDANZ try to inspire our dancers, to reach for their dreams. My dream is to help other people so I thought I would try a sky dive!! I hope for this to be a first for me with lots more to come.' Toni, Kay, Phil and KDANZ have also just performed in a charity night in Sunderland to raise money for Mental health charity MIND as well as Leukaemia Cancer Care. Kay, Phil, Toni and their dance school KDANZ are now offering their support to any charities in the local area. If you would like a dance performance to support your event or a group to take part in a crazy event please contact Kay on 07900 365 892.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's first team sponsored by Lift Right Fork Lift Training beat the weather, but couldn't beat Whitby 2nd XI, as they lost their NYSD 3rd division home match by 4 wickets. After being asked to bat first on a slightly damp wicket, Aycliffe struggled to get any momentum in their innings and despite a breezy 18 runs from captain Chris Palmer, the homeside found themselves in deep trouble with the score at 70 for 9. However a club record 10th wicket partnership between Tony Travis, who finished on 31 not out and 9 runs from Ian Palmer, saw the pair add a superb 52 runs for the last wicket to push their teams total to a creditable 122 all out after 43.5 overs. In reply, the

visitors got off to an excellent start and at 62 without loss, looked to be heading for a comfortable victory. The introduction of bowler Luke Telford to the attack seemed to unnerve Whitby's batsmen as the left arm spinner took 4 for 26 in a marathon 17 over spell that almost brought Aycliffe an unlikely victory. The 2nd team were well beaten away at Saltburn by 174 runs, when they were dismissed for 62 chasing a mammoth 237 for victory. The were some positives to be taken from the game, Tom Wickins took two wickets during Saltburn's innings and Matt Capper, James Skerrett and Dan Weldon all batted well and each reached double figures during Aycliffe's reply.

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Agnew Centre NEWS & VIEWS

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Mondays: Aycliffe Spiritualists - 7pm to 9pm or ring Gladys Brown on 01325 324 660
Tuesdays: Art Class - 1pm to 3pm or ring Andy Taylor on 0191 373 2485. Disability Sports Club for 5 to 16 year olds - 5-30pm to 7-30pm - please ring Ron Mitchie on 01325 321 504 office or 07749 236 853. Aycliffe Spiritualists at 7-30pm to 9pm. Ring Gladys Brown on 01325 324 660 before attending this meeting or occasional meetings held on a Friday evening.
Wednesdays: Tai Chi Class - 6.30pm to 8pm - attend or ring Brett Lambert on 07903 718 088 for information on

this popular class.
Thursdays: Arriba Community Weight Loss Challenge - 6pm to 8pm - Ring Jules Baxter on 07966 968 388 for full details.
Fridays: PK All Stars Youth Club for the 7 to 11 years olds - 6pm to 7-30pm - For full details of this exciting new set up ring James Ross on 07966 266 642
 Book your Childs Birthday Party on a Saturday or Sunday for 3 hours at a cost of £24 with use of the whole Centre. Please note that from April 1st 2013 the price will be £25 - Ring Ron Mitchie on 01325 321 504 office or 07749 236 853 Today
 Should you require an event not listed then ring Ron and if the Agnew cannot help then he will try and put you in touch with other Community Centres who may be able to accommodate you.

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03-05-13

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EXPERIENCED CARER with NVOQ3 Health & Social Care (Adults). Do you have a relative with Dementia/ Alzheimer’s and need respite for a few hours a week? Phone Sheila on 07827 912 992, reasonable rates.


Congratulations

Emma Louise Perry



HAPPY 21ST BIRTHDAY to my gorgeous Daughter. I love you so much, from Mam xxx

Wow
Anthea is 70!



HAPPY 70TH BIRTHDAY on the 4th May
Anthea/Mum, Nana & Great Nana
Love from Alan, Joanne, Jack, Stephen, Emma, Beccie, Lee, Rory, Cheyanne, Rhyley and Raegan
Holly and Amber ‘woof, woof’ xxxxx

DAISY TAYLOR 4th May. Happy 11th birthday to our beautiful girl. Lots of love always, Mam, Dad, Dice, Oscar and Nibbles and happy birthday from the ‘One Direction Boys’

LEANNE MAUGHAN Congratulations on your 21st birthday on the 6th May. Lots of love from Mam and Dad and Colin

LEANNE MAUGHAN Happy 21st birthday on the 6th May. Love from Grandma and Grandad

Sits Vacant

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

PART-TIME JOBS AVAILABLE at Petrol Station in Newton Aycliffe. We are looking for part-time cook / cleaner to work mornings, Monday to Friday, early 6am start and 10am finish. Applicant must be 18 or over. Hourly rate £6.19. Please contact: 07577 994 596

RECRUITING for wellness coaches. Are you ready to lead the life you deserve? Then you’re ready for Herbalife! As a part time/full time distributor you can: Earn what you’re worth; Spend more time with family; Work from home - or wherever! Help people live healthier, active lives! Get started now and contact Jules on 07966 968 388 (local meeting on 12th May 2012! Only serious people need apply!)

Andrew Robson



LOOK WHO’S 30 ON THE 4TH MAY
Happy birthday to my amazing fiancé! Hope you have a brilliant weekend! Love always, Louise xx
Happy 30th Andrew. Love from Gran, Mam, Dad and Clare xx
Happy 30th birthday. Love from Christine, David, Sarah, Will, James, Helen and Layla xx

WAYNE McWILLIAM the Big 30. Happy birthday, have a great day. Love you loads, Mam and Dave xx

WAYNE Happy 30th. Love, Denise and kids x

WAYNO Happy 30th birthday. hope you have an amazing day! Love you lots, Nicola x

WAYNE Happy 30th birthday, have a great day, lots of love Ugs (Shannon) and Jack xx

TO THE BEST DAD in the world (Wayne), hope you have a super 30th birthday. Lots of kisses and cuddles from Jay, Parker and Erin xxx

RYAN DURR 2nd May 2013 Happy 21st birthday. Love, Mam, Dad and Stephanie

LYNN MACKENZIE 7.5.13 To the best Mam and Nana in the world. Happy birthday, hope you have a great day. Love, Karis, Jack and Fin xxx

In Memoriam

Adrian Cairns

01/05/11
It is two years since you left us with a huge void in our lives. But we have memories, all good, of a loving and caring Son. There is heartbreak, tears and sadness, but one we will be together again. Dad and Mam

JOHN ROBIN BATES 28-4-2003. Beloved Husband, sadly missed for ten years, now also Popsy, resting with Daddy. Love you both, Barbara xxx

EDITH LEWIS 03/05/2012 If we could write a story Mam, it would be the greatest ever told, of a kind and loving Mam, who had a heart of gold. We would write a million pages, to say how much we love and miss you, every single day. It broke our hearts to lose you Mam, but you did not go alone the day God called you home, you left us beautiful memories Mam, filled with all your love. Remembered today and every day. Lots and lots of love from all your loving family

TOM TOLSON 6th May 2007. Remembering you today Dad, comforted by so many memories. Missing you and Mam. Love, Eileen, Jane, Thomas and family

Iain Jex



10 TODAY!
07.05.03
Happy birthday Son. Love from Mum and Dad, Nanna and Grandad, Uncle Keith and Heather and Uncles Paul and Craig xxx

Thank You

Layla Young



Born 17.04.13
Thank you all for the cards, gifts and well wishes on the birth of our beautiful daughter Layla. Calvin & Ashley xx

MOLLIE ATKINSON would like to thank all her loving family and friends for the beautiful cards, flowers and presents on the occasion of her 80th birthday. A good day was had by all.

THANK YOU to the gentleman who handed my iPhone in to the Police. Many, many thanks. Julie Ward

Obituary

ASBSON Newton Aycliffe April 27th, suddenly after a brief illness bravely borne, Michael James aged 69 years. Dearly loved husband and soulmate of Judith, much loved father of Darren, Garry, Lindsey, Amanda and Christopher, devoted and greatly missed by all his grandchildren also a loving brother of Maureen. Forever in our hearts. Funeral Tuesday May 7th. Would friends kindly meet for Service in Durham Crematorium at 1.00pm. No flowers please. Donations in lieu in aid of The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation may be given or will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6EN. Tel: 01325 318600.

PORTER (Nee Ryder) June of Newton Aycliffe. In hospital surrounded by her loving family on April 27th aged 80 years. Beloved wife of the late Bob. A much loved Mam, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Family and friends please meet for Service at St. Mary’s Catholic Church on Thursday May 9th from 11.00am. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, to the British Heart Foundation

Garden Club

Bishop Auckland Hospital Garden Club next meets on Tuesday 7th May at 8.15pm in the Hospital Club on Escomb Road. All welcome. For further details contact Gil Berry (01388) 450 524.

Under 18’s Footballers

If you would like to play football and are aged 18 we are looking for players. 16 - 18 year olds with dates of birth from 1st September 1994 to the 31st August 1996 are eligible to play in the TJFA League. If your intrested please call Colin on 07736 686 594.

Open Bank Holiday Monday

The Cubby and Honest John’s Stall will be open on Bank Holiday Monday. Everybody welcome to drop in for a cuppa and a hot or cold snack.

Exchange

FROM a 3 bedroom house, Simpasture area **TO** a 2 or 3 bedroom house, Town Centre, old part of town. Tel 07818 268 751

Birthday Remembrance

TARVIT Remembering you Jennie, on your birthday 4th May. No cards or flowers, just lots of happy memories, Sylvia and Vic

JENNIE TARVIT Thinking of you on your birthday with sadness in our hearts for a very special Mother from whom we had to part. Put your arms around her Lord, don’t leave her on her own, for today it’s my Mum’s birthday, her first away from home. Bring flowers in my mind your words I’ll hear, ‘they’re beautiful, you shouldn’t have, but truly I love them’. They say you’re in a better place, I hope and pray that’s true, but today is your birthday and we’re missing you. From all the family

JENNIE TARVIT Our hearts are full of memories, with pride we speak your name, though life goes on without you, it will never be the same. We love you, happy birthday Nana - Great Nana from all your Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren xxx

NELL BARKER 2 May 2013. Wish you were here to celebrate your birthday. We miss you every day. Thinking of you always, Sandra and Peter, Ann and Chris, Owen and Jeanette, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

JODEY SLATER 4.5.91 Happy birthday Sweetheart, never forgotten, you will be all celebrating together with Nanna and Grandad Hill. I say a silent prayer for you now and every day. Love, Mam xxx

JODEY SLATER May 4th 1991. Happy birthday Jodey, never forgotten Sweetheart. Love forever, Mam. P.S. Nanna and Grandad Hill will be all celebrating it now with you, all together xxx

READERS’ PHOTOGRAPHS



My lazy pet “Rocky” just decided going for a walk was too much like hard work! Trace. Send in your pet’s photo to syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Breastfeeding Support Available Near You

Health visitors and family support workers are on hand across County Durham to support new mums keen to breastfeed their babies. Breastfeeding workshops, baby cafes and support groups are available throughout the area to highlight to pregnant women and their families that there is another option to formula milk. Staff are available during the sessions to offer advice and guidance on breastfeeding. Workshops provide

information for families allowing them to make an informed decision on how to feed their new baby. Baby cafes and support groups offer advice and support for those who have already chosen to breastfeed. Sessions are taking place at your local children’s centre so call in to find out more, alternatively call One Point on 03000 26 11 11 for more information on breastfeeding support opportunities where you live.

CABINET TO APPROVE CONTINUED CRACKDOWN ON UNDERAGE SALES

Councillors have been asked to agree improved plans to tackle the sale of tobacco and alcohol to young people. Closer partnership working and more preventive measures are just part of proposals by Durham County Council’s Environment, Health and Consumer Protection Service (EHCP) to increase protection for the county’s children from age restricted products. The council will continue to work with the police, health services and customs, as well as local alcohol and tobacco agencies, to tackle the problem of underage sales. As well as fully investigating all complaints received from the public and other traders, the sharing of information will allow for more targeted test purchases on suspected premises. Along with further development of the council’s nationally recognised ‘Do You Pass?’ training, this will allow for retailers to be offered awareness training as well as sanctions at an earlier stage to stop problems

before they develop. The partner agencies will also continue to work together to target the problem of supplying tobacco from private residences. As well as raising awareness about the links between the illicit trade of goods and organised crime, this will also include seizing the assets of those breaking the law. In February 2013, more than 30,000 cigarettes, 600 pouches of rolling tobacco and 300 bottles of wine were seized from a vehicle delivering to houses and other establishments. Terry Collins, corporate director for neighbourhood services, said: “Through sharing information, partnership working and targeting problems at an earlier stage the council is ensuring that young people are protected as much as possible from accessing age restricted products. By working closely with our partner agencies, we can also combat the antisocial behaviour and impact on children’s health that goes hand in hand with underage sales.”



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KEEP FIT - JOIN AYCLIFFE BOXING CLUB

Members of the junior section from Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club were presented with certificates on Thursday 25th for reaching the 1st stage in Amateur Boxing. The 1st stage is the beginning of a boxer's career and after a few weeks they are tested for the 2nd stage, and so on to stage 4 which is championship standard. Aycliffe ABC have 8 boxers at stage 4 that enter National Championships, the latest being James Lepoidevin when he travelled down to Kent last month in the National Schoolboy Championship



Keep fitters are more than welcome and our members range from 6 years old to 68 years young, male and female.

For more information ring Les on 01325 308830, 313855.

INDOOR BOWLS

Don't just think about it come and give it a go. Indoor Bowls is suitable for all ages, all you need are carpet slippers and bowls, both of which can be hired at Reception.

Bowls is a highly social activity which can be enjoyed by everyone regardless of what level of skill they wish to aspire to. Some players enjoy just casual play and a drink with friends, some enjoy friendly matches against other clubs, while others compete in County and National competitions – the choice is yours.

Great Aycliffe Indoor Bowls Club are a very friendly Club and would be delighted if you came and found out for yourselves what an enjoyable pastime bowling is.

Go on make the effort, we will be pleased to see you, and will do all we can to provide you the opportunity to improve your health and well-being; you can socialise and make new friends of all ages too.

Final and won the silver medal.

James's opponent was John Lee from Sporting Ring ABC in the southern counties, John was a rough come forward boxer with a high work rate but James kept him at bay with slick movement and counter punches, but the local boy got the nod at the end of the contest.

Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club train Mon – Tues – Thursday evenings and Saturday morning at Acorn House, Durham Way North on the Business Park. Anyone can come along and give it a go, you don't have to be good, you just need to lift your arms and the fully qualified coaches will teach you everything you need to know and you will not have to do anything you don't wish to.

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Local History Society

'Aycliffe Village Local History Society is hosting a talk in Aycliffe Village Hall at 7pm on Wednesday 8 May when Angela Jobson will talk about 'Bomber Command at Middleton St George'. All welcome. Members £1 and non members £2 at the door. Annual subscription to the Society £5. Further details 01325 301093.

MASALA TANDOORI INDIAN TAKE AWAY

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