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Further Expansion at Ebac 100 New Jobs Coming to Aycliffe

Ebac has agreed a deal which will preserve the brands and products of UK manufacturer Ictech Freezers in a multi-million pound acquisition and investment deal, after the company fell victim to the collapse of Comet.

The deal in an undisclosed seven-figure sum will involve a further investment at Ebac's factory in Newton Aycliffe. It will see production of the firm's Norfrost domestic chest freezer range moved to Ebac's North East base, with up to 100 jobs expected to be created in the long term.

The Norfrost name and the company's equipment, designs and copyright agreements have been acquired after production closed at the firm's factory in Castletown, Caithness, Scotland, at the end of 2012. Production is expected to begin by the end of 2013, with the aim of building up to match the previous output of 80,000 Norfrost chest freezers a year. The existing Norfrost range includes freezers from 57 litre to 204 litre capacity for the domestic market.



Pamela Petty with some of the Norfrost freezers
(Picture by: Keith Taylor)

Ebac was founded 40 years ago by refrigeration engineer John Elliott, who built the business around that expertise. In 2012, Ebac was placed into the ownership of a foundation, one of the key principles of which is to see money reinvested in manufacturing in County Durham. Production of the freezers will run alongside the manufacture of Ebac's watercooler and dehumidifier ranges at the firm's Newton Aycliffe site.

As well as upholding that principle, the acquisition is part of the Ebac pledge to invest in domestic appliance manufacture, with the company also in the process of producing washing machines. Pamela Petty, M.D. of the Ebac Group, said: "Preserving the manufacture of the Norfrost products range is a natural move for Ebac. We have 40 years' experience in refrigeration engineering and a passion for making things. It is always sad to see a British brand in difficulties, so when

the collapse of Comet proved the breaking point for Ictech and the Norfrost brand it was a huge shame. When

Continued on Page 3

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Junior Football Camp at Spennymoor

The big kick-off to the school holidays gets underway with a series of "On the Ball" football camps at leisure centres throughout County Durham, but not at Newton Aycliffe.

The three to five day skill sessions for five to 14-year-olds cover all the basics of the beautiful game from ball control to tactics and games. They are in addition to the full range of other leisure centre activities to keep youngsters fit, healthy and occupied during the long summer break. The sports range from dodgeball to gymnastics and swimming.

Richie Hill, Sport and Physical Activity Development Officer, Durham County Council, said: "We hope to score a big success with the football camps. They are a one-off opportunity to get expert coaching in a fun and friendly

environment."

The camps at Spennymoor Leisure Centre: Tues 13, Wed 14, Thurs 15th August from 1pm- 4pm, 5-11 years - £6 per day or £15 for three days. If you would like to take part please contact ontheball@durham.gov.uk or phone your local leisure centre.

A full list of all activities at the ten leisure centres in County Durham is available at www.durham.gov.uk/leisurecentres.

Caring Tesco

Dear Sir,
After shopping in Tesco I realised my shopping was too heavy to carry back home! However a very kind member of staff offered his help and solved my problem. Well done Tesco, I am very impressed!
Rena Dickman

PALRAM CELEBRATE 50 YEARS IN UK

Palram DPL held an Open Day on Sunday 14th July to celebrate the Group's 50th Anniversary and to show the history of Palram DPL and the Group's vision for the future. The Aycliffe site was the first Palram acquired outside of Israel in August 1992 and celebrated 20 years in 2012. At the time they had one production line and one factory unit. Since then Palram have grown to 7 production lines in 4 factory units.

The Open Day was for employees, friends & families, and 250 people attended the event which included a bouncy castle, play area and face painting

for the children. There was also a caricature artist on site and a variety of food served from 11am onwards.

There was an exhibition / film which detailed the past 50 years of Palram and its aims for the future. The company opened up a production line in the factory so that visitors could see it in action, from the initial resin used to manufacture the plastic right through to the finished plastic sheeting product.

Palram is an Israeli owned company with its UK Head Office based in Doncaster with a site in Sheffield (Century Plastics). Palram is a global leading manufacturer of semi-finished extruded

thermoplastic sheets, panel systems and finished products. Here in Durham we produce PVC sheeting which is used in various industries including agriculture, printing and advertising, construction and architecture. The plastic sheets are used in the making of industrial roofing and DIY products. They have a large warehouse on site and a factory with 7 working production lines. Palram also has production, warehouse and marketing offices in various locations across the globe including Europe, Asia, the Middle-East, Australia, China and the USA.



PACT Meeting

There will be a PACT meeting at Burnhill Way Methodist Church on Thursday 1st August at 6.00pm. All local residents are welcome



FREE ZOOLAB AT AGNEW

ZOOLAB will be at Agnew Community Centre in Morrison Close next Tuesday 30th July at 11am for 1 hour Free of Charge with an opportunity to make a donation for Hope for Justice.

It will be a RAINFOREST ADVENTURE full of drama, storytelling and games. The presenter will bring the world's most exciting habitat alive with a tale of being stranded in the rainforest! Open to all children aged under 12 years. We look forward to seeing you all on the day.

MAD CONCERT AT THE XCEL

MAD Productions is busy preparing for their 5th Annual Charity Concert. Once again the venue will be at the Xcel Centre who have kindly offered the auditorium free of charge. This year's charity will be Hope for Justice which exists to see an end to human trafficking and slavery in the UK in our generation.

This year's theme will be "Reach for the Stars" Tickets are already selling fast, so for more information contact Joan at the Youth Centre 307522 or Sonia on 310991.

Tickets are only £5 each, children under 10 free if accompanied by an adult. Watch this space for more information.

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Saturday 27th July - "Witchkraft"

REVIEW: "First appearance this year for old favourites Witchkraft saw them playing with last minute dep drummer Mick Kerrigan, (ex Force and currently bashing the skins for Blitzkreig). The band played a solid two hours, eventually coming off as the witching hour approached - sort of appropriate really. True to form, it was a different set from what we've had in the past but the good crowd still sang along and had a great evening. We hadn't met Ray, their new Darrass Hall bassist either but he fitted in a treat and knocked out a canny rendition of 'Mr Big' which I've seen Free tribute bands mess up. Up front and central Mick belted out the vocals with humour and aplomb whilst Mal dazzled us with his dexterity on the fretboard. As always, an excellent show and we look forward to their return next year."

Saturday 3rd August - "Avatar"

Gig Pit review: I just couldn't resist the lure of my old mates in Avatar, who were playing their comeback gig with their new line up after far too long an absence! The band have been in a bit of a limbo since the departure of ace axeman Paul Nesbitt and the mighty lungs of Graham Mannion and the search to find replacements willing to give the commitment required and focus on the direction that the band wanted to go was long and hard, but in my humble opinion they've got it nailed now! Old soldiers Titch on drums, Jeff on bass and Stan on rhythm have now been joined by Skinfint's Kev Burdon on lead and ex Kimra frontman, Chris Kerswell on vocals.

Avatar have always prided themselves on playing the tunes as near to the original as possible and Kev is well up to the task and oozes enthusiasm during his performance as Skinfint fans will know! Chris is a natural front man with a great voice, well suited to the Avatar set and a great line of patter with the crowd, you just can't help but like the guy! I was told that he was a bag of nerves before he went on, but I saw no sign of that, just a bloke having a great time on stage and sweating like a pig! If you like your music hot 'n' heavy, Alice In Chains, Pantera, Megadeth, Ozzy, System Of A Down and that ilk, you'll not be disappointed, the crowd wasn't and yelled for more! Another great night at a great venue with a great set of lads!

Saturday 10th August - "Hybrids"

Gigpit Review: Popped along to watch 'The Hybrids' in Gosforth on Friday night, what a great band. This trio sound full and powerful with some nice tight playing from the drums and bass. Guitar and vocals were spot on and some great tunes from a wide range of bands like Led Zeppelin, Manic Street Preachers, Foo Fighters, Dire Straits, Paul Weller. All songs were handled by the band without problem and the vocals adapted to all the tracks effortlessly. I did notice that the vocalist did put his own slant on some of the tracks, rather than mimic the artist, which I liked.

Musically some tracks were also played slightly differently, which again I personally prefer when watching a cover band, I feel it shows the bands own identity. These guys are very competent musicians, and boy do they play a set! The second set was a long one, but the punters loved it and they played to a packed house all night. The general vibe from the punters I was around was that these guys delivered a great night.

Not only do they play a good range of music, but they are genuinely nice all round guys that get the job done without any fuss. These guys enjoy what they do and while they don't take themselves too seriously, they deliver a show of high quality covers played to a high standard of musicianship. A band to see next time they are near you. I had a great night as did all the people around me.

For more information on bands go to

www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke

Memorial Get-together for Peter Gallagher

For those who knew former Nat West Manager, Peter Gallagher, a special Memorial Get-together has been arranged with his daughter Clare, on Saturday 17th August at 12.30pm in the Youth Centre (opp Tesco's).

The Management Committee have kindly given free use of a room in the premises for this purpose as Peter was Chairman for many years.

Prior to this and according to Peter's wishes, his ashes will be scattered at a specially chosen place in Newton Aycliffe.

It is hoped as many as possible will attend the short reception in his memory and Syd Howarth would be pleased if you could let him know if you are coming. Please ring: 300212 and after hours 320901. e-mail: syd@newtonnews.co.uk

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New Mayor Holds Reception

The annual "Mayor at Home" was different this year with the event limited to invited guests. Held in the Function Room at the Oak Leaf the gathering was meant to represent a cross section of community leaders to give the Mayor an opportunity to thank them for their contribution to life in Great Aycliffe.

"We are really bad at blowing our own trumpet in Great Aycliffe said Mayor Barbara. "Did you know that, amongst the people here, we have representatives from the firm which put the roof on the Beijing Olympic Stadium? Did you know that one of the people here fronts an Aycliffe society which has Museum status equal to that of Beamish and the Locomotion?"

We have the editor of the most remarkable, community-oriented free newspaper in the country. Another person in this room, though only in her early twenties, has built up a dance academy of more than 200 members.

Amongst you are representatives from business, sport, the arts, the armed forces, community leaders, workers with youth and charity fund-raisers, whose faithful work contributes so much to the happiness of our town. I am sorry that practicalities



of numbers have meant that I have not been able to invite everybody who deserved to be here, and I apologise to them. Instead, you are here to represent all those workers in all the different organisations who contribute to the social, cultural and economic health of our community. I have invited you, because – through its Mayor – Great Aycliffe wishes to recognise, and to say thank you for all you do and all you have done."

The Mayor recognised multi-

talented pianist, Adam, Nicholas leaving Woodham Academy this year thanking him for entertaining the guests.

The Council provided a buffet and the Mayor organised a free raffle for those in attendance. The idea of the occasion was to give everyone the opportunity to mix and talk with each other and it achieved that purpose. Whether this change of format will remain depends on the whim of next year's Mayor.



Stop Town Centre Moaning

Dear Sir,
To all Newtonians expressing their dissatisfaction at the redevelopment of the town centre. For years Aycliffe has asked for this redevelopment, now that it has finally happened you are all complaining again because of the disruption. Please explain how the redevelopment of a town centre is supposed to happen without disruption to access and shopping. The whole town centre will benefit when the work is complete. Be happy that change is happening after shouting for it for so long.

J Ferguson

Editor: Everyone welcomes the redevelopment, but they have the right to question a process which closed the whole pedestrian area from top to bottom of Beveridge Way for months when it was clear it could

have been completed one minimum disruption and bit at a time causing the loss of trade.

CONGRATULATIONS ON SPREADING GOOD NEWS

Dear Syd

I would just like to congratulate The Newton News and everyone who contributed to last week's edition, which carried many positive articles about different activities, past, present, and future.

It's very encouraging to know that there are lots of people in the community taking great strides to meet the challenges of providing facilities, time and labour to improve all aspects of community life.

It was also nice to see the Town Council and the Town Management complimented a couple of times by Audrey Humble and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her personally for her generous observations.

I would also like to mention the exciting new projects

and events going on in the Youth Centre spurred on by the highly commendable Youth Council members and there various committees. I would suggest that we all look carefully at what they are doing and get involved.

I have been out and about watching lots of children well-supervised, joining in, and enjoying many coaching events. I would also like to acknowledge all the hard work that has been done by the youth football managers and the support given by our Senior Northern League team officials culminating in the presentation awards so richly deserved and presented at the Big Club.

It was good to see the caring side of our community with the Helping Hands team and the Tesco team showing extreme generosity, giving their free time and endeavour in what can only be described as dire circumstances for the most vulnerable. Also, Contact a Family, another charity helping the disabled are showing the way forward for people to receive comfort and support.

Clearly, we still have problems and we are right to point them out but I just felt there was so much to appreciate and admire in this week's edition, that all those concerned, not just those I've mentioned, should be applauded for their energy, application, inspiration and civic pride.

Clr Jim Atkinson

FURTHER EXPANSION AT EBAC

Continued from Front Page

we were approached by the interim liquidators to see if we were interested, it quickly became clear that there was an opportunity to keep Norfrost alive.

"There is a big job to be done in relocating the factory equipment from Castletown, which is as far North as you can get on the British mainland, but once we are up and running, we will be in a position to start filling the gap in supply of a popular British product."

Newton News congratulates Ebac on their enterprise and entrepreneurship in a series of recent expansion moves. The company demonstrates strong patriotism, leadership, high ethical standards and are an example to British industry by investing at a time when other industrialists are holding back.

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Parking Fines

Sir
I feel I must reply to complaints about parking fines in Aldi's car park. If your car has been in this car park for more than 1½ hours you have not been just shopping at Aldi. I use this store to do my shopping and it takes me approx 30mins. In reply to Don Fraser - If there are double yellow lines on any road, parking is not allowed in any town or village so why should Aycliffe be different? If you do not want to pay parking fines do not park on them or stay longer than times stated. J. Redden

Prizewinning Quilt Returns to Heighington after 78 years

The story began in 1935 when Heighington WI entered a patchwork quilt into the National Federation of WI's Handicraft Exhibition at the Horticultural Hall in London, where it was admired by royalty. On its journey to London, the then President, Mrs. E.M. Dixon, accompanied the quilt and according to archives eleven members were involved in its creation which took six months to make.

Also in the records is a black and white photograph with WI members; Mrs. Dixon's hand-written report of the exhibition and a newspaper cutting telling of Queen Mary's delight at seeing the quilt, when she exclaimed, "How lovely." The quilt was exhibited in County Durham in 1938 but then disappeared. That was until earlier this spring when Richard Peperell of Cookham in Berkshire went into his attic and discovered a box containing a quilt. With the quilt were paper labels with Mrs. Dixon's name and address and another label printed, "Heighington WI, County Durham, and Exhibit: Patchwork Quilt".

Lynne Peperell got in touch with Val Bedocs of Heighington WI and sent photographs of the quilt and when compared with the archives there could be no doubt it was the same quilt made by ladies of the WI in



1935. The members were amazed at this find, but imagine their joy when the Peperells said they wished to return the quilt to the WI and would be visiting the north-east in July and would like to call into Heighington.

On Wednesday 17th July the Heighington WI arranged a reception and afternoon tea for the Peperells in the village hall and invited special guests to join them. The Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Darlington, Gerald and Ruth Lee; the Chair and Vice Chair of Durham County WI, Cecelia Wharton and Lyn Swift; the Chair of the County Craft Committee, Dorothy Allen; President of the neighbouring Redworth WI, Audrey Wilkinson; Margaret Wellings who had tried in 2003 to trace the quilt; the Rev. Lissa Gibbons, Vicar of St. Michael's, Heighington and John Robinson who had helped Mrs. Peperell to track some of her forebears in County Durham, and whose mother was a member of Heighington WI many years ago and knew Mrs. Dixon.

The Peperells arrived with the quilt and it was put on a frame for everybody to see. The quilt is in wonderful condition and astonishingly the labels from the exhibition in 1935 are still attached. Everyone was stunned at the skill and workmanship of the quilt. The stitches are so small, nearly invisible and it is really a thing of beauty.

After tea Val Bedocs, President of Heighington WI thanked the Peperells for the trouble they had taken to track down the original owners of the quilt and their generosity in deciding to travel to County Durham to return the quilt in



person. Lynne Peperell explained she may have took the quilt in a box with them from a house in Ealing they had owned some years ago but had no memory of putting it in their attic in Cookham.

Val Bedocs presented Lynne and Richard Peperell with a print of Heighington Village by Eric Thompson, a handbag mirror with a needlepoint cover made by member Carol Charlton and a copy of a book by Iris Farley written to commemorate Heighington WI's 80th Birthday in 1998. The quilt is mentioned in the book and states its whereabouts are unknown.

Heighington WI is still producing award winning patchwork, and Val showed guests a beach bag made by member, Margot Harryman that won first prize at the County Competitive Craft Exhibition the previous weekend.

She announced the WI will arrange an event where the quilt can go on show for all those who wish to see the quilt for themselves. The whole amazing story will certainly go down in the history of Heighington, the WI and County Durham WI to be talked about for a very long time to come.

Last Chance to Buy at Shafto Court

Just two homes are left to buy at Gleeson's Shafto Court development in Newton Aycliffe where great offers are available if you reserve now. The last three bedroom 'Tyrone' homes are priced at £114,995 or from just £98 per week if purchased with the Government's 'Help to Buy' scheme.

The three bedroom semi-detached homes are ideal for first time buyers looking for spacious accommodation with private gardens, close to fantastic local shops and amenities.

Launched by the Government in April, the 'Help to Buy' scheme is proving incredibly popular and is helping Gleeson buyers realise their dream of home ownership with mortgage repayments starting from just £98 per week for a 3 bedroom home, which for many is cheaper than renting.

The 'Help to Buy' scheme allows buyers to own 100% of their new home for 80% of the price. The buyer needs just a 5% deposit with the outstanding amount provided by the Government as an equity loan with is interest free for 5 years.

Christine Douglas, Sales Manager for Gleeson Homes, says, "It's not too late to reserve your dream home at Shafto Court and take advantage of a great Gleeson scheme to help you buy".

Gleeson's sales office & show home at Shafto Court are open Thursday to Monday 10am to 5pm. For more information, or to book a viewing please visit our website www.gleeson-homes.co.uk.



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Bras, Boobs, Bakes and Bunting Event

A ladies charity fund raising event, "Bras, Boobs, Bakes and Bunting" is to be held on 15th September 2013 at 2pm at Hallgarth Hotel,

It is Day with a difference to raise money and awareness for Breast Cancer Care and Oxfam's Great Bra Hunt. It aims to increase awareness through having talks directly from Breast Cancer Care on how to check for lumps and bumps and what to do if something isn't quite right and take some of the fear out of checking our breasts. Lady J a lingerie expert will explain the importance of wearing the correct fitting bra and also how visiting a lingerie department can be a positive uplifting experience and help you feel better about your body. A Bra Amnesty bin for ladies to donate their old broken bras to be donated to Oxfam's Great Bra Hunt for ladies in third world countries. These ladies fix the bras and sell them on markets providing much needed "support" for ladies in both employment and in the lingerie department! Oxfam will also be speaking at the event.

Everyone who attends is asked to bring something they have baked for us all to share, be it a pie, cake, bread, biscuits or meringues. Bishop Auckland based textile designer and artist Gillian Arnold will hold a workshop and masterclass in bunting so everyone can have a go and take their own piece home. There will also be free henna and free mini beauty treatments and a variety of tempting stalls from local high quality crafts and business people.

The afternoon's finale will be a Grand Raffle with many valuable prizes. Tickets are now available and can only be purchased online from wegottickets.com at just £10 per person. More information contact Mrs Charlie Scott-King Twitter @ Perfect_Puds, Facebook Perfect Puds, Mobile: 07528 297565 or 01325 789344

Raffle in Community Shop Raised £800



Barry Wilkinson, Communications Manager presenting the Hamper to new employee at Ineos, Jamie Best on behalf of the charity with Nora Brewster, from Busy Bees.

The "Busy Bees" charity workers at Ineos thanks everyone for your outstanding support! We made a fantastic amount of £800 for our raffle in the Aycliffe Community Shop!

Thanks to the Busy Bees and associates who worked tirelessly, with special mention to Anne-Marie, Joyce, Maureen and Joan with a "Rising Star" award to Jessica Peart aged 6 for her excellent promotion work! Our appreciation to the Pioneering Care Partnership who very kindly arranged free use of the shop and Ineos Newton Aycliffe for their storeroom

The Hamper prize was kindly drawn by Syd Howarth of Newton Press and the Winning ticket number is 511 to 515 (white ticket) won by Jamie Best

Busy Bees support charities such as :Butterwick Hospice, North East Cyber Surgery, Air Ambulance, Breast Cancer, Alzheimer's, The Salvation Army, Triple Appeal, Freeman's Hospital Heart Unit, Samaritans, Zoe's Baby Hospice, Help the Heroes, Marie Curie Cancer Care, James Cook Baby Unit. Any town group wishing to use the Community Shop should contact the PCP on 01325 321234.

UKMT Mathematics Challenge Success



Pupils at Woodham Academy achieved two silvers and

seven bronzes in the Junior Maths Challenge and eight bronzes in the prestigious UK Intermediate Challenge.

These competitions are run by the UK Mathematics Trust in conjunction with the University of Leeds and targeted at the top mathematicians in the country. The challenge incorporates a series of different problems that require vision and application in order to solve them, along with a rigorous understanding of the mathematics taught in schools. Well done to all Woodham participants, especially our Silver Award winners, James Dick and Zoe Barnett and Bronze Award winners Charlotte Kirton, Joshua Galloway, Samantha Shaw, Benjamin Greenow, Sam Pearson, Lyndon Hall, Lucy Radcliffe, Brittany Swires, Caitlin Lloyd, Alex Jarmain, Lewis Lumley Young, Savannah Patrick, Daniela Winwood, Jack Richardson and Luke Watson.

COLLEGES PROMOTE NEW 24+ STUDENT LOANS

Five colleges in County Durham have joined forces to launch a campaign to promote a new system of loans for college students aged 24+.

Colleges at Bishop Auckland, Darlington, Derwentside East Durham and New College Durham are working together to raise awareness of Advanced Learning Loans. The new system, which is being introduced for Level 3 and Level 4 courses starting after August 1, works very much like the existing student loans for tuition fees for university students.

College courses eligible for loans include A Levels, Access to Higher Education, Apprenticeships, BTEC National Diplomas and NVQ Level 3 and 4. Some professional qualifications from bodies including the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT), Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM) and the Chartered Institute of Professional Development can also be supported by a 24+ Advanced Learning Loan.

The new Advanced Learning Loans will cover the full cost of course fees but repayments do not start until April 2016 for students enrolling in 2013/14, and only then once they are earning more than £21,000.

The loans and course fee payments are managed by Student Finance England and

are not subject to household income limits or credit checks. The minimum loan amount is £300 and students do not have to take out a loan - fee payment or part payment is still possible.

The five colleges have built a dedicated website 24pluslearningdurham.co.uk and are undertaking an advertising campaign throughout the summer with the slogan: Get the Loan; Get the Qualification; Get the Job. John Widdowson, Principal and Chief Executive of New College Durham, said: "All five colleges in County

Durham are working together to raise awareness of the new loans system for students aged 24+ enrolling on a wide range of Level 3 and Level 4 courses this summer.

"The new scheme means anyone aged 24 or over who wants to enhance their career prospects or retrain has access to student loans to cover course fees in the same way as those on university degree courses." For more information on Advanced Learning Loans or to apply online visit: www.gov.uk/advanced-learning-loans

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Brass at Greenfield



Last Wednesday Newton Aycliffe was filled with the sound of Brass! "Always Drinking Marching Band" spent the day in the area performing for schools and the community, as part of Brass: Durham International Festival.

In the morning they joined pupils at Byerly Park Primary School for a lively performance, followed by two fantastic performances at Greenfield Community College for students, filling their lunch break and afternoon with the sounds of

this great Spanish Band. The day came to a vibrant close with a free performance by the band to members of the community at Greenfield Arts. The audience, of more than 80 people, thoroughly enjoyed the performance and commented what a great opportunity this was for people in the area. Brave audience members were even called upon to share their musical talents alongside the band during the hour long performance, the perfect event for a sunny summer evening. Greenfield Arts were pleased to be able to fund these performances for our young people and community – and would like to thank the schools and those who came to the performances for their support!

Schools Support Town Pride Environment Week

Primary school's from the town took part in Town Pride Environment Week organised by Aycliffe Youth Council and Great Aycliffe Town Council. The nine schools learned about both the environmental and financial consequences of littering before taking part in a series of litter in the school's local area. In total, just over 400kg of litter was removed from the town which is about 100 full bin bags.





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Film Shows

St. Elizabeth's Church Woodham are showing n Sunday afternoon Matinee at 2:30pm 'Song for Marion' cost £3 inc Tea/Coffee. All funds towards painting the outside of the church.

The next "Feel Good Film" at St Clare's Church will feature the powerful and provocative thriller "In the Heat of the Night" on Wednesday 31st July. This winner of 5 Oscars, including Best Film, stars Academy Award winners Sidney Poitier and Rod Steiger. Tea and coffee at 1pm (included in the £2) and the film starts at 1-15pm. Everyone is most welcome, details from Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755

PARK & RIDE THIS SUMMER FOR FUN IN DURHAM CITY

Using the park and ride service in Durham City will get even easier from 30 June as the Belmont site extends its service. Following on from the excellent customer satisfaction survey, where 100 per cent of those asked said the service was good or very good, respondents indicated that they would like to see the service extended. As a result, the Belmont service, operated by Arriva and NSL Ltd. on behalf of Durham County Council, will be trialling a late night and Sunday Service up until 22nd December 2013. The extra services will provide dedicated access into the city for a series of upcoming events that form part of the council's Year of Culture. This will make

it even easier for visitors to enjoy the return of the Lindisfarne Gospels, the Brass: Durham International Festival, the Durham Streets Summer Festival and Lumiere Durham. The Sunday service will run from 9.00am to 6.00pm and a late night service will be in operation on Thursdays until 10pm. The service costs £2.00 per person which provides free parking and all day travel on both the park and ride and cathedral bus services. Adrian White, head of transport and contract services, said: "The extended park and ride service will make it even easier for people to come and enjoy all of the exciting events taking place in Durham City over the coming months."

School's Out but Imogen Remains Keen

School's out for summer, not quite, at Woodham Academy! Geography students transferring from Year 10 to Year 11 have been encouraged by their teachers to return to Saltburn to collect additional data for their controlled assessment. To get top marks students have to plan and carry out at least one method of data collection. If the summer heat wave continues it is a task many will find easy to do! Students have been encouraged to promote sustainability by using the train to get there. So keen is one student, Imogen French, that she has already returned to the resort and come back to the Academy armed with data to use. Mrs Barker, HOD of Geography, hopes that many more geographers will follow Imogen's lead and head to Saltburn for sun, surf, sand, and academic success!



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Disappearing Burn



Graham Abraham and Mathew Hutchinson; who took this photo, were walking to Tesco and noticed the Burn had dried up. Nothing too interesting in this hot weather, but a little further up, the river was still flowing. Further up revealed the river disappearing into a hole in the ground about twice the size of a football.

Farewell Disco at Sugar Hill



A disco was held recently to celebrate the school's Year 6 pupils final few days at Sugar Hill before they all move on to their respective senior schools. All the children made a big effort, as they always do for this night of celebration. The night provides a great opportunity for the children to dress up in their best clothes, which they all did, the girls in lovely dresses and the boys looking very 'dapper' in their suits and ties. Many arrived at the disco in style; this year's modes of transport included a fire engine, disco bus, camper van and a sports car. It was a brilliant evening and all the staff at Sugar Hill want to wish the children goodbye and good luck with their futures.

Pretty Wedding at St. Andrew's



Matthew Brown and Lynsey Watson of Newton Aycliffe were married at St Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village on 16th June, 2013 followed by a wonderful Reception at the Hallgarth Country Hotel attended by all their family and friends. Matthew and Lynsey had a lovely surprise when leaving the Church as a Chimney Sweep was waiting for them to wish them luck in their new life together. They enjoyed a lovely honeymoon in Bulgaria.

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INSURANCE QUOTES

Looking for Support for 9 Day Bike Ride

Lesley Thompson is 55 years young, born and bred in Newton Aycliffe. Her parents were pioneers in the new town and she attended Sugar Hill and the Avenue Comprehensive School. She has been a dog trainer for over 25 years, competing and judging at obedience shows, working with many dog owners in the town helping them communicate effectively with their pets. Lesley is also a foster carer for a lovely young girl who has been with her for 10 months.



driving please give me a wide berth and don't be offended if I don't wave. I will keep you informed as to my progress through the Newton News when possible." said Lesley.

Lesley had breast cancer in 1996 which made her re-evaluate her life, as up to that point she had been very active, windsurfing competitively, dog training and walking. "I woke up to appreciate the value of making and holding special memories, I began to do challenges to raise money for some amazing charities. I have ran the Great North Run several times and the London Marathon twice, I have trekked and climbed mountains, Everest Base Camp, Kanchenjunga and Killimangaro, walked the Coast to Coast with my foster dog Rob, abseiled the Memorial Hospital to name a few challenges. Throughout these challenges I have had fantastic support from family, friends and work colleagues," said Lesley.

I would never have met but for the cancer experience. I have raised many thousands of pounds for charities, the British Heart Foundation, Breast Cancer Care, Cancer Research UK, St. Theresa's Hospice to name a few, but I could not do it without support. "I do not call myself a fundraiser, I complete challenges because I can and I will continue to do so as long as I can. I would feel selfish to put so much effort into these events without a charity benefiting, which is why I invite people to support me and be involved."

Lesley thanks all those who have supported her to date, She appreciates every penny donated, and if you would like to contribute you can do so personally or through www.justgiving.com/lesleythompson6 "If you see me out training give me a wave, if you are

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What's On at St. Elizabeths

St. Elizabeth's Woodham Monthly Coffee Morning is on Saturday 3rd August starting at 10am. Books at 25p home made cakes and savouries available at reasonable prices. Come along and enjoy the morning. St. Elizabeth's Woodham Soup a Lunch Special, Wednesday Aug 7th only event, starting at 12:30pm, Pie and Peas plus sweet, Tea/Coffee still only £3.

HELPING NEEDY FAMILIES IN GREAT AYCLIFFE

Great Aycliffe Residents Association are conducting a feasibility study with a view to providing a permanent, ongoing food and household goods supply point for people in need in Newton Aycliffe. After speaking to various groups it is generally agreed that the current arrangements are fragmented and don't fully meet the needs of families in poverty in our town.

Currently a food bank works under an umbrella organisation based in Durham with various organisations contributing to a central point in Chester le Street which is then divided and sent to different parts of the county to be distributed. Newton Aycliffe has a distribution centre at St. Clares Church manned by volunteers.

Every six months or so a major national collection involving Supermarkets augments local appeals, but Aycliffe has no co-ordinated scheme to help alleviate poverty stricken families in its own community. GARA envisage bringing together all parties in Great Aycliffe, including individuals, church groups, businesses, shops, factories, Councillors, Social Services, Welfare Officers in an ongoing community effort to satisfy the demand in our own town, which we know is increasing. We believe each town should look after its own, recognising and fulfilling the need, and in the process, building community spirit, to

provide for our less fortunate neighbours.

We would like to see collection points in places on the town and Business Park for clothes, household goods and food with a distribution point open more often than at present. It would be necessary to unite everyone under a new, properly constituted organisation, registered with the Charity Commissioners.

The organisation will consist of volunteers who will elect officers and a working committee to fulfil the aims and objectives, with proper accountability. This will allow individuals and organisations to safely donate cash so that products can be purchased when necessary.

The committee and its members would work to provide collection points in the area and promote their activities to a wider audience to gain the maximum impact. They will also organise the venue and frequency of distribution to people in need, and develop a system to determine the level of support for each applicant. Initially it is necessary to call a meeting of those groups in the town already operating an aid programme. In addition volunteers who are willing to give their time to help others will also be invited.

Any reader interested in this proposal should please get in touch with Syd Howarth on 300212, 320901 (home) or syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Baroness Visits 3M Aycliffe



The 3M manufacturing site at Aycliffe hosted a visit by Labour peer Baroness Prosser as part of her Industry and Parliament Trust Fellowship. Baroness Prosser, a former President of the TUC, is spending several days at a range of 3M sites across the UK as part of the complete 18-day fellowship, co-ordinated by the IPT.

The Trust is dedicated to promoting mutual understanding between Parliament, business, industry and commerce for the public benefit. There are currently 65 parliamentarians involved in IPT Fellowships across a

number of UK and international sectors of business and industry.

The Aycliffe plant manufactures respirators for worker safety and products for the vehicle aftercare market. Baroness Prosser toured the plant's production areas and laboratories where future new products are developed.

Baroness Prosser was interested in looking at the UK manufacturing industry for her fellowship. In particular, she wanted to visit 3M due to her interests in skills, innovation, apprenticeships, high-tech manufacturing and links with universities.

"I have been very impressed by the innovation, the commitment to UK manufacturing and by 3M's policies of inclusion and employee development," she said. "All of this was much in evidence at Aycliffe."

Site manager Dave Watson commented: "We were delighted to welcome the Baroness to Aycliffe and give her an insight into the work we do here. 3M is very enthusiastic to support the Fellowship scheme as it is in the interests of the manufacturing industry for our legislators to have a clear understanding of the needs of the creators of wealth in this country."

Scooter Competition on the Skate Park

On Tuesday 30th July Aycliffe's newly expanded skate park in the central Town park will play host to a scooter competition for local rider's. The competition will be one of the highlights being organised as part of Great Aycliffe Town Council's Family Fun Day within the Park.

The competition is open to anyone under the age of 18 years and will begin at 11am with the novice category. Over lunch there will be an exciting display by the riders of 360 skate team which will be followed by the advanced competition in the afternoon.

Winner's prizes will include free entry to 360's indoor skate park in Richmond and vouchers which can be redeemed in their shop on skate parts and accessories. Registration is now open to anyone wishing to test their skills against other local riders. Forms should be submitted to Aycliffe Youth Centre and are available from

the Town Park staff and the Youth Centre, the closing date for entry is Monday 29th July at 3pm.

Anyone wishing to know more can contact Great Aycliffe Town Council on 01325 300700 or e-mail info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed at Silverdale House to give extra help working with our young children throughout the Summer Holidays. Must have a current CRB Ring 01325 308094

£3 Lunch!

St Elizabeth's Church would love for you to come to our "Homemade Pie, Peas & Pudding" Lunch on Wednesday 7th August at 12.30. Served with tea and coffee and only £3.00 per person! To book please ring 01325 314051.

Formica Brings Distribution Warehouse to Aycliffe

Formica is celebrating its 100 anniversary this year, bringing it with it good news for the future of the Aycliffe plant which was established here in 1969.

Newton News was privileged to interview the European Vice President Mark Jennings who along with Jennifer Neale European Marketing Communications Manager gave a conducted tour of the plant and outlined the success behind the Aycliffe factory, praising its very competent and loyal workforce.

Mark told us the company had moved its warehousing to Aycliffe creating 15 new jobs in a drive to improve the logistic efficiency of Formica as they expand further into the European market. The 50,000 sq foot unit now houses 6000 shelves for over 250,000 pieces of laminate and have introduced a state of the art storage facility which will improve the turn around of customer orders.

Formica, now owned by Fletcher Building a New Zealand Construction giant, exports all over the world and is still a well recognised brand. The worktop manufacturing facility at Aycliffe is impressive with a production unit turning out a multitude of bespoke items for an even bigger range of finished goods.

Formica celebrated its 100th year with a new range of worktops and designs. The Axiom worktops are outstanding and the new "Anniversary" collection of laminates take their products into a new dimension.

The Aycliffe plant continues to specialise in bespoke decorative laminate work and has a sophisticated silk screen printing department. The range of uses for their product is unbelievably diverse from specially printed wall cladding to



signage, table coverings and wall decoration.

Mark, born in Belfast, moved to Sedgefield with his parents aged 10. After senior education he studied at QE College Darlington before

moving to Exeter University where he graduated as a Mining Engineer. Mark was appointed a Vice President of Formica 3 years ago. He travels the world and lives near Hexham.



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The Team at Roots are joined by their newest team member **Melanie Wilson**

New Training Centre Bridges the Gap to Apprenticeships



A new specialist training organisation established to meet the growing demands of local businesses on Aycliffe Business Park launched its services last week

With strong ethos, values and credibility, A-Tech Training talked through its offering to interested businesses at the breakfast launch event on 12th July 2013.

Speaking at the event, Managing Director, Diane Shakespeare committed to employers that training would be truly employer led in an environment that relates to engineering and manufacturing and that also assists with local unemployment and skills shortages in the sector.

Businesses were welcomed to give input into the plan with a questions and answer session and supportive messages given from local businesses were warmly received along with encouraging words from Darren Race, chairman of South Durham Business Forum. He encouraged businesses to get on board and embrace A-Tech Training's inspiring programmes which are due to be launched this month.

The first of their imminent exciting new ventures is the launch of the new government traineeship programme aimed at 16-18 year olds



which bridges the gap of unemployment to a fully employed apprenticeship. A-Tech training will be assisting Baltic Training Services and will be one of the first of its kind in the area demonstrating a high quality 12 week interactive programme with 100% employed apprenticeship outcomes at the end in fabrication and welding, toolmaking and business administration.

For further details on A-Tech Training's opportunities contact a member of the team on 01325 304033 or info@a-techtraining.com



Hitachi Trains Built in Aycliffe Will Provide More Seats and Greater Comfort

Hitachi Rail Europe Ltd. has welcomed the announcement by the Secretary of State to replace the current train fleet on the East Coast Main Line with Hitachi Class 800 series trains in a £1.2bn deal.

The order will see Hitachi build an additional 30 nine-car electric trains for the East Coast Main Line in the train builder's state-of-the-art factory in Newton Aycliffe which represents an £82 million investment in manufacturing in the North East of England.

The deal will reinforce UK train manufacturing capability once again making it globally competitive and raising the prospect of the UK being able to compete for export orders in European markets.

The confirmation to use the new Class 800 series trains instead of the Intercity 225s follows last year's announcement to replace the ageing fleet of Intercity 125 trains on the Great Western Main Line with the Hitachi Super Express Trains.

The new Class 800 series fleet will be eco-friendly with 12% energy and carbon saving per person per journey when compared with the existing electric rolling stock.

Secretary of State for Transport said: "By signing this deal we have provided further proof of our determination to transform Britain's railways into a world-class operation through continued investment and state-of-the-art technology. This new order is part of the Government's commitment to invest in our nation's infrastructure. This will not only deliver significant benefits to passengers by further slashing journey times and bolstering capacity, but will also stimulate economic growth through improved connectivity between some of Britain's biggest cities. This is good news for rail passengers and for British manufacturing."

Executive Chairman and CEO, Hitachi Rail Europe, Alistair Dormer, said: "This follow-on order marks the successful conclusion of the Intercity Express Programme procurement process. It represents a welcome boost for Hitachi Rail Europe's train factory in Aycliffe with its 730 future employees and for the British supply chain. We have already signed contracts with a significant number of suppliers in the UK and Hitachi's procurement team is in negotiations with many more, providing jobs throughout the UK engineering supply chain."

Alistair Dormer continued: "This is fantastic news for passengers travelling between London, Edinburgh and beyond. When we designed the new trains, we knew passengers and industry were very satisfied with our Class 395 Javelin™ train which we

used as a blueprint and put a lot of thought into how we could step up to challenge of making the Class 800 trains as comfortable as possible for the long-distance passengers travelling on them.

We have increased legroom, included airline-sized overhead luggage storage, high-quality hotel-standard toilets with baby changing facilities, conveniently located bike storage and many more features that will make every journey on the trains a great experience."

In July 2012, the then Secretary of State for Transport, Justine Greening announced the close of contract for the core order of 92 Class 800 series trains (596 carriages) for the Intercity Express Programme. The trains will be manufactured by Hitachi Rail Europe in its newly built train factory in Newton Aycliffe.

MP WELCOMES SECOND CONTRACT FOR HITACHI

Hitachi Rail Europe has secured a second contract for 270 carriages which help create up to 30 new trains for the East Coast Mainline, replacing the existing rolling stock. This means Intercity express trains will be built up to 2020 maintaining 730 direct jobs at Hitachi's £82 million factory on Aycliffe Business Park.

This is great news for the town and I believe the Hitachi factory will help put Newton Aycliffe on the map. The company is now looking for further contracts in the UK and Europe.

The factory will enter construction in the autumn and will take 21 months to build, creating about 300 construction jobs. It's a huge undertaking. Companies up and down the region will benefit from contracts to help construct the factory and then build the trains. The



factory's supply chain will create or maintain thousands of jobs. Significant recruitment for jobs at the factory will start in 2015 and the new rolling stock will be produced from 2016.

This is exciting times for Newton Aycliffe. We should be proud of all we've achieved and it's great that the news has arrived in time to celebrate the towns 65th anniversary.

Phil Wilson MP



Traineeship opportunities for 16 to 18 year olds in Newton Aycliffe

Traineeship Open Evening
Tuesday 30th July 2013
at 6.00pm

Traineeships are a new Government initiative to be delivered only by high quality training providers, and are aimed to assist young people in gaining work experience and skills to enable them to progress onto apprenticeships.

This is a 12 week programme developed through Baltic Training Services in partnership with A-Tech Training. We are looking for 10 enthusiastic trainees (aged 16 to 18) to take part in our inspiring and exciting programme.

Our traineeship opportunities are available in the disciplines of:

- Engineering (Toolmaking, Fabrication and Welding)
- Business Administration

We would like to warmly invite parents/guardians and young people to come and visit us to find out more on the exciting opportunities we have available.



To book a place for you and your parent/guardian call Claire Welsh, Employability Manager on 01325 304033

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Members and supporters from the Wishing Well Club at Newton Aycliffe represented the town at the Rotary Northern Games for Disabled held annually at Middlesbrough. As always the Aycliffe team did extremely well taking most of the top medals in a variety of sporting challenges. The town's Rotary Club thank J & C Coaches for the transport and Don Walkers for the wonderful picnic provided.

Bleak News from the County Council

By County Councillor John Clare

This has been an important week for the County Council and the main news concerned the budget.

July is the time of year when the Council calculates the end-of-year outturn, and begins to formulate its 'medium term financial plan' for the future. Durham County Council's Cabinet were told, last week, that £93m of savings have been made since 2010, with excellent progress being made in achieving the £21m savings target for the current financial year (so that total savings are expected to be £114m by the end of 2013/14).

However, further government measures 'in the pipeline', along with extra cuts announced in the Chancellor's June Spending Review, have meant that the County Council expects to have to find a further £88m of savings by 2017. The total cuts – £202m over the period 2010-17 – amount to almost a quarter of the County Council's current annual gross expenditure, so the Council will have to make some very painful decisions.

This is particularly so because the Council has already made large savings to the 'back-office' functions – we are, now, reaching the point where the Council may have to look at cuts that will bite into valued, front-line services.

Because of the scale and range of the savings which will have to be made, the Cabinet has pledged to hold an extensive consultation exercise, to ask

the public where they wish the emphases to be placed. The choices offered are likely to be horrific, with people being asked to choose between things like youth services, winter maintenance, litter, funding for voluntary organisations, tourism, highways repairs, business support and a host of other essential services.

In other news:

- The County Council's street lighting proposals were publicised in last week's Newton News; now you can have your say in the consultation online at <http://bit.ly/DCCstreetlight>.

- Community buildings: 100 of the 120 community buildings identified to be transferred into community ownership are on track to be transferred by 2014.

- Hitherto, planning guidance has set a maximum number of parking spaces per new house – a policy which has led to estates overcrowded with cars parked on the roads and pavements; now DCC is to require instead minimum allocations (ranging from 1.3 for one-bed, to 2.2 for 5-bed, houses).

- The Council has merged the (wildly different) policies of the seven former District Councils for making past members 'Honorary Aldermen', and has proposed the criteria of 16 years service, with titles being conferred just before Christmas... a nice present for those who have given 'eminent service' to the Council!

Fans on Sponsored Memorial Walk



A lot of money was raised for Newton Aycliffe football club by dedicated fans and volunteers at the weekend. It's estimated the Frank Swinburne Memorial Day raised over £3,000, with sponsorship still being collected.

Fans walked the 26-mile route from Northallerton to Aycliffe on Saturday – replicating in reverse Frankie's Aycliffe-to-Northallerton walk back in 2009 – while others cycled the route, including the club's chairman Gary Farley.

Aycliffe ran out 6-2 winners in the inaugural Frank Swinburne Memorial Cup – with a post-match presentation by the Swinburne family followed by a BBQ.

The game was sponsored by Herbalife (www.healthynewyou.co.uk) with the players and the walkers benefitting from the brand's nutritional products and advice. Former club captain Sean Tarling will run the gruelling route this weekend, having been unavailable on Saturday due to commitments with new team Bishop Auckland. While he runs his former club

travel to Tow Law in their next pre-season fixture. The following Saturday (August 3) Newtonians host their final home friendly, as Barnsley-based club Athersley Rec make the return trip to Moore Lane Park. Aycliffe travelled south in their opening fixture in early July winning 2-1.

It will be the club's final pre-season commitment as games against Darlington Cleveland Bridge and Darlington RA have been cancelled. The former have folded whilst the latter are Aycliffe's opponents in the FA Cup and the two clubs have decided not to meet in a non-competitive game so close to the tie.

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

PACT Meetings will be held at the following venues. Simpature Court Coffee Lounge on Tuesday 30th July 6-30pm to 7-30pm.

Aycliffe Village Hall on Saturday 3rd August 11am to 12noon.

PC Alan Thompson and PCSO Richard Scott are your Community Police Officers and they want to hear your views and opinions on any local issues.

Councillors and Representatives from all responsible partners will attend when available. For more information on whats going on in your area visit www.durham.police.uk

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3 BEDROOM semi detached, unfurnished house in desirable location in Newton Aycliffe. Gardens to front and rear, new bathroom and en-suite, built in garage, strictly no DSS. Bond and references are required. Tel: 07845 606969

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NEW COMPANY ACQUIRES AYCLIFFE'S RFMD FACTORY BRINGING 200 JOBS

Durham County Council's business gateway, is delighted to announce that a major new investor in the county, Compound Photonics, has acquired the former RFMD facility at Newton Aycliffe. As well as saving the factory and the jobs of those employed there, it is predicted that the investment by the cutting edge technology company will create even more jobs with 200 expected to be employed on the site in the future. Compound Photonics' acquisition of the facility in Newton Aycliffe adds to their existing operations based in London and the United States. It is building the world's smallest high definition 1080p and ultra high definition 4K projection light engines for mobile devices, projectors and automotive heads up displays.



Left to right: Cllr Neil Foster, Dr Johnathan Sachs, Richard Jackson (Vice President Compound Photonics) and Dr Simon Goon.

Compound Photonics' acquisition of the facility in Newton Aycliffe adds to their existing operations based in London and the United States. It is building the world's

smallest high definition 1080p and ultra high definition 4K projection light engines for mobile devices, projectors and automotive heads up displays. Jonathan A. Sachs Ph.D., president and CEO of Compound Photonics, explained, "The availability of the facility at Newton Aycliffe is a fantastic opportunity for Compound Photonics. The facility, the equipment and the highly-skilled workforce will enable us to significantly expand our manufacturing capacity to meet the demand of global markets for a new generation of projection products. In March this year, RFMD announced its intention to consolidate manufacture back to its American headquarters, leading to the closure of the Newton Aycliffe facility with

the loss of all jobs. Since then, Business Durham has been working hard with interested parties to save the factory and safeguard jobs in County Durham. The acquisition of the facility by Compound Photonics opens up a brand new future for the plant and the people.

Birthday Remembrance

JOSEPH HEDLEY, 29th July. In loving memory of my dear Husband on your birthday. I will always love you and miss you so much. Your loving Wife, Grace xxxx
JOSEPH HEDLEY, 29th July. (Dad). No card, no kiss, no birthday wish. Just loving memories of the one we all miss. He would not wish for tears or fuss, but just to be remembered by all of us. Love from Anne, Grace, Keith, John, Ruth xxxxxx

In Memoriam

MADGE MINNES 27th July 2012. There's a pain in our hearts, that never goes away. But the memories of you are with us every single day. Thinking of you every day, gone but not forgotten. Deeply loved always. Scott, Tracy and Beckie xxxx
MARJORIE MINNES 27th July 2012. No words can say, no flowers repay. The loss we had one year today. Till memory fails and life departs, you live forever in our hearts. Kath and Ralph
BILLY CLARK died 30-07-2010. In loving memory of a dear Husband, Dad and Grandad. Always in our thoughts and hearts. Gwendoline, Marie, Donna and the Boys xx

STOP PRESS

Work on Two Entrances to Town Centre

We are pleased to report the pedestrian access near Wilkinsons has been opened and we are told access from the Multi Storey Car Park near Coffee Pronto will also be opened in the very near future. We are pleased the Landlord has listened to all the complaints from both shoppers and shopkeepers and taken this common-sense action.

Crossing Device Helps Deaf and Blind People



Ever wondered what that little cone shaped nob does on the bottom of the pedestrian crossing box is for? Its cone shaped with tactile ridges on it and points downwards under the box. Having used the new crossing on Central Avenue I was curious as to what this little device was for. I tried pushing it a few times but to no avail it appeared solid and served no purpose. Then as if by magic it started to rotate. At the same time a pedestrian on the opposite side of the road had pushed the button to cross. Intrigued, I decided to investigate a little further. Its purpose is for people who can't see or hear the crossing sequence. Once you push the button to cross the road you can place your hand on the cone device. Once the lights go green to cross for pedestrians the cone

will start spinning. This assists people with visual impairment the OK to cross. It is estimate there are 2.7 million people in the UK who suffer from colour blindness alone. The device invented by Nottingham University offered the idea to the Department of Transport in the 1980's. It was late 1989 the devices started to appear in our streets. Radix, the company behind the cones, says it has sold 10,000 units per year since 1995. Hugh Huddy is blind and works for the visual impairment charities umbrella group Vision 2020. He is pleased to see cones fitted to our pedestrian crossings but would not just walk into the road because of a spinning mechanism: "An important point to make is that I wait for the cone to start to rotate couple that with the traffic noise coming from the road

in front of me" You can hear whether they are changing gear or slowing down. The cone isn't telling you its safe to cross, it's telling you the green light is on for pedestrians. Some crossing make beeping noises, not all do. For instance if two crossing are close together they can confuse impaired people. Imagine one of the fire engines reversing in our station yard or a HGV reversing across the road in Tesco the reversing bleeper could give a false signal to cross The spinning cone is a great aid and a welcome tool for the visually impaired. Try it out the next time you cross on Central Avenue by the Fire Station or Burn Lane Crossing next to Tesco.

Story and photo by Dave Stocks
Information provided by the Dept. of Transport & Royal National Institute for the Blind.

In Loving Memory of our Wonderful Mother and Treasured Nana
SHEILA HOGAN

27th July 2012
Sadness is a word we have come to know for Home is not the same without you being here
Everlasting love that is what you gave to us
In your beautiful memory we will live our lives
Love will always be the source of our strength
A day at a time until we meet again

Love, Paul, Mark, Sue, Rossy, John and all your Grandchildren

Obituary

HUTSON July 18 peacefully in hospital. Richard George (Dick) aged 85 years of Newton Aycliffe. A dearly loved Husband of the late Ada, much loved Dad of June, Julie, Shirley and Susan, dear Father-in-law of Dave, Paul, Michael and Laurie also a devoted Grandad and Great Grandi. Funeral on Tuesday 30th July would friends please meet at 12.30pm for a Service in St. Clare's Church, prior to burial in West Cemetery, School Aycliffe.

Congratulations

Rebecca McCready & Marty Howlett

Congratulations
on your Engagement. have a fabulous party on 27th. Love and happiness to you both always. Nan, Allen, Chris, Lucy, Kurt and Ben xxxx

Colin Bromley

Happy 60th Birthday
Lots of love from all the family xxxxx

ADAM JAMES KELLY 29th July 2013. To my wonderful Son on your 1st birthday. Happy birthday. Love from your Dad, Shane
ADAM JAMES KELLY 29th July 2013. Happy 1st birthday to our Grandson. Love, Nanna and Grandad Kelly
ADAM JAMES KELLY 29th July 2013. Happy 1st birthday to our wonderful Nephew. Love, Aunty Rara and Corey
ADAM JAMES KELLY 29th July 2013. Happy 1st birthday. Love, Aunty Louise, Uncle Gavin and Cousin Harry
NATHAN TAYLOR Happy 16th birthday on 29th July 2013 to a lovely Son and Brother from Mam, Dad and Arran xxx
JULIE HOWEY Have a lovely birthday on 30th July. Lots of love, Mam and Dad xxx
LESTER ATKINSON 29th July. Happy 60th birthday. Lots of love, Sue, Stephen, Kelly and Michael xxx
JOYCE & RAY BELL All the family wish Joyce and Ray many congratulations and good wishes on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary (60th) on 25th July 2013
COLIN FAWCETT (28th July 2013). Happy 60th birthday Colin. Have a fantastic day and enjoy your party! Love you always and forever. Your loving Wife, Val xxxx
TELFORD Happy 18th birthday Sinead. With lots of love always, Dad and Catriona xxxx
SINEAD TELFORD Happy 18th birthday. Love and best wishes always. Gran and all the family xxx

Courtenay Pearson

Congratulations
on achieving First Class Honours in your Masters Degree in Pharmacy. We are so proud of you. Love, Mam, Mike, Paige, Nana and Grandad

Births

Charles Curtis Mark Todd

Born 27th June 2013
to Heather and Graham Todd
Congratulations
from Roger and Sue Curtis and Family
Billy and Sandra Todd and Family

Anthony James Hymas

Happy 18th Birthday
27th July 1995
Happy 18th birthday Son. Enjoy your barbecue/party. Love, Mam and Dad
Happy birthday Anth, enjoy your day. From Dan xx

Thank You

WATSON Brenda and Jimmy, Married on Saturday 6th July 2013, would like to thank everyone involved in making their wedding day very special. Also for all gifts and cards received and to those people that travelled from afar to be with us on our special day. Love you all xxx
AGNES MORRELL would like to thank everyone who came to her 80th birthday party and for all the cards and presents she received. Also, special thank you to Carol for the lovely buffet and special thanks to Jean for the beautiful cake. Special thanks to Roberta and David for organising the party

Aycliffe Swimmer in Junior Olympics

The 2013 European Youth Olympic Festival took place in the Netherlands, 14th to 19th of July. Participants, between the ages of 13 and 18, competed in 9 summer sports disciplines;



athletics, basketball, cycling, gymnastics, handball, judo, gymnastics, swimming, tennis and volleyball. Team GB took 44 athletes who competed in 5 of the 9 sporting disciplines. Just like the Olympics, the young boys and girls lived in a Village. There was an opening and closing ceremony an Olympic Flame and Flag. Sedgefield 75's Hannah Featherstone represented Great Britain, and was the only swimmer selected from the North East competing in three events. The 100 metre Freestyle Team, Medley

Team and the Mixed Freestyle Team, and came away with a fantastic tally of 2 Silver and a Bronze. Hannah's split time of 57.66 seconds in the Mixed Freestyle Team was the 3rd fastest individual time set during the championships, a truly outstanding performance considering Hannah did not compete in the individual Freestyle event where with this time would have gained her another medal.

Hannah will now compete at the National Championships in Sheffield lining up against her GB teammates and an enthralling encounter in the pool. Sedgefield 75 train at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on most evenings, if you would like a try out to join the club, come along on Monday nights between 6-7pm and speak to one of the Coaches. Visit the their website at: <http://freeteams.net/sedgefield75>.



CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Aycliffe Top Division

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team team sponsored by Lift Right Fork Lift Training soared to the top of the NYSD 3rd division table after a fantastic 6 wicket home win over previous league leaders Bedale. The visitors were asked to bat first on the ever improving Aycliffe wicket with 216 all out after 48.5 overs.

The three pronged Aycliffe fast bowling attack of Sean Morgan (5 for 48), Michael Howe (4 for 58) and Dan Craggs (1 for 46) bowled well to peg the visitors back with the last 7 Bedale wickets falling for just 27

runs. In reply opener Luke Telford carried his bat for an outstanding innings for 90 not out, hitting eight boundaries and two huge sixes and he received good support from Sean Morgan (56 runs) and captain Chris Palmer (22 runs).

Aycliffe reached their target with 5 overs remaining and in the process set a new club record as their score of 217 was the highest score to win a match batting second. Sean Morgan earned the man of the match after his outstanding all round display during which he took five wickets and scored a half century and this is only the 5th time that this special feat has been completed by a first team player in the club's history.

A weakened 2nd team were well beaten by 9 wickets at home to a strong Seaton Carew 3rd XI in the NYSD Sunday division 2. Asked to bat first, Aycliffe were skittled for just 78 after 30.5 overs with Ben Nicholson top scoring with a fluent 43. In reply the visitors coasted to victory after just 18.1 overs with Aycliffe opening bowler Dan Weldon taking the only Seaton Carew wicket to fall thanks to a sharp catch from John Wardle.

The under 18's team lost their final game of the season at home to Mainsforth by 20 runs despite a much improved performance. Mainsforth chose to bat first and were restricted 114 for 8 in their 20 overs thanks to some excellent fast bowling from captain Danny Weldon (4 for 11) and a couple of wickets from 12 year old Dylan Tribbley. Aycliffe's Tom Wickins hit an excellent 33 and received good support from Ben Nicholson and Joe Haines, who both scored 11 as Aycliffe reached 94 for 8 after their 20 overs.

The club's under 15's team were also below strength due to holidays and this allowed Bishop Auckland to gain revenge for their defeat by Aycliffe earlier in the season. Bishops scored 124 for 6 in their 20 overs and despite an aggressive 22 runs from Dylan Tribbley, 14 runs from Arran Taylor and some staunch resistance from 11 year old Nathan Parry, Aycliffe were restricted to 53 for 5.

Stephenson Way Sports Week



Between the 8th and 12th of July, Stephenson Way organised a sporting week for all children to display and develop a school ethos of fair play, sportsmanship and competitive spirit.

The Olympic legacy was evident in school on Monday the 8th as both infant and junior buildings competed in an Olympics. The children were divided into "countries", and wore that nation's competition colours. Mr Everson's class planned and ran the event, with a range of events; from a golf accuracy challenge to more traditional throwing and jumping events.

Also held throughout the week were the "World Cup" football competitions, held in different age groups from Tuesday to Thursday. Once again the children were divided into mixed-ability "countries" to compete and the children excelled in upholding their sporting values; with great displays of teamwork and examples of sportsmanship showcased throughout the events.

Sports week would not be complete without the traditional sports day. Parents were invited into school to watch their child compete and they were treated to an afternoon of great entertainment and spirited competition. The children took part in a range of races, from straight sprints to skipping and other obstacle races. The afternoons generated a great atmosphere which the children enjoyed competing in.

Class pride was on the line on Friday as the children competed in rounders and benchball intra-school competitions. The matches were keenly contested, with the children enjoying competing as a member of their current class for the final time.

Aside from the in-school competitions, Stephenson Way also continued to send sports teams to compete outside of school. On Tuesday, the school took part in the inaugural Tudhoe Learning Trust football event. Competing against two other schools from our academy cluster, Tudhoe Colliery and Victoria Lane, Stephenson Way won both games. On Friday, 20 Year 5 Children went to Moore Lane Sports Club for a Kwik-Cricket festival. All of the children played some lovely cricket with great sportsmanship on show towards other teams. Congratulations go to the members of the Stephenson Way "A" team, who won all of their games during the day to win gold medals. Stephenson Way considers the week to be a great success and

a fitting end to a great sporting year at the school. We would like to further commend the children for competing, and

taking sensible precautions for keeping themselves safe, in the hot weather we enjoyed over the course of the week.

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