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Social Club for Disabled Adults Goes Weekly



Options Social Club is pleased to announce that due to a grant from the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) it is able to open weekly from 25 July 2013.

Options Social Club is managed by the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) and offers a safe and friendly environment for local disabled adults to socialise, make new friends, try new activities and give carers a break from their caring responsibilities.

Activities include pool, table tennis, Wii games, bowling, hydrotherapy pool usage, boxercise, new age kurling, computer and internet access, parties and discos.

The Club has been taking place fortnightly, so it with particular thanks to the Neighbourhood Budgets of the late Cllr Enid Paylor, Cllr Mike Dixon, and Cllr Joan Gray and former County Councillor Paul Gittins that people can now attend every week.

Danielle Barlow is a regular member of the Social Club and says "I enjoy the Social Club because it is good fun and the activities are good" Danielle's mum says "The Social Club has helped bring Danielle out of her shell, she absolutely loves it. If she is happy, we are happy. We also enjoy the respite we get while Danielle attends"

The Options Social club takes place at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe on Thursdays from 6pm - 8pm and has a £2 fee.

PCP also manages Options, a day project for local disabled adults which aims to promote independence, choice, control and social inclusion to its participants. Activities include daily living skills, adult education sessions,

confidence and self esteem building, healthy living workshops and community activities. There are also opportunities for residential activity weekends.

For further information on the Options service, Social Club or PCP pop into Pioneering Care Centre, Carers Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4SF
Tel 01325 321234
email enquiries@pcp.uk.net or visit www.pcp.uk.net

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SHINE CHOIR NEWS

The Community Children's Choir 'SHINE' enjoyed a summer celebration as they have a short break during August. The children enjoyed party games, dancing and a fabulous buffet tea.

A big thank you to all the parents for providing this. This well-deserved rest comes after the overwhelming success of their 'Jonah- A Fishy Tale' production. (The choir delighted a packed hall, twice!) and the cast all agreed it was 'the best ever show!'

A great big thank you to parents and townspeople who

support and encourage these young people. Helen and Kerry would like to say how much they appreciate the help of the 'extended choir team' - Ron, Joyce, Robin, Sandra, Des, Heather and Ernie and June - who all help to make choir practices run smoothly! Choir resumes on Monday September 9th in St. Clare's Hall at the new time 5-6pm. Any children attending Newton Aycliffe primary schools are welcome to attend - so come along - singing is fun! Enquiries to Helen McCormick 319002.

Hard Work Rewarded



Two students at Woodham Academy were rewarded for their hard work and achievement in Media Studies with tickets to see Jessie J, Atomic Kitten, Blue and Five and Emirates ICG. Britteny Wynn, Year 9 and Rebecca Rennison, Y10, were given the awards courtesy of Durham County Cricket Club, for the concerts which take place Friday 19th and Saturday 20th July. This follows the students' involvement in the Let's Go Pitchside programme at Durham County Cricket Club where they reported on two matches from the press box.

Caring for Carers

A new survey via Carers Week found that six out of ten carers have suffered from depression because of the unrelenting stress of their caring role.

I work for a disability charity called Vitalise and unfortunately this fact comes as no surprise to us. We know that carers are not taking enough respite to help them cope - and we know why.

One of our own studies found that six out of ten carers suffer huge feelings of worry and guilt at the prospect of sending their disabled, frail or elderly loved ones into residential care even for just a few days' respite, and that the issue of quality of care is the cause of their fears. They are simply terrified of letting go.

Sadly, their lack of trust in the care system is quite justified. In many cases respite care amounts to little more than 'warehousing' for disabled or older people in totally unsuitable surroundings. So it's really not surprising that many family carers would rather

struggle on at home, risking complete breakdown in the process, than entrust the care of their loved ones to strangers.

Vitalise provides desperately-needed respite breaks for people with disabilities and carers at our accessible UK centres. We are 50 years old this year and we know from experience that carers' worries can be eased if they are confident that their loved ones will receive good quality care, combined with dignity and respect, in an appropriate and stimulating environment. Is this too much to ask?

There are already 6.5 million carers in the UK and this number is increasing at a rate of 6,000 each day. If we are to avert a full-scale crisis in social care, the issue of quality in respite care needs to be addressed now.

For more info about our breaks and how you can support our vital work, please call 0303 303 0147, email info@vitalise.org.uk or www.vitalise.org.uk

CASH GRANTS FOR ADULT HELP GROUPS

Community groups and voluntary organisations providing health initiatives and help for adults can now apply for grants from £500 to £10,000.

The Community Chest, was set up in partnership by Durham County Council Adult Social Care, Public Health and North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group to benefit local services across County Durham. This could mean expanding existing services or developing new ones, helping people and communities to help themselves.

The funding recognises the benefit of working more closely in local communities, who are often best placed to listen and understand the needs of local people. The grant is intended to help areas such as outreach services for the housebound, healthy eating, making premises accessible and training volunteers in disability issues such as dementia.

The intention is to enable people to live as independently as possible and support them to improve their own health and wellbeing.

Lesley Jeavons, Head of Adult Social Care at Durham County Council,

said: "We recognise the benefit of working more closely in local communities to sustain very local services in order to help people and communities help themselves.

"This approach will strengthen community opportunities and will help

to save money in the long term by helping people to remain healthier and more independent for longer."

Any groups wanting more information should contact communitychest@durham.gov.uk or www.durham.gov.uk/communitychest

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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 the likes of 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.

Saturday 17th August - "Rhubarb Red"

Gigpit review: The second time I've managed to catch 'Rhubarb Red' and again I wasn't dissatisfied. This afternoon they played to a fairly packed pub, the range of music was great from Thin Lizzy to Aerosmith with some Arctic Monkeys and The Who, Cream and The Stones just a bit of everything that's enjoyable in a good pub rock set.

Yet another great guitarist on the circuit I enjoy listening to, is Steve Innocent who fits well into Rhubarb Red along with a great backline featuring Graham Hope on drums and Peter Dodd on bass, both very good musicians with Steve Firmager on vocals who can pull off any song they decide to cover really well from AC/DC to the Arctic Monkeys

Any way I really enjoyed the gig and recommend anybody to go along and catch a Rhubarb Red gig

For more information on bands go to
www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034
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FAIRER DISPLAY OF FLOWERS WANTED

Dear Sir,
I also wish to congratulate the County Council and Town Council workers who are responsible for the wonderful display of flower beds in the town. I watched the gardeners one day at St Mary's roundabout on their knees weeding the floral displays then I went for my walk through the town along to St Clare's and down Stephenson Way, but what a different look!
No nice Flower displays until I got to Stephenson Way with two displays of yellow roses at each side of the road. The

roses look lovely and bright along the roadside, but they are spoilt through lack of attention.
The two lovely floral displays opposite Stephenson Way school were also spoilt by weeds. I continued to the end of Stephenson Way, one of the main roads through the town. Why is it so neglected? We all pay rates and deserve the same amenities in the West Ward! Whether it is County or Town Council responsibility - let's have a good floral displays throughout Newton Aycliffe. Ratepayer
Name & address supplied

Winning Aycliffe Act Receives a Single

Kingdom Audio, a recording studio from Newton Aycliffe, has agreed to climb on board

the Aycliffe Young Talent Project and offer a singer or group from Aycliffe a recording of a single.

Jason Snowball, Chief Engineer from Kingdom Audio will be present at the Aycliffe Young Talent Project's next gig at Newton Aycliffe Big Club on Friday 9th August 2013 and at the end of the night he will present one of the participants with the

great gift of a Free Single Recording.

This is a lovely prize to all the budding singers in Aycliffe and everyone at AYTP.co.uk would like to thank Jason from KingdomAudio.co.uk for his great gift and look forward to a long productive future ahead. This is another great example of an Aycliffe company helping Aycliffe people; it makes me proud to be from Aycliffe.

Summer Sport for Disabled Youngsters

Special sports sessions for young people with a disability are being held at Spennymoor Leisure Centre this summer. They are all about fun with a chance to learn new skills in everything from basketball and football to dodgeball and tennis. The sessions are led by qualified coaches.
Suzanne Richardson, senior sport and physical activity development manager, Durham County Council, said: "The sportsability clubs are an opportunity for young people to try new sports that they may not have tried before. The main emphasis is on fun and enjoyment.
Spennymoor Leisure Centre: Saturday, 10 10, 17, 24, 31 August (10am - 11.30am). Open to five to 16-year-olds with a physical or learning disability. To book a place contact Suzanne Richardson, senior sport and physical activity development manager: 03000 262 769 or suzanne.richardson@durham.gov.uk or Spennymoor Leisure Centre 03000 261161.

TESCO SOLVE LITTER PROBLEM ROUND ST. MARY'S CHURCH



Tesco Manager Martin Butcher has taken the initiative in solving a litter problem around St. Mary's Church. Following a letter from Great Aycliffe Residents' Association, commenting on complaints received, Martin acted immediately in having the litter picked by his staff. A great deal of litter from Tesco car park, dropped by customers, is blown over the road to settle in the hedgerow, causing an eyesore.
Martin attended the meeting of GARA last week where the Chairman Syd Howarth thanked him for his prompt response to the problem, praising the good example he set to others.
Martin deploys staff each

day to keep the area clean and there has been a marked difference which is much appreciated by nearby residents, the school and churchgoers.

Phone Scam

Residents should be aware of a recent telephone scam relating to BT. The caller claims to be phoning from BT demanding payment for an unpaid bill.
The caller claims to be called John Peacock with a strong African accent and states that if a payment is not made, he will disconnect the line. This is a hoax. Please do not pass any details to cold callers over the telephone.

Police Appeal for Witnesses

POLICE are looking to trace a cream coloured tractor involved in a collision with a car on the Sedgfield back road last Wednesday. The collision happened around 4.30pm on Wednesday, 24th July and also involved a blue Ford Focus. It took place not far from the 'Kings Arms' at Great Stainton

The driver of the Ford Focus had pulled over when he saw the tractor driving towards him, as he could see it was carrying some sort of ploughing equipment and was wider than one lane of the road.
Unfortunately, as the tractor drove past it caused extensive damage along the side of the car. The tractor did not stop at the scene but police say the driver may not even have been aware of the damage that it caused.
Officers would like to speak to any other road-users who may have been travelling along the Sedgfield back road, between Stillington and Newton Aycliffe.
They believe the cream tractor was being closely followed by a red one so other vehicles were having to travel quite slowly behind them.
The officer dealing is PC 2522 Kate WARD, based at Newton Wycliffe. She can be contacted using the 101 non-emergency number for police.

Have Your Say on Aycliffe's Masterplan

There is an important consultation you need to know about. The Aycliffe Masterplan is out for consultation - you can read it online at: <http://bit.ly/NAPlan2013>
For those who can't be bothered to read the whole thing there is a summary on: <http://bit.ly/NASummary2013>

The form on which you reply is: <http://bit.ly/NAReply2013>

This is the strategy which will determine the future of our town over the next 5 years, and it is vital that - if you have any comments/alterations/suggestions - you make them now, as consultation ends on 16th August.

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Newton Aycliffe	Manager: Vicky Hutchinson	01325 315623
Bishop Middleham	Manager: Natalie Richardson	01740 651224

15 FREE HOURS

ROTARY CLUB HEAR ABOUT BEFRIENDER SCHEME

Maggie Hughes, manager of the Befriender Scheme, a charity supporting adults with learning disabilities, made a presentation about the work of the scheme to the members of the Newton



Aycliffe Rotary Club on Tuesday 23rd July. Using three examples of scheme users, she explained who the scheme helps and the benefits it brings to users, carers and the wider community. One

such client is Brian who loves fire engines and was the happiest man in County Durham the day his befriender arranged a private visit to the new Bishop Auckland Fire Station! Maggie told the members of the club that the best thing they could do to support The Befriender Scheme was to spread the word about the work they do to potential clients and their carers or to people who might become befrienders.

She thanked them for the opportunity to come and speak to them and for their kind hospitality.

BUS TRIPS

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Evangelical Church
Ladybower

off Meadowfield Way
Wednesday 7th August
6.30pm. PCSO Mike
Hutchinson and possibly PC
Mike Welch (who is returning
to our area) will be attending
with updates and figures.
Everyone is welcome to
attend. Councillors will also
be in attendance.

County Council Meeting - 24th July

Report by County Councillor John Clare

Council Leader Simon Henig reported that – after lobbying by Durham County Council (and actually, against our own government's advice) – the European Union had declared Durham and Tees Valley a 'transition region'; this entitles County Durham to growth funding of 160m euros, to be used to help small and medium enterprises. He also told members that the Council spent last year £3.5m on disability adaptations ... and received a 100% satisfaction rating from the people who benefited.

Great Aycliffe got two mentions in the Leader's report, firstly because it is our 65th anniversary, and secondly because Greenfield

School won the Business Magnates competition.

Great Aycliffe then got a third mention when Mr Henig introduced the motion to agree to join the north-east 'Combined Authority' which, he said, will stretch "from Great Aycliffe to Berwick-on-Tweed".

The LibDems suggested that Council reserves are too high - and were told by an officer that they are necessary to guard against the current "massive financial risks" of Council Tax Welfare benefit changes and the business rate. They also drew attention to an internal auditor report that the Council's internal controls were 'moderate'; the Council is of course not satisfied with 'moderate' but, given the government cuts, redundancies, amalgamations etc., the sustaining of a 'moderate' opinion is a positive outcome.

There was cross-party agreement to move reporting of complaints and suggestions to the Corporate Issues Scrutiny Committee, which will mean that complaints are monitored and acted upon much more thoroughly.

Finally, after a bit of horse-trading, there was agreement to set up a working group to look into the broadcasting of Council meetings. This is something that Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, wants, but will be very expensive, and is not quite as easy to do legally as Mr Pickles thinks.

Taking the Challenge



ROC SOLID is a Newton Aycliffe charity which helps vulnerable young people, including care leavers to learn the skills they need to live independently.

The young people all receive one-on-one support each week from their key worker and they are all encouraged to be in some sort of training, education or, if they are very fortunate, employment. It's true to say that our young people are among the most disadvantaged in the area and that life has given them some significant knocks.

Fourteen amazing volunteers, staff, young people who reside at Rocsolid and local beat officers are taking up the Hadrians Walk Challenge on 5, 6 and 7 August this year.

This involves a gruelling hike along Hadrians Wall in Northumberland.

All the money raised towards confidence-building activity breaks for our young people, some of whom have never been out of an urban environment. We want to take them to rural outward bound centres to do team building activities and learn important things about themselves by overcoming personal challenges.

We are asking local people and businesses to support this event. Sponsor the team /make donations either by sending cheques to the address below or by visiting justgiving.com/rocsolidtd You can also read more about what we do at www.reachoutcare.co.uk

ROC SOLID
Hope House, Burnhope
Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7ER

FOOD COLLECTION

St Elizabeth's Church Woodham will be open from 5.30pm to 6.30pm every Wednesday and Sunday morning 11.00am to 11.30am to receive donated food from residents in the Woodham area wishing to help people in need. The goods will then be taken to the Food Bank which operates from St. Clare's. We as a congregation give very frequently to the Food Bank which operates very efficiently from there.

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Great Aycliffe



Town Council

COMPLETION OF AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2012/13

In accordance with Regulations 8 and 11 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, I hereby give notice of the conclusion of the annual audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2012/13 by the Council's external auditors, Mazars LLP, and the availability of the Accounts for inspection by local government electors.

Section 14 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 sets out the following rights of local government electors in relation to the inspection of statements of accounts and auditors' reports:-

A local government elector for the area of a body subject to audit, other than a health service body, may:-

- inspect and make copies of any statement of accounts prepared by the body;
- inspect and make copies of any report, other than an immediate report, made to the body by an auditor; and
- require copies of any such statement or report to be delivered to him on payment of a reasonable sum for each copy.

Anyone elector wishing to inspect the Accounts should telephone the Council Offices on 01325 300700 to make an appointment with the Finance Manager. Appointments are available at the Council Offices between the hours of 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

In addition a full copy of the Statement of Accounts has also been made available for inspection on the Council's website at www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Dated this 29th day of July 2013.

Mr Dan Austin C.P.F.A
Finance Manager
Great Aycliffe Town Council

Fun Day at The Cubby

On Wednesday 14th August the area around the Cubby will be a hive of activity for their Fun Day which runs from 10am - 3pm.

There will be lots of stalls including Honest John, Games, Raffles, Tombola Bouncy Castle, Face Painting and entertainment provided by Prof Nincompoop with balloons, magic and tomfoolery every 30 minutes. Add to this the famous home made hot and cold food and you have everything you need for a pleasant outing.

Summer Fun Starts at Greenfield



Summer is in full swing at Greenfield Arts! Last week our fantastic programme of activities got off to a flying start with two printmaking workshops inspired by our exhibition in the Gallery "Abode."

We made our own screen printed bags, creating two colour designs using this great (but messy!) process. On Thursday artist Jilly Greenwood took us on a scavenging mission to find some exciting materials to

make colourful collage prints. This week we have been making new artwork for the centre and trying out new recipes for picnics with Season to Taste, and next week we have more great art activities planned!

This summer has been our busiest yet, with activities filling up fast, if you want to join in the fun there are still some spaces left for our Friday Films – check our website for details www.greenfield-arts.co.uk.

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PRE-SCHOOL HOLD PARTY IN THE PARK



St. Oswald's and Woodham Burn Pre-Schools, operated by Great Aycliffe Town Council, held a 'Party in the Park' on Friday, 19th July 2013 in the beautiful grounds of St. Oswald's Park to celebrate the end of the school year. The day was a huge success; the children enjoyed bouncy castles, fairground rides, running races, giant pass the parcel games, along with many activities including sand and water play, and arts and crafts. Of course the lovely weather made the day even better and everyone enjoyed their picnic

in the sun. We would like to thank all of our children, parents and their families for their support, not only during the day but throughout the year. Your support is always greatly appreciated. Good luck to all the children who have left us to start school in September, we will miss you all. We look forward to seeing the children who will return to us along with all our new starters. More information on the Pre-Schools can be obtained by contacting Jackie Swainston on 01325 319880.

Honest John Donates £1500 for Church Roof

Dear Sir,
I would like to thank Honest John for his amazing donation of £1,500 to St Clare's Church roof appeal. St Clare's and its assorted buildings are now of an age when several roofs, especially the flat ones, need renewing. We need to raise over £25,000, some urgently and some over the next 4 to 5 years, to ensure that our buildings are in a fit state to carry on the work we do. Honest John's kind donation isn't just to St Clare's church, but to the very wide community that

use the church and all its facilities. As well as the weekly services of Worship, Weddings, Baptisms, Messy Church, Funerals and Memorial Services, plus visits by school children for their religious studies, the church plays host to meetings of Brownies, Girl Guides, Mother's Union, Women's Fellowship, Men's Fellowship, Slimming groups, Social Club, film shows for young and old, Sedgefield Residents group, youth groups including "Shine Choir" and the Marie Clare Choir.

St Clare's is also home to the Newton Aycliffe branch of "Foodbank" which is working so hard for people in need. It provides a venue for stage shows and gave a home to both the local boxing club and MIND when needed. So many people have reason to be grateful to Honest John, not just for the help he has given to St Clare's on this occasion but for all that he does for so many charities and groups in need. Thank you Honest John, on behalf of St Clare's and the community you serve so wonderfully, Ric Hargreaves

ADOPTION SET TO BECOME SIMPLER

Adopting in County Durham is set to become simpler as a new two part process has been launched by the Department for Education, so that prospective adopters can be approved more quickly. Durham County Council, will now assess and prepare prospective adopters within six months. During the first stage, expected to take two months, prospective adopters will learn about what is involved in adopting a child and references will be obtained. The second stage, which is expected to take four months, involves more intensive

assessment and preparation of possible adopters to ensure they are ready to adopt a child. At the end of this stage and following approval adoptive parents will then begin the process of being matched with children who are waiting to find an adoptive family. Jessica Cowan, adoption team manager, said: "Durham County Council Adoption Service is well prepared for the new process. We hope that it will help us find families for children who are waiting for adoption more speedily - great news for these children and their prospective families."

Children's Cinema Club

Every Tuesday in August, there will be a Children's Cinema Club at St. Clare's Community Hall (attached to the church) beginning at 2pm. Films to be shown are, Tooth Fairy, The Lorax, Matilda and Parental Guidance. There is a tuck shop and also ice lollies. Admission is £1, with accompanying adults free. Children can be left for the duration of the film with film-club leaders (all CRB cleared) or adults can stay and enjoy the film and a cuppa! This film club is open to all children/young people in our town so please come along. For any further information, call Helen on 319002.

Helping Elderly & Disabled Passengers

A North East start-up business has launched a free service to make air travel easier for elderly and disabled passengers. Under EU law, airlines and airports are obliged to provide assistance for people with mobility issues, but take-up of help is low. Now Newcastle-based able2fly has devised a system to simplify the process. Company boss Martin Quinn said:

"Sometimes less than 50% of people with special requirements notify the airline before travelling. Part of that is a lack of awareness, but the process can also be confusing and complicated. And if you later fly with a different airline, you have to go through the whole process again. "With able2fly, however, people only need to give us their details once and we ensure that information gets to the airline and airport. And your profile is kept on file so that for flights in the future all we need is your flight number to ensure the necessary arrangements are in place. And best of all, it's free." The business has received European development funding and today met with North East Euro MP



Fiona Hall. Fiona commented: "I'm pleased to see a small North East business taking on this problem and reducing the barriers to travel for people who need help getting about. "It can be off-putting for people to have to go through the rigmarole of providing these personal details every time and then hoping they are properly relayed to the airport. "I'm optimistic that able2fly can substantially boost awareness of the help available and give people the nudge to take it up by making things as easy as possible. Doing so could save airlines and airports money while improving the travel experience for passengers."

The Local Motion MEGA Summer Festival

Saturday 10 August
10.30am-4pm
Hackworth Park, Shildon

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* All activities are free *

To plan your journey to the Festival, please visit:

Website: www.dothelocalmotion.co.uk

Telephone: 0800 45 89 810

Email: info@dothelocalmotion.co.uk



Kidney Disease Sufferer Receives Great Support



Emily Cant is a very bright bubbly girl and a typical 8 year old child but she has Cystic Dylasia kidneys. She attends hospital often for scans and blood tests and has had many infections but she just gets on with life. She hates taking the medicine but understands what is wrong. Even though her parents are in limbo, not knowing what's going to happen, the doctors are brilliant. It means Emma having a day off school which she doesn't like, but they keep her well entertained in hospital. Steven Weaver, Andy Cooper and Leo Freeman are taking on the "PARA's Ten Challenge" on 8th September to help Emma. They have been training for several months and as good friends, wanted to do it for the Childrens Kidney Unit at Newcastle RVI. A raffle is also being organised with good prizes and an auction of football memorabilia, and golf games. There has been help from Creations hair salon, Thames Centre Butchers and many more local businesses. The charity event is planned at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club on 23rd August with a disco provided by Dave, games the auction and raffle. It starts at 7pm with free entry. Raffle tickets can be bought at the Sports Club and from Michelle at Creations Hair Salon.

Free 'Have a Go' Sessions at College

Young people aged between 16 and 18 are being invited to take part in taster activities in a wide range of course areas which start next Monday at Bishop Auckland College.

The college is running the five week programme in response to a request from Durham County Council's One Point careers advice service.

From 9.30am to 3pm each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from July 29th and throughout August, all 16-18 year olds can drop in and try their hand at everything from being a chef to childcare to construction trades.

Other areas include: art & design; beauty therapy; health & social care; motor vehicle; music; performing arts;

public services and travel & tourism. Meanwhile sporty types can try the climbing wall, badminton, basketball or five-a-side football, while budding entrepreneurs can find out about being your own boss.

Principal Natalie Davison is encouraging young people to come in and have a go. She said: "There will be hundreds of school leavers and other young people in County Durham kicking their heels during the holidays, many of whom have not yet decided their next move after the summer break.

"I would urge them to drop in to the college one Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday over the next five weeks and try their hand at whatever they are interested in, whether it be business, badminton or beauty therapy. We have lots of course options and apprenticeship opportunities so who knows what a quick visit could lead to?"

For more information about the summer school, visit www.bishopaucklandcollege.ac.uk or email start@bacoll.ac.uk or call (01388) 443000.

ITEMS LEFT OUTSIDE NOT ALWAYS JUNK

A number of Newtonians have issues with the rag and bone men taking goods out of gardens without permission. Toys, left in the garden and on the path, inside the property are assumed, wrongly, to be unwanted and are being removed.

If you know this has happened you can contact the Police as it can be construed as theft.

The collectors seem to operate at all times - even at weekends, so be aware.

Aycliffe Bus Stars in WWII Enactment



Aycliffe Museum's 'Heart-beat' bus played an active role in transporting 30 WW II re-enactors from Kidderminster to Tenbury Wells, near Worcester, to the Regal, a restored 1930's cinema which was showing "Went the Day Well" a 1942 b&w film about wartime Britain.

LHN 860, the Society's 40's bus was down at the SVR supporting their

40's week giving free rides to passengers and school parties. With better weather this year the bus

was a popular working example of life in wartime Britain.

The cinema trip was a first event for Tenbury Wells. Cinema manager and local townspeople have already 'booked' the bus for next year as they are confident that a week of 40's films would be well received by locals and visitors alike.

Last week Society members and friends visited NRM York to see the A4 pacific locomotives (along with half of England!) and enjoyed a Heartbeat Special into North Yorkshire and to Whitby using its newly restored 1958 United coach. "We are now able to offer luxury travel at 60mph" said Secretary Ian Wiggett. "We have waited a long time for this restoration to be completed but the wait has been worth it."

End of 50th Birthday Celebrations



St. Mary's Primary School ended their 50th Birthday year with a whole school Mass in the Church on Tuesday 16th July. To coincide with the return of the Lindisfarne Gospels, our headteacher Mrs Reilly O'Donnell, had the idea of creating our own gospel.

Every child and adult together with friends of the school, all contributed to writing the Gospel of St. Mark, each writing at least one verse each on special parchment paper. Mrs Minns and Year 6 helped to illuminate the initial letter of each chapter before sending it to be bound together. The gospel was held in procession before Fr. Campion read from it during Mass.

Mass then ended with a Blessing for our Year 6 children who were moving on to secondary schools, a goodbye to Fr. Campion who will be leaving us in August, and last but not least a goodbye and good luck to Mrs Reilly O'Donnell who is also leaving.

Mrs Reilly O'Donnell has been our Head for only 3 years but has made such a big



impact to school, children, staff, governors and parents. She is one in a million and will be a huge loss. Fr. Campion and Sean O'Keeffe, chairman of governors, both spoke very highly of her and wished her well in her new school. Our Lady Queen of Peace in Penshaw. We also wish our new headteacher Mrs Sowdon best wishes when she starts in September. After Mass the children enjoyed an extended playtime whilst staff, parents and friends of the school enjoyed tea, coffee and cakes. It has been a great year and we wish every one involved in school a happy and safe holiday.

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(FOOTPATH BETWEEN HORNDALE AVENUE AND OAK LEAF SPORTS CENTRE NEWTON AYCLIFFE) (TEMPORARY (RAIL) FOOTBRIDGE CLOSURE) ORDER 2013

The Council, on 25.07.13, made an Order under Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, as amended, its effect being to temporarily close to all pedestrian and cycle traffic a 30m length of footbridge that crosses the railway line between Horndale Ave. and the Oak Leaf Sports Centre Newton Aycliffe, to enable footbridge maintenance works to be undertaken.

The maximum duration of the temporary footpath closure order is 6 months and is required from 05.08.13 and for the duration of the works, anticipated to be 3 weeks. Alternative routes will be available to traffic either southerly via Horndale Ave. to School Aycliffe Lane to the access to the Sports Centre; or north westerly via Greenfield Way to the Station and the footbridge over the rail line to the northern side of the Sports Centre; and vice versa.

(LINK ROAD BETWEEN GREENWELL ROAD AND BURN LANE NEWTON 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 155m length of un-named link road linking Greenwell Road with the entrance to Tesco's car park off C34 Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe to enable maintenance works namely kerbing, drainage, re-surfacing and new signage, to be undertaken.

The maximum duration of the temporary closure under the Order is 18 months and is required from 02.09.13 for the duration of the works, anticipated to be 6 weeks. An alternative route will be available to vehicular traffic via Greenwell Road, Central Avenue and Burn Lane Newton Aycliffe, and vice versa.

However, for operational reasons, on rare occasions, closures may be necessary on dates and times other than those set out in the above 2 Orders and where this occurs, closures and/or diversions will be signed accordingly.

Dated: 2nd August 2013



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

£540m Funding Boost for County Durham

A European award of around €160 million will help residents and local businesses across the county after Durham County Council played a lead role in lobbying for new funding. The money, for 2014 to 2020, will be used to continue the economic growth of County Durham, focusing on small and medium enterprises, to help with improving ICT, innovation and research and development. Residents will also reap the benefits with increased employment and targeted help and support to boost their job prospects through training and lifelong learning. The continued regeneration of the County Durham area will be underpinned by improvements to infrastructure and an environmentally friendly approach, improving sustainable travel and

shifting towards a low carbon economy. Durham County Council played an instrumental role in securing the funding, with Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council, and the council's Regeneration and Economic Development department lobbying both the Government and European Parliament for the implementation of Transition Areas. Their creation meant that additional money was made available to areas like County Durham where economic performance is below that of other European regions. As a result, the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) will receive around £540 million in funding as a whole. The new money for County Durham is also less prescribed than previous European grants with less

match-funding required from local agencies. This will allow for a more targeted approach to funding projects which will ensure that local priorities are met. Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council, said: "We're delighted that our hard work has paid off and that County Durham, and the North East as a whole, will benefit from a European funding boost as a result. Although the council strives to encourage economic development, such as the new Hitachi plant in Newton Aycliffe, the county has been hit hard by national austerity measures and an overall reduction in private sector investment. Therefore this funding award was vital to ensure the on-going economic stability of County Durham." Cllr Neil Foster, Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "The funding award is fantastic news for the whole of County Durham. The funding will not only boost local business and job prospects but ensure that residents have the skills and training required to fully take advantage of those benefits. Investment in the local economy and infrastructure, in an environmentally responsible way, can only ensure a better future for all our residents." In more good news for the residents of County Durham, a further £20 million of funding is now a possibility, specifically to tackle rising youth unemployment.

New Town Centre Paving Already Spoilt

Dear Sir,
With reference to the letter from Audrey on the grand flower displays in and around Aycliffe. It's a pity they didn't check phase one of the new flag stones in the town centre which are now covered with cigarette ends, chewing gum and bird muck! Are Newtonian's that proud of their new centre that they now cover it with rubbish? What are newcomers going to think about the place?

Then there's the loss of trade to shopkeepers caused by the laying of flags etc. Come on people get a grip, and take pride in our town centre! Or do we just let it fail and do our shopping in the big supermarkets? Let's put some life into the town and get more people and shops. I for one object to having a centre that's going downhill and the new flag stones will be just as bad as the old ones!
DW

POPULAR PRIEST RETURNS TO TOWN

On Sunday August 11th St. Clare's Church in the Town Centre celebrates their Patronal Festival and are very pleased to announce that the Revd. Peter A. Baldwin has especially asked to come along and officiate and preach at this Service to celebrate St. Clare's day. Revd Peter was a much respected figure in this town over 21 years ago and is fondly remembered by many.



Science Open Evening



The Science Department at Woodham Academy welcomed 55 parents and Year 5 students to their annual Science Open Evening. Parents were drawn into the fantasy science world of wizardry, dragons and magic. The evening was full of 'hands on' practical tasks – such as building DNA from jelly babies and making water rockets. The parents thoroughly enjoyed being back to school for the evening. They rated the evening as outstanding – all parents were awarded a certificate for participating in the event!

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ABANDONED TURTLES LEFT TO DIE AND KILL POND LIFE

Dear Sir,
Most of us are used to seeing the occasional wild hedgehog or rabbit killed on our roads around Aycliffe but on the 1st July I discovered a slightly more unusual animal on Burnhill Way - a Turtle. This animal, about the size of an adult's hand had become the latest victim of what is becoming an unwelcome trend in the town. Over the last 18 months at least five turtles have been recovered from local ponds and water courses in the town. These animals are voracious predators that can decimate many populations of pond animals including the occasional protected species such as the Great Crested Newt. They can also introduce unwanted diseases and bacteria into the water. People are buying these animals as babies unaware of or unwilling to consider the considerable time, cost and effort it takes to look after them throughout their lifetime. To keep a turtle healthy they should have a

heater, UV lighting, a good water filter and an aquarium big enough to give a mature turtle a fair standard of life. They can grow as large as a dinner plate so should have a tank about 2 feet by 5 feet minimum. In general turtles can survive summer outside in the British climate but will often die as a result of cold winter temperatures. By releasing these animals into the waterways the owners are consigning their pets to a slow painful death. Anyone wishing to purchase one of these fascinating animals should first seriously consider what they are taking on, read about them, question the seller about what exactly they are buying, speak to local animal sanctuary's who often have a few needing homes. Please learn about what you want to take on as releasing them into the wild you are not only harming the turtle, but also the wider local environment. Steve Cooper, Town Council Environment Officer

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Aycliffe Village

Tuesday 20th August
Horndale Park

Friday 23rd August
St Oswald's Park

Tuesday 27th August
West Park


Friday 30th August
Town Centre Park

For more information Telephone 01325 300600

FETE AT CARE HOME

Lindisfarne Care Home in Silverdale Place are holding a Summer Fete on Saturday 3rd August at 2.00pm. There will be Tombolas, Handicrafts, Soft Toys, Bric a Brac, Cakes & Pastries. There is also a raffle with great prizes donated by many local businesses. Please come along and help us raise funds for a mobile sensory unit for the residents.

Situations VACANT



Mechanical Engineer

Hydrofit FZE International Ltd has an opportunity for an experienced Engineer to assemble hydraulic power units at its Newton Aycliffe (County Durham) factory.

The role would entail taking responsibility for the assembling a variety of hydraulic power units in line with comprehensive design drawings. There may also be some site service work.

The ideal candidate is likely to be qualified in an engineering discipline and be a skilled fitter preferably with previous experience of Hydraulic power unit assembly. They will be used to working independently in line with detailed assembly drawings and should have the ability to communicate with other engineers. Experience of hydraulic service work would also be an advantage.

A positive attitude is essential to fit within a dynamic team. Interested candidates should e-mail their CV's to the address below:

Company: Hydrofit FZE International Ltd
Contact: Tony Kay
E-Mail: tony@hydrofitgroup.com

DISGUSTING CONDITION OF TOWN PARK LAKES



Dear Sir

I feel I must again comment on the state of the boating lakes and the lack of care and attention given to them. I walk my dog round there regularly sometimes twice daily. At this time of year, what should be a beautiful sight with all the ducks, swans and geese making themselves at home on the lakes it is nothing but a disgrace due to neglect by whichever, body is responsible for it's upkeep.

It is an absolute eyesore - so much so that even the wildlife cannot make themselves at home on it. It is pitiful watching the ducks trying to find a clear space amongst the slime. Both lakes are covered in algae/green slime etc. and it's just a dumping ground for those who hang around there drinking - disposing of their empty beer bottles and cans - not to mention broken glass from beer bottles.

Surely what should be one of the most beautiful places in the area deserves to be maintained and kept up to standard. Perhaps as one option, the powers that be could provide some of the people doing community service with waders and nets etc. I'm sure that a few people working on the problem could make a huge difference. Such a waste of a beautiful area. in the town.

Irene Bowell

RESPONSE FROM TOWN COUNCIL OFFICER

There has been some public concern about the algal bloom on West Park Boating Lake over recent weeks following the recent hot weather. This is a national problem on many shallow manmade inland ponds, particularly on sites which have high populations of waterfowl. Whilst the bloom does make the lakes appear unattractive, it does not cause a hazard to health for humans and if managed should not cause a problem to wildlife. The water quality has been tested and monitored over the last few years by an independent

water analyst and on every occasion the water tests have proved the water is safe. The bloom is a temporary annual problem on the lakes and the Council applies a soluble formulation of bacteria and enzymes called Symbio Blue Water, which competes with the algae to help reduce its rapid reproduction in the water. The lakes are litter picked on a regular basis to ensure that debris is not allowed to build up in the algal bloom, which would make the lakes look an eyesore.

Steve Cooper, Environment Officer, Great Aycliffe Town Council

3rd Time in USA for Woodham Student

Woodham student David Parker considers himself to be very lucky to be chosen to go to America for the third time. Each time at Camp Cody he has celebrated his birthday there, and is so impressed by the life in America he plans one day to live and work in the USA. He wants to express his thanks to Wodham for giving him the wonderful opportunity to become a counsellor and experience all the activities at the camp.

"It's a different world out here and I have become a mature responsible person and have



gained some great friends. I am grateful to Mr. Tait and all involved in this scheme" said David.



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Please contact Kirsty Haden to apply Tel: 01325 313194



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Open Letter to Leisure Centre Manager

Dear Manager,

On the 24th of July myself, grandson and great grandchildren visited the swimming pool. We had occasion to use the toilet facilities both ladies and gents and were absolutely disgusted at the filthy state in which we found them.

I felt that the condition would contravene any and all appropriate health and safety regulations and I am seriously considering reporting the premises to the appropriate body.

This disgraceful condition

cannot be allowed to continue unchallenged and my family will not be using the pool again until we are satisfied this matter is resolved.

Please be aware that a copy of this email is being sent to the Newton News.

A. Humble (Mrs)
97 Bewick Crescent
Editor: Ironically the authority this correspondent complains to, Durham County Council, is the same one responsible for the Leisure Centre toilets. We print the reply from the Manager, below:

"We would like to apologise to the writer of the letter and her family. We pride ourselves on offering a high level of customer service but are sorry that on this occasion the family was disappointed. We have spoken to the family and will be carrying out a full investigation so that we can address all of the issues they have raised."

Lesley Tindale, Manager, Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre.

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Emerald Biogas Call for Action on Food Waste

As Emerald Biogas - the region's first commercial food waste anaerobic digestion (AD) plant - approaches the end of its commissioning phase at Aycliffe it is calling on food producers to address the amount of food sent to landfill.

Antony Warren, Director, Emerald Biogas said: "Food, drink and packaging waste in the UK supply chain is currently 15 million tonnes per year, with the commercial sector throwing away over 7.8 million tonnes of food waste annually. It is a growing concern across the UK and the North East is no exception. "We encourage food manufacturers, retailers, hotels, restaurants, pubs and indeed local authorities across the region to help tackle this problem and manage their waste responsibly through effective and environmentally friendly solutions such as anaerobic digestion (AD). Currently only 7% of the commercial food waste generated annually is sent to

AD facilities and we would like to see a dramatic increase to divert such waste from landfill.

"We have employed the latest technology to make AD a feasible and cost effective alternative for commercial organisations in the north east and to boost the campaign to reduce the amount of food waste created locally. We would like to actively encourage all companies and organisations who produce food waste to consider AD as a viable option."

One of the companies already signed up for food waste collection by Emerald Biogas is SK Chilled Foods, leading UK manufacturers of chilled snack foods and ready meals based in Middlesbrough.

Tony Harvey said: "As a UK food producer, we take waste management very seriously and will be working with Emerald Biogas to divert all our food waste from landfill. This is both an environmental and commercially viable strategy for us, as it will

enable the company to reduce food waste management costs across all three of our sites while managing our waste responsibly. We are delighted to work with the team at Emerald Biogas in their new venture and to help contribute towards the production of valuable commodities such as fertiliser and renewable energy."

The £8m at Aycliffe Business Park, is the first of its type in the region and will soon begin processing food waste and creating energy and fertiliser for use locally.

During this current first phase, the plant will process 50,000 tonnes of food waste to generate renewable energy and heat. The facility will produce 1.56MW of electricity when fully engaged, generating enough energy to power 2,000 homes each year, which will make a significant contribution to the region's renewable energy sector.

For phase two of the development, the biogas plant will double the capacity of the facility, allowing up to 100,000 tonnes of food waste to be processed each year and doubling the power generated. 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.

The funding for the project was made available through the Rural Development Programme for England, which is jointly funded by Defra and the European Union. For more information about Emerald Biogas at www.emeraldbiogas.com

Holiday Club

There will be a holiday club for 5-11 yr old children at Burnhill Way Church from Monday 12th to Friday 16th August called 'Guess Who'. It will run from 10am 12 noon and it is 50p with refreshments provided. Come and have lots of fun. All are welcome.



Pupils Undertake Tree Search With 3M



Pupils from Aycliffe Primary School went leaf-spotting in a nature competition run by local employers 3M.

The competition was held in the woodland area of the company's Centenary Field, which was first planted next to its Heighington Lane site in 2002 to mark 3M's 100th anniversary.

Some 30 pupils from the school took part in small teams competing to identify various species of trees including oak, hazel and ash for prizes with an environmental theme.

3M environmental, health and safety coordinator Martyn Harvey explained: "We had photographs of leaves attached to a clip board which were given to each team and the children had to match these with labels on the trees. The idea was to encourage their interest in trees and they all seemed to enjoy it."

Headteacher Jed Gargan added: "3M ran a similar competition for us two years ago and we were delighted they agreed to do another. The children had a wonderful time in the woodland and returned to school having learnt a great deal about our native British trees.

"The project links to the many environmental activities that the pupils engage in. Our pupils are currently working towards the 'Green Flag' Environmental

Award. We have a thriving Eco Group that is helping stimulate bio diversity in our own grounds.

"The pupils that visited 3M also participated in a project along the Cathedral riverbanks in Durham as part of an Environmental Award. Many of our topics are enhanced by such visits and I would like to thank 3M for inviting us along to use their grounds."

Pupils Leah Hughes, Annie Self, Georgia Armstrong and Kian White with Paul Dobson, a member of the 3M environmental team which organised the competition

Iron Age Remains Found at Hitachi Site

Archaeologists have unearthed extensive Iron Age remains during excavation work at the planned site of Hitachi's high-speed rail factory in Newton Aycliffe.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology are investigating a significant Iron Age settlement as well as medieval open field systems and the remains of a 17th century and farmstead.

"The work is revealing a well-preserved prehistoric landscape," said Frank Giecco, lead archaeologist "It includes a major boundary ditch, two round-house settlements with field systems, and an enclosure dating back to the first millennium BC.

"We knew there was a strong probability of finding the remains of late Iron Age and

Romano-British farmsteads at the site. Our investigations should allow us to document life at Aycliffe as it was over a 3000 year period, and make sure that archaeological finds are professionally identified and recorded."

There is also some early evidence of earlier Bronze Age activity at the site. The team have already found a series of pits and stone tools, including a flint arrow head. Archaeological remains dating to the early Bronze Age are quite rare so this is a potentially significant find.

Prior to construction of the factory the archaeological remains within the development site require complete excavation and recording.

Wardell Armstrong have worked to ensure that Hitachi, who have funded the archaeological excavations, face no delays to their construction timetable caused by the presence of archaeological remains and from the outset of the project have successfully balanced the commercial needs of their client with the requirement to excavate and record the archaeological remains.

The site at Aycliffe is therefore significant not only for the important Hitachi development but also for revealing human activity of one kind or another on this spot since remote prehistoric times right through to the modern 21st century.

Good Service

Dear Sir,

May I recommend to readers BA Plumbing & Tiling who advertise in Newton News. After engaging other contractors and with water running down my kitchen wall from the upstairs bathroom BA plumbing promptly sourced and repaired the problem.

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The Centre appreciates the money raised for the building fund from the Fashion Show organised by Margaret Gent. With an army of friends and with help of our own members the show by Bon Marche was a huge success.

Forthcoming events:
10th August: Table Top Sale inside and out weather permitting.
5th October: Table Top Sale and afterwards Darlington Big Band.
11th October: Fishermen's Choir.
Bingo every Monday and Friday at 7pm. All welcome.

LIVE MUSIC

Sep 7th	Charity Cancer / 80's night - Unplugged - Rock Pit
Sep 21st	TFM Cash for Kids Live Music Event
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Nov 16th	The High Bridge Street
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ST JOHN'S CELEBRATE AT SUMMER SPECTACULAR!



Last month over 250 students from St John's School and Sixth Form College celebrated their successes throughout the year with a Summer Spectacular. Students all enjoyed the opportunity to jostle on the giant Jungle Run obstacle course; rumble on the Rock 'n' Roller Joust; go crackers on the Crazy Golf; consume colourful clouds of candy floss and experience the extra-terrestrial 40ft Alien Laser Quest- it was

out of this world! Throughout the year students have been earning points for their newly established House Groups, Aidan, Bede, Cuthbert and Wilfrid. These points have been awarded for everything from having the correct equipment in school to being selected to represent England in U17's Rugby. The winning House Cuthbert, took the lead thanks to the success of the Year 8 and

9 football teams, both of which won four competitions this season, including their respective league titles. A great day was had by all (including the staff!) and next year the school aims to go bigger and better, doing all they can to celebrate and recognise the amazing talents of all of their students.

Holidays Special Offer

Are you looking for something new to do while on holiday from school? During every school holiday we offer Junior Squash, Badminton or Table Tennis at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex at the special price of only £1.00 per person, for 45 minutes of fun! All we ask is that you are aged between 8 and 15 years. You can play any time Monday to Friday, between 9.00am until 4.00pm and we will even loan you the equipment free of charge. So, telephone our Reception on 01325 300600 on the day you wish to play to book your court, or just turn up, and providing the courts are available you can play as a complete beginner, or to improve your existing game, or just to have fun.

LOCAL SPORT

NEWTON AYCLIFFE FOOTBALL CLUB NEWS

Newton Aycliffe FC are gearing up for next week's Northern League kick off by hosting their final pre-season friendly at Moore Lane Park this Saturday on August 3rd.

The visitors will be Barnsley based Athersley Recreation, who Allan Oliver's side defeated 2-1 in a reverse fixture three weeks ago. The game kicks off at 2pm, admission £3 adults, £1 concessions. All under 12's can enter for free. The league campaign kicks off August 10th with a trip to Penrith. Kick off 7pm, especially suited to the league's 'Groundhop' initiative to celebrate its 125th. Supporters can book their place on the team coach by contacting Paul McGeary (07703 732342), with return travel priced at just £10.

The club's first home game is four days later against Billingham Synthonia before the short trip to second division Darlington RA for an FA Cup tie on August 17th. Supporters and local businesses are urged to sponsor their favourite Newtonian player for the coming season. Star striker Danny Earl has already had the Official Supporters Club put

their name against his on the club's website and matchday programme for just £25, while winger Paul Broom is once more sponsored by Durham-based KEM Refrigeration. To sponsor your favourite player, contact Press Officer Glen Robertson (07411 453897). The club had to cancel last weekend's Family Fun Day (in association with Newton Press, Bishop's Barbers and Mosaic Hair & Beauty) due to adverse weather.

Due to the popularity of the event over two years, the club are seeking an alternate date and details will be released as soon as possible. For further information, contact Barry Waters (07864 718243). The next event to be held by the club at their Aycliffe Sports Club home will be an evening with former Leeds and Chelsea legend Duncan McKenzie. Tickets for the event on Saturday September 7th are just £15, and includes a star comedian and a pie & pea supper. There will be the usual after-dinner games favourites and a raffle as part of the evening. For further information and to purchase tickets, contact John Gaskarth (07590 925469).

Sponsored Run in Memory of a Friend



Sean Tarling is bidding to jog 25.5 miles – just short of the official marathon distance – in memory of local football legend and friend Frank Swinburne. The 28-year-old, who's never before run long distance routes and has trained for just five weeks, will set off from Northallerton Town FC's RGPS Stadium at about 10.30am on Saturday. Complete with his specially-made "Simply The Best" vest, former Aycliffe captain Sean will jog up the A167 to Newton Aycliffe FC's Moore Lane Park ground. The route will replicate in reverse a famous walk completed by Frank Swinburne four years ago when, aged 69, he helped to raise £1,250 for his beloved Northern League club, Aycliffe. Last week, 16 fans walked and cycled the route from Northallerton to

Aycliffe before the two sides took part in the inaugural Frank Swinburne Memorial Trophy, with Frank's family making the post-match presentations. Sean said: "It's all in the name of a very special man and the efforts that everyone has gone to recently shows how much people thought of him. "Frank's a big miss, we all love him, but events like this will enable his name to live on. He did so much for us and this is the least we can do." Sean is hoping to raise over £1,000 from his solo effort, which will top up an estimated £2,500 raised by the football club last week, with the proceeds being split between Aycliffe FC and Macmillan Nurses, at the request of the Swinburne family. Donations can be made via PayPal to seantarling@hotmail.com, or direct to Newton Aycliffe FC.

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Aycliffe Triathlon Club

On 7th July Michelle Scott travelled to Belgium to compete in the National Championship Brasschatt Sprint Triathlon. She had a fantastic race coming in 3rd lady overall, only 37 seconds behind the current Age Group National Champion Sam Anderson pictured with Michelle. It was Michelle's fastest run of the season and shows how well her training for the Age Group World Championships to be held in London in September is going. Michelle has qualified for both the Aquathlon and Sprint Triathlon events. Robin Horn and Martin Sedgwick took part in the Northumberland Sprint Triathlon. Robin who had not raced yet this year due to injury had a good start to his racing calendar finishing in 1hr 21mins 43 overall and 18th in his category. Martin was close behind in 1hr 24mins 63rd overall and 15th in his category. On Sunday 14th July Michelle Scott, Vicky Howse and Wendy Bake travelled to Sunderland to take part in the SunCity Sprint Triathlon. It was a damp misty early morning with a very uninviting looking sea, however this did not stop Michelle Scott coming 3rd overall with a brilliant time of 11.02 for the 750m sea swim. On the bike section she was leading lady until the greasy road surface caused her to come off the bike but it was no obstacle as she went on to finish 2nd lady in a time of 1hr 9mins. Vicky Howse also had an excellent race coming 7th in her category in 1hr 17mins. Wendy Bake was 4th in her category after a tough swim with a time of 1hr 39min. The 24th of July saw Club Coach Andrew Sedgwick travel to France to take part in the Alpe d'Huez Long Distance Triathlon. This is one triathlon not for the faint hearted with a 2.2k swim, 115k cycle and

a 22k run on a course which has been made famous by its inclusion most years in the Tour de France. Andy had trained hard for this race and finished in an amazing 9hr and 29min. July has been a busy month for the club which goes from strength to strength. If you are interested in Triathlon and would like further details about Aycliffe Tri Club please contact the club on the website www.aycliffetriclub.onsport.com by email aycliffetriclub@gmail.com or you can call Club Coach Andrew Sedgwick on 07887817960

No Change to Bin Collections

There will be no changes to bin collections as a result of the bank holiday on Monday, August 26. All household waste and recycling collections will take place as normal during that week. Residents are reminded that they should put their bins out for collection on the usual day by 7am. People can check when their bins are due for collection by entering their postcode into the 'My Durham' facility at www.durham.gov.uk All areas of County Durham now receive alternate weekly collections, with rubbish collected one week and recycling collected the following week. For further information regarding rubbish and recycling collections visit www.durham.gov.uk/bins To find out what items can go into rubbish and recycling bins visit www.durham.gov.uk/whatgoeswhere Further information can also be provided by phoning 03000 261 000.

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Soccer Factory Opens Soon

Work to build a state-of-the-art indoor football facility in the region is ahead of schedule. The £1.5m Soccer Factory, which will provide seven 3g five-a-side courts at its new premises on Aycliffe Business Park is expected to open later this year. The first of a three-phase refurbishment programme started last month and was expected to take six weeks, but the initial work on the former Thrislington building, empty for 5 years, has finished early. The second phase of the development, a complex task to repair the badly-damaged roof, is now due to start and expected to take a further six weeks. Managing director Dan Lewis (pictured), the driving



force behind the ambitious plans, said: "We're already seeing a transformation of the building inside. It's already starting to look like a different building and it's very exciting for us - we're now counting down the weeks until our opening." The Soccer Factory is on Durham Way North and the new landlords of the unit have invested a significant amount of cash to kick-start the project. Once up and running, it

will provide a brand new health and fitness suite, a multipurpose studio, a café/bar and a sports injury clinic as well as the seven football pitches made with the latest 3g, rubber-crumb surfaces. It promises to create 15 new jobs and, along with other leisure facilities on Aycliffe Business Park, ensure the town becomes a popular destination for people from the whole of the South West Durham area, as well as further afield. Mr Lewis added: "It's been a dream of mine for a long time and it's hugely exciting and something we think will be very popular - something for people and the business community to buy in to - and we strongly feel this will be a great development for Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding area." You can follow the progress of The Soccer factory on Twitter @ThSoccerFactory and Facebook www.facebook.com/TheSoccerFactoryLtd

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team kept their winning streak going with their eighth consecutive victory defeating Maltby away by 70 runs to stay in pole position in the 3rd division of the NYSD. Aycliffe were asked to bat first and totalled an impressive 217 for 8 in their 50 overs thanks to a superb innings of 60 from all rounder Dan Craggs and good knocks from acting captain Luke Telford (35 runs) and Michael Howe (34 runs). The home side looked well placed at 116 for 2, but the introduction of the Telford spin twins had the desired effect as Luke took 4 for 28 and his cousin Sam took 3 for 17 as Maltby capitulated to 147 all out after 39.5 overs. Special mention of both Sean Morgan who equalled the club record of 4 outfield catches during the Maltby innings and 16 year old Ben Nicholson, deputising behind the stumps for the first time and took two excellent stumpings. The 1st team finished runners up in their 15/15 group after an excellent six wicket win away at Northallerton. Aycliffe bowled and fielded superbly to dismiss the homeside for

just 81 with Sean Morgan the pick of the bowlers taking 3 for 22. Aycliffe captain Chris Palmer got his team off to a flyer with a quickfire 28, but an unbeaten innings of 17 by all rounder Sean Morgan helped see his team to victory with one over and six wickets in hand. Aycliffe now travel to face Middlesbrough in the quarter finals on Wednesday 31st July. The second team had a brilliant 6 wicket win away at Darlington RA in the 2nd division of the NYSD Sunday league. After asking the home side to bat first, Aycliffe bowled and fielded superbly to skittle the hosts for just 76 after 29.1 overs.

The wickets were shared with Ross Dixon taking 3 for 28, Patrick Howe 2 for 7, Danny Weldon 2 for 11 and Tom Wickins 2 for 26. In reply captain Adam Gittins batted brilliantly to carry his bat for an unbeaten 40 to help see his side home to a well earned victory after just 23.1 overs. The club's under 11's team were well beaten at home to Seaton Carew despite some good batting from Aycliffe captain Nathan Parry and Lucas Pilling who shared an excellent partnership of 33 runs in their allotted 4 overs. The club's school holidays fun cricket days continue this Wednesday at the Sports Club from 10am to 12pm, boys and girls of any ability, aged 6 to 11 are welcome. Cost £2. For more details contact Club Secretary Lee Weldon on 07759 754959

Last Three Fights Won in First Round



It was a productive weekend for two brothers in the mixed martial arts world. David and Stephen Cunliffe from Aycliffe both entered the local MMA Show held in Spennymoor where they have trained over the last couple of months. David only took his fight at 2 weeks notice due to another opponent pulling out through injury. It was Stephen's first semi professional fight and a chance to show how well he had come along in the short 10 months he'd participated in the sport. Stephen displayed excellent composure and abilities during his 2x5 minute rounds but was matched against a much more experienced fighter he had fought 3 times at this level. Stephen lost his close fight by points after an outstanding display but will take the experience to his next fight next month. David fought against an opponent from a well known gym in Sunderland with wrestling background. The fight lasted less than a minute after David knocked out his opponent with a nicely timed uppercut. The brothers were offered another fight on the next show in September and as David has now beaten his last 3 opponents in the first round, he will face a much tougher match for the featherweight total combat title. The brothers said they wouldn't be where they are now without their coach Martin Wilby who runs The Lab Gym in Darlington.

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New Club for Adults with Disability

Paul Ryder of Newton Aycliffe is disabled and has just set up a new club with his partner Lisa called "Jumping Jacks"

This is a new group of disabled people who meet, make new friends and enjoy bingo, board games and pool. They have a raffle and a cup of tea and a snack. The age group is 18 and over and is held at St Clare's Church in the town centre 7.30 - 9.30pm on a Wednesday evening.

Everyone is invited. For more details contact Paul on e-mail: ryder.p1@sky.com or 07725 721601. Lisa on 07720 877071.

Free Family Fun at Hall Garth

A Family Fun Afternoon is to be held from 12-4pm on Sunday 11th August at Hall Garth Hotel. A day for all the family to come along and enjoy lawn games, Fire Engine, Go Retro Camper Van and Bouncy Norris, Truly Crumbtious Cakes, Shopping Stalls, Candy Floss and Ice Cream Van.

Family races and competitions from 1pm, Fancy Dress Parade at 3pm. Teddy Bear's Picnic for under 6's at 1pm (Bring your own Teddy and picnic). Food and drinks will be available to purchase, why not make a day of it! Free entry.

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pet corner

Newton News Readers Pets Photographs



Suzanne Price sent in this picture of her 11 week old Yorkie puppy "Bonnie" for Pet's Corner.

FREE EQUIPMENT ADVICE ON HAND

People who struggle to carry out everyday activities due to illness or disability are being reminded about the Equipment Advice Service.

Specialist staff provide free, impartial advice and information on various aids, adaptations and equipment available to purchase to help people live independently.

They can offer advice over the telephone or via email to anyone who lives in County Durham.

A website, www.equip-yourself-durham.org.uk is also available offering a free and easy to use way of assessing a person's own equipment needs.

The Service can be contacted between Monday and Thursday between 10.00am and 3.00pm by telephoning 0191 384 6726 or emailing: equipmentadvice@durham.gov.uk

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being a proud specs wearer!'

For every entry received Specsavers will donate £1 to charity partner Kidscape.

There are four age categories 16-24; 25-39; 40-59 and over 60, plus a Facebook favourite voted for by the public.

A winner from each category will win a VIP makeover and will attend the celeb-packed grand final at the Royal Opera House in London on 10th September where the overall "Spectacle Wearer of the Year" will be announced.

The awards will also feature an exclusive performance from Spice Girl and stage sensation Melanie C.

Competition entries can also be submitted online at www.specsavers.co.uk/loveglasses, via Facebook, www.facebook.com/specsavers or by entry form instore.

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Tesco Help Council Litter Campaign

A litter campaign by Durham County council is scheduled to run throughout August this year with three specific aims:

- To raise awareness of the problems that car thrown litter causes.
- To encourage more people to dispose of litter from their vehicle responsibly.
- To reduce the amount of car thrown litter in specific

hot spot areas.

Five areas in the south of the County have been identified and will be regularly monitored and patrolled by Neighbourhood Wardens and the Police to identify individuals throwing litter from their vehicles.

Tesco, Newton Aycliffe have agreed the Council can come into their store to set up an information stand on the premises and talk to customers about car litter on Tuesday 13th August 2013 12.30 - 3.30pm

Customers will be asked to sign a pledge not to throw litter from their vehicle.

Free Car Litter Bags and car window sticker will be issued.

A Neighbourhood Warden will talk with people explaining the problems of car thrown litter and Fixed Penalty Notices.

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It's that time of the year again when boredom sets in half way through the school Summer Holidays. Well get your youngster to go along to the The Young Entertainers Wacky Workshops at the Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Shildon, on Wednesdays 7th and 14th August.

They run from 10am to 3pm, and cost £1-20, that's for entrance to the Centre. Take along a packed lunch, and drinks. These Workshops have run successfully every Summer and Easter school holidays for a lot of years now. The days include mad, crazy fun games to play, learning new skills, lots of laughs, and more laughs and music, meeting new friends, a great total "Wacky" fun day, that all young people will enjoy. So if you have, or know of any young people aged 8 - 15 years of age who want to enjoy themselves, get them to go along, they'll have a great time. Parents will get 5 hours of peace and quiet. No need to book, turn up on the days with big smiles and

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50 Medals for Athena Gymnasts!



Newton Aycliffe & Shildon Based Gymnastics club Athena Sports Academy recently attended a regional Floor competition at Deerness Valley Gymnastics Club on Saturday 6th July 2013. The club triumphed to return home with 12 Bronze,

17 silver and 21 Gold medals which brings a grand total of 50 medals; an outstanding achievement for the club! Coaches: Samantha Robson, Gerry Fuller, Brittany Fuller, Jeff Wade, Colin Robson and Faye Smith would like to express their congratulations to all gymnasts who took part in the competition.

For many of them this was their first competition and for those who have competed before many of them beat their personal best scores. The gymnasts who competed were aged from 4-16 and from various groups that Athena offers including

recreational classes and disability classes. Athena Is also offering Summer camps throughout the summer holidays. Every Monday and Wednesday at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre and every Tuesday and Thursday at Sunnysdale Leisure Centre, Shildon. Starting Monday 5th August. The camps run from 10am-1pm and will cost £7. Age 5+ welcome.

To book a place on the Summer camps or to find out more information about the club please contact Sam on : 01388 605946 or 07800 847527



In Memoriam

Bill Talbot



4th August 2012
In loving memory of a dearly loved Husband, Dad and Grandad. One year has passed since we lost you. We often talk about you and we miss you so much. Loving memories from Val and our family

4th August 2012
A year has gone since you were taken away. The best Dad and Grandad in the world!! They say time heals, but that's not true, we will never get over losing you. Today, tomorrow, our whole lives through, we will always love and remember you. Deeply missed and loved always. Deb, Tim, Sophie and Katie

ANNIE BARTRAM (nee Matson). Loved and always remembered. Malcolm, Joan and family; Kenny, Val and family

MAUD GRAHAM In loving memory of a wonderful Mam and Nan. 4th August 2012. A year has passed since you were sadly taken from us, our hearts will never mend. We miss and love you more than words can say. Always in our thoughts. Your lovely smile and caring ways will stay with us forever. Lots and lots of love, Rob, Lisa, Jessica, Laura and Mason xxxx

MAUD GRAHAM 04/08/2012. Mam - It's been 12months since you were taken from us. They say that time is a great healer but they are so wrong. Love and miss you Gary and Kathleen

BYRCE PETER FOSTER FARRELL

4th August 2002
Two little hands are resting, a loving heart is still. A little Son we loved is waiting, until we meet again. Lots of love, Mammy and Daddy xxx

Thinking of our special Brother in the sky. Lots of love, Jordan, Tia and Ethan xx

A sweet little Grandson, a flower too sweet for Earth. Lent to us for a while. Loved forever, Nan and Grandad xxx

To a darling Nephew and Cousin, always in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts. Lots of love, Uncles Mally and Mark, Aunties Tracy and Rachael, Ashley, Ellie, Evie and Bobby xxx

Thinking of you today and always. Love, Great Gran xxx

Congratulations

Howe (nee Degnan)



Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary
to Mam and Dad. Love from Georgia, Michael, Patrick and not forgetting Bobby xx

Stuart and Jennifer Howe (nee Degnan)



Silver Wedding Anniversary
Congratulations on your Silver Wedding Anniversary. From Mam, Dad, Granny Rene, Sisters, Brothers-in-law and families

Darren Michael Webb



Happy 40th Birthday
6th August 1973
Have a great day. Love, Dad and Jean

David Parker



Happy 18th Birthday
23rd July 2013

Happy belated 18th to a special Son, Brother and Grandson. Hope you had a great day and time in Camp Cody. We are all so proud of you, bet you thought we had got rid of this photo? Love always, Mam, Dad, Nats, Andrew, Nanna Reach, Nanna Durham, Rachael, Poppy and Benny xxxxx

Andrew Laverick



Happy 18th Birthday
1st August 2013
The table manners haven't improved much! Lots of love from Mam, Pat and Michael xxxx

Natalie & Andrew Richardson



Happy 1st Wedding Anniversary
11th August 2013

To a special couple we are so proud of what you have both achieved. Have a great time in Gran Canaria. All our love from both families, Poppy and Benny xxxx

Jack Slatcher



Happy 18th Birthday
1st August 1995

Lots of love from Mam, Dad, George and all the family xxxx

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GOLD MEDAL IN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Aycliffe swimmer Hannah Featherstone competed in the National Championships taking the Gold Medal in the 100 metres Freestyle in a time of 57:58. This was a hard fought race as she was competing against all of her GB Team mates who were entered on faster times. It's 15 years since Angie Winstanley-Smith and Mathew Bowden won National Gold - a long wait but worth it.

She had only three days preparation following her return from the Youth Olympics in Holland. Hannah competed in the 100 Butterfly, 200 Freestyle and the 200 Backstroke and although she produced best times did not medal in these events.

The club trains on Monday's only during the August break then it's back to work for the new season starting in September.

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TJFA Fair Play Winners



Following on from last year's successful mini soccer season at Newton Aycliffe Youth, this season under 8's proudly accepted the trophy for the winners of the TJFA fair play award at the recent league awards evening in Middlesbrough. This season's results consisted of only 2 defeats none of which were on our home ground. The seeds of this ongoing success are planted in the clubs player Development sessions. These are run by the clubs Child Welfare Officer Peter Robinson on Tuesday evenings 5.30pm - 6.30pm at the Oakleaf Sports Fields, starting from 4 years old, everyone welcome. Newton Aycliffe Youth also have 17 teams offering competitive

football for both girls & boys starting at under 7s right the way through to under 16s. Newton Aycliffe Youth FC is a FA Charter Standard Community Club one of only

22 in County Durham. If you are interested in joining any of our teams visit our web site www.naycafc.co.uk or ring Berni 07939 045242. (Photo: Ed Walker photography)

AYCLIFFE AMATEUR BOXING CLUB
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 Email: les.gibson@gmail.com

Top of the World



Two local teenagers have put the North East on the map. Callum Oakes and Mathew Warr both 16 have just become World Champions. The pair won their first World title in July in Austria and have become the only Junior World Doubles Champions at Table Football that Great Britain has ever produced. Callum and Mathew then followed this by playing really well in the World Junior Singles event, where Callum got a Bronze Medal in finishing 3rd and Mathew just missing out on a podium place in finishing 5th.

Their recent success is the culmination of 3 years hard work, which has seen the pair win local, UK and now World titles. The pair are both part of Darlington Table Football Club, which is trying to promote Table Football in the North East. The success of the club was shown at the recent

World Championship event where 3 members of the Club, Darren Warr, Callum and Mathew all represented their Country at adult level as part of the overall 7 strong team. The Austria World Championship is one of 5 World Series events, which are played on different tables. Now owners of the Austrian Garlando Table title Callum and Mathew's next challenge will be try to get the other 4 Doubles and Singles titles at the next 4 events, which are to be held in Germany, Poland, Taiwan and France.

The pair are now seeking sponsorship from local companies to help them to travel to the World Championships, which are televised on Eurosport and covered in the North East media and press. Any companies interested in sponsoring the pair contact: m.oakes@seamsltd.com

Aycliffe Running Club

Aycliffe's Tom Porter broke through the 40 minute barrier for the first time in this year's Victorian 10K in Marske. Tom's hard work paid off when he crossed the line in 39:58. Dez Fielden's excellent season continued with a time of 35:10. Richard Campbell came home in 38:44, Penny Johnson, 52:27 and Dave McKenzie 55:14.

The Sunderland 5K had a record turnout of 302 finishers on a very warm evening on July 17th. Aycliffe's men's captain Lee Wren was first back for the club in 17:21. Other finishers were: Richard Campbell 18:17, Floyd Jones 18:17, Graeme Miles 21:04, Peter Smith 21:05, Stephen Smith 21:38, Naomi Kellet 22:10, Kelly Smith 22:34, Shelley McCormack 23:17, Alan Kellet 24:56, Michael



Smith 26:30, Anne Kellet 26:39, Yvonne Williams 28:20.

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