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Ebac Expand Again New Factory - 200 More Jobs

Manufacturing business Ebac has added a new factory to its North East operations to facilitate its continued expansion, continuing its investment in growth and jobs at the company.



Managing Director Pamela Petty in the new factory

The firm will expand into the former home of Radius Products on the Aycliffe Industrial Park, Newton Aycliffe, as it looks to add new product streams and hundreds of jobs to its operations in the town.

Ebac, which makes water coolers and dehumidifiers, has recently added its range of air source heat pumps to the products manufactured at its existing site on the business park's Ketton Way, where it employs 200 people.

Following the beginning of development work to start manufacturing washing machines in 2014, and the recent acquisition of the Norfrost chest freezer brand and production facilities, the company aims to increase the workforce to up to 400.

The production facility for the Norfrost products range is to be moved from Castletown, in the very North of Scotland, using a

fleet of around 100 trucks. Pamela Petty, Managing Director of Ebac, said: "We are dedicated to manufacturing in the North East, and this site will enable the growth which is happening within Ebac to take place on the Aycliffe Business Park, which has been our home since 2010.

"This site offers plenty of space for growth and will house the manufacture of the freezers, while the production

of dehumidifiers and water coolers will continue at Ketton Way, alongside the new washing machine line being installed there.

"This expansion is part of our ongoing commitment to County Durham, following the formation of the Ebac Foundation in 2012. We are investing in the future of manufacturing in the area and look forward to bringing more jobs to the area."

VANDALS ATTACK WOODHAM GOLF CLUB

On Tuesday night 1st October and into the early hours of Wednesday morning vandals wrecked five golf buggies and caused mindless damage to Woodham Golf Course.

Rooves of golf buggies were ripped off to gain access and three buggies were driven off site and found at Moore Lane. This has left golfers shocked and disgusted at this senseless act of vandalism and the Police are reviewing the clubs CCTV and the three buggies recovered are in police holding for fingerprints etc.

If any reader has any information on this matter please contact the police or Ernie Wilson Golf Manager at Woodham Golf Club on 315257.

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OR Mince Pie, Peas & Gravy

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OR Cod, Chips and Peas

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Coffee Morning

Heighington Scout Group are holding a Coffee Morning and Table Top sale on Saturday 2nd November 10.00-2.00 at Heighington Village Hall. Tables £7. Please contact 01325 314394.

Entry 50p includes tea or coffee. Refreshments, bacon rolls, soup, tombola, raffle, cake stall, tuck shop and more. All Welcome.

Bake Off at Care Home

Rose Lodge Care Home will be taking part in the Great Pink Bake Off for Breakthrough Breast Cancer on Friday 18th October.

As part of the day the staff will be wearing pink and there will be a bake off competition with staff and family members bringing in cakes for decorations and a cake competition.

This will also be open to the public to take part. All money raised will be donated to cancer research.

BRANCEPETH BIRDS!



Thursday the 26th of September saw an excellent start to Woodham Academy's House Competition tournament, with students from all three houses Brancepeth, Lambton and Raby performing brilliantly. During lunchtime students had the opportunity to gain extra points for their house by taking part in two exciting activities.

Years 7 and 8 turned up on mass to play handball. Competing in teams of 6, they showed brilliant skill and agility in the incredible effort they put into each game. Handball was a great success and is an exciting new addition to Woodham Sports lunchtime activities programme. Meanwhile years 9 and 10 were

challenged by art to create as many origami birds as possible, again competing as a team to create the longest chain of birds for their house. The results were beautiful and the students excelled in creating a joint total of 212 birds!

It was Brancepeth however who just won, beating the other two teams with an amazing chain of 74 birds. The House Competition tournament will continue over the course of the year allowing students the opportunity to participate in a number of fun and challenging subject specific competitions, with the winning house being awarded the Bulman Trophy in the summer term.

Arriva Considers Bus Route Changes

Dear Sirs

I am writing in response to Lorraine Smith's letter appealing for readers to send us their support for her suggestion to divert some of the Service 7 journeys in Newton Aycliffe via Burn Lane in order to give access to the large stores there. Mrs Smith's letter gives the impression that this suggestion has been entirely ruled out, which is not the case. Mrs Smith and I have corresponded on this and have also discussed the matter at length.

The current situation with service 7 is that there is about to be a major investment in the route. Whilst I am unable to release details of this at this stage, this will represent a substantial upgrade of the quality of the service and will include details of the route, timetable and bus stops.

The promotional material for this is in the process of production. It legally requires a minimum of 8 weeks

notification to the Traffic Commissioner to change a local bus service and planning lead times increase this timescale.

For this reason, it is not possible for us to consider introducing changes to the service that would render all the promotional material currently in production out of date.

I committed to Mrs Smith, as I will to any further users who wish to comment, that we will consider this at an appropriate time, following proper investigation into the potential consequences of such a change, including but not least the effects on users who would find their services halved from every 15 minutes to every 30 minutes, by half of the buses taking a different route.

In the meantime, I agreed with Mrs Smith that we would achieve a more positive outcome if we worked together to establish the potential demand for such a change.

Paul De Santis, Arriva.

Community Centre Encourages Youngsters



Can I thank all those who helped out at Woodham Community Centre Open Day last Saturday, together with the many who supplied prizes for the raffle, especially Ernie from Woodham Golf, Redz fish shop and the Huntsman pub. All prizes have now been claimed. The Open Day was held to showcase the splendid facilities we have for use by the community, we especially want more young people to be encouraged to hold activities and come up with new ideas. Hannah Day whose father is on our Committee has shown an eagerness to be involved which I know many other youngster

also have, but we need to find ways to encourage more to come forward.

Hannah who is a member of many things helped organise and run our very successful "Flight Night" with Aycliffe Model Club and along with her friends Josh and Eli raised £500 for Red Nose Day. For our open day Hannah made cakes and sold anniversary glasses to help raise funds for the centre.

Hannah is a pupil at Greenfield College, and has suggested other activities she would like to help organise and we are looking forward to help bring these ideas into practice.

David Sutton-Lloyd

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Students Study Town Centre



The Year 7 visit to Newton Aycliffe Town Centre is now a regular calendar fixture at Greenfield College. Last week all the Year 7's walked down to the town centre and were engaged in a series of Humanities enquiries. They explored Christian beliefs through the features and beautiful stained glass in St Clare's Church, discovering rich local history and reflecting on the planning and re-development of the town centre in a geographical field study through talking to local residents.

The students' attitude was exemplary despite some challenging weather and they gained valuable information, insights and skills to bring back to the classroom. We would like to thank St Clare's Church and the Youth Centre for their generous hospitality.

Outdoor Classroom Opens at Woodham



Following extensive work in the summer, a new outdoor classroom has been developed at Woodham Academy. This new area has been beautifully renovated and built by local company Dig-it. Staff will be able to book the classroom and take groups of students into the classroom that includes a bespoke garden that is beautiful yet functional. The purpose is to provide

inspiring and active learning opportunities for students in an outdoor space. The classroom was funded by an Awards for All bid of £10 000. Deputy Headteacher, Jonathan Lumb, said "Students will be inspired in this creative new area. They will be free from the restrictions of traditional thinking and their imagination will be awakened by creativity and engagement."

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Saturday 12th October - "Thyn Lizzy"

"Just got back from the THYNLIZZY gig at the Sandy Outdoor Tent. All I can say, is Phil Lynott dead? I don't think so.....jeezus h christ, the dual guitars were incredible and the drummer was outstanding and I was totally humbled by Glenn on bass. Don't believe a word was cool as out with a blues intro (5 mins) and then the usual version to finish it off was such a contrast and skillfully done. 'Boys' was great and Dancing in the moonlight with Kenny Sax guesting was sublime as was the Kayleigh inspired Emerald. Awesome guys, made my hellbent weekend!" - gig pit review

Saturday 19th October - "1 0 1"

We are pleased to welcome back one of the Tubs favourite bands, who play a great mix of modern and classic rock. Tracks covered by: Led Zeppelin, Killers, AC/DC, Kings of Leon, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Kierser Chiefs, Nirvana, Razorlight, Pink Floyd and Green Day.
Davys Rock Page Review: "All in all, a great night with a great atmosphere and a lot of people dancing, so if you want to hear newer covers with a good mix of older rock 101 deliver."

Friday 25th October - Metal Night

Headline Act: "The Unholy Concoction"
Supported by "Shotgun Syndrome" and "Ashes of Insurrection" - £2.00 c/c

Saturday 26th October - "Tommy & The Oddballs"

Massive on the Bike Rally Circuit, always first band booked for the Heart n Soul

Recent reviews from the Toon Rock Pages: "Awesome band, as ever they played absolutely brilliantly, Tommy as fantastic as ever (THE best frontman in the north east, bar none, the man is an inspiration, a legend), Jeff playing goosebump solos on 'Hey Joe'. 'I can't believe how good they were. It was like walking into a pub, full of your best mates with the best goddam juke box you could hope for. Every member of the band is a really good and talented player. The timing was great, the entertainment value was great too. The audience (well packed) loved it from the off."
"They are a superb band, prob THE BEST in the north east, period!"
Tracks covered by: The Who, Bryan Adams, Thin Lizzy, Free, Hendrix, Stones, Bad Company, Kings of Leon and much, much more. Should be one of THE gigs of the year, don't miss it!
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Wilko Continue Support for Air Ambulance



After raising £182,759 for the GNAAS, team members from Alnwick, Bishop Auckland, Blyth, Byker, Cramlington, Darlington, Durham, Gateshead, Killingworth, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Newton Aycliffe and North Shields Wilko stores are keen to extend its support to the charity by hosting another year of fundraising activity.

Dave Hanby, regional manager, said: "We've had a wonderful year supporting the GNAAS and we hope the grand total raised by all the stores in the region made a real difference. "But we're not stopping there! We're already well on our way with this year's fundraising and our loyal customers are continuing to support the charity to help us on our way to

another amazing total." Mandy Drake, head of fundraising at the GNAAS, said: "We're thrilled to have the Wilko team on board as a key fundraiser for another year. We rely on charitable donations to keep going, so to have the support from such a large retailer is fantastic for us. A family owned firm after more than 80 years of trading, JK Wilkinson opened the first Wilko store on Charnwood Street, Leicester, in 1930. The company's portfolio has expanded significantly over the decades that have followed and there are currently 372 stores across the UK, including 10 in Scotland. Serving 10.5 million customers each year selling over 25,000 product lines, including health & beauty, cleaning products, seasonal essentials and homewares in store and online Wilko is dedicated to providing high quality products, choice and first class, friendly service. Wilko is committed to Britain's high streets and prides itself on being a community focused retailer, actively supporting local charities, community groups and empowering its team members to support great causes that are locally important to them.

Residents Association Near to £40k Target

Horndale Residents Association held their first AGM on Wednesday 2nd October. Looking back over the last year those who have advised and guided them to fulfil their objectives were thanked.

The Committee members were re-elected to serve another year and were thanked for the work and commitment they have shown in the last 12 months. The Monthly meeting followed with the unveiling of banners displaying sponsors of the Association, paid for by Akari, owners of Aycliffe Nursing Home. This shows how the Association is working with local businesses to create a better place to live.

Nicola Duffy from housing provider Livin announced the group had been successful in their bid of £5,000 from Livin communities fund towards the M.U.G.A project. This news means the first year of fundraising ends with a total of £34,650 towards the £40,000 target. The association is overwhelmed



by the support they have received and look forward to the day the new sports facility is up and running. The Committee are looking forward to the next year working closely with the nursing home and other groups to bring different age groups together to create a better understanding of each others needs and desires. The committee are always looking for people to help and support make the Association more effective in making their neighbourhoods even better.

They also seek support from local companies to create a better place to live across the whole of Newton Aycliffe. "As one group we can do small things as a big group

together we can do bigger things helping more people" said chairman Philip Clark. For more details on HRA ring 01325 312897 or 07886 204199.

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LEARN PROGGY AND HOOKY MATMAKING

Dear Sir,
 I am a member of the Durham Clayport Matters, a craft group keeping alive proggy/hooky mat making, bringing it into the 21st century. I am a Newtonian and attend the meetings on Monday in Durham Clayport Library. Others meet at the recently refurbished Bowburn Community Centre on Wednesday from 10am-2pm. We are holding an Open Day there on Saturday 26th October to exhibit the latest creations and demonstrate the art, giving hands on guidance on how to prog or hooky. Entry is free and there are other stalls, a raffle, bric-a-brac, jewellery, cake stall, and refreshments. Come along and enjoy a free day with a taster session.
 Ann Sproat

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

15 FREE HOURS

Town Council Leader Commends Staff

Dear Editor
I would like to inform your readers of two separate events. Firstly, it was my privilege to write letters of commendation to members of our Park Patrol team, regarding two recent incidents.

The first commendation was for their efforts and initiative, which led to the arrest of a man who has been charged with the theft of grave goods from West Cemetery. The officers concerned had intensified their patrols of the area, and they eventually were able to follow the suspect to his home and inform the police.

The second commendation was for the manner in which they dealt with horses which had escaped from a field in Aycliffe Village. Their prompt actions prevented a possible serious accident if the horses had reached the A167 or the A1 motorway.

Secondly, on Thursday 3rd October, representatives of Great Aycliffe and Middridge Councils met on a formal basis, under the auspices of the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Councils Committee, where a proposed parish boundary change and the transfer of the area of Eldon Whins to Great Aycliffe Town Council was discussed.

The Middridge Councillors stated that their Parish Council accepted and welcomed the planned housing development and also stated that they wished to retain all of the relevant land within their parish and would therefore oppose any suggested boundary change.

The meeting was advised that Great Aycliffe Town Council will take further steps to investigate the proposed boundary change. Councillor Bob Fleming, Leader of the Council

"HELPING HANDS" SECOND GREAT GIVEAWAY

The Helping Hands team held their second "Great Giveaway" last Thursday. Over 100 people came through the door, which was up on last time. It was a massive success!

We hosted the event at St Clare's in the town centre and volunteers happily flooded in from Life Church to support the evening, helping to give away countless brand new items to those who needed them most in our community.

Volunteers from Life Church also assisted in serving refreshments to their guests, along with home baked cakes. Children were not left out as they had their own corner of fun activities. Music complimented the evening with Debbie from Life Church singing 'The Rose'.

Event organiser Jane Johnson said "Our guests were so surprised with the items that were free to take home, and we were also able to give five free vouchers to each family to redeem on items of their own choice. I spoke to a lady with tears in her eyes who had never known such generosity. Life Church volunteers worked relentlessly and I was honoured to lead such a dedicated team of people".

Helping Hands project leader Alwyn White said "We see the need, we meet the need as best as we can and this is just another way of doing it. We're planning to have another 'Great Giveaway' just before Christmas where we are anticipating helping over 150 people."

If you'd like an invitation to the next VIP event please phone Jane on 07936 431262 to reserve your place. In the meantime, if anyone would like to come along to Life Church then please do so, you are guaranteed a very warm welcome. It is held at Greenfield School in the main hall on Thursday evenings between 7 - 9 pm.



Knit a Shawl to Keep Someone Warm

MacMillan Morning Break at Sugar Hill



On Friday 27th September the children at Sugar Hill Primary school had a special morning break. Instead of their usual toast and yoghurt, they all bought a cake in support of the MacMillan Cancer charity. All the children brought in 20p to pay for their cake with some bringing in more to support the charity and at the end of the morning the grand sum of £222.36 had been raised. The staff would like to say a big thank you to all the children and parents who supported this worthy cause.

After the huge response to a request for knitters to make jumpers and blankets for babies in Africa former Councillor, Dorothy Bowman has a new project to help people nearer home. She realised that many older people this winter, because of the cost of heating, will be sitting in the cold only using their heating sparingly. She is challenging everyone who is able to knit to make Shawls to put round shoulders. Small squares of wool can be sewn together. Dorothy has lots of 4 ply wool on cones that will knit together to make double knitting if you would like to have a go.

She aims to distribute at least 100 shawls in Newton Aycliffe along with a greeting card before Christmas.

The size needs to be two metres by one metre or 48" x 84" (4ft. x 7ft). You can knit larger or smaller if you wish as long as they will keep the recipients warm and cosy.

If you can knit hats that would be useful too! They need to be at least 24ins round when joined up. The finished goods can be left at the Youth Centre opposite Tesco or contact Dorothy on 308094 or 07967 901477 to arrange collection.

St. Mary's Launch Mini Vinnie's!



On Monday, 30th of September St. Mary's School introduced an exciting new venture - the Mini Vinnie's a children's version of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP).

We were very honoured to have Fred Heywood SW Durham President of the SVP, to share our success. The whole school, together with parents and grandparents and three members of Saint Mary's Church SVP attended the special ceremony where pupils were commissioned into the society.

Our new headteacher, Mrs Sowden gave everyone a warm welcome to our special liturgy. Pupils all made their pledge and received a badge. Certificates were presented to children by SVP members Geradine, Molly, Elizabeth, (from St. Mary's), and

Bill Lawson and Michael Wilcock from the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle.

Our children are very excited to working with our local SVP in Newton Aycliffe to make sure we try and help people in our town who need it. We will be writing regular reports to keep everyone updated on our progress.

Our first task will be to help our parish SVP in the harvest festival collection where we will be asking for packets, tins and some fresh fruits and vegetables. Mrs. Hargreaves and Mrs. Brown will be overseeing the work of the group and making links with the parish wherever possible. Finally a big thank you to everyone who made the afternoon special; especially Michael Wilcock and Bill Lawson.

By St. Mary's Mini Vinnies group.

Nursery Toys Stolen



During the weekend of the 21st/22nd of September and then overnight on Wednesday 25th September, Stephenson Way Community Primary School Nursery's garden was broken into. The intruders forced entry into the sheds and stole a number of items, including; a large, red "rowkart" (pictured) and a wooden bench (similar to the one pictured).

The nursery children are very upset about their missing toys. If you have any information, please contact Newton Aycliffe Police or the school on 01325 300324.

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Planet Leisure Free Music Night Rocked



Planet Leisure kicked off its FREE music nights off with a rocking Saturday night. Headlining the night was Aycliffe's own "The Unsound", www.TheUnsound.co.uk, took to the stage and as usual they couldn't help rocking the venue with their mix of popular rock songs and own songs. The Unsound went on to play a gig in Newcastle the next day, well done to the Aycliffe based band for breaking into the Newcastle music scene.

Debutant "DJ Cal", a great up and coming DJ from Aycliffe, was playing a mix of songs and kept the night together. Soloist / Guitarist / Songwriter "Gemma Abley", www.facebook.com/gemmaableymusic, known for her great sets in the local circuit also produced yet another set, keep it up Gemma. I am sure all three will be invited back next year to perform again.



Next up for a FREE music gig on Saturday 19th Oct, "Feed The Bear" a great band from Sunderland, who rarely play this far down the county. Also "The White Vinyl", another good young Aycliffe band, who are getting a lot of invites to play all over County Durham. So make Saturday night 19th upstairs at Planet Leisure a date in your calendar.

Knit With a Purpose

Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre Management Committee is looking for ladies and gentlemen to join our new knitting club which will start from 12.30 to 2.30 on a Monday from 14th October at the centre. Even if you can't knit but would like to come along for a natter why not pop in anyway and have a cuppa.

The aim of the knitting group will be to knit with a purpose and this year we will be knitting for Stella's Voice an orphanage in Moldova and for One Step Ahead who are looking for 8" toys to go in shoe boxes. All this will cost you only £2 per person including a "cuppa".

Why not come along and have a cuppa and make a difference enjoying your hobby and making new friends. Knitting for a purpose benefits deprived young people. For more information telephone Joan or Vicky on 01325 307522.

My N.H.S.

My NHS Awareness campaign staff will be visiting Newton Aycliffe Library on Monday 14th October to speak to local people regarding becoming a member of MY NHS.

Membership of MY NHS is totally free and the aim is to provide local people with the opportunity to express their views and opinions regarding the local healthcare system and services.

Come along to the library to find out more any time from 10 am to 4 pm on Monday 14th October. Everyone welcome.

AYCLIFFE DRIVING PROFESSIONAL STARTS TRAINING BUSINESS



A soldier turned commercial driving specialist is warning professional drivers to act now before new regulations come into effect that could force them off the road.

The advice comes from Andrew Haywood who recently set up AH Logistics Training, a driver training business specialising in the recently introduced Driver Certificate of Professional Competence.

Mr Haywood, of Newton Aycliffe, said Passenger Service Vehicle (PSV) drivers already need the certificate but Large Goods Vehicle (LGV) drivers will require it by September 2014.

Driving without the certificate, which requires 35 hours of training, will be an offence and carries a fine of up to £1,000 for both the driver and the employer.

The Army Reserve soldier, who has also served with the Regular Army, said: "Now is the time for professional LGV drivers and their employers to act. The later you leave it, the greater the chance of not completing the required training by the deadline and both drivers and employers are risking losing their livelihoods."

Andrew 46, has more than 20 years' experience of military and commercial driving and currently serves with 102 Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, in Newton Aycliffe.

In his civilian life he is running weekend and evening courses across the North-East covering drivers' hours, health and safety, safe loading techniques, fuel efficient driving and is accredited by the Joint Awarding Unit of Periodic Training.

The married-father-of-two added: "There are many companies out there who take their responsibilities extremely seriously and their drivers

will be well on their way to achieving the requirements. My concern is for the many owner-drivers and agency drivers who could find themselves caught out and unable to work."

Certificates last five years and are available from £55 per driver. For more information email ahlogisticstraining@gmail.com or call 07879 451758.

FAMILY LEARNING MONTH AT GREENFIELD ARTS

Family Learning Month is here again at Greenfield Arts and community venues in Newton Aycliffe!

This year we are trying something different and are working in partnership with Agnew and Woodham Community Centre and Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre to provide activities for families and young people across Newton Aycliffe.

This is a great opportunity for Greenfield Arts to support the other centres, and to showcase what they have on offer. The programme includes free film screenings, family cooking,

family fun days and more, with most activities free to local families (for the full programme visit www.greenfield-arts.co.uk), including the return of weekend "Out of the Bag" sessions in November and December.

This is a great opportunity for local people to experience some great activities as a family, and support their local community centre at the same time.

Thank you to all those who continue to support the activities at Greenfield Arts, and to the community centres for working with us on Family Learning Month 2013!

CABARET NIGHT
 on Friday 25th October 2013
 at Heighington Village Hall, 7.30pm
 featuring "Flossie Malavialle"
Folk Singer, Story Teller and Comedienne!

Tickets £10 each to include supper - Dancing till 11.30pm
 Bring your own Drinks - Optional French Fancy Dress
 Tickets available from 01325 317047 or on the door
 (All proceeds to Heighington Village Hall)

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Please use the entrance off Stephenson Way.

2 Pease Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham DL5 5NH
 Fax: 01325 304 396 www.peasewayclinic.co.uk

Half Term Craft for Kids

Pirates Ahoy! - Come down to the Library on Thursday 31st October from 2.15pm - 3.15pm to make your own treasure map. Follow the clues to find the treasure.

This craft session is suitable for children aged 7 and over and due to demand places must be booked in advance by calling into the library or phoning on 03000 269 519. The cost is 50p per child.

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Autumn Stay'n'Play



On Friday 4th October the Foundation Stage at Stephenson Way Community Primary School invited their parents to come and join them for an autumn stay'n'play.

Everyone enjoyed a wide range of autumn craft activities: leaf printing, natural collages, making mice biscuits, mask making, play dough conkers, making moving scarecrows etc. followed by a delicious autumn tea which the children had baked themselves.

The event was very well attended and enjoyed by all! Stephenson Way Nursery offers 15 hours free funded places for 3 and 4 year olds. Parents can choose either

morning or afternoon sessions or 2 and a half days. Lunchtime provision and wraparound care is provided by House of Eden Nursery on the school site.

Xmas Fayre

Aycliffe Village Craft Club is hosting a CHRISTMAS FAYRE in the village hall on Saturday November 16th. Tables cost £5 and we would ask you to donate a raffle prize. Doors will be open to buyers from 10.00am -1.00pm. To book a table call Kathy Round on 01325 315732.

MAD Productions Concert Raised £1,100 for Charity

Saturday night 5th October saw MAD Production hold their 5th annual Charity Concert at the Xcel Centre, kindly donated by the Management.

An audience of around 450 enjoyed the entertainment from members of Xcel Choir and Xcel Dance group. A moving ballet performance by Beth Rodgers and a song by Alice Jordan was well received. Alice has seen a lot of media cover over the summer. The budding MAD Production choir also contributed to the entertainment

of music through the decades. The compere Duncan Sharp ably drew the acts together. Phoebe from Hope for Justice gave a presentation on the need for funding for the organisation to help alleviate human trafficking in our own country. The cheque for over £1,100 was presented to Phoebe by the chairman of Durham County Council Pauline Charlton. The Chairman had earlier in the year presented Sonia Scott the Chairman's Medal for her 15 year commitment to MAD

productions. In fact some of the members of Xcel choir had started their singing career with MAD Productions.

The Deputy Mayor or Great Aycliffe Wendy Hillary drew the raffle of 25 prizes all of which had been donated by local business and individuals. A retiring collection was also held to boost the final donation to this year's charity. For more information about Hope for Justice please initially contact Joan Clark on 07730471487



BALLOON RACE WINNERS

Newton Press would like to thank all those who took part in the Balloon Race held at the Great Aycliffe Show on the Bank Holiday Weekend in August.

£96 was raised and all the proceeds will go to the newly formed Great Aycliffe Community Aid. The balloon which travelled the furthest belonged to Katie Patterson of Welbury Grove who will receive £50; Katie's balloon eventually landed in Denbigh, North Wales travelling approximately 187 miles. Mr Davies, who found the balloon, will also receive £50.



LOST CAT



Very large ginger cat, missing in the Cobblers Hall area. Answers to the name of Soda. Very friendly but rarely been out in the last year. Micro-chipped but no collar. Reward for safe return. Please contact 07728 427297

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Councillors' Surgeries
D.C.C. COUNCILLORS
 will hold a
Ward Surgery
 in
 St. Marys Meeting Room
 on Saturday 12th October
 from 11am-12noon
 Town Councillors for Shafto, Central and Neville Ward will also be in attendance.

Woodham Lunchtime Samba!



Woodham Academy is ensuring their students receive much more than the traditional 3 R's: in addition to reading, writing and arithmetic, their busy extra-curricular programme is aiming to provide learners with their full Five a Day. Whether choosing to Zumba or Samba in their lunchtime, or constructing working-model aircraft, Woodham Academy's varied lunchtime timetable has

something for every taste. Since September the extra-curricular provision at Woodham Academy has expanded further to include an extensive range of lunchtime activities, which are available for all students. There's something for all including stem robotics, samba band, puzzle and games club, rowing, handball, reading club, homework club and smart textiles, just to name a few! With a total of 32 teacher led activities on offer, Woodham students are certainly spoilt for choice. Activities provide students with the opportunity to trial new things, meet new people, socialise with their friends and most of all keep students happy, active and entertained throughout their lunch period.

there was a lunchtime activity that involved making model gliders. I have made six gliders so far and they all fly!"

Autumn Half Term Junior Activities

The cold weather is coming and the children will be on holiday soon, so why not let them try something different? The OakLeaf Sports Complex are providing a wide variety of activities over the October holiday week. Archery or Crafty Kids at only £3.20 for Members or £3.70 for Non Members. Try something new with Racquets & Bats and Balls of Fun, at an amazing price of just £1.00 per session. For the little ones between the ages of 4-7 years there will be a Mini Activity Day, making crafts and enjoying fun team games, this will only cost £1.00. Parents can enjoy an hour and a half of freedom. If you take part you could win a bike. Booking is essential so hurry before all places sell out. Please telephone Reception on 01325 300600 for more details.

"What If" Performed to Over 1000 Youngsters

Last week the live performance "What If?" was performed at Jabberwocky Market in Darlington, taking the total number of young people who have seen the show since its development to 1000!

The performance was developed by students from Greenfield Community College in collaboration with scientists from Durham University and Unfolding Theatre as part of the Curiosity project co-ordinated by Greenfield Arts during the summer term of 2013.

After a successful tour to Secondary schools in the region at the beginning of July last year the organisers of Jabberwocky Market in Darlington contacted Greenfield Arts to see if the show could continue its tour at the festival - a great achievement and a credit to the quality of the performance!

A group of young people from Greenfield attended the show last week at Hummersknott Academy and were really pleased with how engaged and interested the Darlington audience was.

The performance encourages young people to ask questions and be curious about science and the world around them. We are really pleased the project and the performance have been such a success and would like to thank all those who were involved!

Not in Your Wildest Dream!



This picture of West Park and the Lakes has been manipulated by Councillor Arun Chandran to show how it could be if dreams could come true and there was a bottomless pit of cash! The building could accommodate a multi-purpose auditorium for films, stage shows, conferences, exhibitions etc. with a restaurant, shop and boathouse... Dream on!

Film Show

The next "Feel Good Film Show" at St Clare's Church features "THE ROSA PARKS STORY". She ignited the modern civil rights movement when she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white woman in 1955.

A truly inspiring story. On Wednesday 16th October tea & coffee at 1pm (Included in the £2), film starts at 1-15pm, and everyone is most welcome. Please ring Ric Hargreaves for details 316755

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AYCLIFFE COMPANY COMPLETES WORK ON GERMAN PROJECT

The world's leading cable protection company for the offshore wind industry, Tekmar Energy, has successfully completed work on a pioneering 80-turbine windfarm in the German North Sea.

Tekmar, of Aycliffe was awarded the work to protect the inter-array cables from exposure to loads, deformations and fatigue during installation and across the windfarm's service life. Construction of the windfarm began on the site 23km North of Helgoland during 2012 and is expected to be completed before the end of 2013.

Chief executive James Ritchie said: "The Meerwind project highlights Germany's increasing commitment to the offshore wind industry and will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by one million tonnes per year. "Being awarded the contract for such high-profile international work has represented a great achievement for us. Our Teklink protection system will support this important project throughout its working life and enable it to benefit the region for many years to come."

Over the past five years Tekmar has installed more than 2,000 cable protection systems and has a further 1,000 in design or manufacture for the 26 windfarms it has been involved in across Europe.

In comparison with other subsea cable installations, Tekmar's Teklink cable protection system does not require a j-tube and utilises a remote installation method. This provides enhanced cable life and resilience C reducing the risk of damage and requirement for maintenance. Founded in 1985, the firm initially specialised in oil and gas before moving into the expanding offshore renewables industry when it developed bespoke cable protection systems for cables connecting wind turbines.

The company recently announced it has enhanced its oil and gas industry offering, whilst maintaining its leading position in offshore renewables. Tekmar is fully QHSE compliant and has obtained ISO 9001, 14001 and 18001 accreditations. For more information please visit C www.tekmar.co.uk

Raised £100 for Macmillan

The Cubby would like to thank everyone who turned up for their Macmillan Day which raised just over £100. The raffle was a great success and we have one unclaimed prize ticket number 491-495.

Please check your tickets and contact the Cubby on 01325 307449 if you are the lucky winner.

Thank you all once again for supporting a great cause. Bill Blenkinsopp

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Air Cadets Receive D of E Awards at St. James Palace



Flight Sgt Oliver Lakey, Sgt Helen Murphy, Sgt Lee Johnson and Sgt Gareth Sloane, all Air Cadets at 1407 (Newton Aycliffe) Squadron, recently completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. Three of them attended a presentation ceremony at St James Palace where they were awarded certificates by Prince Edward. The certificate shows a year of hard work volunteering, learning a new skill, staying physically fit, going on a four day expedition and attending a residential camp. Gaining the highest level of the country's leading award for young people is no mean feat and the four should rightfully be proud of their achievement. They join a growing group of young people who have gained awards through the Air Cadets. For more information on the organisation see our website www.1407aircadets.org

OUR MP PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR DEMENTIA SUFFERERS

Our MP Phil Wilson has promised to take action to support people living with dementia. He joined 200 other MPs and representatives from Alzheimer's Society in Portcullis House, Westminster to provide a handwritten statement of action they will take to support people with dementia and their carers. Phil pledged to raise awareness of dementia in County Durham, highlighting the increasing number of people living with the condition in the area: 'We have to raise awareness of dementia because as we live longer there will be more and more people with dementia living in our communities - but many of them do not even have a diagnosis. "The number of people living with dementia in County Durham is expected to rise to 6,817 by 2014, with 48.5% of those cases undiagnosed.' The Labour MP acknowledged the need for a response from the whole community: 'Dementia can be an incredibly isolating disease for people with dementia, their families and their carers,' he added. 'That is why local people



should go and show their support and that is why the people within our communities rise to the challenge of making them feel part of everyday activities.' 'I want people with dementia within my community to know that I am there for them. There is a tremendous community spirit within the North East but it is vitally important that we try to do more for people with dementia so they can lead the lives that they want to lead within our communities. 'We have to do whatever we can to bring dementia out into the open and increase our understanding of the disease. Then we will be in a better position to be able to help people with dementia and their carers. Alzheimer's Society campaigners were in Westminster to raise political support for their newly developed Dementia Friends initiative. Launched in February this year, Dementia Friends aims to help people understand what it might be like to live with dementia and turn that understanding into action. Alzheimer's Society is aiming to have one million Dementia

Friends by 2015, to help make England more dementia-friendly and improve the lives of the 650,000 people currently living with the condition. During the afternoon, 30 MPs from across England took part in a Dementia Friends session. If you are interested in becoming a Dementia Friend or helping create more communities that are dementia friendly, go to dementiafriends.org.uk to find your nearest information session or to volunteer as a Dementia Friends Champion.

Shopkeepers Driven Out of Aycliffe

Dear Sir, What a shambles our town centre with the extra charges on shopkeepers. Will it end up like a Ghost Town, charity shops and take-aways? Aycliffe's new town centre will have no shops and we will have to travel to Darlington or Bishop Auckland as the shopkeepers are being driven away. Could the industrial estate be turned into a Teesside Park shopping area? The Police Station is on the industrial estate so why not? Flatten the present White elephant and turn it into a large car park - that will be two problems solved, parking and shopping. I have not been to the town centre for sometime as I kept running into problems being in a wheelchair. Someone else does my shopping elsewhere and delivers it to me. What does the Council think of this fiasco? I know a lot of people who used to travel a long way to Aycliffe because we had the best market in the area, Where is the market? Bigger is not always better, posher is not always economical, and change is not always for the best! A Town Centre with no shops is useless. As a child and coming to Aycliffe it was always a busy

shopping centre. Now you see very few people and not crowded as back then. I voiced the opinions of quite a few concerned people. Sheila Carrick

Looking Good

Dear Sir, It is nice to see the refurbished town centre evolving, however I am somewhat shocked that with the new service charges many shops may close. I understand there is to be a meeting with the site owners and shopkeepers. I believe as well as councillors our MP Phil Wilson should be there on this important matter. I notice a lot of cigarette butts covering the floor around Greggs, Cafe Pronto, Poundstretcher and Nat West Bank so I am pleased to read that 16 new litter bins are to be placed in the Town Centre. but they are not suitable for cigarette ends in case they catch fire. What happened to the man who used to go round on a mini sweeper to keep the town centre tidy? I think although it has taken a long time to be completed, every effort should be made to keep it a pleasant place to shop. J M Gowland

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Barrier Could be Forced Open Again

Dear Sir, It's no wonder someone forced entry to the barrier obstructing access to the town centre between Aldi and Coffe Pronto from the multi-storey car park. Everyone is frustrated with the Town Centre Management who can't get this matter resolved, quoting health and safety issues. What is he referring to as it is far more dangerous walking through the car park with cars milling about! It has taken months to sort it out and I won't be surprised if the barrier is attacked again. Shopper. Editor We have requested details of the actual Health & Safety problems preventing this access being opened but to date have received no reply.

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Town Centre Questions

Dear Sir,
Why have the owners of the Town Centre gone to such great expense to create over-the-top paving only to recoup the cost from the shopkeepers through extra service charges which they cannot afford?
All this yet we still have flat rooves, metal frame windows which need repair. Then they have taken down shop awnings and there is no shelter from the rain?
I also wonder why a solid building like Churchill House should be demolished when there is a shortage of housing and it could be converted to flats?
When it is complete I see our town centre becoming an even more cold and windy place to shop.
Mrs Lawler

Ladies Day Raises Bra-Busting Amount for Charity

Sunday 15th September was a notable day at The Hallgarth Hotel - a Ladies Day with a Difference - "Bras, Boobs, Bakes & Bunting" to raise money for Breast Cancer Care and Oxfam for their Great Bra Hunt.
The Great Bra Hunt is an initiative by Oxfam for ladies in the UK to donate their bras to be sent to developing countries where Oxfam employs local ladies to fix and sell them at an affordable price. Who knew a bra could offer that much "support?"
It was a day for ladies with stalls, speakers, beauty treatments, Henna, a workshop, raffle and a delicious buffet.



Stall holders were all local craft specialists, artisans and local small businesses including Iced Flair, Toppers and Tiaras, Berkano Wood, Gillian Arnold, Scribble & Patch, Mrs B's Kitchen, Temple Spa and Cylie's Silver Republic. Gillian Arnold hosted a free taster bunting workshop. Pampering zones were in the corners of the room for ladies to enjoy TLC. All included in the ticket price. Ladies could choose from henna designs, threading, reflexology, massages, facials and manicure. The raffle had an amazing array of prizes which had all been donated by local businesses.



We had three speakers: A wonderful lady from Breast Cancer Care told her personal story, how she became a volunteer and how we ladies should be checking ourselves. Breast Cancer Care does so much to help those who are worried, concerned and who need some extra support. Oxfam explained how they empower and educate people in other countries to form cooperatives to farm or run their own small business. The final speaker was a lady who made it her life's mission to get ladies in the right sized and right fitting bra - Sadie the Bra Lady who explained how she got into the lingerie business and how she changes ladies lives and perspective on their figure just through getting them into the correctly fitting bra. Everyone was asked to bring something home baked to share which was the "Bakes" part of the event.

There was a wealth of goodies for everyone to enjoy from a delicious cheeseboard to cheese and lager slice, quiche, bread, scones, fruit cake, meringues, Lemon Crunch cake, cupcakes, muffins and meringues. We raised a grand total of £530.00 which will be shared between Breast Cancer Care and Oxfam. The bra bin was overflowing by the end of the event with 250 donated to Oxfam.
A huge thank you to all helpers, Newton News, Aycliffe residents, Hallgarth Hotel staff, raffle ticket buyers, stallholders, bakers, speakers, and the many people who donated bras and to everyone who purchased tickets. Together we have indeed raised "A BRA BUSTING AMOUNT FOR CHARITY"

More Mess and Noise at Cobblers Hall

Dear Sir
It's alright bigging up the fact a new housing estate will be built at Cobblers Hall, but the reality of it all is the state of the roads in the vicinity as it is being built!
This will be shocking with inconsiderate truck delivery drivers queuing up from 6.30am with engines running for months to come. There will be constant swearing and shouting of the tradesmen with radios blasting and the constant beeping of the forklift all day. Tradesmen vehicles will obstructing public roads, and bring numerous other problems. All of this to eventually end up with an estate on which numerous dwellings will be let out and not maintained in a proper way.
I speak from experience as I currently live on the Miller Homes development at Cobblers Hall and this is what to expect. All the builder cares about is the money made from each dwelling.
More years of hell!
Resident

Greenfield Achieves Arts Mark Gold



Staff and Pupils at Greenfield College were pleased this week to hear they have been awarded "Arts Mark Gold" by Trinity College London. Arts Mark is an Arts Council programme that enables schools to celebrate, strengthen and evaluate their arts provision - receiving the award is recognition for the quality of the school's excellence in arts and cultural provision.
The assessor for the award, who visited school recently, made a range of positive comments about Greenfield, mentioning the high quality of the arts activities both in school and for the community, and praised staff and students for their commitment to the use of the Arts across the curriculum.

Katy Milne, Director of Arts and Creativity at Greenfield said "It is great to be acknowledged for all of the creative and artistic programmes we offer here at Greenfield, both in school and in the Arts Centre, especially the comments from the assessor praising how the Arts is embedded in the ethos of the school and community in the area.
We look forward to continuing this excellence through the plans and programmes we have planned."
This is the fourth time Greenfield Community College has achieved this award and we are proud that the Arts both in school and in the community continue to be acknowledged and celebrated in this way.

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL
Dates and Times of Statutory Meetings of the Town Council and its Committees

Wednesday 23rd October 2013

Policy & Resources Committee from 7.15pm

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

Charlie Wins a Bike



The Town Council Summer Super Sports Skills Bike Draw winner was Charlie Cayless, aged 8 from Newton Aycliffe. The Mayor Cllr Barbara Clare presented Charlie with his new bike on Thursday 3rd October 2013.
For your chance to win a new bike get involved in the Autumn 2013 Super Sports Skills programme at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex. For further information visit our website www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk To book your place please contact Reception on 01325 300600.

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Mayor Visits Little Gems Toddler Group



The Mayor Councillor Barbara Clare and consort Val Raw took time out from attending the MacMillian Coffee Morning at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre, (which raised over £120,000), to pop in to join with the young people from Little Gems who were enjoying their Friday Morning session. Because of the success of these toddler sessions they have now started a second on a Thursday from 1 pm to 2.30pm. For more information please contact the Youth Centre on 307522, or just come along and join in the fun.

Warriors Win in Poetry

On Friday night under the floodlights at Darlington Rugby Club, the Woodham Warriors American Football team defeated their second American opponents in the space of six days. Woodham Academy English teacher Stacey Reay gives us her unique version of events in poetic style.

There they stood brave and proud,
Our young soldiers adored by the crowd,
Hearts pounding, a subtle cliché,
Emotions arose as the anthems play.

Star Spangled Banner rose to its crescendo,
Only the patriotic understand and know,
The honour of hearing your country's song,
Every athlete praying nothing goes wrong.

In unison the spectators began to roar,
God Save The Queen, connotations of war,
Each team prepared and ready to fight,
Dressed in armour like a valiant knight.

Chants from the visiting Menwith fans,
Fate and destiny left in teenage hands,
Pressure mounts on shoulders so naive,
When the whistle blows, no time for reprieve.

Cheerleaders complete countless routines,
As the ball is kicked to a cacophony of screams,
The warriors of Woodham begin to attack,
As the Americans weak and tired fall back.

Special teams produce the inspirational,
Every warrior ultimately irreplaceable,
The flood lights, the crowd, the atmosphere,
A Moment to savour in any career.

Even Peyton Manning would be proud of this,
In years to come, spectators will reminisce,
An epic night which had to be seen,
Where were you on October fourth twenty thirteen?

Touchdowns, tactics, tackles, true greatness,
A love for football inevitably contagious,
No prima donna treatment, just pure sport,
Hundreds of people there to support.

A rugby club transformed in to numerous Super Bowls,
The only thing lacking Beyonce Knowles,
In a dream some lads came to fulfil,
The Woodham Warriors beat Menwith Hill!



A perfect evening for American Football



Woodham and Menwith Hill go head to head



Warriors carrying the ball towards a win against the Americans



Home field advantage at Darlington

Greenfield Team Win BASFA Final



On Saturday 5th October Greenfield Community College took part in the annual 8-a-side BASFA (Bishop Auckland School Football Association) competition for Year 8's. Greenfield came top of the board in their group during the first part of the tournament – winning 3 out of 4 games against the local teams. The team played Ferryhill in the semi-finals and won to go on to the finals, which they won after a tense game which went into extra time against Durham Johnston. The group scored a last minute

goal followed by a few minutes of magnificent defending during the last 5 minutes. Well done to the team of boys from Greenfield, in particular Adam Scott who scored 9 goals over the course of the tournament! The team included Ellis Plews, Josh Mellanby, Lewis Rigg, Josh Hay, Adam Lamb, Sam Thompson, Harry Hobbs, Bailey Howarth and Adam Scott, pictured with their BASFA 8-a-side tournament trophy! A special thank you to M. Hodgson Builders for sponsoring the Year 8 Football kits.

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Aycliffe Students Visit Police Dog Unit



Last week a group of Year 8 Evolve students at Greenfield Community College visited the Durham Constabulary Dog Support Unit near Thinford as part of the EDDY project they are involved in at school.

The project, run in school by PC Ian Robertson with Miss Duffy, is led by the Durham Agency Against Crime and Durham Constabulary and is designed to engage, divert and develop young people. The aim of the project, which has been running in schools in the region since 2006, is to prevent young people from becoming victims of crime or deter them from entering the criminal justice system, through educational activities as well as community schemes and challenging activities for young people. Greenfield Community

College is pleased to be able to be a part of this great project!

The trip last week gave the students the opportunity to see a working police unit, giving them a different perspective on the police by letting them experience and learn more about the Dog Support Unit.

The visit was a great success, and PC Ian Squire, who worked with the students during the visit, only had positive comments about the Greenfield students and said that he and the rest of the dog support unit "would like to extend their appreciation to Miss Duffy and staff at Greenfield School for giving them the chance to meet them." The project will continue in school for the rest of this year, we look forward to seeing what happens next!


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AYCLIFFE EASE PAST WHITLEY BAY

Newton Aycliffe bounced back from more cup heartache with a comfortable 3-1 victory over Northern League heavyweights Whitley Bay last weekend.

A brace from in-form Jamie Owens and a Danny Lambert strike extended the Royal Blues' unbeaten run at Moore Lane Park in Division One to seven games.

It was the fifth win of the campaign and moved Allan Oliver's men up to seventh in the table after 11 games - already 11 points clear of the bottom three that the club flirted with for so long of last season.

It was the perfect response to the midweek defeat to Team Northumbria in the Brooks Mileson League Cup.

A 94th-minute Peter Watling goal secured the University-ran team a 1-0 victory in a tight game that knocked the Newtonians out of the competition at the first hurdle.

It leaves Aycliffe with just the Durham Challenge Cup to distract them from their league form, which continued to return strong results against four-time FA Vase winners Whitley Bay.

New signing Dan Wilson was handed a debut in attack following his arrival from Tow Law - he had scored against Aycliffe in the DCC this season and was signed to replace Danny Earl, who left for high-flying Marske United. Wilson almost opened his account immediately, drawing

a good, early save out of Whitley Bay goalkeeper Tom Kindley.

Aycliffe went ahead in the 26th minute when Dion Raitt's ball released Lambert through on goal and the winger made no mistake, firing the ball past the Kindley into the back of the net.

Craig McFarlane hit the crossbar and Paul Chow headed wide as the visitors looked to get back on terms but the Newtonians held on until the break.

And immediately after the break, the Royal Blues doubled their lead. Wilson found strike-partner Owens running through on goal and the former Shildon man clinically sidefooted the ball past Kindley.

The visitors eventually got back into the game with 13 minutes left when Bay legend Chow headed past Gareth Young from close range.

But any fears of an Aycliffe collapse were put to bed in the 80th minute when Owens rose highest to nod in Lambert's corner.

Aycliffe now travel to Team Northumbria this weekend, seeking revenge for their League Cup defeat last week, against a side struggling in the relegation zone of Division One this season.

It is the first of five consecutive away matches for Oliver's side, before they return to Moore Lane Park on Wednesday October 30 to host Whickham in the DCC.

Wildcats Winning Home Start at Aycliffe

Durham Wildcats made the perfect start to their home BBL campaign with an exciting 83-73 victory over London Lions. Coach Davie's new look roster approached the game full of confidence following an encouraging performance at rivals Newcastle the previous weekend.

Saturday's opponents were always going to provide a tough home debut but it was the Wildcats that picked up the victory following an exhilarating final quarter. It was the home side that made a solid start scoring 8 points without reply in the opening minutes.

London, however soon got their game going and a 13 point run half way through the first quarter brought the teams level at 16-16. The teams traded baskets for the final few minutes of the opening quarter with the Wildcats taking a 1 point lead.

Quarter two was controlled by the defence of both teams; RJ Evans and Mike Allison dominated the boards for the Wildcats, while Lions Forward Adrian Sturt was causing problems at both ends of the court. The Lions got ahead for the first time in the contest 5 minutes before the half time buzzer, but a combination of baskets from Allison, Evans and Huffor saw the Wildcats take a slim 1 point lead into the locker room at the half.

Durham finally got a hold of the game in the third quarter as they extended their lead to 20 points with baskets from Allison and Evans supported by a big 3 from Odiba Attah. The Lions looked all but beaten going into the final quarter, but they rallied in the break and came out flying at the start of the 4th.

Durham failed to make a basket in the opening 3 minutes allowing the Lions to come back within 8 points of the home team. Baskets by Attah



and Evans calmed the nerves of home fans before Adrian Sturt converted a string of chances to make it a 2 point ball game with just 60 seconds remaining. Captain Ralph Bucci made a huge 3 pointer followed by a successful pair of free throws from Mike Allison. Danny Huffor sealed victory for the Wildcats with a slam dunk on the buzzer to bring the home fans to their feet. Allison picked up the game MVP with an impressive 22 points and 11 rebounds. Coach Davie was delighted with the Wildcats performance: "It was a good test, we got some important stops down the stretch and made key baskets at crucial times. Despite having

quite a young side, we showed some maturity in the final quarter and this will be vital moving forward." Davie was quick to praise new signing and game MVP Mike Allison. "The big man was very solid at both ends of the court tonight, London are a physical outfit and we relied on Mike to be a presence under the basket and he certainly delivered. Not only did he pick up a valuable 22 points, but his 11 rebounds went a long way to securing us the victory."

The Wildcats will be hoping to make it back to back victories next Sunday on the long trip south to take on Surrey Heat. Wildcats fans can see their team in action in Durham the following weekend as Cheshire Phoenix provide the opposition in the first round of the BBL Cup. Tip-off at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Saturday 19th of October is 7pm. Tickets are available online now at www.godurhamwildcats.com.

Aycliffe U21's Open Football Trials

Newton Aycliffe Junior Football Club's U21's, who are working in partnership with Newton Aycliffe FC's as their development side are looking to further enhance their current playing squad by signing additional new players of the right calibre to join the team who currently play in the Durham FA Sunday U21's League.

If you are between 17 and 20 years and looking to join a progressive and successful club then NAJFC U21's will be holding open trials for players

who can play at a high standard of competitive football as well as displaying the right attitude and conduct when representing the club.

The trials will take place at the teams normal training session on Tuesday evenings between 19.30pm and 21.00hours at Shildon Sunnydale Leisure centre on the 3g pitch

To book your place or to find out more information please contact the teams secretary Tracy Slatcher on 01325 311573 In advance to book your place.

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RUNNING CLUB NEWS

On Sunday 6th October Julie Nisbet and Martyn Knox from Aycliffe Running Club joined over 1000 other participants for the 4th Kielder Marathon. This race is billed as Britain's most beautiful marathon and is a spectacular off road course covering some of the region's most scenic spots. Neither Martyn or Julie had done any specific marathon training, but, they both finished in really good times with Martyn in 4:06 and Julie 5:14.

On the same day Peter Smith, Colin Gibson and Ray Todd from Aycliffe Running Club competed in the NYSD Cross Country at Acklam. Peter Smith finished in 50:37, Colin Gibson in 55:13 and Ray Todd completed the vet course in 34:55

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PCP Coffee Morning



The PCP held a Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support last week with members of staff selling cakes and crafters running stalls. Macmillan have an office in the Centre available for anyone seeking information on their service. The Coffee Morning raised £348.63.

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Have Your Say on Garden Waste Collection Changes

Residents in County Durham are being invited to give their views on how changes to the council's garden waste collection service could work best for them. Last month members of Durham County Council's Cabinet agreed to hold a consultation on proposals that would see households pay a £20 annual fee to have their garden waste collected.

Members agreed the consultation would help the council understand how those opting into the service would like it to work and how they would like to pay for it. The changes were drawn up as part of the council's efforts to save almost £222m between 2011 and 2017, in response to huge reductions in government funding.

A report to Cabinet stated that introducing the annual fee would mean the service would deliver the necessary savings of £933,000. The fortnightly collections are currently provided free of charge to more than 150,000 households across the county between April and November. Those residents who are currently eligible would be able to choose whether they still want to sign up for the service and an additional 35,000 households - which previously could not have their garden waste collected - would also have the chance to sign up.

In some very rural areas residents who currently have their garden waste collected would no longer receive this service but would instead be able to use a mobile household waste recycling service, which would include garden waste, from next spring.

Clr Brian Stephens, Cabinet member said: "Financially we are in a position whereby we just don't have the money to deliver some of the services we would like to for free anymore. "However, we will also need to understand how people wanting to continue to use the scheme, or who will now qualify for it, would prefer to pay and how they would like to have the service delivered. "This consultation will help us to understand that."

The consultation will end on Monday, October 28. People can have their say at www.durham.gov.uk/consultation. Paper copies of the consultation document can be obtained by contacting Durham County Council on 03000 266 112.

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WE COULD END UP WITH A GHOST TOWN!

Dear Syd
I see in your article headed Community Shop Closes that "This in preparation of the demolition of the whole block, including Churchill House, in the New Year" I gather that you were not certain enough of which new year, as this is already four years behind the schedule issued to the residents in May 2008. This part of the regeneration was scheduled as Phase five August 2009 to September 2013! The whole debacle seems to be four years behind schedule as the ramp, which was Phase three, was due to be demolished during 2009 and has just been removed this year. The Town Centre Management, among others, keep telling us that the work is on schedule, perhaps they are using a different calendar to the rest of us!

I am sure your readers were however delighted to learn that they are contemplating demolishing Churchill House at long last but I suspect that they dread any more upheaval as demolishing the old Health Centre gave us piles of rubble and dust for months and this was a fraction of the size of Churchill House and units 64 to 84 Beveridge Way. I just hope that for the shopkeeper's sake this is not the thin end of the wedge for their customers as the disruption will surely yet again result in the decrease of footfall on the town and loss of trade for them at a time when The Town Centre Management have hiked their service charges to what would seem unreasonable and unmanageable levels. Gary Hale, the then agent for Freshwater, stated in 2008, "This area is one of an expanding population and economy". "The opportunities afforded by these proposals will allow us to upgrade the entire centre to attract shops and create a new environment". Most of the shops are small units and if they are really struggling now, many seemingly contemplating

closure, who are they going to attract to replace them? We could end up with a ghost town! It is time the centre management came clean with the shopkeepers about the hike in charges and came clean with the residents about the obviously revised schedule for the work. They did state in 2008 that the work would be completed in seven phases and that due to the then current shop leases the completion of

the scheme could be beyond 2014. I don't expect anyone realised that Phase 5 which should have been completed in September 2013 would not have even started by then. While I realise that regeneration on this scale does not always run to plan the slippage in this instance seems a bit extreme and an honest explanation is overdue. Andrea Bergg Lascelles Avenue

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PAUL GIBSON 9-10-2009. Not a day goes by I don't think of you, a heavy woid in my heart. Love, Dad xxx

PAUL GIBSON 9-10-2009. Miss you and love you lots. Love, Mandy and family

JOAN HUGHES 11-10-2012. One year on and salty missed every day. Remembering the happy times we had dear friend. With love from Jill and David, Joan and Harry, and families xxxxx

JOAN HUGHES 11th October 2012. Wish there was a phone in Heaven so we could speak just one more time. Love and miss you always, Brian, Susan, Mark, Alan, Kirsty and Olivia xxx

DOUGIE WHITE 9th October 2011. Dear Husband of Jean and beloved Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. Fondly remembered and sadly missed. Love you

Birthday Remembrance

BETTY ROBINSON 13th October 1933. 80 years young. Have a great birthday with the angels Mam. Lots of love, Julie, Andy, Emma, Helen, Kev, Olivia, Owen, Paul and Claire xxxxx

BETTY ROBINSON Have a brandy and Babycham on me Mam. Love and miss you more than anyone knows. Love always, Julie xxxxx

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Obituary

John Ernest Malvern



4th October, peacefully in hospital, of Brinkburn Drive, Darlington. John Ernest, aged 75 years, dearly loved Husband of the late Janet; much loved Dad of Robert, Tracey, Jackie and Brent; dear Father-in-Law of Carol and Merv; and loving Pop of Mark, Gaynor and Noah, Charlene, Gary, Tarra, Jack, Lyla, Kayleigh, Jayden, Andrew and Kieran.
 Funeral on Tuesday 15th October. Friends please meet for Service in Darlington Crematorium at 11.15am. Flowers may be sent c/o Seaton Leng & Son Ltd., 59a Bondgate, Darlington, DL3 7JR

David Palmer

Tragically passed away on 7th October, aged 27 years of Newton Aycliffe. A loving Son of Tosh; dear Brother to Tracey and Tez and devoted Uncle to Emily, Tyler, Tiegan and Trinity. Funeral Service to be held at St Clares Church on Friday 18th October at 9.30am. Followed by Cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon

LITTLE - Newton Aycliffe, 8th October, suddenly in hospital. William (Bill) aged 83 years of Oakfield. Dearly loved Husband of Nancy; much loved Dad of Tony, Jennifer, Billy, Susan, Caroline, Christine and Stuart; a dear Father-in-Law and a cheeky Grandad to all his Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren. He will be sadly missed by all his family and many friends. Funeral on Wednesday 16th October. Would friends kindly meet for Service in St. Clare's Church at 10.15am followed by interment in The North Cemetery, Darlington. Floral tributes or donations in lieu, if preferred in aid of The Great North Air Ambulance Service will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6EN. Tel: 01325 318600.

FALLA Rodney William McGregor, died suddenly on 20th September 2013, aged 40 years. Beloved Son of the late Janice; Brother to Rachel and Dad to Daman, Jordan and Ellie-Grace. Funeral took place on 4th October 2013 at St Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village. Much loved and will be greatly missed. Special thanks to Gordon Fletcher Funeral Directors and Carl Bell. Thanks also to Rod's close friends for their support to Rachel at this sad time

Advertise in this section from 15p per word

Congratulations

Lisa Hannah



GUESS WHAT?
 Our miracle Daughter Lisa is 16 on 11st October. Have a fab day Floss. Love, Mam, Dad and Justin xxxxx

Sweet 16 on 11th October
 The day you were born is one we'll never forget, you are our only granddaughter who has brought love, laughter and sunshine into our lives. We wish you a very happy birthday. Have a lovely day. Love you all this much and all around the world. Nan, Granda and Bonnie xxx

SHEILA COWAN 11-10-1943. Happy 70th birthday. have a great day. Lots of love from your Husband, Don xxx

NANA SHEILA Happy 70th birthday. Hope you have a great day. Love you loads from Anth, Paula, Naomi, Yazmin and Kayleigh xx

SHEILA COWAN Happy birthday Sheila, 70 today. A good friend. Love, Brenda, Ken and family xxx

SHEILA COWAN 11-10-13. 70 today, have a great day Mam - you deserve it. Lots of love, Denis and Michael

SHEILA COWAN Happy birthday Nana. Lots of love from Harry xxx

SHEILA COWAN Happy 70th birthday to a wonderful Mam and Nana. Have a good day. Love from Keith, Laura, Lisa-Jo, Charlie, Matty and Brooke

BILLY GIBSON 13-10-13. Happy 65th birthday. have a great day. Lots of love from Kath and all the family

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Births

Stef & Michael Hobson



Congratulations to Stef and Michael on the birth of a beautiful Daughter "Lacey Mia Hobson". Born on Friday 4th October 2013. Sister for Sophie. Lots of love from Brenda, Dave, Fay and Aaron

Matthew Howarth



18 Today - 15th October Happy 18th Birthday
 Have a great week of celebrating at your parties. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Carrie and all your family

Jessica Graham



18 Today - 10th October Happy 18th Birthday Jess
 Have a great weekend, you have grown up to be a very beautiful young lady inside and out. We are so very proud of you sweetheart. Love you all the world, from Mam, Dad, Nannie Madge, James, Laura, Mason, Grandad Bob and Nannie Maud from the sky xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Sandy Flynn



Happy 70th Birthday Mam
 Have a great day and enjoy your party. All our love, Martin, Lisa, Ashley and Kyle xxxxx

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Evie and Harry Hall
 14th October 2011



To Our Precious Twins Evie and Harry Happy 2nd Birthday
 We love you all the world. Have lots of fun, Mammy and Daddy xxxxx
 My beautiful grandchildren Evie & Harry. Happy 2nd birthday. In my heart forever. Love you both so much, Nana and Chancey xxxxx
 Happy 2nd birthday. Love you both lots. Uncle John and Auntie Sarah xxxxx

Lisa Maddison



Happy 40th Birthday
 To a wonderful Mother, Grandmother and Wife. With much love from Alan, Bethany, Charlie, Ashleigh, Paige and Paddy Knickers xxxxx

Jessica Holmes



Happy 16th Birthday Jess
 Lots of love from Mam, Dad, Sophie, Grandma, Grandad and Nanna xxxxx

Lisa Maddison



Happy 40th Birthday 12th October 2013
 To our beautiful Lisa on her 40th birthday. Have a greadt day. Love, Mam, Dad and everyone who knows and loves her xxx

Tyler James Peacock



Happy 1st Birthday 10th October 2012
 Happy 1st birthday to our special little man, we love you loads, Mammy, Daddy, Kennedy, Holly and Lilli xxxxx
 Happy birthday to a gorgeous Grandson on his 1st birthday. Love you lots, Nanna and Ronnie xxxxx

Cornelia Ross



Happy 21st Birthday
 Hope you have a happy birthday. Lots of love from Mam, Dad and Poppy xxxxx
Happy 21st Birthday
 Happy birthday to my little Sister - grown up at last! Love from Christa, Darren, Alphonie and Archie

ANOTHER CUP WIN FOR AYCLIFFE SPORTS CLUB

October brings a month full of Away cup games for Aycliffe Sports Club and also saw the end of September finish with a good hard worked victory over The Wheatsheaf in the Darlington PMA League Cup. The PMA Cup is held for both divisions of the DSIL Sunday Football and saw this tie matched off against two teams who already know a lot about each other from earlier games played. The Wheatsheaf have already had a bit of a stop start season so were looking forward to playing the Aycliffe side, unbeaten so far this season in league and cup. As seems to be the norm, the game started relatively slowly

with neither side taking a hold of the game and matching each other man for man over the park. Aycliffe started with the formidable forward partnership of Chris Jones and Damien Jones, with over 20 goals between them already this season and it was in the 14th minute when the deadlock was broken, Chris Jones taking down a through ball from Gareth Boyes to slot home his and the teams first of the game. As the half hour approached, Jones broke through the Wheatsheaf defence again and with a turn of pace slotted home the 2nd. The second half started pretty much the same as the first, with



David Hall (Capt),

the Wheatsheaf dominating the opening minutes looking for a way back into the game – however, not to be outdone by his strike partner, Damien Jose netted his first of the game on 52 minutes albeit with a fortuitous header as it bounced off the side of his face and into an empty net from a deep cross from the right hand side of the pitch.

Aycliffe Sports Club defence held strong, with team Captain David Hall impressing with his leadership skills and hard work – organising his defence to ensure the Darlington side could not break through the back line. Wheatsheaf, under pressure, then put through their own net to make it 0-4 and super sub Craig Clark rounded off the match with 10 minutes to go drilling the ball home to make it 0-5 to the visitors.

The next game is a County Cup away tie to Peterlee Helford United – who in recent seasons have dominated their league and performed well in the county cup competitions. Certainly the toughest test that the newly formed Aycliffe side will face to date.

Newton Aycliffe FC Partner with Aycliffe Juniors Club

Newton Aycliffe FC & Newton Aycliffe Juniors have today announced details of a new and exciting partnership to run a 'Development' side, leading eventually to a full reserve/youth pathway through to the First Team.

Initially the team will play in the Durham County U21 league, but the exciting plans will eventually take the team into the Durham Alliance League, following the path taken by the first team.

Already four of the current members of the NAJFC u21s have made the first team, and it is hoped that by establishing a formal partnership, it will offer more opportunities for the most talented local young players to see a clear route into Northern League football here in Newton Aycliffe.

Newton Aycliffe FC have seen a number of first team players lured away by lucrative deals elsewhere in the League, and the hope now is this partnership will allow the Club to develop more 'home-grown' players.

General Manager Dan Lewis commented "This partnership, begins to give us a stronger structure to underpin our first team. Developing home-grown players is a major goal of ours, and the process will ensure there is a structure in place to keep the best local talent within our Club."

NAJFC Chairman Nige Slatcher commented "It is a big step up to play at Northern league level having just finished playing junior football and we firmly believe this will allow players between 17 and 21 years of age with the correct level of support to mature physically whilst continuing to develop their skills."

Huntsman Unlucky in Defeat

This week Huntsman FC were at home in front of an impressive crowd playing Haughton Grey Horse the Darlington League champions for 4 years. The game in the Heart Foundation Cup was a close battle which Grey Horse edged 3-2.

There were two changes from the side which beat Tompkins last week with Mark Percival replacing Mike Sproates and Shaun Mackintosh replacing leading scorer Jamie Herd. Anthony Brockley, Richie Whitworth and Liam Bingham all returned to the squad.

Huntsman wanted to make amends for sloppy starts and began lively although the first chance of the game fell to Grey Horse on the break forcing a one handed save from Dodds. Huntsman dictated the play with Lee Redpath and David Neale impressing in the middle of the park setting the tone of the game.

There was an early injury to Carl Bates which saw the introduction of Liam Bingham. Within minutes Huntsman took the lead through Shaun Sproates as he latched onto a through ball to finish well from

the left hand side of the box. This brought Grey Horse to life and they began growing into the game but the Huntsman back line held firm. It stayed 1-0 until 3 minutes before half time when Grey Horse countered from a Huntsman corner and the ball was crossed to the back post and a header was deflected back across goal before being tapped home by the Grey Horse centre forward.

The message at half time was to keep going and keep the belief but within minutes of the restart they were behind - a cross ball from the left was met by the sliding centre forward from six yards out who scramble the ball over the line.

There was a big push from the Grey Horse to finish the game off but the Huntsman defence stayed resolute. Anthony Brockley was introduced to get a grip of the midfield and this slowly got the Huntsman a foothold in the game again. On 70 minutes they were back level, Brockley squared the score meeting an Ollie Gell corner with an unstoppable header.

With 20 minutes left it was all to

play for, but again it was Grey Horse who rallied showing their experience of winning big games and on 75 minutes they were awarded a penalty when Callum Musgrave handled in the area, but keeper Dodds was the hero diving low to his right to stop the penalty. The belief began to show that it might be their day forcing a few corners but rarely testing the opposition keeper.

The game stretched with both teams looking for a winner and it was Grey Horse who found it with another scruffy goal as the Grey Horse central midfielder managed to keep hold of the ball on the edge of the box, beating three tackles before squaring a ball into the feet of the winger who turned home from 12 yards.

Huntsman had 5 minutes to get a goal but couldn't manage it and therefore crash out at the first stage of the competition. Lee Redpath picked up the man of the match award.

Next week Huntsman travel to Yates FC in the league and the next home game is against Aycliffe Sports Club in the League Cup on October 20th.

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Aycliffe Junior Gymnast is Northern Champion

Last weekend 11 year old Katie Leadbitter competed in the North of England's Voluntary level 2 Competition winning the title and is now North of England Level 2 Champion, eligible to compete at Guildford in the National Championships. Her win shows great determination and hard work considering last November when she nearly ended her short career following a training accident. She dislocated her elbow and was admitted to hospital for it to be surgically put back in place.

All the family are very proud of her as Katie never gives up and is an inspiration to her disabled sister Sophie. She too had many operations last year and the family have equal pride for her.

Katie has been accepted into Woodham Sports Academy Gymnastics Section. Dad, Mam, Sophie, Grandad and Nanna Leadbitter, and Grandma Talbot send their love and urge Katie to keep up the good work.



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