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HD Brows To Go & Eyelash Extensions - £18  
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Offer valid until 28th February 2014, not in conjunction with any other offer

## Pop Star at Re-launch of Aycliffe Town Centre

Around 2,000 people, mainly teenagers, filled the Town Centre to see X Factor star Amelia Lily perform at the opening of the refurbished shopping area. Star Radio staged the event presumably on behalf of the landlords, but as Newton News were not invited to cover the occasion we were never sure what was happening and received little communication on the subject.

Our MP and the Mayor were invited, but Aycliffe's community newspaper was snubbed. We can only assume the landlords are upset by the reports in Newton News recently, criticising them for driving out shopkeepers with high rents and 85% increases in service charges. Newton News reflects public opinion and fights the corner of those being unfairly treated. But this would not stop us publicising good news from the landlords or helping them promote our town. We are not spiteful so we invited ourselves to cover the occasion. The re-launch seemed to go well, but could have benefitted from better organisation and regard for public safety. It was great to see so many in our town centre and the shopkeepers



Town Mayor Barbara Clare with Amelia Lily



were happy to see the place alive after so many months of a downturn in business. With a bit more thought and preparation it could have been so much better, but our teenagers were satisfied seeing one of their idols performing live. Now that the centre is fully open we would welcome the views of our readers on its general appearance. Will the improvements encourage you to shop more in the town? What do you think the landlords need to do next? What other improvements would you suggest? Please send your suggestions to [syd@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:syd@newtonnews.co.uk)

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## Reader Responds to Xmas Appeal



Alwyn White - Helping Hands project manager receives £200 from Paul and Lynne Arnold - Fangdale Financial Limited of Aycliffe towards the Christmas Day Lunch for lonely people. Alwyn's says 'This is an amazing and generous donation which we really appreciate. Our Charity is very grateful for donations, particularly for the Christmas Day lunch which will bring so much joy to so many people.'

"Thanks to the Newton News and its readers we've had a very good response to our Christmas Day appeal. For most of us Christmas brings up happy memories of time spent with friends and family. However, for many, it also represents a sad and lonely time. With your help the Helping Hands ministry and members of Life Church are committed to changing that this year. We believe that no person should be on their own on Christmas Day unless they want to be."

"If you are going to be alone on Christmas Day or even if you are a single parent who finds this time of the year daunting because of financial problems then we'd love to hear from you by phoning or texting 07936431262. You can even e-mail [lifeline.action@googlemail.com](mailto:lifeline.action@googlemail.com) and we will get back in touch with you. We offer a friendly confidential service."

"It really is going to be a remarkable day so please don't miss out if you'd like an invitation. It's going to be like one big family party with lots of friendship, fun and laughter, and one or two surprises. Are you able to support our Christmas dinner for those who are alone or maybe can't afford Christmas? Join the Helping Hands drive to make Christmas a better time for all. We still urgently need money to make it all happen, for transport so we can people to and from the venue, for musicians that are happy to play a few Christmas Carols, and people to generally help on the day. Please call us now on 07936 431262."

## Fantastic Result for Rotary Club Appeal for Philippines

Shoppers in Tesco last Saturday would have noticed the town's Rotary Club collecting for the people of the Philippines who are suffering so badly from a devastating typhoon.

Rotary International supports Shelterbox a scheme providing tents and all the supplies people would need to survive including sleeping bags cooking stove and utensils, tools, water purifying tablets etc.

The money raised at Tesco was almost £1,500 and will be used for this purpose. President Geoff Batchelor thanks all those who supported the appeal with special thanks to the Manager Martin Butcher and staff of Tesco for their co-operation.

"As usual Newtonians gave generously, and there were many £5, £10 and £20 notes in the collection bucket and one person made out a cheque for £100," said Geoff gratefully.



## An Example to All Charity Appeal



Dear Sir,  
My 6yr old daughter Alysia-Sky had been learning about Remembrance Day at school and would come home every night and talk about why poppies are red and how she knew that many soldiers both past and present had died protecting our country.

Alysia also talked about the "special parade" they hold to remember the fallen heroes. So I took Alysia to her first Remembrance Day Parade. She wore her poppy with pride and carried her little wooden cross we had personalised in their memory which she planted at the end of the parade.

Alysia was overwhelmed with the whole event and saw heroes wearing medals with

pride. Alysia's uncle served in Afghanistan this year and it was very hard knowing a loved one was over there doing good. But as Alysia says, we were one of the lucky ones, he came home safe and received his medal.

It's such a shame that more youngsters were not present at the parade. These brave men and women gave the greatest sacrifice to protect and serve our country and there are many loved ones still there now risking their lives on a daily basis.

It's hard to explain to a 6yr old why more people care about seeing a singer and lights being switched on than paying their respects at the Parade.

Emma Russell

Does anyone have a mobility scooter that they can donate to Helping Hands? One of our clients has severe health issues and is scared to go out, as she is very unsteady on her feet. She is unable to buy one herself as she is in debt and is still trying to pay the funeral bill of her son who died tragically last year. If you can help we'd love to hear from you. Please phone or text 07936431262. You can also e-mail [lifeline.action@googlemail.com](mailto:lifeline.action@googlemail.com) and we will get back in touch with you.

## Auction at Scout Hall

1st Newton Aycliffe Scouts in conjunction with The Northern Bygones Society are holding their Annual Auction on Saturday 23 November at 12 noon. Viewing starts at 11.00am.

There will be lots of things to bid on - household items, and much more including two or three very collectable Sylvac ornaments. The Scouts will be providing refreshments and there is a raffle and tombola.

We'd like to see you all there and don't forget the bar opens at 12noon so plenty of refreshments for the adults.

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### Saturday 23rd November - "The Gatecrashers"

A rare performance by the Gatecrashers on 12th March 2011 prompted this review in a local North East 'rag': "The Brandling Villa in Gosforth, Newcastle, buzzed with excitement. The place was packed to the rafters with fans as well as musicians from other local bands - all here to spend an evening with the fabulous Gatecrashers. It was the first time I'd seen them with their vibrant new lead vocalist, and I was impressed - so very impressed. Nick (Saints of Arcadia) Jennison has more than enough charisma to set a stage - alright, and he can sing - oh, can he sing! Sharing lead guitar with Ant Wright (who provides great backing vocals) they had a ball while entertaining their discerning Geordie audience. Add the brilliant bass guitarist, Dave Hildreth and talented drummer, Doug Hayes to the flavoursome mix - and the Gatecrashers were a big green GO!"

### Saturday 7th December - "Mugshot"

Bio: A four piece band from the South Shields area playing modern and classic rock covers by bands such as Bon Jovi, Chili Peppers, Kings of Leon, Metallica, Muse, U2, Van Halen & Whitesnake, to name but a few. "We hadn't seen this band before so we didn't know what to expect and boy did they rock The Hearts!"

"Something for everyone in the set that had the dancers on their feet, the one's I remember were, U2, Whitesnake, Killers, Kings of Leon, Tom Petty, Nirvana, Guns n Roses, The Cult, Radiohead - all played and sung brilliantly."

"If you haven't already seen this band, go and see them, you won't be disappointed"

[www.myspace.com/mugshotrockband](http://www.myspace.com/mugshotrockband)

### Saturday 14th December - "F.M."

For more information on bands go to

[www.turbiniapub.co.uk](http://www.turbiniapub.co.uk) or 313034

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## CRAFT FAIR RAISED £284

The very first Craft Fayre held at Aycliffe Village raised £284.85p.

We would like to thank all those who supported us and special thanks go to the vendors for their wonderful raffle prizes which have all been claimed. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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# New £9m Autism Centre Opens at Aycliffe

The magnificent new £9million Autism Centre at Copelaw across the A167 is now open and is appealing to Newton Aycliffe residents for help in raising funds to keep this facility running.

The site of the former young people's centre is part of Durham County Council's plan to expand Newton Aycliffe and 950 new homes are to be built on this land replacing staff homes and utilising the services and infrastructure already in place. One of the large units has been refurbished and adapted for use by people of all ages with autism including school, training facilities, recreation,



therapy and long term accommodation for those with no family support.

It is an amazing amenity which when not in use will be available to the community. There are numerous rooms for meetings, a dance studio, cooking facilities, a gymnasium large enough for 5-a-side football, a swimming pool and ample outdoor activity space. The Centre may also offer office space to allied agencies and enquiries are welcome.

The first part of the centre completed was the purpose-built school with sports hall and swimming pool.

The centre's educational services include those for children from entry level to post 16, including secondary level education and vocational courses.

Other services include intensive support for families in crisis, as well as after school clubs, holiday schemes, and leisure/activity clubs. Short breaks are available, as well as residential accommodation, extending the scope for family support and outreach services. This will be a central hub for the Autism Society; the vision behind the centre is to improve the range of specialist services available across the region. The new centre will see the Society developing an advice and support service for parents and families, and will also provide outreach support to children and families in their own homes. They are still fundraising to equip the centre and are continuing to appeal to

companies and individuals to support vital elements of the project, such as the sports, health and leisure facilities.

The charity will be looking to engage with local companies in particular and the community to raise funds. They wish to contact companies based on the Business Park in particular looking to form partnerships which will hopefully lead to support hoping to be nominated as their 'Charity of the Year'. Contact the Centre on 328090.

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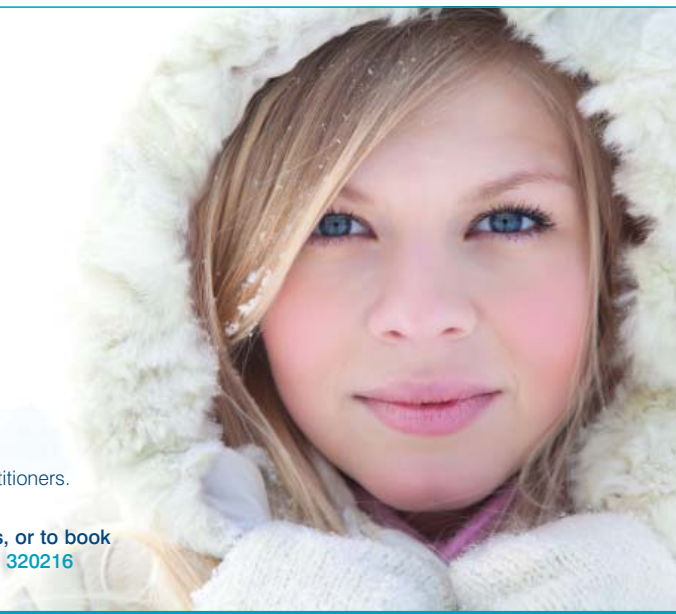
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**Stead Close  
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2 bedroomed terraced house in good condition, situated in cul de sac within walking distance of town centre. Unfurnished with carpets, blinds & cooker. Hall, lounge/diner with gas fire, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom/WC with overhead shower. Gas CH, front forecourt & rear garden. EPC rating E. Rent £450 pcm.

## Colling Walk Newton Aycliffe

Modernised & extended 2 bedroom semi-detached house, newly refurbished & in good condition. Unfurnished with carpet, fitted oven & hob, central heating. Entrance hall with built in feature fireplace, kitchen, dining room with patio doors to rear porch/conservatory. 2 double bedrooms, shower room, WC with walk in shower. Gas CH, rear garden. EPC rating C. Rent £475 pcm.

**Delaval Close  
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2/3 bedroomed modern terraced house, unfurnished with carpets & cooker. Fitted kitchen, inner hall, lounge, 2 double bedrooms, 1 small single bedroom/study, bathroom with overhead shower, separate WC. Gas CH, enclosed garden with shed. EPC rating C Rent £450 pcm

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# Heron's £1,329 for Charity



Heron staff raised £1,329 for Children In Need, and wish to thank the customers for their support and generosity over the week. It was a fantastic week of fundraising and a lot of fun had by all. It's the first time that stores have been allowed to raise funds for charity and Heron Foods Northeast and Cumbria raised a staggering £28,252 for such an amazing cause.

## INVITATION TO ATTEND GAMP BOARD MEETING

Residents in Great Aycliffe and Middridge can find out how local issues are being tackled when the Area Action Partnership (AAP) board for that area meets later this month. The GAMP (Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership) board will be meeting on Tuesday 26, November 2013, between 6.00pm and 8.00pm, at Middridge Village Hall, and local people are invited to go along to observe proceedings. The meeting will include a presentation on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategic Actions from the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, as well as information from CAVOS on their 'Never Do Nothing' Initiative. Local people can also raise any neighbourhood issues that they would like the board to address. These should be put in writing and sent in advance. If you would like to register to attend the Board meeting, telephone 01325 327441, or email gampaap@durham.gov.uk

# PCP Christmas Craft Fair & Family Day

PCP's annual Christmas Craft Fair is taking place on Saturday 30 November 10am-2pm in the Pioneering Care Centre, Newton Aycliffe. This craft fair has something for everyone; find unique Christmas gifts, cards, advent calendars and wrapping paper for family, friends and loved ones. Enjoy a relaxed Christmas shopping experience. Browse the stalls selling edible snowmen, natural cosmetics, hand knitted gifts, Swarovski Crystal

jewellery, handmade wooden gifts and original art works including hand-designed jackets. Festive fun for all the family. Visit Santa on his sleigh, create your own Christmas decorations, try your luck on the Tombola, and learn how to beautifully wrap your presents. Or indulge in a hot drink and warm mince pie in the Mall Coffee Shop. Activities will be going on throughout the Centre and festive music will enhance the Christmassy feel from a group of Bell Ringers.

# Kisses for Christmas

The Co-operative Funeralcare is pledging to help those in need this Christmas by launching a project called "Kisses for Christmas" in association with The Salvation Army and asking for donations of essential goods which could make a real difference to the lives of the homeless and needy in our area. Staff at The Co-operative Funeralcare in Macmillan Road, Newton Aycliffe are urging members of the

community to donate non-perishable items such as tinned food, tea and coffee, toiletries, blankets and children's toys to help those who are living in poverty and are hoping to collect as much as possible to hand over the The Salvation Army in the week before Christmas. We will be very grateful for any and all donations no matter how small. For further details please call Funeralcare on 300510.

## Fight for the Right Greenfield "Drop Down Day"



By Holly Hardy, Year 10

After weeks of intense preparation, Greenfield's 'Rights Drop Down Day' finally arrived on Friday 15th November. Throughout the day, the pupils of Greenfield participated in various "experiences" orientated around the understanding of their rights and the way the government functions, particularly the House of Lords. The main focus of the event was a vote to see whether or not pupils supported the reduction of the speed limit outside of our school and Byerley Park Primary school. The speed limit on the main road outside of Greenfield is currently 40mph. This is more than enough to kill a child if they are hit by a car, in fact anything over 30mph would be likely to result in a fatality. That is why five pupils from year 10, myself included, campaigned for the duration of the event to alert our peers to the dangers of the inflated speed limit and how essential it was to communicate the need for the 'Drop Down' to 20mph; a speed which largely has the power to inflict more minor injuries. What did we do? Well, we campaigned, we designed and we hand-made t-shirts, placards, sandwich boards and over 700 badges to be sold around school in aid of 'Plan International' (a non-profit organisation dedicated to making sure children everywhere have their rights respected) and to spread the word of the all-important drop



down. We were joined by an array of different guests including: Baroness Armstrong from the House of Lords; Local MP, Phil Wilson; Newton Aycliffe Mayor, Barbara Clare; Councillor John Clare; Dr. Doug Bourn from the Institute of Education, and many representatives from business, the armed forces and the public sector. As the many and various activities of the day came to

a close, everyone returned to their tutor for the all-important 'vote for change'. The ballots were counted and the result was overwhelmingly positive with 81.3% of pupils voting to reduce the speed limit to 20mph. Next week a petition will be signed and put forward to Parliament - hopefully this example of democracy in action will result in the roads next to our schools finally being safer for all of us!. After all, twenty's plenty!

## GOLF SHOP SALE

Ernie Wilson, Ex-Woodham Golf Pro is holding a Closing Down Sale ALL STOCK IS DISCOUNTED

Sunday, 24th November, 2013  
11.00am to 4.00pm

Woodham Village Community Centre  
St Elizabeth's Close, Woodham Village

Outstanding Gift Lesson Vouchers  
Please ring 07599 528153

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## Bootcamp for Charity



Saturday November the 9th witnessed Woodham Academy students take part in another gruelling charity bootcamp in support of the Teenage Cancer Trust. The day, which was organised by Pinch-an-inch, started with a 1 hour kettlebell session including a range of intense exercises from kettlebell swings to the goblet press. In addition this part of the bootcamp involved a variety of leg exercises ensuring there would be some tired legs dragging themselves around the school on Monday morning.

The day then moved on to a boxing circuit which involved an assortment of activities. Muhammad Ali would have been proud of the punches being used! With a mixture of boxing and sprinting for 45 minutes the students were feeling worked and tired. A hair salon from Washington, Twisted Scissors, kindly donated gifts for the raffle including an expensive hair set. Students were given raffle tickets as part of their attendance.

With over £400 raised for the Teenage Cancer Trust, the Woodham students were a

credit to themselves and to the school!

## HALL GARTH RAISE £281



The Hall Garth Leisure Centre Bikeathon involved members and staff who cycled a total of 243 miles in 30 minute intervals from 7am – 9pm and raised a total of £281.80 for Children in Need.

Photo shows General Manager, Pam Mooney the first participant of the day.

## Open Evenings at Nursery & Reception



Is your child approaching their 3rd birthday or preparing to start school in September 2014?

If so we would be delighted to welcome you at one of our upcoming open evenings; which present the chance for you to sample all we have to offer in Stephenson Way reception and nursery.

At Stephenson Way we offer the chance for your child to join a learning community that they could be part of right through until 11 years old. Throughout which time they would enjoy a high level of fantastic support in a school committed to smaller class sizes or higher levels of adult supervision, in order to make the most of a child's learning potential.

The open evenings offer you the chance to view our newly decorated nursery and reception areas and see for yourself the well-resourced, interactive and fun learning environments that the children enjoy on a daily basis.

You will also have the opportunity to meet our friendly and helpful staff and hear how they work to ensure the children enjoy a rich and varied school day.

Our nursery offers 15 hours of free flexible entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds. Children moving up to reception from our nursery to reception benefit from continuity in learning and a familiarity with staff and surroundings.

In addition, the school photographer will be present to take your child's photo. These beautiful photos make ideal Christmas presents for family and friends.

The open evenings take place on Monday 25th November and Tuesday 26th November between 3.30 and 5pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Campaign Against Illegal Stopping Outside School

Sugar Hill like most schools in the town are trying to get parents to stop dropping off and picking up their children from outside school gates as it is a safety problem and a road traffic nightmare.

This week the school have a campaign to get the message across with children calling attention to the issue with placards and staff talking to parents.

In addition Police and Traffic Officers were on duty to warn parents they were breaking the law by stopping in certain areas.

Nevertheless a number of parents continued to flout the law and were duly cautioned. Some argued they would do as the wish whatever the outcome, stopping anywhere they please without regard for children's safety or causing an obstruction.

One parent allowed their child to get out of the car in the middle of the road and another was very rude to a teacher who asked the parent politely not to stop.

Most parents are walking their children to school while others who need to travel by car do park away from the school, some using the Big Club car park which they have kindly offered for this purpose.



## Investing in Children Award



Woodham Academy has once again been awarded the Investing in Children Award. The award recognises and celebrates examples of imaginative and inclusive practice with children and young people. Organisations applying for the award have to demonstrate dialogue with young people, which leads to change. Students at Woodham Academy have the opportunity to apply for a variety of Student Leadership roles which include Peer Mentoring, Peer Listeners, Student Tour Guides, American Camp Cody, Games Leaders and Sports Leaders. However, the role of the School Council is one that holds great importance and is crucial in developing the school through the voice of its young people. A total of 58 students from Years 7 – 11 represent their year groups on the Year Council. Students were elected in September by their peers, with some preparing speeches and presentations in order to achieve the most votes. Students meet with their Heads of Year to discuss a variety of issues which are then raised and discussed at Student Council, involving 10 students and a member of the

school leadership team.

Year 11 student, Jordan McAteer, has been on the School Council for at least three years and now in his final year.

In addition to the School Council four students also represent the town on the Great Aycliffe Town Council. These are excellent opportunities

which develop young people as citizens, where students are encouraged to take an interest in topical and controversial issues and to engage in discussion and debate. They learn to take part in decision-making and different forms of action as well as playing an active role in the life of their schools and community.

## NOTICE BOARD BACK



The Town Centre Notice Board has been replaced following the completion of the improvements. The board, donated by the Rotary Club some years ago, is used by town organisations to promote their events and for the Town Council to place their formal announcements,

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# Mayor Opens Surgery's Improved Premises



Town Mayor Barbara Clare officially opened the refurbished Bewick Crescent Surgery this week. She congratulated the doctors and staff on their expansion and stating how delighted she had been to officiate at various significant Aycliffe events in recent times including the start of the Hitachi construction, completion of the Town Centre development and the Surgery improvements. She had personal regard for the care she had received from Bewick Surgery and on behalf of all residents thanked them for the service they give.



## Painttechnics North East Expands



After a little over two years trading, Painttechnics North East are expanding their business in the Newton Aycliffe area with the launch of a vehicle repair centre in Gurney Way, on Aycliffe Business Park.

Painttechnics offer car paint repairs, dent repairs, kerbed alloy wheel repairs and alloy wheel colour change, together with other associated services, such as colour correction (machine polishing) and valeting. Painttechnics have recently been appointed as a local fitting centre for Alloygator, a unique product which protects your alloy wheels against kerb damage. Alloygators come in nine different colours, allowing you to choose from discreet black or silver, or you could be more adventurous and choose a colour such as red or white! Painttechnics North East is owned by Nicholas Knox and is assisted by David Streets who joined the business earlier in the year. They cover Newton Aycliffe, Darlington, Bishop Auckland and surrounding areas. Nicholas explained "We are continuing to offer the mobile service, where repairs to your vehicle are carried out at your home or work place from a fully equipped mobile workshop, or in our spacious new repair centre, which is particularly ideal during the winter months, so that repairs are not dependent on the

weather conditions. We also offer a free local collection and delivery service. We are excited by the new opportunities and expansion in the business". Enquiries are invited by contacting Nicholas on 07984 763318 or through the website [www.painttechnicsnortheast.co.uk](http://www.painttechnicsnortheast.co.uk)

# Looking for Your GAMP Vote



## Juniors Saddened by Loss of Golf Club

Dear Sir,  
It was a very sad day at Woodham Golf Club on Saturday 9th November when members returned to collect their personal belongings and remove club trophies while helping clear the clubhouse. The Presentation Night had a record turnout. Ernie Wilson coached the team and Sean Kay ran the junior academy, producing golf stars and members of the future, including some new very young participants. As a junior member I hope the course finds a buyer which can bring the club back to its heyday.  
Tom Roberts (Junior member)

Dear Sir,  
We are a group of young people that decided to organise a family fun day to raise awareness of Huntingtons Disease which we chose as a member of our group has a family member including her Mam for whom she is a carer. We would like it if members of the public to go along and vote for us at the GAMP event at the Youth Centre this Saturday. We are one of the only ones which are a young people led idea. We need your vote to receive the grant so that we can run the project.  
Bethany, Nikitta, Symone, Raven, Ashton, Lukasz, Emma, Amilia and Tanisha  
Newton Aycliffe Investing in Children Group:

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## Christmas Fayre

**Moore Lane Sports Club  
Saturday 30th November  
11.00am to 2.00pm**

**Santa's Grotto - Cake Stall - Partylite  
Ever So Nice - Jewellery - Body Shop  
Saff's Bows - Face Painting - Avon  
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# Formation of Town’s Welfare Partnership

## Co-ordination of Aid for Needy

The Inaugural Meeting of GACAP - Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership is on Monday 9th December at the Disc Furniture Showroom and Cafe premises at the Blue Bridge Centre commencing 7pm. (Turn first right on Horndale Avenue and make your way towards

the end of the road next to the Blue Bridge itself). The final steering group meeting is on the 2nd December to approve the final documents necessary to constitute this new organisation which will co-ordinate help for needy people to ensure everyone

in crisis receives assistance immediately. Each partner will refer and signpost people to the right source for help whether it be food, household goods, professional advice or information on any aspect of welfare. GACAP’s structure co-ordinates help for needy families in our area, bringing together all those people who are providing assistance. By co-operation they will become more effective and cover the increasing demand. Anyone interested in these aims including prospective partners and volunteers are invited to the Inaugural Meeting. Town welfare organisations and groups, voluntary or statutory, are invited to contact Acting Chairman (until the Inaugural Meeting) Syd Howarth on 30012 and after hours 320901. E-mail [syd@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:syd@newtonnews.co.uk) Groups already enrolled include churches, community centres, Food Bank, Helping Hands, CAB, MIND, Disc, County Durham Furniture Scheme, livin, Tesco, GACAP wish to enlist all organisations working with people disadvantaged by health, poverty and crisis. It is important every aspect of welfare is covered by this partnership so that a comprehensive service is made available quickly and efficiently to prevent unnecessary suffering.

# Greenfield Student Cooks for TV Chef

Last week Connor Thompson, a year 7 student from Greenfield Community College went to Harrogate College to cook for Famous Chef James Martin as part of the ‘Make it with Mince 2013’ competition. This is a competition we run yearly at Greenfield Community College in partnership with Red Tractor Lamb and Beef mince. Pupils explore and investigate popular recipes and put their own twist on classics. Connor’s dish of ‘Dan Dan Noodles’ won the school heats and he went to the Regional Finals in hope to win. Unfortunately Connor did not get through to the Nationals but had a fantastic opportunity



to meet James and show off his culinary skills. Well done Connor!

# Misuse of Seating

Dear Sir, May I say how disgusted I was to see the new seating in the town centre being used as an obstacle course for bikes and skate boards, and it had only been officially open for 24 hours - where is the CCTV? Or the community police? On Saturday night after the opening of the newly refurbished town centre, youths were using the seating as a platform to jump and skid across. A few people on facebook think it’s ok for them to do this as the excuse is “there is nowhere else for them to play anymore.” Have they forgotten

there is a park for this sort of thing near Tesco, or the new bike track at Woodham? Just because the park may be locked at night does not mean the town centre can be used as a playground. Where is the respect for property by young people? I wonder if their parents know what they are doing on a night time. I ask all young people with bikes to use the town centre by all means, but not on your bikes! One day you may be a boring old fart like me and will probably complain about the same matters we do when you are adults. Brian Sowerby

# More Control Needed at Xmas Switch On

Dear Sir, The Xmas Lights switch on in Aycliffe needs to be a lot better organised if it is going to be a yearly event. There needs to be some sort of security/police presence as I had a run in with three different teenage “mouthy wannabees” who thought pushing little children out of the way and swearing was the “big” thing to do in front of friends. My 6yr old child hates crowds so it took a lot for her to even

stand there to watch the acts. Having teenagers swearing at her and pushing her out the way is not what I want at a public event and it took a lot for me not to strangle the little devils. I am disgusted that at such a big and first time event in our town not enough thought had been given to safety. As a parent I would like to know what will be done for future events to prevent teenagers ruining other people’s enjoyment. EM Russell

# Classic Mini Stolen



Taken from outside Ken Warnes, Cleveland Terrace, Darlington at approx 16.45 on Monday 18th November. Stephen Poad who owns the car has lived in Newton Aycliffe for 20 years. The car has been used to raise thousands of pounds for underprivileged children and Steve is devastated. If you have any information on this 27 year old car please contact Darlington Police on 101 quoting DHM-18112013-0429.

# Row With County Hall Over Change of Youth Centre Name

A public meeting was called last Friday by the Trustees of the Youth Centre recommending a change, of name to add the word “Community” to the title in line with how the Centre operates. Not many turned up, but it was the only item on the agenda and as a reasonable suggestion, just a formal agreement was required. But the meeting was presented with an e-mail message sent from County Council Officer, Paul Hebron, Strategic Manager for Youth Services, stating the name cannot be changed! He said the change would take away emphasis from young people, challenging the Management Committee on how the centre operated and stating Aycliffe was not in line with other County Council Youth Centres. His assertion was rubbished by those present questioning his right to direct the will of the people in a town he knows nothing about and rarely visits. If he knew the centre he would realise that community use has kept the building open and viable for over 35 years. Prior to this it did operate solely as Youth Centre

but was delapidated and losing £5,000 a year. A new Management Committee led by Syd Howarth opened the building for use, letting rooms to other organisations when not required for youth activities. In a period that followed the Youth Centre had a surplus of £30,000! During this time it was also used for YTS training, Adult Educational Courses and much more, making the Youth Centre a real community focal point. At no point were youth activities side-lined or reduced. In fact youth work is written into the constitution as the primary function of the Youth Centre. This is just a common sense use of public facilities to bring in necessary funds and provide wider usage of the building which has produced fantastic results over the years. All the funds brought into the Centre are used to keep the building operational and provide for the youth such as a mini bus, I.T., sports and music equipment, activities including outings all over the country for the youth of the town. The youth activities side is still very dependent on community use which provides 90% of the

centre’s income. The emphasis would remain on youth and nothing will change except the name “Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre”, reflecting its full purpose. Paul Hebron said this change does not fall in line with other County Council Youth Centres whereas there are other places where this name applies (Horden Youth & Community Centre). His last minute e-mail to the Management Committee was uncalled for forgetting all the trustees are volunteers from the community giving their time free to keep the facility open. As an employee of the taxpayer, he should have a higher regard for public opinion. After the meeting County Council. Kate Hopper insisted 15 people had to be present for the vote to be carried. The committee, unhappy with her performance as the Council representative, were calling another special meeting to propose a vote of no confidence in the Councillor and have her removed. Council Hopper has since resigned, but in line with her demands a further meeting will be held to confirm the change of name.

# St. ANDREW’S GIFT DAY

St. Andrew’s Church hold their Gift Day on Saturday 30th November in the Village Hall from 10 till 2pm. Come and support your local Church, have a cuppa and a mince pie, relax and enjoy the sound of bagpipes. All donations for upkeep of the Church and churchyard. The Patronal Service is on St. Andrew’s Day, Sunday 1st December at 6pm. All welcome.

# Situations VACANT

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Shildon, Temp to Perm
- **Maintenance Engineer**  
Automotive Manufacturing, Sunderland, Permanent
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Darlington & Peterlee, Permanent
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Automotive Experience is essential. Permanent, Tyne & Wear
- **Assistant Buyer**  
Peterlee, Permanent
- **Production Engineer**  
Peterlee – Permanent
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Newton Aycliffe, 3 shifts Temp to Perm.
- **Mechanical & Electrical Technicians**  
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To apply for any of the above roles please contact the team on  
**01325 778535**  
CV's can be emailed to [apply@whurk.co.uk](mailto:apply@whurk.co.uk)  
More vacancies can be found online [www.whurk.co.uk](http://www.whurk.co.uk)





# Great Aycliffe Town Council

Council Offices - School Aycliffe Lane - Newton Aycliffe - Co. Durham DL5 6QF

Telephone: 01325 300700 • Fax: 01325 301053

Email: [info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk) • Website: [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)



## WINTER NEWSLETTER 2013

22nd November 2013

### MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As we approach Christmas in an age of 'Austerity', I am mindful that – for some townspeople – the season will bring neither comfort nor joy. One of my charities this year is the foodbank which operates from St Clare's Church, and we have to acknowledge that there are some people who will not be able to celebrate and indulge themselves, but will be worrying where their next meal is coming from.

It reminds us that Christmas is traditionally a time of charity, as well as of receiving presents and over-eating.

At the same time, however, this is not a Christmas without hope. This month I have attended two prestigious events as the Mayor of Great Aycliffe – the ceremony to mark the beginning of construction on the Hitachi site, and the official opening of the revamped town centre. The Aycliffe Business Park is blossoming, and the County Plan and Newton Aycliffe Regeneration Plan (both of which see Aycliffe as a business driver for the county) are out for consultation. I was honoured, earlier this year, to host a reception to recognise the contribution made by the business and voluntary sectors to the life of our remarkable community – and these commercial and industrial developments give us a hope for the future.

The first Christmas was a light in the darkness. It is my sincere wish that, this year, Christmas may mark for our community an opportunity, and a gateway to a bright future.

Therefore I warmly wish you, on behalf of myself and Great Aycliffe Town Council, a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

*Barbara Clare*



Councillor Barbara Clare  
Mayor of Great Aycliffe  
2013 – 2014

### LETTERS TO SANTA

Children in Newton Aycliffe and Aycliffe Village have a special postal service so that the children can send their letters to Santa and get a reply in time for Christmas.

**Santa's elves will be putting out Santa's special post boxes on Monday 2nd December and will take them back to Greenland on Thursday 19th December.**

Unfortunately, every year Santa receives lots of letters that have no name or address on them so he is unable to reply. Parents are asked to make sure that the child's name and address is clearly marked on the letter as the parents might be able to read their child's writing but Santa's eyesight is not so good these days!



**Boxes will be placed at:**

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| ⑤ Stevens Newsagents Beveridge Way        | ⑤ Post Office Neville Parade |
| ⑤ Redhouse Post Office                    | ⑤ Woodham Post Office        |
| ⑤ Joy Marie Hairdressers Aycliffe Village | ⑤ Simpature General Store    |

To save the elves extra work collecting all the letter from the post boxes, Santa also has a temporary e-mail address this year, so if any child would prefer to e-mail their letter, please use [santa.northpole@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:santa.northpole@great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

Further information can be obtained from Great Aycliffe Town Council, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe. DL5 7QF. Telephone 01325 300700, e-mail [info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

### OFFICE CLOSURES

THE COUNCIL OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON:  
**Wednesday and Thursday, 25th / 26th December.**  
**Wednesday, 1st January 2014.**

*Councillors & Staff wish you a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year*

### SANTA'S COMING

Check **Newton News** issue **20th December** for routes and times, their website and GATC / Oakleaf websites ([www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)) from mid December, but please remember, because Santa and his helpers don't know how many people will be out to see him, these are only a guide.



Santa will soon be touring our streets,  
Ringing his bell and giving out sweets.

Sadly, some roads are a 'no-no',  
So be ready and waiting to hear his ho-ho

At the corner if you can -

Listen for the music from his van.

Tell him how you've been good all year,  
As that's the news he likes to hear.

Whisper the gifts you'd like to receive,  
With any luck he'll deliver these.

His reindeer friends will be having a rest,  
So a truck he will use, as that's next best.

Rudolf and co will be out later that night  
With sleigh piled high, what a wonderful sight!

Our Santa teams wish you all the best  
Be happy, keep safe, at this Christmas fest.

### MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS CARD

Councillor Mrs. Barbara Clare, Mayor of Great Aycliffe, would like to thank everyone who forwarded photographs of 'Snow Scenes' of Newton Aycliffe for use as her Civic Christmas Card this year.

We had an excellent response with over 33 photographs being received. The Mayor has chosen the following photograph which was sent to us by Mr. Rob Caygill.





**“GOVERNMENT FUNDING CUTS LEAVE THE TOWN COUNCIL WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO INCREASE THE COUNCIL TAX FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2009”**

The Town Council is currently in the process of setting it's 2014/15 Revenue and Capital Budgets and the Council considered and agreed the draft budgets in October.

The budgets are being prepared against a difficult financial backdrop with the Council facing various spending pressures and likely cuts to government funding.

The 2014/15 Revenue Budget has been prepared on the principle of maintaining existing levels of services whilst keeping the required increase in council tax as low as possible.

Unfortunately, in order to maintain services and absorb the cuts to funding and increases in costs faced, the Council has been left with no choice but to propose an increase the Town Council Tax next year.

The Council has been managing its finances prudently for a number of years now and this has been reflected in the fact that we have not increased the Council Tax for five years. Further savings have been delivered in the current financial year which have been utilised in restricting the amount by which the Council needs to increase the Council Tax.

However over the last two years the Council has seen its income cut by more than £100,000 as a result of changes in Government legislation regarding the Council Tax Benefits System and the subsequent reductions to the Council Tax Support Grant. We also face a number of other budget pressures next year including pay awards, inflation and pension reform.

This situation is unlikely to improve in the coming years with further cuts expected to funding and on-going spending pressures.

As a result the Council has taken the difficult decision to offset the budget pressures faced via a combination of budget reductions and an increase in the Town Council Tax.

The Council does not take this decision lightly, and in keeping the increase in line with the current rate of inflation at 3%, the impact on the Council Tax Bill at Valuation Band A will be limited to around £4 per year or 8p per week.

This increase will ensure that all of the important services provided by the Town Council to the community of Great Aycliffe can be protected and maintained. Finally it is important to point out that it is still quite early in the budget setting process and much could change between now and the final budget being set. The Council will need to keep a close eye on any further developments and respond to these as necessary.

The Council is due to set its 2014/15 Precept and the Town Council Tax in January and I will keep local tax payers informed of future developments via the Council website and in the local press.

Councillor Bob Fleming

Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee and Leader of the Council

**MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

27th Nov. 2013	Environment	7.15 p.m.
27th Nov. 2013	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
4th Dec. 2013	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
11th Dec. 2013	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
15th Jan. 2014	Environment	7.15 p.m.
15th Jan. 2014	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
22nd Jan. 2014	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
29th Jan. 2014	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
26th Feb. 2014	Environment	7.15 p.m.
26th Feb. 2014	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
5th Mar. 2014	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
12th Mar. 2014	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
9th Apr. 2014	Environment	7.15 p.m.
9th Apr. 2014	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
16th Apr. 2014	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
23rd Apr. 2014	Full Council	7.15 p.m.

\* The **Recreation Committee** will commence immediately after the Environment Committee Meeting.

**WED, 14th MAY, 2014 - COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING - 7.15 P.M.**

**WED, 21st MAY, 2014 - PARISH MEETING - 7.15 P.M. (\*\*\*)**

(\*\*\*) (N.B. – this is not a meeting of the Town Council but a meeting of local government electors in the Council's area. Any queries about the Parish Meeting can be made to the Town Clerk on 01325 300700).

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS:**

A period of up to 20 minutes has been also 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 Public and Press are cordially invited to attend. “The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings”.**

**NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING CIVIC EVENTS**

**CIVIC CAROL SERVICE**



The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs. Barbara Clare, will hold her Civic Carol Service at St. Clare's Church on Sunday, 22nd December 2013 commencing at 6.00 p.m.

Following the service refreshments are available in the church hall and members of the congregation are invited to join the Mayor and other civic guests for the Christmas Festivities.

**MAYOR'S CHARITY DINNER AND DANCE**



Friday, 21st February 2014

Aston Hotel, Newton Park

Arrangements have now been made for the annual Mayor's Charity Dinner and Dance. The venue for this years' event will be the Aston Hotel, Newton Park, Newton Aycliffe. Entertainment and Dance Music will be played until 12 Midnight. Tickets are on sale from the Council Offices and are priced at £26.00 each.

Proceeds from the event will be for the Mayor's nominated Charities : - The Cardiothoracic Unit at James Cook Hospital and St. Clare's Food Bank.

**PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRES**

Great Aycliffe Town Council prides itself on the its reputation for providing high quality care and education in its two Pre-Schools, which are located in:-

**St. Oswald's Park, Wren Close**

**Woodham Burn Community Primary School, Humphrey Close**

Both Pre-Schools are open Monday to Friday during school term time providing care and education for all children from their 3rd birthday, on a full or part time basis.

We offer flexible hours to meet the individual needs of parents, and 15 hours a week **FREE** educational places are available the term after a child's 3rd birthday.

If your child is not entitled to educational funding then the cost is

**ONLY** £3.00 per three hour session.

Additional hours (in excess of the first 15) are available in both Pre-schools at a cost of £3.50 per hour



**Why not come along to see what we can offer you and your child**

**For further information please call into either Pre-School**

**(no appointment needed)**

**or contact Jackie Swainston on 01325 319880**



# AYCLIFFE YOUTH COUNCIL 2013 - 2014

In October the Aycliffe Youth Council elections were held and created lots of interest. The Town Council is happy to report that 18 young people were elected to the position of Youth Councillors.

This year's blend of almost a 50/50 mix of new and returning members will certainly help the newly elected ones find their feet and provide continuity of projects.

Aycliffe Youth Council has a small pot of money. So, if you are a local youth or children's group within the Great Aycliffe area you may be eligible for a small grant.

If you would like to apply, please state the name and activity of your organisation, how much money you are requiring, what you are currently doing to raise funds yourself and what the money will be used for. The Youth Council will also need to see your recently audited accounts and/or most recent balance sheets.

Please put your requests in writing to Aycliffe Youth Council, c/o Great Aycliffe Town Council, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6QF.

If you would like to know more about the Youth Council Contact 01325 300700.



## AYCLIFFE YOUTH COUNCIL



Lewis Brown



Thomas Burn



Amy Clements



Meghan Cumming



Oliver Dobson



Courtney Gove



Maria O'Hanlon



Katie Orbiston



Blake Reed



Elliott Harnett



Sarah Hird



Charlotte Kirton



Jordan McAteer



Francesca Moody



Shaunie Mounsey



Callum Smith



Konrad Szymanski



Kara Ward

## ALLOTMENT ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Allotments Meeting took place on Wednesday, 13th November 2013 at the Council Offices. The meeting was well supported with tenants from all allotment sites in attendance.

During the meeting trophies were presented by the Chairman of the Environment Committee, Councillor J.D. Clare, to the Best Allotment Garden on each of the Council's sites - results were as follows:-

Finchale Road - Mr. P.G. Wheadon

Clarence Chare - Mrs. K.M. Stewart

Byerely Park - Mr. G. Cherrie

St. Oswald's - Miss T. Dunn

who also received the 'Angela Fleming' Memorial Trophy.

The Overall Winner of the 'Best Allotment Garden' was Mr. G. Cherrie plot No. 4 Byerley Park Allotment Site and he was presented with the 'Ken Woodhall' Trophy.



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Sports Complex

**Tel:**  
**01325**  
**300600**

### SQUASH DROP IN

**NEW!** Two sessions  
6.15pm - 7.00pm & 7.00pm - 7.45pm  
Thursdays, only £1 per session. Ever fancied giving squash a go, this could be your perfect opportunity!! All over 16's welcome and equipment will all be provided. Squash player's will be on hand to give any instruction or advice needed.

**2 for £9.50**

On meals from our 'Specials'

on the black board.

Anytime of the day or night,

when the kitchen is open.

### BODY FIT CIRCUIT

**NEW!** from 4.30pm - 5.30pm  
Every Wednesday, only £2 per session. Aimed at over 50's to improve movement, flexibility, muscular strength and endurance. This is a drop in session for anyone wanting to meet new friends, improve your health and tone your body.

### OAKLIFE

Over 50's club, taking place every Thursday 10am - 12noon, £3.00 per week, which includes a hot drink. Activities include Bowls, Table Tennis, Archery & much more.



**New! Kids Menu**

Kids will love our new 3 step pick & mix menu

1. Pick a main 2. Add a side 3. choose a veg

**All for £2.99**

Fancy a dessert, choose from

**Vanilla Ice Cream, Iced Lolly or Custard Face**

**For only £1**

Oakleaf Golf Complex School Aycliffe Lane Newton Aycliffe DL5 6QF

**Free golf for all Woodham Season Ticket Holders**  
*No commitment and no strings attached!*

Just present your membership card at the Council Offices in School Aycliffe Lane and get your complimentary ticket for a round of golf. We think you will be pleasantly surprised. Offer is limited to first 150 applications. One ticket per member

18 Hole parkland course with floodlit driving range, buggy hire, shower and changing facilities.  
19th offering bar and catering at the adjacent Sports Complex

Winter Season Tickets		Green Fee Winter Special	
7 day	£100	Monday to Friday	£8
5 day	£75	Weekends	£12
18-21 (in F/T education)	£50	Available now until 28 February	
Junior (inc £11 club fee)	£21		

**Tel: 01325 310820 or see [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk) for further details**





**Oak Leaf**  
SPORTS COMPLEX  
**01325 300600**  
[www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS . . .



WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CUSTOM IN 2014.

**Sports Complex Christmas and New Year Closures**  
The Complex will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Years Day.

**Magical Christmas Party with Santa**  
**at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex!**  
**on SATURDAY 21st DECEMBER between 1.00pm-2.45pm**

Meet Santa and if you have been GOOD, get a present!

PARTY GAMES, SEASONAL MAKE & DO ACTIVITIES AND MUCH MORE . . .

**ALL FOR ONLY £4.00 PER CHILD - Age 4-7years (Parents must stay in the building)**

Tickets available from Oak Leaf Reception and places are limited, so collect yours soon!

**Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve - QUIZ NIGHTS**

? Tickets £2.00 - See Bar Staff for Tickets - On Sale 2nd December

Buffet Food and Quiz included in ticket price

? Food will be served at 8.00pm - Quiz starts at 8.30pm

? 1st and 2nd place prizes plus spot prizes

Come & join the fun!

(Tickets are limited so get yours now!)

### Traditional Christmas Lunch

On Sunday 1st, 8th & 15th December  
we will be serving Christmas Lunch  
in the Function Room  
between 12noon and 2pm.

#### Two Course Menu

for only £9.95 per adult £6.95 per child  
(main meal and dessert)

Waitress Service, Please Pre-Book,  
Payment Required on Booking

#### Main Meal

Choose from the following;

Roast Turkey with all the Trimmings  
Roast Beef - Roast Pork - Nut Roast

#### Dessert

Choose from the following;

Christmas Pudding - Cheese and Crackers  
- Mulled Berry Eton Mess

We will be creating a festive atmosphere with  
Decorations, Table Cloths and Christmas Crackers

Relax  
Celebrate  
And  
Enjoy



We Have  
Christmas All  
Wrapped Up  
For You

Normal Sunday Lunch will still be served in the Bar  
on these days. A warm friendly welcome guaranteed.

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ENHANCEMENT AWARDS

The Town Council wishes to receive nominations from local residents within the Great Aycliffe area for the awarding of Enhancement Awards for residential Christmas Lighting displays which portray the spirit of Christmas.

Please return this nomination form to Great Aycliffe Town Council, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6QF or e-mail the details of your nomination to: [info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk).

Closing date for applications: - Monday, 16th December 2013.

**I would like to nominate the house below for a Christmas Lights Enhancement Award for its display of Christmas Lights 2013.**

Address .....

Householder Name.....  
(if known)

## FREE CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT MOORE LANE ECO CENTRE

### CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

**Saturday 21st December**

**10.00am - 12 noon**

Every child enjoys making something special for their family at Christmas. There will be all sorts to do during this session including being able to make their own personalised bauble to hang on the Christmas tree or send as a present to their favourite relative.

### CHRISTMAS GARLANDS

**Saturday 21st December**

**1.30pm - 3.30pm**

Here's the perfect antidote to the Christmas mayhem! Make the best garland in town by spending a few relaxing hours making a perfectly natural, locally sourced Christmas wreath to decorate your home with. This activity is NOT suitable for smaller children and all children should be accompanied by an adult. Please feel free to bring additional decorations from home to personalise your creation.

**Both events are free of charge but booking is essential as places are limited. To book contact Great Aycliffe Town Council on 01325 300700.**

Remember you can keep updated about everything happening environmentally in the area by 'liking' Aycliffe Moore Lane Eco Centre on Facebook.





# Aycliffe Needs to Respond to a Time of Change

Few people who voted for the Tories and Lib Dems in 2010 can have had any idea how radical this government would turn out to be. The Welfare Reform Act of 2012 has ushered in a devastating series of measures – of which universal credit, the benefit cap, job-seeker sanctions, ATOS disability assessments and the ‘bedroom tax’ are only the most high-profile.

## THE CONTRIBUTORY PRINCIPLE

The Tories and Lib Dems have changed the underlying principle on which our society is based. Newton Aycliffe is famous as the town which embodied Beveridge’s post-war ‘Welfare State’, and we have lived ever since under the protection of a regime which accepted in principle the old socialist adage: ‘from each according to their ability, to each according to their need’. The ‘Welfare State’ – at least in those terms – is now dead and gone. A structure of benefits and protections remains in place, but the underlying principle has changed and we live now under the canon of: ‘to each according to their contribution’. It is deemed ‘fairer’, and it plays well with many people. So if you wanted a world where benefits were cut until they were inadequate to live on, where disabled people were mercilessly reassessed, where unemployed people were proactively sanctioned, and where some people on benefits were harried out of their homes... you’ve got what you wanted!

Of course, these changes affect some parts of the country more than others, depending on the level of local deprivation. Researchers estimate that the County Durham economy stands to lose £188million a year because of the welfare changes – a cut equivalent to £565 per working-age adult. The national average cut is £470 per adult. The south-east is generally less-affected.

## CUTS TO COUNCILS

What has been happening to individuals, of course, has been mirrored in the government’s treatment of councils. The government has also been changing the principle by which it allocates funding to local councils – away from the old Rate Support Grant (which distributed support according to deprivation), giving them instead half of the Business Rate. This, of course, is very good news for the City of London. It is not such good news for County Durham, where the economy is relatively weak, but cuts to government grants will reduce the County Council’s income by £222million by 2018.

The result is that – at the very time our most needy and vulnerable people are being hit by welfare cuts – the power of the Council to step in and compensate has been removed. Durham County Council is barely half-way through the process and, as the financial noose tightens, we face eye-watering cuts to front-line services. People are, understandably, angry about changes to street-lights and garden waste collections; yet the County Council still has £100million more to cut from its expenditure.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

These changes are being imposed by the Tories and Lib Dems on ideological grounds, and they are coming whether we like them or not. And while I am confident that Aycliffe people will vote for a Labour MEP in 2014 and a Labour MP in 2015, the colour of our government in the future will depend on how

people vote elsewhere.

So what can we do, as a community of people upon whom these changes are being imposed?

## 1. BUDGET-SETTING

On 23 November, if you go to the Participatory Budget event in the Youth Centre (11am till 3pm), you will be asked to take part in a ‘Monopoly-board’ exercise where you can have your say on where the cuts should fall.

Taking part in this exercise is the first thing we can do. Indeed, I cannot stress how important it is that people take time out to attend and undertake this exercise, because – as it struggles to balance the budget over the next 5 years – the County Council will make its cuts in those areas you have indicated are least unacceptable. We cannot stop the cuts, but we can protect certain areas – at, of course, the expense of others. If you do not have your say, you may find that cuts are happening to which you have not given your consent.

## 2. BUSINESS

The second thing we must do, as a community, is embrace economic growth. Changes to benefits and council funding – with the multiplier effect – will strip perhaps 10% a year out of the County Durham economy ... money that would have been spent on food, and wages, and clothes, and a myriad of other things on which the business life of our county depends. Hitachi offers us a wonderful opportunity for growth, but Hitachi alone will not even begin to compensate. We need to become a community geared for growth, where our planning regime attracts businesses, where our schools equip students for the world of industry, and where our town buzzes with entrepreneurial energy. If you attend on 23 November, please do not vote to cut the Regeneration budget, because without economic growth our society cannot survive ... not in the present climate.

## 3. CHARITY

And the third thing we will have to do is to grow in charity. Because the Tories and Lib Dems have got it wrong. You cannot force everybody into work when there are eight times as many applicants as vacancies. You cannot fine people into smaller homes where there are no properties with fewer bedrooms. And simply declaring people fit for work does not allow a disabled or ill person to get a job. A ‘welfare’ system governed by the contributory principle is no welfare at all, because it ignores the simple fact that some people cannot, or have never had the opportunity to, ‘contribute’.

So, in our merciless new world, society has to step in where government has withdrawn; which is why I welcome my wife’s decision, as this year’s Mayor, to support the foodbank at St Clare’s.

John D Clare

# Ovengloves Cookery School Opens Locally



Ovengloves is a new cookery school opening this week in Brafferton Village. It will be run by Hilary Marsden who is an experienced Chef, Caterer and Teacher of Hospitality and Food Technology.

She says ‘I want to share my passion for making and tasting good food with others and I think opening my own school is the ideal way to do it.’

Ovengloves will hold events each week ranging from demonstrations and ‘dine ins’ to hands on masterclasses on a specific topic and food workshops.

These will be ½ days – morning, lunch, afternoon tea or evening sessions and are suitable for all ages and levels of ability from the ‘doesn’t cook but would like to’ to the more experienced cooks who enjoy good food and want to learn more.

There will be regular events such as ‘man in the kitchen’, ‘solo cooking’, ‘seasonal tasters’, ‘tasty budget meals’, ‘healthy options’ and many more.

The aim is to have small and friendly fun classes where you will either eat in or take home samples, recipes and tips. So go on treat yourself or give a gift voucher to someone else. Makes a great Christmas or birthday gift.

Hilary can also do childrens’ cake or cookie parties and caters for small events.

As a SPECIAL OFFER the first 6 bookings get 2 for the price of 1. To book or get more information on available courses, dates and times contact Hilary on 07767 274085

# Invitation to Church

When was the last time you got a personal invite to church?

Here at our Life Church, we are holding a special guest Service, which we know will be wonderful to people either coming back to church after a break or who have not been before. If this is you then you will be very welcome with us.

The first guest Service is at 6.30pm in The main hall at Greenfield School on Thursday 28th November at 6.30pm

After refreshments and home baked cakes our Service will last about an hour and will be very informal. Instead of a sermon, three or four members of our church will say why they come to church and what makes it important to them.

It is impossible to send everyone an invitation through the post, please accept this as a personal invite just for YOU!

If you would like to join us but find it difficult to get there and back, please let us know by phoning or texting 07936 431262. We look forward to meeting you very soon.

# THE CUBBY BURGLED

On Monday after midnight The Cubby run by a charity was broken into and the cash till stolen. The door where access was forced is damaged beyond repair and has been replaced.

CCTV footage and fingerprints are being investigated and the Police are confident of an arrest. If anyone has information please ring the Police of 101.

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We are a small and friendly cookery school offering demonstrations, tastings and fun food workshops in Brafferton Village, Co. Durham.

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E: OVENGLOVES55@GMAIL.COM

WWW.OVENGLOVES.NET

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Name .....

Address .....

Tel .....

Email .....

Offer valid until 28th November 2013. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or voucher.

Above form must be completed.

SUNDAY LUNCH

Served 12noon to 5.00pm

One Course - £9.95

Two Courses - £11.95

Three Courses - £13.95

EARLYBIRDS

SPECIALS

Served Monday to Friday

12noon to 3.00pm and 5.00pm to 7.00pm

One Course - £8.95

Two Courses - £10.95

Three Courses - £12.95

f



## New Residents Group Meeting in West Ward

Want to make a difference? Join up and get involved. Meeting Thursday 28th November. at 7pm at the Turbinia Public House.

More details from Cllr Eddy Adam - eddy.adam@durham.gov.uk - Tel:07900 701966

## Flower Demo

National demonstrator, Jonathan Mosely from Dronfield, will present an evening of flower arranging entitled 'Christmas Creativity' at the next meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club on Monday 25th November at 7.30pm at Shildon Civic Centre. Tickets £5 for members. Guests £8. All welcome

## SUGAR HILL SHOWS SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN IN NEED



The children and staff at Sugar Hill Primary School supported the Children in Need appeal on Friday by coming to school dressed in pyjamas. Every child received a Pudsey Bear cake at morning break, and all made a donation to the appeal. The amazing grand total of £498.45 was raised. A great day was had by all, and the staff would like to thank all the children and parents for making it a brilliant day.

## FAMILY CRAFT

FREE Family Creative Workshops using recycled materials to inspire creativity are to be held in December. Saturday 7th December, 10am - 11:30am at Woodham Community Centre, Tel: 01325 300258 or/and Sunday 8th December, 10:30am - 12:00pm Greenfield Arts Tel: 01325 379048. www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

## GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

**Wednesday 4th December 2013**

### Policy & Resources Committee - 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](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk))

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend. "The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".

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## 9 Goals on 9th Win for Huntsman

Huntsman FC played Three Crowns at Simpature Park last weekend turning up in their new tracksuits. The gaffer was forced to make 4 changes from with Dave Neale, Callum Musgrave and Carl Bates replacing the unavailable Williams, Richardson and Farley, with Neil Dodds returning between the sticks. The conditions were ideal and Huntsman set the pace early on, winning a corner within the first few minutes. Anth Cox delivered a lovely ball to the front post which was flicked on by Mike Sproates and headed home by Callum Musgrave. Not content with a one goal lead, M Sproates picked up the ball on right, found his way to the byline and put it on a plate for Shaun Sproates who, unfortunately, found the tennis courts!

Some good link up play churned a couple of half chances but it was only a matter of time before the lead was increased. The ball was played to M Sproates who skipped past 2 and saw his effort parried across the goal line, only to be bundled in by Carl Bates. The third soon followed, S Sproates with some good footwork on the left slipped the ball across to his younger, sharper, brother who side-footed into the net. Anth Cox added to the lead just before half time with a very tidy finish from inside the box for a 4-0 half time lead.

The second half saw Huntsman dominating possession. M Sproates, who had already disposed of one left back, shuffled his way to the byline,

cut the ball back to Anth Cox who couldn't convert from 6 yards. Despite Dave Neale suffering from a rare bout of illness, he was still able to leave the opposition keeper who was looking sick as he watched Neale's delightful chip from the edge of the area sail over his head into the net to make it 5.

The 6th followed, with a lovely cut back from S Sproates to Carl Bates who guided the ball in from 8 yards.

Goals are coming like buses for Bryan Durr at the minute. After waiting so long for his first he managed to find 2 in 2 weeks and what a goal it was. 25 yard left foot drill - you just don't save those. He played up to the crowd with a Ravanelli style celebration after finally seeing his 'shoot on sight policy'

come off. It was substitute Jamie Herd who made it 8 with a lovely finish from outside the box, the keeper left rooted to the spot. The final goal of the game came direct from a corner, M Sproates whipped it in and the keeper just simply couldn't handle it. 9-0. Game over.

Great display from Huntsman both defensively and going forward. Man of the Match went to M Sproates, who grabbed a brace and tore both left backs to shreds. Unfortunately his inform older brother couldn't find the net, despite being the only striker on the pitch.

The Huntsman are at home to Yates of Darlington on Sunday 24th hoping to maintain their 100% record and record a 10th successive league win. We look forward to seeing you there.

## News from the Falcons

Newton Aycliffe Under 10 Falcons were at home to Seaton Carew Tigers last Sunday. The lads were in need of a much needed win. We started on the front foot and forced a couple of corners. From our 2nd corner we scored with a great first time volley from D Scott.

We kept our foot on the pedal and won a penalty late in the first half. This was coolly slotted home by W Mawston. Ht 2-0. Second half was again all Aycliffe pressure and we were unlucky not to go 3 up when a great strike from L Horner came back off the post. We restricted Seaton to one long range effort in the whole game. As the game was approaching injury time Aycliffe added a 3rd through A Nichol-Brown. A great team effort. MoM T Jasper, creating 2 goals and a dominant attacking performance.

Newton Aycliffe under 10 Falcons would like to say a big thank you to N.A.F.C, Jason Steele, Boots, Occasions, Wilkinsons, Ashton Hotel, Moore Lane Cricket Club, Dial a Cab and Sharon's Party Cakes for your kind donations of raffle prizes and Auction gifts for our fundraising night.

The night was a huge success and we raised £427.73. The money will be used to fund an end of season tournament at Blackpool. Thank you to everyone who supported our event.

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## 20mph Outside Schools Necessary

Dear Sir,  
I read with interest John Snowball's letter regarding speeding outside Vane Road School and the Council wishing to introduce a 20mph outside all schools.

To some point I agree with Mr. Snowball, when the parents / guardians are parked up or are trying to find space to park, legally and in some cases illegally. Speeding on Vane Road is impossible, but this is only between 8:50 & 9:05am and 3pm & 3:20pm, the remainder of the time and on Central Avenue speeding is constant. The average speed on Central Avenue, where the children cross, going to and from Vane Road School and Woodham Academy is in the region of 40mph.

In the last two years one pupil was knocked down on his way home and this year a Vane Road School child accompanied by her elder sister were almost hit by a car whilst crossing the road. Both happened well after the school crossing patrol (lollypop man) had finished his duty. Does Mr. Snowball still think it would be a waste of time and money to reduce the speed limit to 20mph? A concerned resident.



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# Bucci Finds Top Form

Wildcats captain Ralph Bucci led his team to victory on Saturday evening against the Glasgow Rocks, and was unfortunate not to be on the winning team on Sunday afternoon as the Wildcats went down in a close contest on the road at Cheshire Phoenix. Durham put 85 points on the board against the Rocks at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Saturday. Leading from the early stages of the game, Bucci controlled the final quarter to finish with figures of 16 points, 9 rebounds, and 10 assists, one further rebound would have given the Wildcats captain a well-deserved 'triple double' for the evening. With less than 24 hours to recover, Bucci and his teammates were on the road to take on Cheshire Phoenix, a team they had beaten 3 weeks previous in the BBL Cup 1st round. Durham dominated the early exchanges, with captain Bucci once more leading from the front with a string of baskets and rebounds in the first quarter, at the end of which the visitors led 17 points to 13. Cheshire hit back with a strong



second period to take an eight point lead into the locker room at half time, leading the contest 38-32. Durham managed to reduce the deficit to just 4 points going into the last, but Cheshire took advantage of some tired Durham legs in the final quarter to eventually run out 75-68 winners. Despite ending up on the losing team, Bucci continued his excellent form with an impressive 15 rebounds and 21 points. Coach Davie and his team will now turn their attention to next weekend and another double header. On Friday evening the Wildcats travel to Sheffield to take on the Sharks in the BBL Cup quarter-final, Newcastle Eagles await the winner of this one. The schedule doesn't get any easier for Durham, as 24 hours later they take on Plymouth Raiders at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, 7pm tip-off. Tickets are available in advance online at [www.godurhamwildcats.com](http://www.godurhamwildcats.com).

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## LOCAL SPORT

### Rugby Team Title Hope

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club maintained their title challenge in Durham and Northumberland Division 3 with a 21 - 8 victory over Chester le Street at Moore Lane. Despite a number of players being unavailable, Aycliffe were able to select a strong side for this replayed fixture against the team above them in the league. The game did not start well for the home side as Chester took the lead with a try through their big forwards. Aycliffe were performing well in the scrum and Ronnie Gilyeat was winning plenty of lineout ball and soon the pressure told. A tap penalty was played to Jeff Hodgson who forced his way over for the try, Luke Tinkler added the conversion. Aycliffe increased their lead with a penalty before Chester replayed with their own penalty. The half time score was 10 - 8 to Aycliffe and they had to play the second half into the breeze.

Chris Richards was leading the team well and continued to put the visitors on the back foot. A second Tinkler penalty increased the lead and then James Thacker scored a fine try to give Aycliffe a 10-point lead. Warren Parsonage came on the pitch as a substitute at scrum half, as Richards moved to centre. Aycliffe continued to pressure the opposition, but could only add another Tinkler penalty to their score. The 21 - 8 win saw them rise to third place in the league. This was a decent performance by Aycliffe against good opponent without reaching the heights. On 23rd November, Aycliffe host league leaders Seaham in a game that could see them go top of the league; kick-off is at 2.15pm. Newton Aycliffe are sponsored by Boola Clothing Aycliffe and Hayward Home Appliances trading as Serviceforce. Visit the website at [www.pitchero.com/clubs/newtonaycliffe](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/newtonaycliffe).

### Sports Leadership



Woodham Academy Sports Leaders helped to run a fantastic event in conjunction with Sedgefield School Sports Partnership at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Tuesday 5th November. Year 9 GCSE PE students demonstrated confident sports leadership skills to run an indoor Sportshall Athletics Festival for Year 5 and 6 primary pupils from across the town. The event ran on a carousel system where the

primary students participated in a range of events which included indoor javelin, triple jump, standing long jump, speed bounce, vertical jump and various track events. The Woodham Academy students had responsibility for organising the primary students and equipment safely, whilst using their knowledge to explain and demonstrate each specific event. Over 200 primary children attended the event over the day.

### JUNIORS MASCOTS FOR NAFC GAME

Saturday 2nd November was a great day for Newton Aycliffe FC winning 3-1 at home against Hebburn, and the game was attended by the NAJFC under 11's who joined in the fun at their first match day. Players from Aycliffe Juniors U11's were club mascots, walking out with the NAFC players at the start of the game. In attendance was Connor O'Neill, Cameron Turner, Neil Isaac Sanderson Howe, Leon Quinn, Lucas Baker, Harry Whithorn, James Imiela and Reagan Howe. The lads were very excited and enjoyed every minute of the experience and were eager to impress the crowd with their

penalty kicks at half time whilst hearing their names read out over the tannoy. NAJFC would like to thank the officials and players from NAFC for making the day really special for a promising group of local U11 players who really enjoyed the whole match day experience and would like to wish NAFC every success for the rest of their season. If you interested in joining a friendly and progressive junior football club who offer coaching from 4 to 21 years old then please contact us via our website [www.najuniorfc.co.uk](http://www.najuniorfc.co.uk) or visit our face book page 'Newton Aycliffe Junior Football club'

# Aycliffe Beat League Leaders

Newton Aycliffe Sports Club FC entertained Wear Valley first division side Etherley Dog & Gun at Moore Lane in the 2nd round of the Heart Foundation Cup. With no previous history against the opposition, the Sports Club opted to field more experienced players from the squad, keeping younger members on the bench as the competition this season allows 5 roll on roll off substitutions. The Sports Club soon settled into their stride and in the 8th minute Anth Campbell found the net after driving past 2 players and hitting a sweet right foot shot past the goalkeeper. As confidence grew, Sports Club started to play the ball around the midfield well. Gareth Boyes and Craig Barrigan were the chosen pairing for this game in the centre of midfield and were strong, with Barrigan in particular winning the headers and Boyes maintaining his tough tackling on the ground. It was on the 20 minute mark when the home side doubled the lead, with Adam Gittins driving forward from his full back position, exchanged passes with Anth Campbell on the overlap and slotted home his first of the season. A lapse in concentration saw the away side get themselves back in the game just moments later after a goalmouth scramble saw the ball in the net. Etherley fought gallantly to get the equaliser before the break, using their strength and height to good effect to put pressure on centre halves David Hall and Carl Little who held firm. The away side efforts proved fruitless when Adam Gittins played a one two with David Teder before driving the ball into the bottom left hand corner to make it 3-1 at half time.

The manager made two changes to maintain high energy levels, with Ryan Stonehouse replacing Gareth Boyes and Mark Craggs replacing Carl Little at the centre of defence. It took just 4 minutes to extend the home side's lead further, Anthony Campbell's freekick was drilled through and fell to Craig Barrigan to slot home for 4-1. The Dog and Gun kept up their fighting spirit and a clumsy challenge from Adam Gittins in the box gave the away side a chance to get back in the game from the penalty spot. A quick change on 65 minutes, saw Damien Jose make his return after 3 games out injured replacing the productive Chase McMullen and it took just 30 seconds for Jose to get on the scoresheet. Campbells ball over the top saw Jose close in on the goalkeeper who kicked the ball off the forwards chest and as it bounced back, Jose rounded the keeper and slotted into an empty net to make it 5-2. With the away side now starting to tire, the home side brought Dave Little on to replace hard working Jon Hughes on the right side of midfield. Some good work from Jonathan Clegg and Dave Little, saw the ball released to Mark Craggs who drilled the ball home for his second goal of the season. Paul Cook came on replacing Craig Barrigan who had an excellent game in the centre of midfield. Mark Craggs got his second of the game shortly after running the length of the pitch again, closing down on the keeper and slotted into the bottom corner to make it 7-2. Anthony Campbell finished the game off with a fine goal, racing through the centre of the pitch and delicately chipped over the oncoming goalkeeper. That capped an excellent



*Anth Campbell, Inspiration in midfield, with 2 great goals*

performance from Aycliffe Sports Club who will now play Witton Park Rose and Crown in the next round at Home on December 15th. Next up is a return to the league with an away tie to Darlington Spraire Lads, Sunday 24th November.

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Manager of  
New Centre**



Cath Blair who has lived in Newton Aycliffe for 30 years joined the North East Autism Centre in October 2013 as their Manager. She has great experience working with young people at Walworth School supporting children with ADHD, EBD and learning difficulties as well as supporting their families. Cath Studied, trained and gained qualifications to work with young people who have disabilities and complex needs. She worked at Harewood Hill Lodge, a respite care home which offered families access to specialist care and activities through short breaks, tea visits and day care. Whilst there Cath went on to enrol at Lincoln University and completed a degree in Social Work. All this has equipped her well to take on the challenging post as Manager and she is looking forward to linking the new Centre with the Aycliffe community. If you wish to know more about what the centre offers contact Cath on 328090.

**Decorating**

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**01325 301379**  
 Aycliffe Business Park  
 info@beaumontgm.co.uk Est 1965

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## Clairvoyance

**DARLINGTON** Spiritualist Church and Awareness Centre, Denmark Street, Darlington invite you to a "Special Demonstration of Mediumship" with Les Henderson CSNU, Irene Wilson CSNU and Connie Evans on Saturday 7th December from 3pm, entrance £5. Special raffle and refreshments available. For more information ring Irene on 01325 316901 after 6pm

## Entertainment

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**01325 320126**

## Public Notice

**DONATIONS** needed of Bric-a-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring Honest John 316 630  
**RSPCA** Durham and District cats and kittens for adoption. fee applies to cover 1st and 2nd vaccination, also neutering and ID chip. Please Tel 311 215  
**THE AGM** of "New Friends, New Places" will be held on 10th December 2013 at the Navy Club, Burnhill Way at 2pm. All welcome.

Notice is hereby given that under clause (b) of the constitution called at the direction of the Trustee Management Committee of Newton Aycliffe Youth & Committee Centre.

**A Special General Meeting**  
is called to be held on  
**Monday 9th December 2013**  
**at 6pm Prompt**  
**Agenda**

To consider the issue of the change of name to Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre left over from the Special Meeting held on 15th November 2013.

Under clause (c) of the Constitution Seven Days (7) Notice is hereby given under clause (d) of the constitution there is a requirement of 15 persons entitled to vote and being inhabitants in the area of benefit.

## Pets

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# Caring for Town's Lonely Senior Citizens

Dear Sir  
I wish to start a new "Caring Friends" group as part of New Friends - New Places, a charity started in 2008. Over the next few weeks I hope to try and visit some of our lonely housebound Senior Citizens and distribute some of the shawls that have been knitted.  
I know this will be a difficult task but I am sure it will be worthwhile. At present I have five volunteers to help and would like more.  
These people will have a Disclosure and Barring Certificate to ensure they are fit and proper people to visit

elderly residents. As a group we hope to be able to bring these residents by car to our Community House for coffee and a chat free of charge or maybe a low cost lunch and a game of Bingo.  
If the elderly residents do not wish to come out of their homes we will sit and have a chat with them. Loneliness, day after day, especially during the long cold days of winter is a difficult position to be in and most times through no fault of their own. Reasons such as family moved away, moving into the area, retiring from work, illness, etc. We should all become "Good Neighbours" and if you know of anyone who could be lonely please give me a ring.  
01325 308094 mob. 0796 7901477.  
Dorothy Bowman

## Catering

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# £500 from Honest John



Honest John presenting members of Little ACORNS with a cheque for £500 towards the cost of a visit to the Gala Theatre, Durham to see the pantomime Robin Hood and Babes in the Wood. Thanks John for all your help

## Accommodation

### Available To Let

Well presented 4 bedroom houses in Newton Aycliffe Housing Benefit welcome

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**01325 351212**

### House To Let

Bluebell Meadows, N/A 2 bed, front & rear gardens with car parking, DG, GCH Excellent condition throughout No DSS, £495 pcm Bond negotiable, Ready 1/12

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# COOKING FOR CHILDREN IN NEED



Angela Julie and Margaret, kitchen staff at Sugar Hill School, with just a few of the many Pudsey's they baked for Children in Need.

## Weddings

**CLASSIC WEDDING CARS** offer a superb collection of cars for your special day including Rolls-Royces, Bentleys, Jaguars, Beaufords and Daimler Limousines. View our cars at our Aycliffe showroom. www.classic-wedding-cars.co.uk 01325 789 291 (Aycliffe) mob 07721 771 113.

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**C. EXLEY A.L.C.M.** Piano/Brass Teacher. Contact details 01388 773 588 or email colin.exley@btinternet.com

## Lost & Found

**Missing Cat**  
**Aycliffe Village**  
**"Daisy"**



Our family cat went missing about the 4th November and we have not seen her since. If anyone knows of her whereabouts please contact Steve on 07523 871373

## Property Wanted

**2 & 3 BEDROOM** properties wanted, current market value paid. Call John from Property Exchange UK on 01325 778775 or 07582 547788

## Property



### For Sale/Rent

**SHILDON**

2 bed bungalow in good area, mature/professional couple. £490pcm. Bond and references required.  
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**3 BEDROOM** Silkin Way, GCH, rear garden, good location, £475pcm, bond and references required. Tel 07831 833053  
**3 BEDROOM** house to rent, excellent condition, newly refurbished, £475pcm. Bond and References required. No DSS. Tel 07974 770006  
**2 BEDROOM** house, garage and drive, Washington Crescent area, £420pcm. Available from 1st December. Tel 07779 890006  
**3 BEDROOM** house for rent with garage. Rebuilt bathroom and kitchen and new carpets throughout, £475 per month. Call 07970 106393  
**2 BEDROOM** house, Angram Place, Horndale. GCH, DG, new kitchen and bathroom, excellent, no DSS, £400 per month. Bond required. Tel 07853 671059

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from 15p per word  
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# COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

A number of people have expressed a wish for an out-of-town shopping mall ... 'like at West Auckland'. In fact, we already have in Newton Aycliffe most of what there is at West Auckland: supermarkets, a fabulous coffee shop (plus ours is a local shop,

## For Sale

**BARGAIN BUYS** Bosch washing machine to rent, £3.99 a week! No deposit, no more unwanted repair bills. Tel 321 678

**AVONDALE** Argente 640/6, Reg 2005. 6 berth twin axle. Fridge, cooker, fixed bunks, large end bathroom, toilet and shower. excellent condition. OIRO £6000. Contact John 07739 232 066

**CANON 40D** Camera + 18-200mm lens + Canon 430EX flash gun, boxed and in excellent working order. £350. Tel 07595 023823

**“ALL SORTS”** for sale every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10am to 1pm at St Clare’s Church (from Tuesday 25th November)

**6 ROCKINGHAM** Crystal glasses, boxed, unwanted present. Beautiful, never used. £75.00. 07903 523157

**STAR SHAPED** Chrome Shower Head, never used, beautiful, universal fit. £25.00. 07903 523157

**KAREN MILLEN** Size 6 coat. White with Chrome Buttons. Military style, Lovely. £30.00. 07903 523157.

**REMINGTON** Wet/Dry Lady Shaver, never used, model 4830. £25.00. 07903 523157.

**BRAUN** Silk Epil 7 Wet/Dry Epilator, model 7681, never used, with attachments. £35.00. 07903 523157.

**MOBILITY** Scooter, 2 recent new batteries, 1 wheel needs attention, £200 ono. Zanussi 5kg, 1200 washing machine, £50. Schreiber rosewood effect wardrobe/dressing table units £30. Solid dark wood Welsh dresser, £25. Tel 01325 320282

**DIMPLEX** free standing log effect fire and remote control. Only 2 years old, full working order. £30. Tel 01325 316623

**FOUR** Dunlop Winter Tyres for sale. 185/65 T 15 W3D. Good condition, change of vehicle forces sale. Cost £400 would like £150 ono. Tel 320940

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**COMPRESSOR**, 24ltr tank with accessories including spray gun, unused, still boxed. £120. Tel 07908 082034

**SMALL BALES** of quality horse hay (last years), £3.50. Tel 07760 424822

**TEFAL** Actifry, cost £160, used 4 times, accept £65. Tel 07760 424822

**BRAND NEW** double divan with quilted Damask, mattress, can deliver, £120. Tel 07789 113 343

**MAGIMIX** 3200 food processor (with recipe books), excellent condition, £100. Tel 311537

**BEDS BEDS BEDS** at Bargain Buys. Single Divan beds, Double Divan beds, Pine Frames, Metal Frames and Double Leather Frames from £99. All available on credit. Tel 321 678

not a chain), wonderful card shops, a pet shop, a shoe shop and a number of chemists. We may not have KFC or Subway, but we do have a Macdonald’s, plus Greggs and a couple of great fish-and-chip shops. In fact, although we don’t have Next or Poundland, for every other shop in the West Auckland shopping centre we have something that is at least as good if not better. In addition we have Argos, a sell-everything hardware shop, a good restaurant, the MP’s office, a top-quality optician, a high-class hairdresser, a recreation centre, four banks, a Post Office, and many other shops which together give a retail offer way beyond what you get at West Auckland. And finally, be grateful for what have very little of ... those wall-to-wall takeaways, betting shops, amusement arcades and payday loan companies which fill many other town centres. The town centre has been revamped to provide a much-improved retail environment ... now we simply need the spending-power of the people of Aycliffe to encourage more shops to come to the town centre. Name and address supplied

# Xmas Fair

There is nothing like the sound of Christmas music and children’s laughter to get you in the mood for the festive season and this is just what you’ll hear at Aycliffe Village School’s Christmas Fair. The special event, organised by the Aycliffe Primary School PTA, will run from 6.00pm until 8.00pm on Thursday, December 5, with hot food and refreshments being served throughout the night. There will also be a host of stalls, as well as glitter tattoos for the children, a chance to see Santa in his grotto and a raffle & tombola with some fabulous prizes including an hotel overnight stay, restaurant and retail vouchers plus many more. Everyone welcome

## MESSY CHRISTINGLE

Come along to St. Clare’s on Saturday 30th November at 4pm for a funny ‘Messy Christingle afternoon.’ Every child can learn about Christingle and it’s importance at this time of year - and take home (if they last long.) There will be an advent area, making glitter craft and a toddler area with a chance to sit in the Advent prayer chair and much more. Messy Church will end with a Christmas buffet tea for everyone. All families are most welcome. Messy Church is funded by donations (suggested £1 per child) For further information please contact Mrs Helen McCormick, Parish Children’s Team Leader on Aycliffe 319002.

# TRIPLE TRIUMPH FOR VANE ROAD SCHOOL



Pupils at Vane Road Primary are celebrating after achieving super sporting success. The school athletics team triumphed in the Sportshall Athletics Tournament at the Leisure Centre, achieving first place. The netball team, who have only trained for six weeks, won the SSP League at

Ferryhill Comprehensive and later that week the football team completed the hat-trick by winning their League, they also won the best team award for great sportsmanship throughout the whole tournament. All the staff and pupils at Vane Road Primary are very proud of their sporting stars.

## Youth Centre Xmas Event

The Youth Centre, hold a Table Top Sale & Gift Fair on Saturday 30th November from 11am to 2pm. Bring all the family and say ‘Hello’ to Santa Claus, who will be walking around the event collecting children’s letters to him. Come and look at the beautiful, inexpensive, handcrafted goods, take a look at what we have to offer on our table top

sale. Hot Dogs, Bacon Butties, tuck shop, cans, tea, coffee and entertainment by the youngsters of MAD productions. Have a go on the fundraising raffle with christmas hamper and lots of prizes to be won. Ask about booking a table for your unwanted toys and gifts and earn some money for Christmas. Special rate for charities

# 10th Anniversary & Christmas Fair

Rose Lodge Care Home, a residential and dementia care home in Carers Way, will be opening it’s doors for a day of free family fun and entertainment for their combined Christmas Fair and 10 year anniversary celebration on Saturday 7th December. Entertainment at the event includes a brass band performance, beauty treatments including manicures and waxing treatments, tarot card readings and a special visit from Santa Claus. There will also be a variety of

side stalls and refreshment stands, as well as a raffle and tombola. Karen Frew-McGill, Care Manager at Rose Lodge, said: “For our anniversary celebration we wanted to host an event that everyone could enjoy and take part in. Our Activities Coordinator, Claire Stockhill, has some fantastic entertainment and performances planned and we are really looking forward to the day.” The event will be held on Saturday 7th December from 10:30am. Entry is free. For more information please contact Rose Lodge on 271301.

## Film Show

The next “Feel Good Film Show” at St Clare’s Church will be on Wednesday 27th November at 1-15pm, and will feature “A SHINE OF RAINBOWS”. The story of shy 8 year old orphan Tomas, adopted and taken to live on a remote island off the coast of Ireland. It is a magical tale about the power of love, finding acceptance, discovering ourselves and realizing that rainbows are all around us – and within us too. “Sure to warm the hearts, bring tears to the eyes and put a smile on the face of all who watch it (Vancouver International Film Festival) £2 including Tea n coffee at 1pm, and everyone is most welcome. For further information please ring Ric Hargreaves on 01325 316755.

## Pallet of Food Sponsored

The Helping Hands team are delighted with the response to their Christmas Hamper appeal. Alwyn White says “We have some lovely e-mails like this one from Steve”:

“I write after reading an article in the Newton News asking for sponsors for the pallets of food that you so kindly distribute. My company, would be happy to contribute £125. I live in the locality, and think the work you are doing is outstanding.”

Steve Swinburne  
Terrain Tech Ltd

## In Memoriam

**PETER HOPPS** 1941-1988. We thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new. We thought about you yesterday, and days before that too. We think of you in silence, we often speak your name. Now all we have is memories and your picture in a frame. Your memory is ur keepsake, with which we’ll never part. God has you in his keeping, we have you in our hearts. A wonderful Husband, Dad and Grandad. All our love, Heather, Angie, Jacky, Tara and all of your Grandchildren xxxxx

## Thank You

**SHELDON**, William Martin. The family of the late William Sheldon wish to thank relatives and friends for kindness and sympathy shown, also for all the cards of condolence and donations received of £226.07 for the Great North Air Ambulance Service, during their recent sad bereavement. Special thanks to the staff at Defoe Court and Moore Lane Sports Club. Thanks also to The Reverend Keith Phipps and to Bryan A Shepherd of Whitehouse Funeral Service for his kindness at this sad time.

## Birthday Remembrance

**PAULINE ANNE WATSON** 27/11/1947 to 14/10/2001. We cannot bring the old days back, that beautiful smile we cannot see. All we have is beautiful memories of the lovely days that used to be. Husband Joe, Angela, Michael, Philip, John, Gary, Liam and Kelly Anne xxxxx

**LESLEY SERRY** (nee Somerset). 23rd November. Thinking of you Lesley on your 58th birthday. Happy memories of the times we shared together. Loved always, Mam, Lynn, Gary, Brother-in-Law Gary, Nieces Clare, Sarah, Laura and Emily

**JEAN PARKER** 25-11-33. Thinking of you Mam on what would have been your 80th birthday. Miss and love you always. Mandy xxx

**JEAN PARKER** 25-11-33. Remembering you today. Should have been celebrating your 80th birthday! You are always in my heart Mam. Love you forever, Kay, Mike, Michael, Sean and Zoe xxx

## Obituary

**WOODWARD**, November 18th suddenly in hospital, of Newton Aycliffe. Colin aged 59 years. A much loved Dad, Grandad, Father-in-Law, Brother, Uncle and a great Friend to many. Funeral Friday 29th November, will friends please meet at 12.15pm for Service in St Clare’s Church followed by private cremation. Family flowers only donations in lieu to The British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research.

**CLARK**, 14th November, suddenly, of Newton Aycliffe, Stephen James, aged 45 years. Dearly loved Husband of Helen; much loved Dad of Katie, Samantha and Molly; and a loving Son, Brother and Uncle. Funeral on Tuesday 26th November. Friends please meet for Service in St. Mary’s RC Church, Newton Aycliffe at 12noon followed by cremation at Darlington Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Bright clothing to be worn at the family’s request.

**PETER HOPPS** 7-2-1941 to 28-11-1988. To a much loved and very special Dad and Grandad on the 25th Anniversary since you had to leave us. Still loved, deeply and missed sorely. All of our love, now and always, Tara and family xxxx

**MIKE LINCOLN** 23/11/2012. Thinking of you every day. Still love and miss you. Your loving Wife, Marina xxx

**MIKE LINCOLN** 23/11/2012. Loving Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather, will always have a place in our hearts. Love, Diana, Victor and all the family xx

**MARGARET TOLSON** 25/11/12. Gone are the days we used to share, but in our hearts you are always there. The gates of memories will never close, we miss you more than anyone knows. With tender love and deep regret, we who love you will never forget. Missing you, Mam xxx

**BOBBY MORRELL** 26-11-10. A daily thought, a silent tear, a constant wish that you were here. You left a place no one can fill. I miss you now and always will. Forever in my heart. Love Wife, Agnes xxxx

**BOBBY MORRELL** 26-11-09. Granda. To us you were someone special. Someone set apart, your memory will live forever engraved within our hearts. Love, Ann-Marie, Andrew, Robert, Hayley, Adele and Orin xxx

**BOBBY MORRELL** 26-11-09. Great Granda. Our shining star, so near but yet so far. It broke our hearts to let you go, why God took you we will never know. Lots of love, Kaitlyn, Jodie, Jack, Rhys, William and Ava xxxxx

**BOBBY MORRELL** 26-11-09. Remembering you is easy Dad. We do it every day. But missing you is something that will never go away. Love always, Roberta and Reggie xxxx

**BOBBY MORRELL** 26-11-09. Silent thoughts of times together, hold memories that will last forever. Miss you Dad. Love, David, Jenny and Brogan xxx

**BOBBY MORRELL** 26-11-09. If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane, I’d walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again. Lots of love, Julie, Les and Chantelle xxx

**BOBBY MORRELL** 26-11-09. Dad. Another year has been and gone. Still thinking of you every day. Love, Stephen and Shaun xxx

**BOBBY MORRELL** 26-11-09. Granda. Not a day goes by that we don’t think about you. You will always have a place in our heart. Love, Lindsay, Neil, Jamie and all the Great Grandkids xxxxxx

**SCRAFTON** Treasured memories of Neil Robert, died 25th November 2012. Also his beloved Father, died 30th September 2009. Love as always, Jean, family and friends

**KATH HALL** 20th November 2001. 12 years ago the Lord God decided he would be better off with our Mam than us. Heaven has gained a beautiful angel and we have still got a gorgeous angel watching over us. We all love and miss you Mam enormously. Julie, Edward, David, Kim, Ali and Glenda xxx

**KATH HALL** Always in our thoughts and love you loads Nanna. Shaun, Natalie, Rachael, Ben, Alfie, Janelle, Matthew and Dan xx

**KATH HALL** Great Nanna. All our love, Bailey, Kate, Evie, Joey, Jazmin and Harry xxx

## Washer Repairs Call A&R Electrics

## Births

**ALLAN & KAYLEIGH** Congratulations on the birth of your beautiful baby girl (Lorelai). Well done. Nanas and Uncles Ryan and Brett xxxxx

## Congratulations

**Ashley Isaac**



**Happy 18th Birthday**  
24th November 2013  
To my beautiful Daughter.  
Hope you have a lovely day. Lots of love from Mum  
xxxx

**Michael Norris**



**Who is 70 on 27th Nov?**  
You have not changed at all! All our love, Margaret, Martin, Graham, Michele and Dan

**KIMBERLEY SMITH** Happy 9th Birthday on 17th November 2013. Love from Mam and Dad xxx

**KIMBERLEY SMITH** Happy 9th birthday on 17th November 2013. Lots of love from Grandma, Auntie Christine, Uncle Ian and Auntie Anita xxx

**SOPHIE FLACK** congratulations on your 21st Birthday (23-11-13). Have a fab day. Love, Lesley, Dave, Samantha, Ryan and Jack xxx

**SOPHIE FLACK** happy 21st birthday. Have a great party. Don’t get too drunk. Love you lots, Granny and Granda

**FLACK SOPHIE** 21 today. Happy birthday to the best Sister in the world. Love you loads, Lauren, Luke and Ruby

**SOPHIE FLACK** Happy 21st. To my Daughter Sophie, I wish you every happiness, On this your special day, I’d never change a thing in you, and thank God you are so fine, Even when you’re at your worst, I’m proud that you are mine. I know I’m not the perfect Mam, But its the best that I can do, For everyday I thank the Lord, For a Daughter as special as you. Love you loads, Mam and Stewie xxxxxx

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Sarah Lidster, Harry Bell, Chloe Barrigan and Adam Wood for passing their driving tests first time with Graham Price School of Motoring. Well done to you all and happy motoring!



## EAGER SPARTANS LOOK TO 2014

Despite the impending wintery weather, Newton Aycliffe Spartans Baseball Club has already got back to action in preparation for the 2014 season.

Under the guidance of new Team Manager and Head Coach Mike Holton, the team has been undertaking a number of practice drills and game scenarios at their indoor training facility at Woodham Academy in order to get a head-start on teams in the British Baseball Federation AA Northern Division as the Spartans look to build on last season's improved

performances.

Those improved performances saw the Spartans improve from 1 win in 2012 to 7 wins in 2013 and they were in the playoff picture up until the last couple of weeks of the season.

Manager of the Spartans, Mike Holton said: "We felt it important to continue with the momentum we achieved during 2013 and whilst training indoors can't replace the training on the diamond, there is much we can do with the time and our weekly training sessions will prepare us well for facing the top teams in our division in 2014."

Spartans founder John Johnston has stood aside to focus on running the expanding Junior Spartans Baseball Club, that introduces baseball to U16's and Mike Holton is excited with taking the senior team forward. "We want to continue to grow baseball in the North East and it is pleasing that we continue to see new people turn up to try baseball for the first time. We have applied for funding through the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) Community Grant Fund and we would welcome the good people of Great Aycliffe to support helping moving our club forward by voting for us this weekend at GAMP Event at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre this Saturday between 11am and 3pm. We would love people to come down on this day and see what we are about and if successful we will use any funding to promote baseball through community engagement and look to introduce local people to baseball by putting on 'taster' sessions early in the New Year and to fund the purchase of training equipment"

"One of the best aspects of the club is that we're able to support players of all ages and abilities and the Spartans would welcome anyone wanting to be part of our future in 2014 and beyond."

Winter Training is currently held on Tuesday evenings between 7pm and 9pm at Woodham Academy in Newton Aycliffe so if you fancy trying Baseball, new players, female or male, experienced or inexperienced are invited to come along and try one of the fastest growing team sports in the UK. Please visit [www.newtonaycliffespartans.co.uk](http://www.newtonaycliffespartans.co.uk) for details on how to contact us and get involved.

## Greenfield Team Finally Lose a Game



The year 8 football team at Greenfield Community College have made a fantastic start to the season over the last few months. Having been unbeaten in the league winning 5 and drawing 1 and taking the 8-a-side trophy the boys turned their attention to the ESFA (England Schools Football Association) Small Schools Trophy.

The talented squad recently made it to the last 32 of this prestigious competition. Last week the boys travelled to Morpeth to face Newminster Middle School in the 3rd round beating them 4-2 and earning a place amongst the last 32 schools in the country.

The game witnessed many exceptional performances, namely Josh Mellanby, Adam Scott and Adam Lamb helping them to progress even though they were missing a couple of key players.

This meant that the boys were handed another away tie in the 4th round, this time in Carlisle to compete against Richard Rose Central Academy, who are a regular at this stage and beyond of the competition. Having made the long trip the boys started brightly and the first half was very tense with both teams keen to cancel each other out.

Nonetheless Adam Scott went close for Greenfield just before the break. The home side took the lead half way through the second half and had much the better thereafter. Harry Hobbs and Niall Blenkinsop forced their keeper into two instinctive saves just before the final whistle went.

However it wasn't to be and the

boys ended up losing 1-0. The year 8 football team have done incredibly well to reach this stage and will look to improve upon this success in next year's competition.

The boys will now concentrate on league and cup duties in the Bishop Auckland Schools Football Association when the second half of the season continues after the February half-term having made an excellent start in the first few months.

## Planet Leisure Bowling League

It was a very good week again for Ron & Mark Baptist of Pinheads as they won 6-2 over Steve Goth & Martin Hughes of Clangers who were top of the league.

The Pinheads have now gone top and the Clanger have dropped to fourth. The Wenwees have moved into third place by winning 8-0 over Strike Force who stay in sixth place, M&Ms Marcus Baker & Jan Hailes have moved up two places from fourth to second by beating Alan Sowerby & Mathew Sowerby of Shildon Strikers 8-0.

The Misfits have dropped two places from third to fifth as Joe O'Connell & Garry Applegarth lost 6-2 to Paul & Val Wilkinson of the Late Starters. The other teams have not changed places Strike Force is sixth, Late Starters seventh, The Optimists eighth. Shildon Striker ninth. last at tenth is Bowl Movement.

The Pinheads took the high team game scratch of 386 away from the M&Ms who held with a score of 358.

## Aycliffe Martial Arts Fighter's Debut Win



The Lab Mixed Martial Arts Gym saw another one of its up and coming students put on a brilliant performance last weekend.

Gary Watson who has only trained for 7 months at the lab, won his debut on local show Total Combat against a more experienced opponent.

Gary from Aycliffe pushed the pace and dominated both

5 minute rounds to secure the victory. He has trained extremely hard with the Lab team, putting in the effort with both coaches Martin & Lanchana who run various classes at the Lab gym in Faverdale, Darlington. The Lab's coach Martin Wilby is next up fighting on "Made4thecage" this weekend in a professional contest. Good luck Martin!

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## U/18 Players Wanted

Newton Aycliffe Junior Football Club require under 18 players to strengthen their squad. The team currently train on a 4g pitch at Sunnydale on a Wednesday at 7.30pm till 8.30pm and a Saturday from 12m till 1pm. We also play competitive games in the TJFA league on a Sunday. If you feel you have got what it takes to train and play at competitive level then please get in touch with the manager Colin Coulthard on 07736 686594 or on the website at [www.najuniorfc.co.uk](http://www.najuniorfc.co.uk)

## Champion of Champions



Congratulations to our 2013 Ladies Club Indoor Bowls Champion, Ann Brown, on winning the Durham County Ladies Singles Champion of Champions. Ann also won this title in 2006.

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