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Permanent Foodbank Bin at Tesco

Ernie Temple Aycliffe's Food Bank co-ordinator, arranged through the new Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership to place a permanent food collection



Left to right: Ernie Temple Martin Butcher, Shirley Cormack and Val Bailey Regs Martin.

bin in Tesco's, courtesy of the Manager Martin Butcher. This weekend the Food Bank will be making a major collection at the store and customers will be invited to donate certain items made

available on special offer by Tesco. The collection will run on Saturday and Sunday from 9am until 5pm. and is part of the regular events supported by Tesco Stores all over the

Country. These collections go to the main Foodbank store in Chester le Street for distribution to volunteers at branches in County Durham including Newton Aycliffe. Any other collection in the town, including the permanent bin in Tesco's, will go direct to the Newton Aycliffe Food Bank which operates from St. Clare's Church.

FeastLand MEALS ON WHEELS

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OR Ham Salad
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Thu - Mince & Dumplings
OR Chicken, Chips, Peas & Gravy
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Sat - Roast Chicken Dinner
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ROTARY COMMUNITY XMAS CONCERT AT THE LEISURE CENTRE

Make a note in your diary to attend the annual Christmas Community Concert on Sunday 15th December at the Leisure

Centre from 2.30pm - 4pm. Admission Free! In addition to everyone singing carols there will be performances by the town's schoolchildren and the 'Shine' choir from St. Clare's.

Music Teacher John Tobin is bringing a Youth Brass Band from talented students of Woodham Academy and Greenfield College to lead the singing. This annual event organised by the Rotary Club is a firm favourite and been running for over 25 years. Our MP, Mayor and councillors will be in attendance and it promises to be a lively event - designed to kick-start the Christmas celebrations in Newton Aycliffe.

Little Acorns Nursery
Clarence House, Durham Way North, Aycliffe Business Park
Newton Aycliffe DL5 6HP - Telephone: 01325 309100

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Christmas Dog Appeal

Dear Readers
I am here again to ask for your help with feeding & keeping warm poor Romanian dogs. As in our previous appeal the situation is very dire out there and the shelters have now stopped feeding the poor dogs unless volunteers are prepared to go in and feed them with donations and supply bedding and such like.

We also need to help rescuers who find people hiding animals from dog catchers. They are using their own scarce money to feed and keep them warm and safe, often going without food and necessities themselves.

On 14th December a van will take aid to these poor helpless animals. We need to fill the van with food, wet or dry, puppy milk, dog treats, bedding, beds, dog coats,

blankets and dog toys also if you have any out of date or old flea treatments, worming tablets etc they can also be put to good use, to help them through the winter.

The weather will be bad by then and this will be the last trip until the end of January. Your help is much appreciated. and if you can help in any way please contact me on 07834 614 659 anytime at weekends or after 4.30pm on weekdays, Please leave a message if I am unable to answer or send me a text and I will get back to you. There will be no need to drop anything off anywhere as we will collect from you.

Many thanks in advance for your help,
Sarah-Jane & Madison
Homeward Bound & Paws2Rescue
Dog Rescue charities.

Rotary Charity Night Raised Over £2K



John Mac

The Rotary Club Charity Night at the British Legion was a fantastic event with proceeds shared between the Poppy Appeal and local charities.

The Legion Concert Secretary, Sue Land, organised three live music acts including John Mac, Georgio and Georgia Lee who all gave their services free.

The Rotary Club held a valuable raffle with a prize value of £400 donated by local businesses, obtained by Rotarian Angela Stevenson who thanks



Geoff Batchelor

Carping or Caring?

Editor

I attended the relaunch in our town centre and my kids and I had an excellent time - well done to the town centre manager. There was a good natured crowd and no idiots, just lots of people like me with their family.

Yet when I read the Newton News I think I must have been somewhere else. You say you are not spiteful yet your front page complained you were not invited. It was a FREE event - anyone could go!

Your own paper highlighted the event the week before, and unlike other media which where completely positive about everything your only letter printed that I could find was a complaint about crowd control - yet I counted at least 4 security guards and also Police in attendance.

Isolated incidents do happen and I am sorry for the lady and her family. I doubt you

will print this but at least take on board that our Town is now somewhere to be proud of, it has lots of open shops unlike other towns and more is still to happen next year according to the manager.

Perhaps support rather than constant carping should be the order of the day.

Martin Hill,
School Aycliffe

ED: Newton News support for the town centre is demonstrated by our concern for the people that make shopping possible there - the shopkeepers who have endured a very difficult time during the alterations and are now faced with an 85% increase in charges by the landlords.

We now know that the landlords deliberately excluded Newton News from the re-launch for daring to criticise their overcharging. We would call that caring not "carping".



Georgio



Georgi Lee

everyone for their support. There was Bingo, dancing and a Pie & Peas supper all included in the £5 ticket which brought a sell out attendance.

Star of the evening was Bar Lady Trish Reed who had her long hair shaved off in aid of the charities. She raised a staggering £1,325 from sponsorship which was amazing.

Rotary President Geoff Batchelor thanked the British Legion Management Committee for their kindness in offering their Concert Room for Charity Nights. He made particular reference to Trish for her magnificent efforts and Sue Land's co-operation, and thanked everyone for their support.

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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, Chilli 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

Saturday 14th December - "F.M."
Review: 'Was this our best pub gig ever? Probably!
What can you say about FM, this is rock and metal utopia, a classic journey through the rock and roll hall of fame. They did the lot, Kaiser Chiefs, Foo Fighters, Sabbath, AC/DC, Zep and no real cheese, OK they did Whisky in the Jar, but hey!! FM put a great amount of effort into this gig, sometimes mid week gigs just don't seem to have the same WOW/OOMPH. The atmosphere was great, as was the music, a superb night. What is particularly pleasing is that FM don't always take the easy option, ie: instead of sticking to Sweet Child Of Mine, they did Welcome to The Jungle.

Saturday 21st December - "Overdrive"
For more information on bands go to
www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034
Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke

Music & Mince Pies

Following the great success of our last two "Music and Mince Pies" concerts, the Andreas Ensemble is joined this year by Prince Bishops Brass, reputedly the finest brass quintet in the North East, and Brian Tanner on our fine church organ, to present, in conjunction with Bishop Auckland Music Society, a varied programme of Christmas Music with something for everybody in St. Andrew's, South Church, Bishop Auckland on Friday 6th December at 7.30 pm. This Christmas, choir, brass and organ are performing together a number of well-loved pieces including Bach's masterpiece the 5-part motet "Jesu meine Freude", 8-part pieces in Venetian style by Gabrieli,

Praetorius and Schütz for choir and brass, "West Gallery" carols, with some favourite seasonal choir pieces and carols with brass fanfares for our audience to join in.

The brass programme features the famous Samuel Barber Adagio and arrangements of popular Christmas melodies which everyone will recognise and enjoy. Tickets £12.50 include a glass of wine and seasonal refreshments in the interval. Young people 18 and under free of charge.

Available by sending an SAE with payment to Brian Varley at 11 Dene Hall Drive, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6U or from Cameo Fine Art, 93 Newgate Street, Bishop Auckland or at the door.

OVER 900 AT GAMP PROJECTS VOTING DAY

An Education Centre for Children with Downs Syndrome and an appeal for funding to build a Multi Use Games Area were amongst 12 projects that captured the public's imagination at a community funding event, organised by Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP), and held on Saturday (November 23rd) at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre. More than 900 people attended the Your Money, Your Area, Your Views Forum Event to vote for the community projects they believed most deserved a share of a £27,000 funding pot. This year, 31 groups applied for grants of up to £2,500 for various community projects. Representatives from each organisation exhibited at the forum to give residents and those who work, study or volunteer in the area an insight into what they do before casting their three votes.

In the end, 12 projects proved successful, including Hordale Residents Association, which applied for £2,500 to build a Multi Use Games Area. The total cost of the project is £40,000 with the £2,500 secured at the event, means that the project can now come to fruition. Philip Clarke, Chair of Hordale Residents Association, said: "The dream and promise I made to the youngsters of our neighbourhood became a reality. This would not have been

possible without the help of all those who voted for us."

During the event 241 members of the local community also took part in an exercise to look at how the Council saves the predicted £100m from its budget. Brian Riley, GAMP Co-ordinator, said: "It's been a fantastic event and we have been overwhelmed with how many residents made the effort to vote for their favourite projects. As part of the event the community also got the chance to vote for the GAMP priorities for 2014-15 and I am grateful that 825 residents have given the GAMP Board direction on what they consider to be the main issues in the area."

GAMP WINNERS

Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club - £2,320;
The Wishing Well Club - £2,500;
Sedgefield Water Polo Club - £1,040;
Middridge Allotment Association - £2,500;
The 1st Newton Aycliffe Scout Group - £1,500;
The Education Centre for Children with Downs Syndrome - £2,429;
The Cubby - £2,500; Kdanz - £2,500;
Newton Aycliffe Division Guide Association - £2,500;
The North East Autism Society - £2,344;
Hordale Residents Association - £2,500;
The Pioneering Care Partnership - £2,367



Residents Association Help Nursing Home

Horndale Residents Assoc. is supporting Aycliffe Nursing Home's Christmas Fayre on the 7th December starting at 12.30pm. There will be the usual stalls face painting, catch the rat, tombola's etc, a raffle with more than 30 prizes.

The money raised will go towards trips next year for all ages to create a better community spirit. Santa may make an appearance if you are all well behaved.

Please come and join us in the fun and raise lots of money which will be spent in our local community. We are still looking for items for the tombola stalls, bottles, smellies etc, everything will be much appreciated, items can be dropped at the nursing home.

Well Designed Town Centre

Dear Sir,
I must give credit to the development of the Newton Aycliffe town centre. It is superb workmanship, very nice design and a pleasure to go into the town centre now. We must expect rents to go up to get such improvements. Look at the Select shop, again a pleasure to shop there. Let's get more shops spending on their stores and people will use them.

Mrs Taylor

ALDI PARKING FINE UPSETS CUSTOMER

Dear Sir,
Having recently moved to Newton Aycliffe I was pleased to find that the town was well provided for in the supermarket department having both a Tesco's and an Aldi.

I have done most of my shopping at Aldi's not least because it provides a car-park for its customers. However, having done my shopping there recently and shopping around I was dismayed. Not to mention boiling mad, to receive a parking fine a week later from a company called 'Parking Eye' who sent me a photo of my old banger along with details of when I arrived and left. According to this letter there are signs around the car-park informing motorists that they can only stay for an hour and a half - a fact I was oblivious to. Perhaps the limited parking time is a well known fact to

the local residents but having shopped there a few times without any problems I was certainly unaware. So, thanks a lot Aldi! I won't be using your car-park or shop again, nor will (if I can help it) any of my friends or family! Mick Ainge

Xmas Meal

Visit the Oak Leaf Sports Complex to sample the Christmas Meals. Bookings are now being taken for dates throughout December. The 2-course menu is only £9.95 for adults and £6.95 for children and great value for money. For bookings and further information please contact Reception on 01325 300600.

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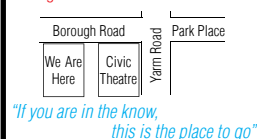


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Newton Aycliffe	Manager: Vicky Hutchinson	01325 315623
Bishop Middleham	Manager: Natalie Richardson	01740 651224

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GET SET TO MAKE A CHANGE



On Thursday 21st November five pupils from Greenfield Community College attended the Olympic Roadshow at Newcastle Racecourse. This was a national event set to build on the magic and power of the Olympic and Paralympic Games by inspiring young people to make a positive change in their communities. The team met athletes and other teams from the North East, learning how to organise and run community projects and events inspired by the Olympic and Paralympic Values. As Greenfield currently offer

so much in relation to sports leadership and clubs in the community, our students were more than prepared to become legacy leaders. They were lucky enough to try a range of activities, meet two Olympic medallists and to learn skills and techniques in their training to bring back to Greenfield. The students were a credit to the school, and are very excited to be part of this national event. This will surely put Greenfield on the map to show our commitment to the ongoing Olympic and Paralympic Legacy.

COMMUNITY IS NOT A DIRTY WORD

Dear Sir,
Last week, Labour Party Aycliffe West Councillor Kate Hopper, resigned her position as Durham County Council's nominated representative on the committee of Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre. This was perhaps inevitable and the only course of action open to her, when she had plainly lost the confidence of many trustees and volunteers helping to run the Youth Centre. It is pure conjecture as to what the outcome of any proposed vote of no confidence, in Councillor Kate Hopper would have been. However, she plainly thought it better to jump first, rather than be pushed. A vote of no-confidence is never undertaken lightly. Perhaps the saddest aspect of all of this is the fact that relations

have deteriorated to this level in such a short period of time; Councillor Hopper having only being elected in May 2013. Hard-headed business acumen has and is being employed to promote the development of youth activities at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre. It is eminently sensible that this be reflected in the name of the Youth Centre. After all, since when did 'community' become a dirty word? It is to be hoped that this logical addition to the name, is the outcome of the meeting on December 9th. After that, the more worldly-wise, sensible heads managing this excellent facility can concentrate on what they do best. Promoting the development of youth activities in our community. Name & address supplied

Service in Memory of Loved Ones

On Sunday December 8th we will be holding a very special Service at St. Clare's Church in the town centre at 4-00pm. We would like to invite anyone who has lost a loved one either

recently or in years gone by, to come along on this day and light a candle in memory of them. The Advent Christmas tree will be lit, and you can also if you wish write a message on a card to hang on this tree, where it will stay throughout the Christmas period. The Service is quite informal with carols a reading and prayers, during the Service there will be a time of reflective silence when your loved ones names are read out. After the Service you are invited to stay for light refreshments in the church hall where there will be members of our pastoral team for you to talk to if you wish to do so. Our remembrance chapel will be open and you can view the memorial book with the choice to place your loved one's name in. On their anniversary you can come along and sit in the chapel where the memorial book will be open for you. For further information on this Service please contact Pam Lovelass on 316841

HEARTLESS BURGLARY AT FOOTBALL CLUB

Newton Aycliffe FC are bouncing back after mindless vandals broke into the club's cabins and took off with hundreds of pounds worth of goods. The club based at Moore Lane Park on the grounds of the Sports Club, are hosting a first-ever Christmas Fayre on Saturday November 30 at the ground. A Santa's grotto, cake stall and bouncy castle will keep the kids entertained while hand made Christmas decorations and other crafts are available for those wanting to do a bit of festive shopping. The event was planned to raise funds to help the club continue to grow on and off the field, but instead will be needed to contribute to the criminal damage suffered during Sunday's break in. Heartless yobs smashed their way into three cabins within the ground, damaging the doors and locks, and then looting cash and valuable electrical items.

A widescreen plasma television, a printer and a computer were taken, as was the club's matchday cash float. Police are investigating the break-in and have asked anyone who knows anything about the incident to contact them on 101, quoting incident number DHM1120130084, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Xmas Cakes & Puddings

Come along to grab some Christmas goodies at this event on Saturday 7th December at 10am. Buy your Xmas cake or pudding, enjoy a tasty treat and a hot cuppa. The Shine choir will be selling "Jars of Joy" and there will be an opportunity to write and post letters to Santa Claus. To book a table to sell Xmas items contact Judith on 07749 779410.

Club general manager Dan Lewis is determined that the club will not be defeated by yobs. "It's hard to take as the club is run entirely by volunteers, who dedicate a lot of time to the cause. "Just replacing the doors and locks will cost a lot of money that could have been spent on improving the team or facilities for supporters at the ground. "We ask anyone who knows anything about this heartless crime to contact us or the police as soon as possible. "But we will continue to run. We are hosting our first-ever Christmas Fayre on Saturday, which we hope will see a big turn out, and the team will continue to battle on the pitch. "We hope the people of the town will rally around the club and ensure these criminals can't ruin our community." The Fayre gets under way at

11am at Moore Lane Park, allowing people who wish to attend the event and then travel to Morpeth to watch the first team in action in the Northern League Division One. Aycliffe have lost their last two games to drop out of the top half of the table, but could move up five places with a win against fourth-bottom Morpeth. New signing Tom Atkinson scored twice on his debut last weekend but the Royal Blues were beaten 3-2 away at Billingham Synthonia. Aycliffe return to action at Moore Lane Park for the first time in over a month when they host Newcastle Benfield on Wednesday night, before struggling Billingham Town are the visitors next Saturday. Admission is £6 adults, £4 concessions and free for under-12s for all Aycliffe home games.

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Help for Xmas Day Lunch for the Lonely



Linzi Nicoll's accepts Carole Dawson's kind donation of £100 towards the food pallets and Christmas Day Lunch for lonely people. Carole told Linzi that she was amazed at the work 'Helping Hands' is doing in the community and wanted to contribute in this way. Linzi who is a full time volunteer for Helping Hands said 'I don't need payment, people like Carole make my job so worthwhile'. We've noticed a strong community spirit with the work we do and it is truly inspiring'

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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Dancing for Children In Need



Aycliffe Dance Academy students have been busy having lots of fun in their dance classes whilst raising money for a fantastic cause. Children (and adults) were encouraged to come to dancing in their pyjamas the whole week leading up to Children In Need for a small donation to the charity. The Academy sold Pudsey and Blush goodies and held competitions to raise money too! Everyone really got into the spirit; even some of the Dads and Granddads joined in with the fun! The children thought it was great dancing in their PJ's and especially enjoyed performing their routines to their favourite teddy bears! Dance Principal, Emma Cox, would like to express her thanks to all those who helped to make the charity week such a huge success. The sum of £368.80 was raised and will help to make a real difference to the lives of children all across the UK!



XMAS FAIR AT AYCLIFFE VILLAGE SCHOOL

Don't forget to pop into the Christmas Fair at Aycliffe Village School next Thursday 5th December between 6 & 8pm. There will 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 many more. Refreshments will be serviced throughout the evening. Everyone welcome.

(B6244 HEIGHINGTON LANE AYCLIFFE)
(TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2013

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

The maximum duration of the temporary closure under the Order is 18 months and is required from 10.00 pm on Saturday 11 and 18 January 2014 until 7.00 am each following morning. However, on rare occasions, alternative dates for closures may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

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

Dated: 29 November 2013



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

Parked Cars Present Biggest Danger

Dear Sir,
A recent letter from 'a concerned resident' argues that, because of speeding on Central Avenue at times outside of school opening and closing times, and because a student was hit by a car somewhere unspecified in the last two years, and because a child and his sister were almost hit by a car crossing Central Avenue, there should be a 20mph speed limit outside schools. Concerned resident asks whether I still think it would be a waste of time and money to reduce the limit to 20mph. In a word, yes. Concerned resident implies they favour a 20mph limit on Central Avenue, because Vane Road and Woodham pupils cross it on the way home. This is one of the main roads through town. It's just not feasible to say average speeds reach 40mph on this road - I drive it regularly, and they don't, especially not at busy times. My own experience is that nearly all drivers drive safely, slowing right down when the road is busy, and it's at a crawl when the school pupils are crossing. You can't redesignate every road as 20mph just because there is an accident or near miss on it - that's a knee-jerk reaction. Instead you need to look at all the circumstances and properly assess the risks. Concerned resident would have the whole town redesignated as 20mph, or would have cars banned altogether! Kids could cross any road at any time. Probably the best way to mitigate the risks is to educate children on how to safely cross a road, and if they're not old enough to do this, they should be accompanied by a parent or older sibling. By far the biggest risk is

where there are parked cars, and where pupils can run out between them. In such cases, even 20mph is an unsafe speed, and any good driver will slow right down anyway, but the safest solution would be to remove the parked cars to give a clear view.
John Snowball

Town Centre CCTV Needed

Dea Sir,
When are we going to get a working CCTV to stop the wanton destruction of our new town centre? It is heart-breaking to see that newly placed wooden seating has been vandalised right from the start and the new paving stained with goodness knows what! Is the money invested all to be wasted as we watch the havoc continue? What is wrong with these people who take no pride in anything done to improve the town facilities? The sad thing is I expected this to happen. Catch the culprits before it is too late and make them pay for the damage.
A.W.
Name & address supplied

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Kids' Film

The fantastically funny
Movie "Elf" is the Christmas
film at Kidzflixs on Saturday
7th December at 2pm.
This film is at St. Clare's Hall
and will finish at 3.30pm.
Parents can leave their
children while they shop or
stay and enjoy the movie.
Everyone is welcome. doors
open at 1.30pm for the tuck
Shop.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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news and interesting
items on achievements
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Tel: Syd
01325 300212
or syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Film Show

The next "Feel Good Film
Show" at St Clare's Church,
on Tuesday 3rd December,
features "KING OF THE
HILL", a heart-warming
portrait of 12-year-old Aaron
who uses his wit and fearless
sense of adventure to survive as
his family falls apart, learning
that when the world turns
upside down, the trick is to
come out on top.
Tea and coffee at 1pm, included
in the £2, and the film starts at
1-15pm. Everyone is most
welcome to join us. Bring a
spot of lunch with you, tables
are set out, and enjoy a friendly
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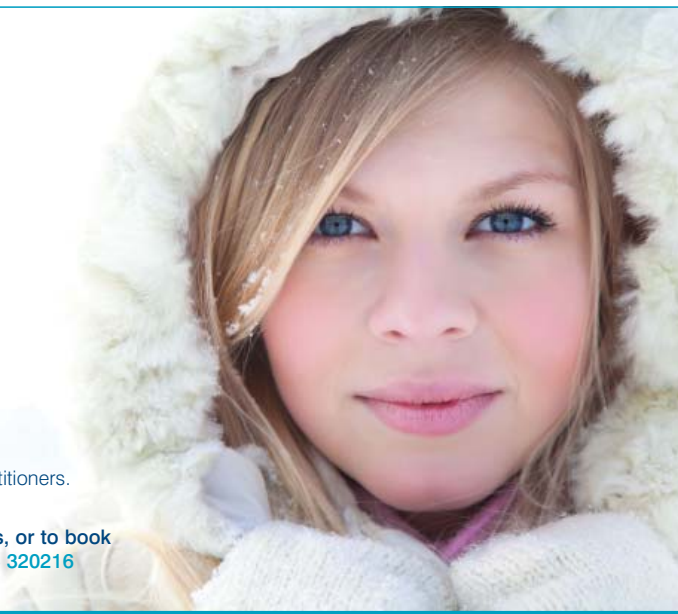
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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 20th NOVEMBER

This month, the DCC Cabinet made some significant decisions:

1. It approved two more mergers of Infants Schools with Primary Schools.
2. It approved the Shildon masterplan.
3. It approved the setting up of a 'Social Enterprise' in Chilton to deliver the 'Green Fund' of £645,000 promised by the Dalkia Biomass Plant.
4. It approved the Street Lighting Policy - this has been the subject of fierce criticism in the Newton News, but the county-wide consultation evoked only 255 responses, of which 72% agreed with the dimming of street lighting.

5. It received some interesting reports on performance, including: a great attendance at the AAP budgeting exercises; - there has been a slight increase in the crime rate, together with a change in the kind of crime (people are stealing more everyday necessities such as food and toiletries); - the Council continues to keep up with the cuts necessitated by government grant reductions; it is a sad fact that DCC now has a proven track record in implementing cuts successfully, based on proper preparation and consultation, attention to detail and outcomes, and implementing robust decisions. - there has been a complete

review of all the Council's Sustainable Communities 'All Together Better' Strategy (for example the 'Altogether Greener' Environmental Framework has been almost completely rewritten). Cabinet also received a really interesting Partnership and Performance Update which shows, among many things, that the County Council is getting better at answering the phone when you call. If you want to know about any of the above in more detail, you can read all the reports considered by the Cabinet online at <http://bit.ly/DCCCabNov13>. JCL

Auction at Scouts Centre



The first Newton Aycliffe Scouts and the Northern Bygones Society would like to thank everybody who donated items for the auction where we raised £285 on the day. Thanks to the people who attended the auction and also the people who helped run the event.

NEWTONIAN TAKES MANAGEMENT POST AT WALWORTH



Rachel Swain (left) with Margaret Bain

Chris & Rachel Swain owners of Walworth Castle have welcomed Margaret Bain as their new Assistant Manager. Margaret is well known in the area for her signing skills with the Deaf Community as an Interpreter and for bringing Deaf Awareness to schools over the past 13 years.

Margaret started her hospitality career 3 years ago working for The Hallgarth and The Honest Lawyer. She applied for the post of Duty Manager but was offered Assistant Manager and has been in her post for eight weeks. Margaret invites you to taste the excellent food Walworth has to offer in the Harnard's Restaurant and in the Farmer's Bar.

The famous Farmer's Bar offers a light bite menu where you can get two meals for £12.95 from 5-7pm, Monday - Friday. Menu comprises Hunter's Chicken, All Day

Breakfast, Spinach & Roicotta Cannelloni, Deep Fried, Homemade Chunky Chips and Salad and more.

Walworth Castle, a Best Western Hotel, has three function rooms and 32 bedrooms Hotel offering a comfortable and relaxing atmosphere.

The castle is famed for their Murder Mystery nights, Weddings and Carvery which is served every day from 12 till 2pm Monday to Saturday and 12 - 4 pm on a Sunday. Ring Walworth Castle on 01235 485470.

COUNCIL FAIL TO REPLY TO LETTER

Dear Sir,
I first e-mailed Durham County Council on 25th September to express my concern about the poor level of street lighting following the upgrade of the system in the Summer. Since the I have been promised contact by Tony Ward at the Highways Department who is apparently in charge of this project. It is now nearly a month since my enquiry was passed to him and still nothing. I am beginning to think that he

doesn't exist or has been cast into the black void of his own creation. Can I suggest that as he is a public servant he starts listening to the people who pay him, take ownership of this issue and explain himself. If there are accidents Tony we know whose door to lay the blame at. Please advise your readers to who they should address emails, letters etc on this subject, (just don't expect a response).
Name & address supplied

Town Centre Query

Dear Sir
I feel I have to write to you, regarding our new look Town Centre. Could you tell me how wheelchair users get safely to Phil Wilson's Office and the shops at Upper Beveridge Way?
Why has only 3/4 of the town been improved, and three of the main walking routes from the

car parks into the town centre still a mess - especially outside the computer shop, the chemist and entrance into the Thames Centre?
Aren't these part of our town? To me this is what you see when you first come into the town, and it's a big turn off. Resident of Newton Aycliffe for 21 years.

Reply from Management

I am pleased to confirm that there is indeed full access for wheelchair and other users to Beveridge Walkway during the hours of 7.00am to 6.00pm via either the lift lobby access from Beveridge Way leading to the top deck MS car park, the pedestrian ramp in the MS car park or directly from the car park top deck itself.

After 6.00pm full access is still available from the top deck of the car park and can be accessed via the ramp from the middle level or by parking at the top deck area and accessing from there. As regards your query relating to completion of works from Churchill House this is part of the next phase of works which will be commencing early next year as per our previously published plans.'

Bryan Haldane, Town Centre Manager



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Memorial Carol Service

A memorial Christmas Carol Service is being held at St Cuthberts Church in Market Place, Darlington on Tuesday 10th December.

The Co-operative Funeral-care would like to extend an invitation to the Newton Aycliffe community to attend the Service which begins at 7.30pm and will include Christmas readings and carols, candle lighting and the opportunity to place a memorial message to a loved one on the Christmas tree in church.

The Co-operative Funeral-care will also have memorial Christmas trees in all of its funeral homes during December where tributes to loved ones may be placed. For further details please call your local Funeralcare home in Macmillan Road on 01325 300510



WOODHAM ACADEMY CHRISTMAS FAIR

10.30 A.M - 1.00 P.M

SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2013

Art Workshops, Visit from Santa, Letters to Santa, Face Painting, Computing, Music Workshops, Mini Sports Academy, Let's Get Cooking, Papercrafts

Refreshments and light lunch samples also included
For further information please contact Marie Oswald, Community Development Co-ordinator on 01325 375482

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE

We Have Done it!

Dear Sir,
As Chairman of Horndale Residents Association I am proud to announce we have reached our £40,000 target to build a MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA) for our youngsters.
We secured £2,500 from the GAMP fund on Saturday which brought us nearly to our total with the promise of the shortfall being covered.
I want to thank everybody who voted for us on Saturday and everyone who has donated funds to make this dream a reality. On behalf of the Association I thank everyone who has helped and guided us through the last year in order to achieve this magnificent amount.
We hope the MUGA will be built in spring of next year, with an opening day involving the local schools and sports clubs.
Our next and last meeting of the year is on the 4th December at 6.30 at the Evangelical Church, Ladybower starting with Christmas treats and refreshments at 6.15. The main subject for discussion will be our Christmas Community Fayre with Aycliffe Nursing Home which is to be held on the 7th December starting at 12.30. If you can help on the day please come along to the meeting all offers will be much appreciated.
Philip Clark

Greenfield Students Visit Durham's Lumiere



A group of students from Greenfield Community College joined Greenfield Arts staff for a trip to "Lumiere" Durham's Festival of Light. They braved the opening night

crowds to see the fantastic installations on display in the City centre and University campus, including a fish tank in a phone box, a fantastic projection onto Durham Cathedral and some ethereal dresses made of light.
The trip was organised and funded by Greenfield Arts as part of the "Arts Passport" programme of events and activities. "Arts Passport" is a programme the Arts Centre launched last year to encourage students at Greenfield Community College to take part in more arts, performing arts and cultural events and activities outside of lesson time. Trips and activities are organised throughout the year and students are encouraged to search out opportunities in their own time as well to gain a "stamp" in their passport.
This is the sixth Arts Passport event this term so far, we are looking forward to our trip to "Enchanted Parks" in Gateshead in December and more activities in 2014!

P.A.C.T. Meeting

Police And Community Together

A meeting of "Police and Community Together" for the WEST WARD will be held at the Parsons Centre Methodist Church, Burnhill Way on Thursday 5th December from 6.00pm. Please come along to hear updates and have your say on local issues. PC Mike Welch & PCSOs Nicola Shaw & Chris Noble are your Community Police Officers.
Local Ward Councillors also in attendance. For more information on what's going on in your area visit www.durham.police.uk

LOWER RENTS WOULD BRING GOOD CHOICE OF SHOPS

Dear Sir,
I took my two children with my hubby to see Ameila Lily which was fantastic, but even though the town centre looks great it's very sad to see so many shops empty and is very disheartening.
I have only lived in Aycliffe for a year and a half and changes are good, but it's only good if there are a good choice of shops something this town lacks. In my opinion it would be better for the landlords to keep low rents and have all shops used as opposed to high rents and eventually no shops!
I think if landlords charged cheaper rent it would really put Aycliffe high on the shoppers map!
I was very sad to hear about The Cubby and felt sick. I hope the heartless people who did this get caught and are well and truly punished. Bill and his staff of volunteers are lovely and like every charity at this present time struggle.
I always look forward to my lush dinner on a Tuesday in the Cubby and I think the landlords of the town centre should do more for charities but then again do the landlords know the Cubby exists? - I bet not!
Angry

Samba Band at Xmas Fayre



Last weekend, a group of Woodham Academy students kicked the festive season off literally with a bang. Woodham Samba Band were in attendance at Neville Parade Church, to entertain the public as part of the annual Christmas Fayre.
The Samba Band rehearse regularly in school each week; however this was their first performance with their new line-up, including new Year 7 students who have just joined the Academy this year, as well as welcoming back a few friendly faces in the form of past students.
They performed two lively pieces 'Samba Reggae' and 'Samba Funk', before inviting members of the public to grab an instrument and join in! The challenge was accepted by children and adults alike, who were soon enough placed under the expert guidance

of Alex Paterson (Y7), Owen Dickinson (Y10) and Charlotte Kirton (Y9) before another rousing performance to finish. Woodham Samba Band are now looking forward to their next performance, which will be in Woodham Christmas Concert on 11th December. For more information, please contact Woodham Academy on 01325 300328.

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TELEPHONE SCAM

Dear Sir,
Please warn the readers of Newton Aycliffe about a potential telephone scam. I was contacted recently and the number showed up as 01845 783173. The advisor with a foreign accent told me he was from Microsoft. He told me my laptop was running slow (which coincidentally it is!) and had a number of virus. The advisor asked me to hold down the window key and letter 'r' key which comes up with a run bar. I was advised to type "eventvwr" into this bar

which I didn't. I believe this is a scam which allows the telephone advisor to access your laptop and all the information contained within. I told him I had switched the laptop off and would wait until my husband came home. The advisor was very persistent and told me to switch on the laptop, but I terminated the call. I tried to call the telephone number back but the number was not recognised! I have googled this and it is, as I suspected, a scam. Michelle

School Rallies to Support Victims of Typhoon

After witnessing the extensive media coverage of Typhoon Haiyan which hit the Philippines recently, St John's School has just completed a 'Disaster Response Week' to support the call for international aid by the Disaster Emergency Committee. For one week, the whole school has focused upon raising awareness and fundraising for those in need, wearing white ribbons and leading a wide range of events and activities such as Guess the Teacher

competitions, cake bakes and penalty shoot-outs. One pastoral class in particular, 8Y (pictured) managed to raise a staggering £550 from their sponsored spellathon and cake sale. It is hoped that the efforts will support those in the Philippines who are most in need of emergency supplies, and the final total is due to be announced next week (in excess of £2500.). Miss Jo Hopper, St John's Citizenship Coordinator said, "We are overwhelmed

by the tremendous efforts of our students across all year groups who have really shown compassion and generosity by contributing so willingly to such a worthy cause." These fundraising activities follow the Children in Need appeal where once again the school dug deep into their pockets to help those less fortunate than themselves. Special mention must go to 10N who, between 27 students, managed to raise £615.00.



Church Wedding at Aycliffe Village



Lydney Clark married Andrew Shields on Saturday 12th October 2013 at St. Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village followed by a reception at the Croft Hotel, Darlington. The couple have two sons Joel and Ellis and enjoyed a "minimoon" in Edinburgh. They are planning to have their honeymoon with the boys and friends in May next year in Turkey.

Car Theft Warning

Dear Sir,
I want to make Newton News readers aware! Yesterday night I had my driver door lock smashed in and the delightful citizens then decided to try and steal my airbags, causing excessive damage to my dashboard but failed to complete the job. I'm now facing over a £1000 for the repair whilst all they made off with was my vehicle handbook. I have worked to earn my car, what entitlement do these thieves have to it? They should get a job and earn their own possessions! Chelsea Keedy

Souper Xmas at St. Elizabeth's

St Elizabeth's "Souper" Lunch with a festive theme is on Wednesday 4th December at 12.30pm. Still only £3.00 and Christmas goodies as well. The Advent Fayre is on Saturday December 7th at 10 am. Festive bakes and home produce, Tombola, Gifts, Games and puzzles. There will be a Raffle and of course seasonal refreshments. Come and share the friendship.

Acorn Pantomime



The Acorn Players thank the audiences over the 3 nights of our latest Pantomime "Aladdin". We did a bucket collection for CLIC Sargent Children's Cancer support and received £150.00

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Grade 2 Point 9 -13 (£11,128 - £12,647 per annum)
Hours per week : 30

Term time hours: 12 noon - 6pm (Monday to Friday)
School holiday hours 7am to 1pm (Monday to Friday)
Required February 2014

Greenfield wishes to appoint a Cleaning Supervisor/ Day Cleaner to supervise and delegate work to a team of cleaners, to ensure that designated areas of the school and community facilities are cleaned and maintained to a high and consistent standard. The role also includes providing a day time cleaning service for the school.

Please contact Mrs Susan Mouyiassi on 01325 300378 or e-mail susan.mouyiassi@greenfieldschool.net for further information and an application pack.

Only applications received on the school's application form and completed in full by the specified date will be considered.

Greenfield Community College is an Equal Opportunity employer and welcomes applications irrespective of sex, race, marital status or disability.

Closing Date 6th December 2013 at 12 noon

The school is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and require all staff to share this commitment. All posts are subject to satisfactory DBS clearance.

Your place of work will be Greenfield Community College. The school is part of the Aycliffe and Shildon Schools Education Trust (ASSET) and you may be required to work in any of the school sites within the Trust.

Situations VACANT

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Closing date: 6th December 2013

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WHAT'S ON AT AYCLIFFE VILLAGE

SANTA DASH: Following the success of the Mad Dash in September, there is now the chance to take part in a Santa Dash around the village on Saturday, December 7th, starting at the village hall at 11am (meet there at 10.30am). Participants need to raise a minimum of £10 in sponsorship to take part and will be provided with a Santa outfit for the event, which includes activities and games. There will also be refreshments at the village hall afterwards. To register, email smhindle@btinternet.com.

SINGALONG: There will be a community singalong at the village hall on Monday, December 9th, at 7.30pm, with Aycliffe and Brancepeth Brass Band. Entry is £2.50, which includes refreshments.

BREAKFAST CLUB: The next breakfast club is the Christmas special on Saturday, December 14th, at the village hall from 9am-noon! This month is has been kindly sponsored by Curtis Office. Children will be able to visit Santa in his grotto at their arranged time to receive a gift. There will also be bacon, egg or sausage buns on offer, as well as cups of tea or coffee. Plus, there will be Christmas-themed activities for children and a

book stall. All proceeds go to the village hall.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: The Acle Scout Group is holding a charity Christmas dinner and dance at the Aston Hotel, near the A1, on Saturday, December 14th, from 7.30pm to late. The Smoking Spitfires and Quartz will be performing. The event is to help raise funds for the community. For tickets, which cost £20, ring 07809-708709.

WI PARTY: Aycliffe Village WI meet of its Christmas party on Wednesday, December 18th, at the Aycliffe Village Hall at 7.30pm. The challenge is for a Secret Santa Christmas card. For more details, call 01325-310421.

SCOUT PANTOMIME: Acle Scout Group will be performing Cinderella at Aycliffe Village Hall on Thursday, December 19th, at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £3 for adults and £2 for children and are available on 07809-708709.

CAROLS ON THE GREEN: There will be the chance to sing carols on the village green on Monday, December 23rd, outside The County at 7.30pm. Wrap up warmly for the annual community get-together, and enjoy a special visit from Santa. Afterwards, warm up with a mince pie in the pub.

£1,500 for Children in Need



Friday 15th November saw the return of the annual Children in Need fund raising event at Woodham Academy. The academy has been raising money for the charity for the past 7 years, under the supervision and organisation of Jenny McLean, Student Welfare Officer. The whole school actively participated in the event, in

terms of sponsored silences, fancy dress and the sale of raffle tickets in order to win a Pudsey cake made by resident Chef, Linda Vipond. In addition to a raffled cake, other treats were made and sold during break and lunch time. The day was a resounding success, allowing a day of fun to be both constructive in terms of raising money and awareness for the cause. The day started with a guest appearance from Pudsey himself who welcomed the students into school. He was so impressed with students that he decided to stay and joined the Year 7 disco at lunch time. The disco was a huge success thanks to former Woodham student and local DJ Tyrone Wynn who gave his time for free. The students were quoted as saying it's the best disco they have ever been to, so our thanks go to Tyrone for supporting the school and Children in Need. Students were witnessed braving the cold dressed in

their pyjamas and onesies. Year 10 girls dressed as the Spice Girls raised £80. All Year 7 students were encouraged to take part, some organising sponsored silence and fancy dress such as Batman, Wonder Women and a banana. The students made a massive effort in both raising money and their positive attitude towards the event, and as a result the students were a huge credit to the academy. As a result of the massive success of the Children in Need event hosted by Woodham Academy, the students, teachers, staff and other contributors managed to raise a very impressive amount with over £1500 being pledged.

Walk on Bus 10 Minute Health Check

We wish to expand our fundraising committee which meets monthly. If you can help please ring Peter Beaty on 313924. A Charity Concert is to be held on Saturday 7th December at 2pm featuring well known comedian Birt Drayton and many more artistes. Tickets are £4 for adults £3 for Seniors and £1 for children. To book to collect at the door ring 313924. The National Health "Check for Life Bus" will be visiting the centre on Tuesday 17th December from 10.30am - 3pm. You can have mini checks on your health with immediate results and it only takes 10 minutes. To book a slot ring Peter.

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Open Art Exhibition at Greenfield

Greenfield Arts are pleased to announce the dates for our annual "Open Art" Exhibition. This open submission exhibition gives local and regional artists the chance to exhibit their work in this varied and interesting exhibition. Last year's exhibition included more than 60 different artists, and over 130 artworks, a fantastic collection that attracted a large audience to the gallery. This year we hope to reach even more local artists, and give them the opportunity to display their work in The Greenfield Gallery, which is currently fully booked until the end of 2016! In 2014 the exhibition will take place from Thursday 13th March to Wednesday 30th April, with a preview event and Craft Fair on Wednesday 12th March. Submissions are now open for the exhibition, all are welcome to submit work, visit our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk or pop in to collect an entry form.

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Sports Club First League Defeat

Newton Aycliffe Sports Club travelled to Darlington to play high flying Spraire Lads in this PMA Division 2 encounter. With only one defeat this season The Sports Club knew this would be a tough game to get the points to stay amongst the promotion race.

The first 15 minutes was completely dominated by the home side, particularly in midfield but keeper Chris Palmer had little to do as he watched the home side's efforts either go wide or fly over the bar.

It was on 32 minutes when the deadlock was broken with the home side breaking through the midfield, and as players backed off, a hopeful long shot found its way past Chris Palmer to make it 1-0.

Aycliffe woke up a little after this but the closest effort came from Chris Jones who fired over the bar. A number of corners from the Sports Club failed to cause too many problems at this stage and were then caught with long ball over the top and the Spraire lads made it 2-0 on 36 minutes

NASCFC then grabbed a goal back, with Anthony Campbell firing home his 3rd goal in 2 games to make it 2-1 just before the break.

A quick formation change at half time saw Aycliffe revert to a 3 man central midfield. This change worked well with Aycliffe seeing more of the ball in key areas and a lot of pressure was put on for the equaliser. However, with 20 minutes to go, some sloppy defending saw another effort from outside of the box creep past Chris Palmer and into the far corner of the goal to make it 3-1 and effectively finishing the game.

Double Sporting Success



Stephenson Way are celebrating a double sporting success with their football and netball teams picking up medals in their respective Sedgefield School Sports Partnership after

school leagues. The school was already pleased at simply being able to enter two teams in each league, with this showcasing the large amount of eager and enthusiastic sportspeople the

school has. The fact that two of the teams went on to be successful is an encouraging sign that the school's increased focus on team sports is paying dividends.

The football league was played over 3 Thursday nights at Greenfield. The team earned their medals the hard way, not topping the league table until after the final game of the season, and even then only doing so via goal difference. Two fantastic performances in the final two games (resounding 4-0 and 7-0 victories) ensured the final league table had Stephenson Way level on points but 5 goals better off on goal difference than their nearest rivals. In the netball league, the A Team took home silver medals for their second placed finish, whilst the B team were close to picking up medals themselves but ultimately finishing in 4th place. With the two teams having only formed several weeks prior to the competition starting, the overall performance of the two netball teams was very encouraging. With future competitions in both netball and football, as well as many other sports, already organised in the New Year, the school is hopeful that there is more sporting success to come.

£20,000 BOOST FOR TOWN'S FOOTBALL CLUB

Newton Aycliffe, who play in the Ebac Northern League first division, have received £20,000 from the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) thanks to local councillors.

The money has gone into a number of ground developments, mainly the creation of a new 'Supporters Bar' as well as new steel terracing.

The cash was allocated from budgets of former local County Councillor John Moran and current Councillor Sarah Iveson, each giving £10,000 each from their Neighbourhood Budget Funding earlier this year.

The money was met with cash donated by two local firms – Allan Oliver Reinforcing and Finley Structures – to help fund other areas of ground improvement, including the foundations and drainage for the new bar and a viewing area above.

The new improvements came on the back of a number of investments made at Moore Lane Park, which was first opened in 2008 after a £300,000 grant from Sedgefield Council's Local Improvement Programme and a further £20,000 from the Football Foundation.

Since then, more cash has been pumped into ground improvements. Landowners Aycliffe Sports Club and the Football Foundation went halves on a new £20,000 all-seater stand, while the William Finley Stand, built by sponsors Finley Structures followed.

These latest developments take the total investment in the ground to almost £400,000 in five years. The club's general

manager Dan Lewis said: "We've been making steady improvements to the ground year on year, in a bid to provide the best spectator experience possible, while also providing playing conditions that are appropriate for the standard."

"These latest developments are hoped to make a big improvement, particularly for our loyal fans, because previously we were one of very few Northern League clubs without a bar within our ground."

"Thanks to a partnership approach between us and our landlords, Aycliffe Sports Club, supporters are able to enjoy hospitality on site." Supporters won't be allowed to drink pitchside, in accordance with FA rules, but the availability of a nearby bar is expected to be a new attraction to both home and away fans.

Mr Moran, a Sunderland season ticket holder, wanted to make the donation as one of his last actions as a Durham County Councillor. "I just love football and I love to see our hometown being represented in the Northern League," he said.

CLRs Moran and Iveson donated £4,000 from their budgets to various improvements last year. GAMP Coordinator Brian Riley said: "This is a fantastic project that helps the town's football club. Funding will provide a number of benefits not only for the club but also the hundreds of supporters who enjoy following their local team. We wish Newton Aycliffe FC future success and to establish themselves in the Northern League."

Mr Lewis added: "We're very grateful to GAMP for

their continued support. We feel the latest developments will add considerably to the supporter experience we can offer at Newton Aycliffe, and we hope will lead to increased numbers coming through the turnstiles. We must also thank Aycliffe Sports Club for their understanding in bringing this new facility to fruition, which we feel sure will increase revenues into both the Sports Club and the football club.

Footballers Wanted

Newton Aycliffe Junior Football Club are currently seeking new players to join their under 16's and under 18's teams. Both teams play in the TJFA league division 3.

The under 16's (Year 11) are especially keen to recruit a new goal keeper as well as outfield players. This age group train on a Tuesday evening on a 4g pitch at Sunnydale in Shildon on a Tuesday evening between 7pm-8pm.

The under 18's (born 1/9/95-31/8/97) are looking for outfield players and train at Sunnydale in Shildon on a Wednesday evening between 7.30-8.30pm. If you think you have what it takes to be part of a team want to meet new friends and develop your footballing skills then please contact Nick Scott under 16's manager on 07977159779 or Colin Coulthard under 18's manager on 07736686594. For further details on our club please visit our website at www.najuniorfc.co.uk

AYCLIFFE MISS OUT ON TOP SPOT

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club were left wondering what might have been after losing out to league leaders Seaham in the last 10 minutes of a close game at Moore Lane. Aycliffe were able to select a strong side with David Judge returning at full-back for the first time in a month.

Aycliffe began the game well and put plenty of pressure on the Seaham line, however the only points came from two Luke Tinkler penalty goals. Seaham gradually fought their way back into the match, and two defensive lapses by Aycliffe in quick succession saw them concede two tries; one converted.

Aycliffe, despite struggling in the scrum and lineout, managed to get back into Seaham territory but Tinkler unfortunately missed his third penalty attempt. A penalty awarded to Aycliffe saw the ball quickly fed wide to where James Thacker was able to break through the defensive line, he was tackled short, but Andrew Littlefair was on hand to cross the line for the score. Tinkler's conversion had reduced the deficit to two points as the teams turned around with the score 13 – 15.

Early in the second period, another Tinkler penalty gave Aycliffe a narrow lead and they held on to this for much of the half. With ten minutes to go, Aycliffe's tiring forwards were subjected to an onslaught by the visitors and finally the line was crossed to give Seaham the lead.

Another try followed soon after to give Seaham a bonus point for 4 tries and to cruelly cost Aycliffe the losing bonus point. Aycliffe battled back in an effort to reduce the arrears, but they were unable to score. The game ended 25 – 16 to Seaham and Aycliffe had lost their chance of going to the top of the league.

On 30th November, Aycliffe visit Richmondshire for a 2.15 kick-off. Newton Aycliffe are sponsored by Boola Clothing Aycliffe and Hayward Home Appliances trading as Serviceforce. Visit the website at www.pitchero.com/clubs/newtonaycliffe.

SHILDON ATHLETIC & RUNNING CLUB

Shildon member and European U23 medalist Kate Avery completed an excellent month over on the college XC circuit in America where she represents Iona College. Kate combined victories at the Maac Championships and Iona Meet of Champions together with an excellent 3rd place at the NCAA div1 Championships at Terre Haute on the 23rd.

Kate will be hoping to gain International honours representing GB (pending selection) at the European XC Championships.

Closer to home, the latest NE Harrier League XC took place at Jarrow on the 24th and a small contingent from Shildon's middle distance group came up with some excellent results. Star billing went to Lizzie Cramb in the U15 girl's race. Lizzie was running from the fast pack finished in 10th place, recording the 6th fastest time of

the day.

At the U11's mixed race Chloe Fairclough ran a solid race to finish 35th overall and 12th girl in 5 min. Following Chloe home, Thomas Raith 5 min, Adam Hanby 5m 32s, Thomas Boynton 6m 55s and Callum Darby 6m 59s.

Shildon's Sprinters also recorded some excellent results during the Gateshead indoor standards meeting on the 21st. U13g's Rachel Bennett and Maddie Wells raced to new 60m pb's in 8.56s and 8.63s respectively, times which places them 2nd and 3rd in the early season UK rankings for their age group! U15g Jade Hepple was also on the pb trail in 60m and 60m Hurdles at this meet, well done girl's!

Back in Shildon, Hackworth Park run saw Chris Griffith record a new pb (21.37) on his way to a 2nd place finish. Ian Rudge (24.10) also recorded a pb when finishing 5th and Hazel Johnson completed the Shildon contingent as she came home 2nd female in 26.03. Shildon Running & Athletic club is open to anyone from the age of 8 upwards. If you are interested in joining the club please come along for a free try out session.

For details of club nights and times to suit your age group please check out www.Shildonrunning.co.uk or E-MAIL: secretary@shildonrunning.co.uk

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Triathletes Head for Malta

Last month four members of Aycliffe Tri Club headed to Malta to take part in the Malta Sprint Triathlon (pictured Andy Sedgwick, Michelle Scott, Martin Sedgwick and Jen Bainbridge). After a season of racing in the UK with good dry weather (for a change) the team thought they were in for the same in Malta. However when race day came they were greeted with pouring rain and a wet slippery course.

The weather conditions were some what unusual for the locals who had a number of crashes, however this did not dampen the spirits of the British athletes who relished the challenge of this technically demanding cycle section. Andy Sedgwick was first home coming 1st in his category and 4th over all male in a time of 1:09, Michelle Scott was both 1st female and 1st in her age group in 1:14. Also racing Martin Sedgwick was 4th in his category and 13th male over all in 1:20 and Jen Bainbridge was 5th in her age group and 7th female in 1:28.

This was a successful trip with some fantastic results. If you are interested in Triathlon and would like further details about Aycliffe Tri Club please contact the club on the website www.aycliffetriclub.onsport.com by email aycliffetriclub@gmail.com or you can call Club Coach Andrew Sedgwick on 07887817960

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 11th December 2013

AUDIT SUB COMMITTEE MEETING - 6.00pm

FOLLOWED BY

COUNCIL MEETING 7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 20 minutes has been set aside for an elector to ask questions, give evidence or make representation on any item of business included on the agenda of the Council, its Committees and the Planning Sub-Committee.

With the exception of the Annual and Extra-ordinary Council Meetings members of the public can submit a written question for the Council Agenda as long as it is submitted 7 clear days before a meeting.

If members of the public have any questions it would be appreciated if they could make them known prior to the start of the meeting. Agendas/Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

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

LOCAL SPORT

Lucky 13 for Huntsman

Despite the mid-week downpour, the tireless efforts of the ground staff ensured Simpature Park was playable this weekend as Huntsman FC took on Yates. Huntsman were forced into making a couple of changes as Marc Percival and Shaun Mackintosh were replaced by Jamie Herd and the recently engaged Steven Williams.

After a slow start Huntsman got into their stride and on 20 minutes Shaun Sproates squared a ball to Mike Sproates who guided it past the keeper with his weaker left foot. The second soon followed - a lovely bit of link up play from both strikers gave Jamie Herd the opportunity to slot it into the net. Within minutes, Herd was on the score sheet again, a lovely ball over the top from Anth Cox was plucked out of the air by Herd who gave the keeper the eyes and side footed into the net. Huntsman led 3-0 at half time.

They started the second half in cruise control, Anth Cox nipped in at the front post to convert the low cross on 46 minutes. It wasn't long before he grabbed his second; the ball played through by Carl Bates and calmly converted by Cox. His hat-trick followed in quick succession as a well-timed through ball from Mike Sproates put Cox in 1 on 1 and the goal was never in doubt. The 7th saw another hat-trick, for Jamie Herd who picked the ball up and drilled it home from the edge of the area. Dave Neale decided to get in on the action, the tee up from Shaun

Sproates was put into the side netting from 18 yards.

Despite being unable to find the net the week before, Shaun Sproates found form with a hat-trick in the space of 5 minutes. Shrugging off the biggest lad on the field to grab the first and a lovely left foot finish made it two. He was then put through one on one before rounding the keeper to tap into the empty net. A quick re-count confirmed it was 11-0 by this point.

Anth Harrison gave the fans something to smile about late on as he was played through on goal. The chasing defender attempted an ambitious shoulder barge but sadly found himself up against a brick wall and was left watching from the floor as Harrison grabbed himself a debut goal. Bryan Durr was itching to get on the score sheet for the third week in a row and managed to do so in the dying minutes, sliding a one on one past the keeper, who clearly just wanted to call it a day. Thankfully, the ref blew 5 minutes early, just as everyone was starting to lose count. Man of the Match deservedly went to Shaun Sproates who set up the majority of goals and grabbed himself a hat-trick. Huntsman away to Wheatheaf this week before returning to home action on December 8th against Tompkins.

WATER POLO REPORT

Sedgefield Water Polo club played two home games at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. In the first game a young Sedgefield Men's team with only one player over 17 played Durham University.

In a thrilling game with the score constantly changing the game finished in a draw 7-7. Sedgefield's outstanding player was John Pratt, only 14, who showed his great potential with 2 goals. Josh Lowther, 15, made some excellent saves in goal.

The team was coached by Scott Carpenter who is shortly heading back to his professional polo career in Australia where he hopes to be picked to play for Australia in 2014. The other members of the Sedgefield team were Joseph Reed, James Pratt, Adam Courtley, Kris Egginton, Joseph Reed, Adam Woods, Sebastian Reichel, Ben Turnbull and Jake Plant.

Sedgefield played Durham City in a Junior girls game which resulted in a very easy win for Sedgefield 23-3. The highlight was the performances of Jessica Webb 10, Hollie Turnbull, 11, and Kate Harrison, 11, who all scored goals and impressed with their tenacity and potential for the future.

The other members of the team were Rhiannon Foulds, Abbie Turnbull, Terri Millington, Emily Pilkington, Holly Short and Ashley Boardman. Anyone interested in playing this great team game and likes swimming can get more details on 07818 554449.

Running Club in Leeds



On Sunday 17th November Aycliffe Running Club joined thousands for the annual Leeds Abbey Dash 10K. The race from Leeds City Centre to Kirkstall Abbey and back is traditionally known as a fast and flat course, however, there were a number of small inclines including a section towards the end. Weather conditions were perfect for running and approximately 9500 competitors crossed the finish line at the Headrow.

There were some great times recorded by the Aycliffe runners including a number of personal bests.

Peter Milburn 39:17, Peter Smith 43:33, Graham Atkins 43:36, Graeme Miles 45:08, Ste Smith 45:10 PB, Kelly Smith 46:16

PB, Sandra Collins 46:18 PB, Mackenzie 54:44, Bev Philippo Sue Milburn 47:43, Shelley 58:04 PB, Michael Smith 58:05, McCormack 47:49 PB, Trish Kat Aspey 1:00:51, Elaine Kay 49:00, Gary Minns 49:11, Morgan 1:03:27, Elaine Pearson Judith Porter 51:55 PB, Dave 1:11:11

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HOUSING DEVELOPMENT WOULD ENCROACH ON THE COUNTRYSIDE

A recent article quoted Durham's chief planning officer using language indicating he regards as a fait accompli the 'big development' at High Copelaw. In fact this is still subject to ongoing consultation.

The draft County Durham Plan seems to be based on a lot of demographic and socioeconomic statistics, a computer model and a key underlying Government steer that the area has to have economic growth. However, cynics might say some of the key assumptions underlying the model amount to little more than guesswork designed to support politically desired outcomes.

The model concludes that, to achieve the economic growth required, the area needs to import skilled people from other parts of the country (because there aren't enough here already!). This, combined with the fact that people are living longer, means we will have population growth, so County Durham will need more housing, including more top end housing for all the skilled people coming from elsewhere. Newton Aycliffe is identified as one of the key places earmarked

for economic and population growth. Copelaw seems aimed mainly at providing more top end housing.

At the time of writing there have only been 5 written responses to the consultation on the proposed Copelaw development (which opened on 14 October), including my own, none of which support it. Despite this, the Council states 'evidence based work and consultation undertaken to date continues to support the release of the Low Copelaw site for housing to deliver the growth required in the South Durham area'.

This is a large proposed development of 1,400 dwellings (circa 4,000 people, I guess) or 10-15% of the existing town population, which would stretch from just north of the Young People's Centre to just south of the Gretna, and east from the A167 to beyond High Copelaw farm - you can see the plans and comment on them online (Google County Durham Plan, click on County Durham Plan Consultation Pages, then Low Copelaw). Note that the area to

be developed doesn't seem to actually cover Low Copelaw, which is a bit confusing.

The plans show the extent to which the development would involve significant encroachment into the countryside and expansion of the town already feeling too large for its infrastructure. It would also involve more traffic lights (and, presumably, congestion) on the A167.

I wonder if the Plan really offers robust enough evidence that there will be significant demand for large numbers of further new homes in Newton Aycliffe? There are currently plenty of houses for sale and further supply would weaken the values of existing properties and/or the ability of homeowners to sell. If there is indeed a case for building, should it not be within the existing town boundaries on brown field sites?

Would the Council, which is currently trying to slash its costs, not incur more costs if there are more people, more houses, more roads, more rubbish to collect etc? How will they pay for this?

Hitachi, assuming it proceeds as planned, will offer additional jobs, and may well attract other businesses, but there are already a lot of good people looking for work from the town and its vicinity. Do all these new workers really need to live in the town in yet more housing, and what happens if, like Fujitsu, it disappears after a few years?

Furthermore, if there are to be so many more jobs, why do we need to assume the workers will all want to live on the town? There are many other towns and villages within easy commuting distance.

If you share my concerns, you should let your views be known

Public Notice

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Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

9th December 2013
6.00pm
Youth Centre Main Hall

AGENDA

- A Special General has been called at the direction of the Trustees of Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre.

- Notice is hereby given that under Article 4 (b) (c) that a extraordinary General Meeting is to be held on the above date.

AGENDA

- Welcome and Chairman's opening remarks. That Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre be known as: "Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre". This Name Change does not change the Constitution but brings the name in line with what is written in the constitution under the terms with which the Centre operates.

It does not Change the Constitution or the aims and objectives in any way. It is in addition to the existing name and falls in line with other centres in County Durham.

It is necessary under clause (d) of the Constitution that we require 15 persons over the age of 18 and, being inhabitants of the area of benefit to form a quorum.

Licence Applications

LICENSING APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that I, Mrs Alison Stout, have applied to the Durham County Council in respect of the premises known as

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29-11-13

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Students Brave Mud & Cold



Woodham Academy participated in yet another sporting event last week with year 7 and 8 boys and girls competing at the South West Durham Schools annual cross-country competition. Students braved the mud and cold weather with many putting in top performances securing good overall team positions; year 7 girls positioned 4th and boys 9th and year 8 girls positioned 8th and boys 7th. This is superb and so well done to all involved. Special mention and congratulations goes to Bailey Leybourne from year 8 who, due to an outstanding performance on the day, has now been selected to compete at the County Championships which are to be held in Meadowfield in January. Bailey came 8th in a tough race of around 100 runners and, despite losing his shoe early on in the race, finished strongly.

For Sale

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

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"ALL SORTS" for sale every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10am to 1pm at St Clare's Church

DINNER SUIT Dak-Simpson, as new, 44" chest, 32" inside leg, plus 17½" dress shirt and tie. £60. Tel 01325 313055

MOBILITY scooter, £150. Tel 01325 320282

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

LIGHT OAK dining table with 4 black faux leather chairs and light oak sideboard. Excellent condition. Can deliver, £60. Tel 07985 269460

ULTRA-FIT foldable home trainer F. bike and user manual, as new. Make good Christmas present. 1st £50. Tel 01325 788858, 07812 606926

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

A Hundred Families Receive Food Parcels



The Helping Hands team had a wonderful day of distribution this week and were able to help another 100 families with enough food to last them for quite some time. They saw floods of tears as people received their food. Many had found themselves in extremely difficult situations

CAP Job Club Manager Appreciated

Linzi Nicholls presented Deborah Taylor-Smith (CAP Job Club Manager) with a gift on behalf of the attendees on Tuesday 19th November. Linzi said "it was the last Job Club session and we wanted to let Deborah know how much we appreciated what she had done."

Life Church ran the free club to help people in Newton Aycliffe get back into work. Members of Life Church wanted to help equip our local community to find employment in tough economic times and we believe we succeeded, 90% of those attending are now in paid employment/voluntary work.

It was a free eight-week course to boost the job-hunting process for unemployed people by equipping them with the tools, skills and confidence to find work. We covered topics such as identifying strengths, CV writing and interview techniques. The next CAP Job Club will commence in March 2014

and the volunteers were thankful to have been able to help. Alwyn White says, "As long as there is real need we will do our very best to support people!"

Helping Hands are grateful for the good things coming from the formation of the new Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership and particularly appreciate Aycliffe Fabrications offering storage and packing space in their factory.

Xmas Event at Mormon Church

'The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Days Saints, on Shafto Way, invites you to a wonderful Christmas Event called 'A Night In Bethlehem'. This is being held on Saturday 7th December at 5.30pm and is for all ages. Come and experience what a Bethlehem marketplace may have been like the night Jesus was born. Families will enjoy great food, crafts, games and be drawn closer to the reason we celebrate Christmas. The event is free and all are welcome. Non-perishable food donations are being collected on the night to be passed to the local Foodbank.'

P.A.C.T. Meeting

Police And Community Together

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE PACT Meeting - Saturday 7/12/2013 11am to 12noon. PC Alan Thompson & PCSO Richard Scott look forward to meeting Residents in an informal situation. Councillors & Representatives from all responsible Partners will attend when available. For more information on what's going on in your area visit www.durham.police.uk

HORNDALE PACT - EVANGELICAL CHURCH Ladybower off Meadowfield Way. Wednesday 4th December 6.30pm (please note the start time) Please come along to hear updates and have your say on Local issues. PC Michael Welch and PCSO Mike Hutchinson will attend. Neighbourhood Wardens, Park wardens and Councillors will also attend. This meeting will be followed by the Horndale Residents Association Meeting. Please stay for both meetings if you can.

Students Study Health and Wellbeing



To complement their studies and research into the promotion of health and wellbeing the Health and Social Care Department was visited by Sandra Hudson of Witzend Counselling Services. Sandra provided Y9 students with a session on stress and ways of dealing with it. This included different relaxation therapies, understanding how stress occurs and ways of reducing and managing stress levels. The students were delighted at being shown how to do basic massages. They finished the afternoon on a very relaxed note by performing a basic head massage on each other.

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Obituary

TREVOR, Michael of Newton Aycliffe. Suddenly at home on November 15th, aged 80 years. Loving Husband of Doreen; Much loved Dad to Susan, Keith and Ann; Father-in-Law to Colin and Pauline; Devoted Grandad to Emma, Shaun, Carl and Kerry; Great Grandad to Mia. Service took place at St. Clare's Church on Wednesday November 27th at 2.45pm. Followed by Cremation at Darlington Crematorium.

HARGEAVES (nee Young). Sharon, aged 65 years, passed away peacefully on 20th November 2013 at her home in Capetown, South Africa. Youngest Daughter of the late Bob and Dulcie Young. Sister of Dulcie, R.I.P.

Thank You

THE WECAN Parents Group, based at Greenfield Community College, wish to thank you Honest John for his kind donation to their group and for the work he does in Newton Aycliffe.

EDDIE FORSTER Dot and family wish to thank relatives and friends for their sympathy and kindness following their recent loss. For all the cards of condolence and the donation of £405 to the British Heart Foundation. A special thanks to Dr. Kamali and Reverend Jan Carr; the British Legion and to Amanda for the buffet and to Gill at the Co-op Funeral Services for her kindness at this sad time

MIND On Monday 25th November Newton Aycliffe Mind was presented with a cheque for £500 from the Shildon and District Flower Club, they chose us as their charity of the year. The cheque was presented by the Chair Pauline Wadge to Muriel Gordon and Vicki Lawrence. We were entertained by international demonstrator Jonathon Moseley, the theme of his demonstrations was Christmas creativity, this was the open Festive demonstration held in Shildon Civic Hall. We would like to say a massive thank you to the club for their kind donation it is very much appreciated.

Birthday Remembrance

Stephen Paul Ibinson (Ibbo)

The pain still hurts, the memories are clear. We wish in our hearts that you were still here. You're not just a memory or part of the past. You will be loved and missed as long as life lasts. Love and miss you, Mam, Dad and family

In Memoriam

JOHN LAMBERT (Ray). 21/02/1915 to 30/11/2012. Treasured memories of a very special Husband, Father, Grandad and Great Grandad. Always in our hearts. With love from all your family.

RAY LAMBERT 30-11-2012. One year ago you slipped away, but your are lovingly remembered every day. Time goes by and life goes on, but in our hearts you are never gone. Love, Daughter Denise, John and family xxxx

Congratulations

Ryan Townsley

Happy 18th Birthday
Have a fantastic 18th Son. Lots of love, Mam, Dad & Craig xxxxxxxxxxxx

MileyRae

Happy 1st Birthday 2nd December 2013
Such a special little Princess, you have come so far! Mammy is so proud of you and hope you have a lovely day, you deserve the best ! Still can't believe you're one already. Happy birthday baby girl, lots of love hugs and kisses, love from Mammy xxxxxx

Jake Relton

Happy 1st Birthday
Love, Nanna and Granda
Happy 1st Birthday
Love, Granny & Grandma
Happy 1st Birthday
Love, Katie and Bria xx
Happy 1st Birthday
Love, Mammy and Daddy xxxxxxxxxxxx

MileyRae

Happy 1st Birthday 2nd December 2013
Happy 1st birthday to our beautiful niece MileyRae. All our love, Aunty Toni, Uncle Lee and Poppy xxxx

SINCLAIR 28th November 1973. God makes special people to live upon his Earth. He gave us a Son called Mark, who I can't describe his worth. Happy 40th birthday. Enjoy your special day. Love, Mum and Dad xxxxxx

TIM Happy 50th birthday. Have a great day. Love, Jackie, Mam, Michael, Phil, Clare, Trena and Olivia xxx

MILEYRAE Happy 1st birthday on 2nd December 2013. To a beautiful little ray of sunshine, who never stops smiling. Lots of love and big cuddles. Great Nanna and Uncle Stephen xxx

PAULA HUGHES (28/11/2013). Happy 50th birthday "Wifey". Love from Bob xxx

PAULA HUGHES To the bestest Mam ever!! Happy 50th birthday. Love from your darling offspring, Bethany, James and Jack xxx

PAULA HUGHES To a special Grandma. Happy 50th birthday. Lots of love, Elanor xxx

MileyRae

Happy 1st Birthday 2nd December 2013
Happy first birthday to my gorgeous granddaughter MileyRae, Such a special little miracle, love from Nanna Lozza, Parker and Pacha xxxxx

RYAN TOWNSLEY Happy 18th birthday. All our love, Grandma and Grandad xxxxx

RYAN TOWNSLEY Happy 18th birthday. Love, Nana xx

For all your print requirements
Newton Press 300212

Planet Leisure Bowling League

This week we had a new bowler, Thomas Baptist who is only twelve, bowling for the Bowl Movement and with his partner Gary Marshant drew 4-4 against the Shildon Strikers. The Pinheads won 6-2 against the Strike Force and The Pinheads stay top of the league on 38 points. The Wenwees had an 8-0 win over the Late Starters which put them on the same points as the Pinheads. The Clangers also won 8-0 over the The Optimists.

Wildcats Roared on to Victory

An MVP performance from American guard RJ Evans helped the Wildcats to a 72-67 victory over University Plymouth Raiders in front of an exuberant crowd at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Saturday evening. It was a much improved performance from Evans and his team mates who bounced back in style following a BBL Cup quarter final exit in Sheffield the previous night. Evans led the Wildcats with 14 points, while fellow American Mike Allison rediscovered his form contributing 13



points as well as a string of rebounds and key blocks for the home side. The win keeps the Wildcats in the play-off positions and improves their BBL Championship record to 5-5.

In a tightly contested first quarter, it was the Wildcats who edged ahead following spectacular three-point plays by Ralph Bucci and Devin Ginty. The second period was played at a similar pace with the two teams trading baskets, however it was the visitors that held the slimmest of leads heading into the locker room at half time.

Both Lee Davie and Raiders head coach Jay Marriott are new to their coaching roles this season, and it appeared it was Marriott who was going to come out on top of this contest, as half way through the third quarter his team had extended their lead to double digits.

Coach Davie called a time-out with four minutes remaining in the third period and reintroduced RJ Evans, the former UCONN guard injected some pace into the game and provided a much needed lift to the Wildcats defence. Danny Huffor made a 2 point play on the buzzer at the end of the penultimate quarter to bring the Wildcats within 4 points. The final period was one of

the most exciting ever to be witnessed by the home fans, as both teams continued to exchange points. Paul Elderkin and Kirk Crecco made key baskets for the home side with big man Mike Allison tying the ball game at 63-63 with just 4 minutes remaining. Captain Bucci converted from outside the arc to give his team the lead, and when Mike Allison was put on the free throw line with seconds left on the game clock, he held his nerve and made both shots to secure a 73-68 Wildcats victory.

Speaking after the game, coach Davie was delighted with the result, "It was a much improved team performance tonight, the guys really took control of the game and pushed hard to get the win in the final stages.

We were impressive at both ends of the court this evening, which is a very pleasing response to Friday nights defeat in Sheffield. Now we have to go out and do the same against Worcester next Sunday. We are in a good position and will continue to work hard to win every game." Durham Wildcats entertain high flying Worcester Wolves next Sunday at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, tickets are available online now at www.godurhamwildcats.com.

Town's Cricket Club Win League's Gold Award

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's successful year ended on a further high at the North Yorkshire & South Durham Cricket League's Annual Presentation Night held at the Marton Country Club on Saturday 23rd November.

After already gaining promotion in their first season in the League, Newton Aycliffe were delighted to win the prestigious Gold Award as NYSD Club of the Year.

All teams in the league were assessed in five areas Administration, Facilities/ Match Day Experience, Fair Play, Discipline and Match play with Aycliffe coming out a clear top, beating their nearest rivals by 23 points.

The presentation evening got even better when the Club's vice captain Luke Telford was named Division 3 Player of the Year. Luke who finished the season with 66 league wickets and 433 league runs was clearly delighted to achieve this accolade in the club's debut season.

The awards brought a fine end to the season that also saw the Club awarded Clubmark by the ECB and being selected as a 'Chance to Shine' club, recognising the progress being made both on and off the field and the systems in place that highlight the club as a trusted provider of cricket for all ages.

'Chance to Shine' will now send professional coaches into primary schools in Newton Aycliffe to encourage pupils to take up the sport, while coaching teaching staff to continue the progress.

As part of 'Chance to Shine' the coaches will direct pupils towards Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club and will arrange coaching sessions to integrate



those children interested in cricket into the Club's existing youth system.

Club Chairman Ian Palmer said "The club has progressed a long way since we applied to join the NYSD and the last year has been a magnificent experience. I am delighted that the club has received recognition for this work and I think we have made a positive impression around the NYSD clubs that we have visited. Following our promotion we now have the opportunity to play cricket at some more great grounds next year.

On a personal level I was also delighted that Luke's individual contribution was also recognised".

With regard to 'Chance to Shine' and Clubmark Ian stated that he was extremely pleased that the hard work going on behind the scenes was also being recognised and that work was ongoing to further improve the facilities.

The preparations for next season continue immediately after the Christmas holidays with junior nets starting at Woodham Academy on Friday 10 January 2014 at 6.30pm. More information about the indoor nets or Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club can be obtained by contacting the Secretary Lee Weldon on 07759 754959.

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Gymnastics Showcase

Athena Gymnastic Academy had plenty to write about this year. The gymnasts have impressed at all levels, winning over 50 medals at local competitions as well as getting gold and bronze medal at a National Competition in Stoke.

Gymfusion2013, which was held in Newcastle was a great success for both the mainstream squad and the Disability Squad with some superb reviews of the routines which were superbly done. Then to top the lot Athena Gymnastics Academy also won some top awards for their

achievements within the year. Athena who are based at both Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre and also Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre are now putting finishing touches to their own annual Christmas Showcase. The showcase, which takes on a Musical Theme this year, takes place on Saturday 7th December at the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre in the main hall. It starts at 2pm but all the fun begins at 1pm when the doors open. We will have many Christmas Fayre style competitions for everyone to try, including, raffles, sweet tombola's, craft stalls to name a few.

This showcase only has one performance so to reserve your tickets contact Sam on 01388 605946, but these tickets will go fast so book now to avoid disappointment. If your children have an interest in Gymnastics and would like to know what we do in the many recreation classes that we offer, come down for a great afternoon's entertainment as every rec class will be represented in the showcase. Many of the well known musicals, from Grease to Annie will be given the Athena treatment, and the not to be missed, Gymfusion 2013 routines will also be reviewed again so come along and support the kids from Athena Gymnastics Academy.

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