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Offer valid until 28th February 2014, not in conjunction with any other offer

STEVENS TAKE POST OFFICE

Moves with new name into former Heron's Store



Chris and Diane Young, proprietors of "Stevens" the Town Centre Newsagents, are pleased to announce the opening of their new shop on Friday 13th December, in the old Heron's unit, along with the new Post Office.

The New Shop will be called 'YOUNGS NEWSAGENTS,' and will continue to offer Newspapers and Magazines, Home Deliveries, Confectionery, Sweets, Crisps, Soft Drinks and Tobacco Products.

5:30pm Monday to Saturday and 6:30am till 12:00 Noon Sunday. Post Office Counter Opening Times 8:30am till 5:30 Monday to Saturday. Could Post Office customers please note the old Post Office will close on Thursday 12th re-opening at 1:00pm on Friday 13th in the New Shop 'YOUNGS NEWSAGENTS.' The shop is well fitted out and with air conditioning is very impressive. We wish Chris and Diane every success.

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Xmas at Greenfield SANTA VISITS CRAFT FAIR EXCELLENT SERVICE

Following our successful Family Learning Month we have been making plans here at Greenfield Arts for some fun family Christmas activities. On Monday 23rd December we will be joined by Great Aycliffe Council's Environment Officer Steve Cooper for a session making festive wreaths, using willow and local foliage.

This is the third year Steve has offered this great opportunity here at Greenfield Arts and it continues to be a popular choice – thank you Steve!

On Christmas Eve we will be holding our own arty version of a Christmas Party, taking part in a number of Christmas crafts including making cards, decorations and more before enjoying mince pies and hot chocolate! If you want to join us for one or both of these fantastic activities all are welcome but we ask that you book in advance by contacting us on 01325 379048.



Santa paid a visit to Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre at their Craft and Table Top Fair on Saturday. Young children from the town came to give Santa a list of what they wanted for Christmas. Santa promised all the children that if they put their name and address on their letter he would personally reply to their letters.

MAD Productions who meet at Youth Centre on a Wednesday night also entertained those present with a rendition of Christmas songs. The entry raffle was draw at the end of the event and the winning tickets are: 211-215, 346-350, 276-280, 331-335, 376-380, 311-315, 166-170, 366-370, 181-185, 261-265. The winners can pick up their prizes between 9am-3pm Monday to Friday.

Dear Sir,
I would like to strongly recommend Brian Venables carpet store in the town for his excellent, attentive service. He couldn't have been more helpful to us as when our carpet arrived to be fitted. It was short so he ordered more immediately, but the manufacturer made a string of mistakes. This meant we were without all of our carpet for a couple of weeks but Brian was on the phone daily following up and keeping us informed of the situation. He did this above and beyond the call of duty! I would recommend his service to anyone, and hope that we can keep as many small businesses such as his in the town.
Yvonne Burton

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FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS:

Friday 13th December

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Saturday 21st December

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includes plated buffet complementary drink
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**Tickets now on sale in the club or
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Bikers Xmas Toy Run



Every year The Turbinia pub, helps organise the 'Aycliffe Bike Club' & Party Fire Engine tour of 10 local pubs. They collect the toys that have been donated and hand them over to Bishop Auckland Womens Refuge.

This event has been running for 7 years with thousands of toys, donated, giving kids a Xmas they could only dream about.

Please support this worthwhile cause, buy an extra present this year and leave it at the Turbinia, unwrapped. Better still, hand it over in person and greet the cavalcade of motorcycles (many in fancy dress) the fire engine and Del Boy's 3 wheeler at 12-15pm on Sunday 15th December. Bikers are welcome to join the fun, suitable for

all sizes of bikes, trikes & scooters. Just donate a toy! Call Gary on 313034 Party Engine kindly supplied by Martin Norris from the 'Blazin Squad' - 0800 9775221.

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Rotary Club Tour with Santa & Sleigh

Each year the Rotary Club tours a number of streets in the town with Santa Claus and his musical sleigh. Santa talks to boys and girls and hears what they would wish for Christmas and a collection is made to provide hampers for the town's needy families.

The club also collects in Tesco over the same period and the staff at Tesco make up the high value hampers ready for distribution. Last year over 50 hampers were needed and it is expected to increase this year.

The following areas will receive a visit from Santa between 5.30pm and 7.30pm on the dates indicated:

Monday 9th December - Heighington

Tuesday 10th December - Woodham

Wednesday 11th December - Cobblers Hall

Thursday 12th December - Neville Parade

Monday 16th December - Simpasture

Tuesday 17th December - School Aycliffe

Wednesday 18th December - Bluebell Way

Thursday 19th - Silkin Way

Neville Community Centre

Neville Parade, Newton Aycliffe

Grand Charity Concert

Saturday 7th December, 2pm

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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, Chili Peppers, Kings of Leon, Metallica, Muse, U2, Van Halen & Whitesnake, to name but a few. "We hadn't seen this band before so we didn't know what to expect and boy did they rock The Hearts!"

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

"If you haven't already seen this band, go and see them, you won't be disappointed"
www.myspace.com/mugshotrockband

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



Students Spread Xmas Cheer Merry Christmas from the Youth Centre



Dear Sir,
On behalf of Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre, May I thank those that have supported the centre: Tesco, Sainsburys, Homeplan, Fit4Longer and EML Music for their donation of prizes to our events. To Music Junction for allowing us use their equipment at our events.
The Management committee would like to express their gratitude to all those that have used the centre over 2013: Aspire, KDanz, Sporting Chance, Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre Football Club, Fit4Longer, MAD Productions, Springfield, Destination Judo, Little Gems, One Point, Durham Carers, Age UK, the

Knitters, the Brunchers and all who have used and supported the centre.
We would also like to thank our staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication. The centre will close at 8pm Friday 20th December and re-open at

9am 6th January 2014.
From the Management Committee to Greater Aycliffe, We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May 2014 be full of blessings for you all.
Vicky Hewish (Secretary)

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In the build up to Christmas, children from Stephenson Way School are aiming to spread festive cheer around Newton Aycliffe with a series of carol performances at locations around the town.
Christmas is a time for community spirit, which we wish to share with some of the elderly residents of our local care homes. We hope that our Year 6 children's visits to Rose Lodge and Aycliffe Care Home next week help to brighten up their festive season. The school's performing arts club will also be entertaining the

town's shoppers on Wednesday 11th, with a performance at Tesco. What better way to enjoy the Christmas shop than to do it against the backdrop of beautiful carol singing? The performance is scheduled to start at around 1:30pm and any and all support would be greatly appreciated.

Town Centre Chaplain's Christmas Message

The Future's bright for Newton Aycliffe Town Centre. This past year has seen changes, many of them positive and uplifting. Over the last twelve months contractors have worked hard to bring a fresh and beautiful look to our town. Those who work in our many retail units, banks and offices have stood the test of some very hard times to what hopefully will be a future to look forward to with promise and hope.
There have been changes with unfortunately some shops and offices closing, but there have been new ones coming along to take their place. We welcome the new Cupcake shop, and the very smart New Look store. Alongside these the Post Office is relocating into the old Heron store, which looks bright and welcoming. There is promise of more new shops coming in 2014.
The opening of our New Town Centre, by Mayor Barbara Clare was fantastic, with people crowding into it showing their support.
Lets hope 2014 will be a sign of hope to all who work in our town - they deserve our full support and loyalty for giving us their townspeople 100% effort in keeping their places open throughout the regeneration period. May they look forward to when all the work is completed in our town, and they can reap the benefits.
On behalf of myself, and Churches Together in Great Aycliffe . . . As Christmas approaches, the beautiful story of the baby Jesus coming into a dark world is told, bringing with him signs of hope and light - message of peace and love. May it fill your hearts with joy. May you all have a peaceful and blessed Christmas, and may you look forward to a New Year filled with love for each and every person you meet. God bless you all.
Pamela Lovelass,
Town Centre Chaplain

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Bulmers	only £10 15 x 440ml	Bulmers	any 2 for £3 Incl Bulmers, Stella & Magners Pear - 568ml	Magners	only £3.50 EACH P/M 4 for £4.79 4x500ml

Santa Needs Help on Xmas Eve

The people of Newton Aycliffe look forward to the annual Santa Tour on Christmas Eve with joy and anticipation. It is worth bearing in mind that this event would not be possible without a dedicated and amazing group of volunteers, who selflessly give up a couple of hours of their time on Christmas Eve, to bring festive wonder and happiness to children of all ages, throughout the town on such a special night. We are looking for some new volunteers to help Santa in the mammoth task of touring the streets of Newton Aycliffe, if you would be interested in taking part in this magical event, please contact Rachel Goddard on 01325 300600 for further information

Xmas Fayre

A Christmas Fayre is on 7th December from 1pm – 4pm at Aycliffe Care Home, Burnhope supported by Horndale Residents Association. Various games, numerous stalls, cakes, bottles, tombola's and a raffle with over 40 prizes. Everyone welcome, please call and support residents in the home as all money raised will go to their comfort fund.

REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 27th NOVEMBER

Last Wednesday's Town Council meetings were quite exciting! The Environment Committee began with a presentation by Stuart Timmiss, Head of Planning at Durham County Council, on the pre-submission County Plan.

The Plan's key aim is to provide a thriving economy, largely based on the business opportunities provided by the A1/A19 corridor which runs south-north through the County, but also seeking to create sustainable, regenerated communities in every small town and village across the county.

The Plan lays out its vision for employment land, housing, infrastructure services and community facilities, the green infrastructure, transport and tourism, over the next 25 years. Mr Timmiss was especially proud of the Plan's flexibility for growth in rural areas, for the fact that it is the only plan in the country which requires developers to provide 10% of housing for older people. It also not only extends the amount of green belt, but joins up Durham's green belt with green belt land in Gateshead.

Mr Timmiss outlined the Plan's aspirations for Great Aycliffe, which is at the centre

of the Plan's ambitions for the County, and which has been given employment land and housing allocations to allow it to grow substantially. Members asked many probing questions, before agreeing unanimously to fully support the Plan. The Committee complimented Mr. Timmiss and his Planning Colleagues on both the consultation process undertaken and the inclusion of the Town Council's suggestions and comments in regard to the draft Local Plan.

The meeting also received a report on the Allotment Holders' AGM, and a report on twenty-five! separate school and community events organised in the preceding month by the Environment Officer – including walks, pond clearance, 'scrub-bashing', bulb-planting and bird-box making!

Finally, the Committee unanimously approved the planning application for a fenced Nature Reserve with surface water storage pond on 'The Moor', near Cobbler's Hall. This will be provided and maintained by the County Council as part of the development of Site O, and should additionally help to protect houses along Woodham

Burn from flooding.

The Recreation Committee made two significant decisions. Firstly, given that pupils will now stay on at school until they are 17, the Committee agreed to charge young people as a 'Junior' at its Oak Leaf facilities until they are 18 years of age.

Secondly, the Committee agreed to give the Northern Bygone Vintage and Classic Car club permission to make their show (held in September this year at the Oak Leaf Complex) an annual event.

Finally, the Committee received a report detailing progress made by officers to put on the Fireworks Display next year. Officers are of the opinion that the Oak Leaf site still offers the best venue, and that admission by ticket (restricted to Aycliffe residents) would appear to be the best solution.

They are currently costing further measures – providing extra lighting, and closing Greenfield Way – and will report back on the feasibility of these ideas, before submitting a report to the Safety Advisory Group.

John D Clare

Aycliffe Company Rebuild Santa's Sleigh Ready for Tour of the Town



A-Tech employees who completed the work Shaun Whitworth and Andrew Stobie

Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club are grateful to John and Jennifer Manners, Directors at Aytch Fabrications on Aycliffe Business Park for their help in repairing and constructing their sleigh for Santa Claus.

The sleigh and trailer were in poor condition and Aytch offered to help, deploying two of their skilled employees, Andy Stobie (left) and Shaun Whitworth to completely refurbish this essential Christmas Santa transport which tours the town's streets collecting for Christmas hampers for needy families.

The Rotary Club has carried this out over many years and the townspeople look forward to seeing the

brightly lit sleigh, booming out Xmas Carols and songs while Santa talks to all the children.

The sleigh will be on tour Monday 9th to Thursday 12th December and also the following week: Monday 16th to Thursday 19th December. Listen for the music and Santa's bell between 5.30pm and 7.30pm.

Geoff Batchelor, President of the Rotary Club said: "A-Tech have been marvellous in getting Santa's sleigh ready for Christmas. The quality of their work is evident and the sleigh has been rebuilt to last for many years. We appreciate what John and Jennifer Manners have done to help us and cannot thank them enough".

Councillors' Surgeries

Ward Surgery

in St. Marys Meeting Room Saturday 14th December from 11am-12noon
Town Councillors for Shafto, Central and Neville Ward will be in attendance.

Lumière at Woodham



The fantastic light festival 'Lumière' returned to Durham on November the 14th, transforming the city into an exciting celebration of light installations and projections.

Buildings, streets and public spaces were turned into beautiful artworks lighting up the city with a sprinkle of winter magic. After the success of Lumière 2011, Woodham Academy Art department was excited to see what Lumière 2013 had to offer and we were not disappointed!

The Art department and a number of Year 11 students visited Lumière on its opening night, spending 3 hours walking around the city to explore the artworks. A life size elephant, a phone box that had been turned into an aquarium and magical dancing stick men were just a few of the light pieces that sparked conversation and inspired staff and students alike. It was wonderful to be able to share such an incredible event with students and to witness their excitement in discovering each new artwork.

Many students have been working towards creating their own light sculptures in class and benefited greatly from viewing the work of other light artists. Inspired by the success of the Durham Lumière Woodham Academy hopes to display its own light artworks for all to come and see. The picture is a little sneak peek of what you can expect when Year 11 students exhibit their work next year!

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Town Mayor Opens Refurbished Care Home



Resident Peter Barron (73) with Shirley Summerbell, Peripatetic Manager for Akari Care, The Mayor Barbara Clare and Janet Graham, Deputy Manager of the Care Home (back).



Aycliffe Care Home, part of Akari Care, welcomed The Mayor Barbara Clare, to officially open the newly-refurbished home. As part of Akari Care's £12 million investment programme in its homes throughout the UK, the home has undergone a complete re-decoration and refurbishment to improve the surroundings for the residents. Social areas throughout the home have been refurbished to include new furniture, carpets and curtains in lounges. Dining rooms have new furniture and these areas have new lighting, all of which will help residents and improve their environment. To make the residents' personal space more comfortable, bedrooms have been redecorated and all have new carpets, curtains and furniture. There have also been new bathroom suites installed and modern assisted baths have been fitted, which is making bathing a lot easier and more comfortable. Located on Burnhope Way, Aycliffe Care Home is a

purpose built 54 bedded home providing 24 hour care for general residential and dementia care with nursing. Aycliffe Care Home is part of Akari Care and aims to maintain lifestyles as similar as possible to those enjoyed at home, with an extensive range of activities which individuals can enjoy and benefit from. Shirley Summerbell, Peripatetic Manager for Akari Care, said: "The environment of a care home is so important to the well-being of the residents and we are really pleased with the refurbishment. Everything is geared towards achieving positive outcomes for the people who live in our homes and this major investment will make a real difference. Everyone at Aycliffe Care Home enjoyed the celebration and would like to thank Councillor Barbara Clare for attending."

Unread Signs

Dear Sir, It is not often I put pen to paper, but Mick Ainge's letter this week is the straw that broke the camel's back. I don't wish to cause offence to anyone but I am astounded at the number of people who have driving licences but apparently cannot see or read signs. Not only do Aldi's have large, obvious signs, but most other supermarkets also have notices restricting the length of parking too. I shop regularly at Aldi's and have never even come near the time limit they impose. Resident Name & address supplied

20 is Plenty Around Schools

Dear Sir, Firstly I would like to congratulate a number of schools on our town for their exceptional efforts in raising the profile of the "20 is plenty" campaign and also alerting the public to the dangers of illegal and irresponsible parking outside our schools. The children and teachers of this town deserve massive praise for their enthusiasm, determination and sometimes defiance in the face of hostility and a blatant disregard for the safety of our kids. It is a comfort to know that in an ever-changing society, most of our children do know the difference between right and wrong. Secondly, as the councillor that proposed the motion regarding a speed reduction outside schools in Aycliffe and the County, I am thrilled with the responses made public over the past few weeks in the Newton News. Whether they be good or bad, this is a good way to open up a debate on what is becoming a hot bed issue. In addition I would like to respond to a couple of comments made regarding the proposal. The purpose was to devise a plan that would be beneficial to all schools in some way or other and not just about a simple speed reduction to 20 mph. The safety and wellbeing of schoolchildren is paramount and it was always my intention to tackle, not only the issue of speed but the constant problem faced at most schools with traffic congestion and irresponsible parking. I am fully aware that a build up of traffic reduces speed, therefore reducing the risk of

someone being hit by a car. On the other hand congestion also increases the risk of someone stepping into the road and not being seen, resulting in possible injury. It was proposed that Aycliffe Town Council lobby Durham County Council for the introduction of more School Safety Zones around County Durham. This would hopefully impact on the number of parked cars outside school gates as these zones act as a no-parking area. However not every school would benefit from a School Safety Zone and/or a speed reduction. With regards to Vane Road, the biggest problem there appears to be the school being on the junction of Vane Rd and Central Avenue, a main route into Newton Aycliffe.

If and when DCC look at that particular school, they may decide to employ both a zone on Vane Rd and a speed reduction on Central Avenue to maximise benefits for the school. In terms of education, I think it fair to say that road safety is and always has been a big part of the curriculum. Unfortunately we have a small minority of parents who on a daily basis choose to breach highways regulations simply to ensure that they get as close to the school as possible. Hopefully we will not only influence people to change the way they park their cars but also encourage them and their children to be more active, and walk to school, just as we did when we were young. Counc Paul Kjenstad

CHECK YOUR COUNCIL WASTE PERMIT

Dear Sir, A word to the wise regarding waste permits . . . I applied to Durham County Council for the proper waste permit to remove rubbish from my property, which duly arrived a few days later. I was then told by the workers at the recycle centre in Heighington Lane that if it isn't on the permit list you cannot tip it! I had my van loaded up with all the rubbish including old carpets that were listed on the permit, but at the recycle centre the council worker told me I could empty the van and dump

the carpets, and anything else which was listed, but things not listed would be refused and have to go back in the van. I rang the County Council who confirmed every single item has to be listed on the permit of what is being tipped. Next time I apply for one of these so called permits, I hope they have enough paper for me to list ALL my items. In the end I took the carpet to a farmer I know and he put it on his bonfire. Talk about Council cut backs and jobsworth's - no wonder people flytip. Brian Sowerby

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**Woodham Academy Christmas Concert**

Rehearsals are well under way at Woodham Academy for this year's Christmas Concert, which as usual will feature performances from a wide variety of talented students from years 7 through to 11. Woodham Samba Band, Jazz Band, Instrumental Group, and Woodham Sound are all preparing Christmas-themed performances.

Audience members will also be entertained by instrumental and vocal solos from many other students from across the Academy. Woodham Dance Academy will also be making more appearances, showcasing the work they have done with both Woodham students and primary children.

The concert will take place on Wednesday 11th December at 7pm in the

Main Hall. Tickets will be priced at £3 for adults and £2 for students and concessions. Tickets are available from Woodham Academy; please call 01325 300328 for further information and to order tickets.

Unable to attend the Christmas Concert? Not to worry, you can still see the students in action during the Christmas period. They will be taking part in the Newton Aycliffe Community Christmas Concert, which will take place in the Leisure Centre on Sunday 15th December. This event is a festive celebration which brings together people of all ages from across the community. Woodham Academy students are delighted to have been invited to participate once again.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE FAMILY PARTY**

The Scout Supporters association is again hosting our ever popular Family New Year's Eve Party in the hall at the Scout centre Bluebell Way on 31/12/2013 from 7.30pm to 12.30am. The bar is open serving alcoholic and soft drinks at very reasonable prices. All money raised is used to maintain and run the Scout centre for the use of community groups and of course, the Scouting organisations who use the building.

This is an event for all the family to enjoy with Karaoke and Disco and a raffle. Children of all ages are welcome as long as they are accompanied by a responsible adult.

Tickets are now on sale at £2.00 for adults and £1.00 for children and can be obtained from the centre during bar opening hours-8.00pm to 11.00 each night (closed Wednesday) and 12.00 to 4.00pm at weekends. Numbers are limited so get yours early so that you don't miss all the fun.

Please phone if you would like any further information tel 01325318091.

See you all there for a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Generous Newtonians

Despite having a general collection for the County Durham Foodbank over last weekend the permanent collection bin installed just last week, to go direct to the Foodbank at St. Clare's, was full to overflowing twice in as many days. Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership are grateful to Tesco's for their co-operation and appreciate the generosity and kindness of Newtonians who show care for others less fortunate.


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PROMISING CHEF! National Award for Bishop Auckland College



Regan Edden, an year 8 pupil from Greenfield, along with 5 other young, aspiring chefs gathered to showcase their fantastic cooking skills in the UK's biggest cooking challenge at the Tyneside and Teeside local final of the Springboard FutureChef Competition at Middlesbrough College on Friday 22nd November. He faced some stiff competition, and there was only a couple of points between the entrants and the eventual winner. Regan was the youngest of 6 competitors at age 13 (it was his birthday just 5 days before the competition). He gained high praise from the judges for his entry - Asian inspired Salmon & Prawn Parcels with

Singapore Style Rice Noodles, followed by a dessert of Ginger & Lime Cheesecake with Ginger, Lime & Lemongrass Curd, served with Chocolate Dipped Physalis Fruit. He was highly commended for his use of flavours & textures. Head Judge Alan Robinson of Taylor Shaw said "Regans use of ingredients was exceptional; he used the perfect amount of fresh chili & ginger to make a piquant, flavoursome & inspiring dish" He asked if Regan would be returning to compete in next years FutureChef competition, as "Anyone who can produce food to that standard at only just 13 years old shows amazing promise!

A promotional drive which secured unprecedented UK and international media coverage for a Bishop Auckland College music course has secured a national industry award. In January the college launched an evening class designed to prepare budding performers for auditions such as ITV hit show the X Factor. The aim was to use popular culture as a hook to attract young unemployed people to enrol at the college for the first time. Students who enrolled on the 17-week programme, which ended just in time for the 2013 auditions for the show, received technical tuition in singing and performing and coaching on how to project themselves confidently. The idea behind the unique course stemmed from the college's previous work with X Factor winners - in summer 2012 Joe McElderry and James Arthur both performed at the Bishop Auckland Music and Arts Festival. The first course of its kind to directly link the NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Music to TV talent shows, news spread quickly with coverage across most national newspapers and many regional radio stations across the UK. This included a live broadcast



Peter Davies CBE, Interim Chief Executive of the Education & Training Foundation, presents the award to (l-r) Chris Jennings, Christina Munn and Kevin Burns of Bishop Auckland College.

from the college's main campus on ITV's Daybreak programme, and North East regional television, radio and press coverage. International media interest included the Hollywood Reporter in the US, Australian press and titles across Europe, which led to enquiries about the course from as far afield as Malta. In all, there were 129 items of print, broadcast and internet media coverage worth over £400,000 in equivalent advertising terms with the potential to have reached 30 million people. The media storm put the spotlight on efforts by colleges across the country to engage young people who are not in employment, education or training, known as NEETs, to the delight of the Association of Colleges and the College Marketing Network. It also led to thousands of extra hits on the college website that week and dozens of course enquiries. Last Monday night the college received a Silver Award in the PR campaign category at the College Marketing Network's FE First Awards ceremony held at the Hilton Hotel in Warwick. Describing the course promotion as "excellent", judges said: "The team should be very proud of this entry and their campaign. It sets a standard for future campaigns and award entries." Kevin Burns, Head of Marketing and Schools Liaison, said: "We were astonished by the level of media interest in this course, which helped us successfully recruit a group of students, some of whom have since progressed on to higher level full time courses. "You need to be innovative in the further education sector to engage young people who are not in work or training and using popular culture in this

way can lead to accusations of 'dumbing down'. But we were delighted at the success of this course and very pleased to receive this award." For more information on courses at Bishop Auckland College, visit www.bishopaucklandcollege.ac.uk or email start@bacoll.ac.uk or call 01388 443000.

Community Centre Helps Ex Woodham Golf Pro

Ex woodham golf professional Ernie Wilson would like to thank David Sutton Lloyd, treasurer and Sylvia Leatherborrow events coordinator, of Woodham Community Centre for all their help and hospitality over the last three weeks. Due to the closure of Woodham Golf Club four weeks ago they helped Ernie with room hire so he could sell his golf stock. These sale days are set to continue for the next three Sundays up to and including 22nd December from 11am until 4pm for all who would like to grab a bargain for Christmas presents etc. The recently refurbished Community Centre is a busy facility with many groups and organizations using the two hall areas. "It is becoming more and more popular with up to 400

people a week using the facility and we are only too glad to help Ernie at this difficult time" said David. Ernie's assistant golf professional of 12 years, Sean Kay, is running children's golf coaching in the main hall 2.30pm until 3.30pm for the next three Sundays for children aged 5-14 using the tri golf equipment. If you are interested in any stock or lessons ring Ernie on 07599 528153 The centre is used for many types of activities from sports to conferences and if you are interested in running an event please contact David on 01325 316144 or 01325 300258 or email D.suttonlloyd@bt.internet.com Call in to a look round, Woodham Community Centre, St. Elizabeth Close, Newton Aycliffe.

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Great Bake Off!

A huge thank you to everyone who took part and supported, our very first 'Great St Mary's Bake Off'. Tuesday was a massive success, and we are already talking about the next one.

Everyone pulled out the stops demonstrating their culinary skills. The school governors, who judged the competition, had a mammoth task. The three categories in the competition gave adults and children a chance to show off.

The winners were proudly wearing their rosettes for the rest of the week and the Star Baker, Holly in reception class took home a super trophy. Well done to everyone for making it a success.



HEIGHINGTON MATTERS

Parents Driving into School

Like many Newton News readers, I have been interested in reading the comments from residents in Newton Aycliffe expressing concern over parent's driving their children into school and the inconsiderate parking when they get there. Needless to say when the schools were built car ownership was far less than today and children simply either walked to school or were transported by bus.

Those days are long gone and with the ever increasing use of the car the school 'driving' parent problem is here to stay. Ultimately irrespective of where one lives, the solution is for parents to take ownership of the problem by driving and parking safely in and around school but as we have read in the Newton News parents are simply choosing to not to do so. In Heighington we have the same problem.

School Governors, Parents, residents, PACT members and even the children themselves continue to express their concerns about speeding and parking issues around the school. I in turn have held meetings with the Police and Darlington Borough Council Highway Officers to discuss how to convince parents that they must act sensibly when driving their children into school.

The problem is not new. Ten years ago a group of Mothers met with me to investigate ways to help reduce the dangers to our children, caused by a few parents inconsiderate driving and thoughtless parking. Over several months we developed a Transport School Charter which clearly describes where

parents should park, where not to park, the roads to use and a 'One Way System' to improve the flow of traffic allowing older children to be dropped off outside the school gates without parents having to park up. All parents are handed a copy of the Charter which includes a map of the area, before their child starts school. This ensures that every parent knows what is expected from them when they drive their child into school. The system has proved so successful it has been used as Best practice by Darlington Borough Council. And yet, despite all parents being presented with the Charter, there are a still a few who choose to ignore it.

Cars are often abandoned on corners, others left on grass which is churned up much to the annoyance of house owners and many park along Redworth Road making vehicles heading north out of the village drive on the wrong side of the road towards oncoming traffic on a brow of a hill. It seems that like school parents in Newton Aycliffe, many parents seem oblivious to the dangers they are causing to others including schoolchildren.

But with the patience of Barbara Watson who over several months has persevered in organising a 'Walking Train' from the middle of the village up into school every Friday, there is a glimmer of hope to reduce the number of cars that park close to the school. We are all indebted to Barbara who stands out in all weathers to meet and greet

the children before walking them into school. 30 children regularly walk the 'Walk' thanks to Barbara, and on the 15th November this number was increased to a staggering 90. So the 'Walking Train' is a practical solution that many may be aware of but few are prepared to organise one. It needs someone to take the lead and in our case it was Barbara but for this to be sustainable we need to take the next step which is for parents themselves to take over the reins from her. So in Heighington I am interested in looking at how we can move this forward. In the first instance, I would like to hear from parents about whether they would be prepared to volunteer to accompany children into school from the Bishop Auckland Bus stand. If there is sufficient interest I will arrange a Meeting to discuss the matter further. So if you would be prepared to help take over from Barbara to walk the 'Walk' with our school children contact me on 314622 or gerald.lee@darlington.gov.uk

And finally, some information for those readers who are interested in 20mph speed limits:-

In 2005, following research ROSPA released the following information:- Hit by a car at 40 mph, 9 out of 10 pedestrians will be killed. Hit by a car at 30 mph, about 5 out of 10 pedestrians will be killed. Hit by a car at 20 mph, 1 out of 10 pedestrian will be killed. Thought provoking.....

Councillor Gerald G. Lee
Darlington Borough Council

GREENFIELD COLLEGE HOST LITHUANIAN TEACHERS



Last week a group of teachers from Lithuania visited Greenfield to observe lessons and speak to staff and teachers here about why creativity is important in school. The group of 23 visitors started with a tour of the school by pupils, had a chance to meet Senior Leaders and pupils to talk about the projects and learning that took place when Greenfield was a Creative Partnerships school and then each member of the group had the opportunity to observe a "Time 4 Success" lesson - Greenfield's vertical

tutoring system.

The group was made up of teachers from Creative Partnerships Lithuania schools and staff involved in the Creative Partnerships Lithuania programme. The trip was a great opportunity for them to see how Greenfield has successfully included creativity in all areas of the curriculum and school life. The teachers were particularly interested in "Time 4 Success," they wanted to learn more about the benefits of working in that way and have been inspired to look at ways

this idea might be incorporated into their work and how they can take their creative teaching further.

The visit was a recognition of the hard work staff at Greenfield have done since being a Creative Partnerships enquiry school to continue to champion creativity. This is one of many international visits to Greenfield this year, as the school continues to be recognised as a centre of excellence for both creativity and Global Learning opportunities.

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LET'S SUPPORT THIS VISION FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

Two years ago, when Great Aycliffe Residents' Association considered the first draft of the proposed County Plan, a meeting of 250+ residents unanimously resolved that the Plan - which effectively sidelined Aycliffe - was not ambitious enough. So the planners went away and produced a revised Plan which instead puts Aycliffe at the centre of the County's aspirations for growth. In the current Plan, therefore, a third of the 'employment land' proposed for the County (including 90% of the proposed 'prestige' land) is allocated to Aycliffe Business Park ... which will make it the largest industrial estate by area in the north east. To accommodate the increased population such growth may stimulate, the Plan then allocates land for almost 2,000 extra houses (should they be needed).

County Durham is not a Soviet-style Command-Economy! The Plan cannot direct what will happen. Rather - should we have the entrepreneurial dynamism to grasp it - it provides Aycliffe with the opportunity for growth. But the alternative is that our potential for expansion is artificially constrained. It would be, in effect, an invitation for growth to go elsewhere.

WHAT WE ASKED FOR

Could we build the new houses 'within the town boundaries', asks a correspondent last week. But the GARA meeting decided unanimously on that too - No! Aycliffe people told the planners that they wanted to retain the internal green spaces which characterise our 'garden city', and that they did not want back-filling. The County Plan gives Aycliffe people what they asked for. **SUPPORT IT, OR MAYBE LOSE IT**

What we tell the planners now cannot change the text of the Plan, which has to go as it is to the government for consideration. Any reservations, alterations and suggestions made at this point will go down to the government alongside the Plan ... as, essentially, objections. If the number of those objections grows large enough, the Plan may be delayed, even rejected.

That would be a disaster for Aycliffe - not just because a revised Plan might not place Aycliffe at its heart, but because Aycliffe Business Park needs the confidence and assurance of the Plan now, to maximise its appeal to industry and capitalise upon the 'Hitachi bubble'.

The proposed County Plan is not 'written in stone'. It includes flexibility and there will be plenty of time in the next three decades to sort out any quibbles. But, at this moment, Aycliffe needs its residents to give the Plan a ringing general endorsement.

CONSULTATION ENDS 9 DECEMBER

You do not need to complete the online consultation (at <http://bit.ly/DCCPlan>). Simply (before 9 December) email CDPconsultation@durham.gov.uk - Please say you support the Plan's core vision for Aycliffe's business growth and housing. It will take only seconds, but by doing so we will secure the opportunity of a bright future for our town.

John D Clare

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ACORN Apprentice Awareness Final

ACORN Residents Association will be holding their monthly meeting on Thursday December 12th at the Royal British Legion Club.

Beginning with a meeting of the junior group little Acorns at 5.30 pm the main group meeting commences at 6pm.

Speaker for the evening will be our friend from livin Sylvia Dodsworth to explain changes to community involvement in the social housing arm of the organisation.

Details of outings to the theatre to attend a pantomime and other seasonal events will be discussed by the little Acorns. Whilst the adult group will be discussing Police and social issues affecting the neighbourhood. The emphasis is, however, on having fun in the community.

ACORN has a policy of inviting Councillors both Town and County to answer questions and announce policies, which are of interest to the public. We welcome new members and even the curious to come along. We are a family oriented group who although non-political are interested in events going on in the environment around us and try to have an input.

We have a website which can be accessed at www.acornresidents.com and a facebook page which allows the general public to get involved in our campaigns and make comment on the things that we do. As a group we encourage other groups to form their own residents associations. We are currently looking for interested parties to join a group covering the Agnew 1 and 2 estates.

Warm regards and best wishes
Ken Robson (Chairman)



The winners - Gestamp Tallent Team



Runners up - The Bignall Group



incredibly difficult to choose an overall winner' said Adam White from the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership, one of the three judges of the competition. Woodham Academy would like to thank the six companies represented in the challenge; Finley Structures, Gestamp Tallent, South West Durham Training, A Tech Training, The Bignall Group and Ebac.

MACMILLAN CANCER INFORMATION AND SUPPORT SERVICE

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The centre is open: Monday 9.30am-12.30pm

Wednesday 10.00am-12.00pm

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On Wednesday 27th November Woodham Academy held its annual Apprenticeship Awareness final which saw over 150 Year 9 students working alongside a business from Aycliffe Business Park. Their task was to lead a research trail into the opportunities available to them locally through the apprenticeship route and to examine career progression routes within the companies. The six tutor groups battled it out in the live finale with each group producing a collage and a verbal presentation. All presentations were to an exceptionally high standard and the use of digital technology was used to enhance the final performances. The competition was won by Gestamp Tallent who were represented by Yasmine Hynes, Jaydene Chappell, Adam Byrne and Ryan Harris. 'The high quality of the presentations we saw on the evening made it

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YOUTH COUNCIL APPRECIATE BEING GIVEN A VOICE

Dear Sir
The Aycliffe Youth Council was set up with the aim to raise the profile of young people in a positive way, persuading them that they are valued and can make a difference within the town with the help of the residents. We have been involved with a number of different projects over the year including Town Pride Environment Week and Fun in The Park, and are also active among many of the committee groups around the town, attending GAMP and GARA meetings regularly. A big part of the Youth Council is based around grants and we are available for organisations within the Great Aycliffe area to apply for grants that are of direct benefit to our town.

Town Council itself. The sense of teamwork and respect is something frequently commented upon as we all do our best to lead by example, to continuously conduct ourselves properly so that the residents of Aycliffe feel comfortable to look to us for guidance. Apart from the huge success that the Youth Council has been, it is a privilege to us all to be able to voice the young people's opinions and concerns and we can only hope that we are truly doing you justice. On behalf of the Youth Council, a massive thank you to the people of Great Aycliffe for your continued support and praise, it is fully appreciated. Maria O'Hanlon Secretary of Aycliffe Youth Council

FAMOUS L. A. ARTIST CONTACTS WOODHAM

On a bright summer evening driving home from a long day at school, my attention was grabbed by the huge roaring lion's mouth that had been put on display in the window of The Outsiders Gallery on the quayside in Newcastle. After a few times driving by this lion - whose warm sweaty breath I could almost feel on my skin - I realised that there was more to this piece. Delicately dripped inky butterflies surrounded the lion's head in pastel shades and warm feminine colours. The work had initially grabbed me and after searching the artist online, I felt it was something I needed to share with my art students at Woodham Academy. I knew many of my students would appreciate the style of art after looking at artists working with similar media. The artist's name was Sage Vaughn. Most Year 10 students across the department looked at the



artist and made work inspired by him, learning the techniques of whitewashing, layering, tone in pen and dripping. I was quite taken with Zoe Efthymiadou in particular who I repeatedly kept finding sitting in the art department long after the final bell had gone working on her own version of Vaughn's work. I decided to email the artist to see if he could offer any advice or feedback. No reply

came from the artist himself, however his PA did ask for the school address. A few weeks later, a large package arrived with an American postage mark. Inside a beautiful book of the artist's latest work and best of all, a handwritten note from the artist himself. The feeling of joy that came from opening the package was nothing compared to the pride I felt giving the book to my student and watching her slowly flick through the pages; her eyes lapping up every colour, shape and tiny detail. After the excitement of the book arriving, I wasn't ready to throw away the packaging with all the postage marks on it. The cardboard told its own story, so we decided that she would make a piece of work on the box and send it back to the artist. Who knows where this piece will end up... maybe his next book!?

Message in a Bottle Found in Brugge

Monique Maertens, lives in Brugge, Belgium, and has an Aunt Rose living in Garburn Place who advised her to send a fascinating story to Newton News... Monique lives about 14 miles from the beach and now and then takes her two Jack Russels there for a walk. Last Friday, the weather was good, so she decided to go to the seaside. Monique writes: "I was playing with a ball with the dogs and as a volunteer litter cleaner saw glass which I wanted to remove, but then realised it was a plastic bottle, containing a note. I recalled a movie about "a message in a bottle" and had one right in front of my feet and was very curious. With the wind and the dogs I could not open the bottle immediately so put it in my bag and returned home forgetting about the bottle. To avoid the rush hour, I took a back road home passing a horse riding school called "The Paddock" Once home I was very anxious to read what the two notes in the bottle said. One was the address of the girl who wrote the messages and the other was a letter to the girl's Granddad. The girl's name was "Ellie" and she lives in "The Paddock" and I thought of the coincidence of the riding school I had passed on the way home. The second coincidence was the family address in Newton Aycliffe, England where my family live and where I visited two years ago. Ellie's mother's maiden name is Allan and my Aunt Gladys is also Allan and she too lived in Newton Aycliffe. The emotional letter was to Grandad, who had died



3 years ago and who Ellie was missing so much. I called the family and I spoke to Ellie and her mum who thought it so strange that the bottle fell into my hands. The bottle was thrown in the sea last August in Southend-on-Sea, where the girl's Grandmother lives. It had been bobbing over waves of the North Sea for 5 months to land just in front of my feet. It was an odd coincidence as the beach is long and so very wide! I have Ellie's email and we intend to keep in touch. I have been a widow for years and when my husband was alive, we always had some connection with number 22 and strangely enough I found the bottle on the 22nd November. I send this story to Newton News because I wanted to share these coincidences with your readers". Monique

TOWN'S COMMUNITY AID PARTNERSHIP READY TO BE FORMED

Inaugural Meeting 9th December

The Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership holds its Inaugural Meeting on Monday 9th December at Disc, Blue Bridge Centre, Horndale Avenue (next to the Blue Bridge) at 7pm. This is a meeting for all those involved in providing welfare to people in crisis in this area and includes all voluntary and

statutory organisations. Those attending will adopt the Memorandum of Agreement prepared by the steering group and elect officers. Each partner will be represented on the committee with entitlement to one vote. The partnership idea is already working with the many different groups

starting to talk to each other, co-ordinating and co-operating to ensure no individual or family loses out on any type of assistance they require. if you want to be involved come to the meeting or contact Acting Chairman Syd Howarth on 300212, after hours 320901, e-mail: syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Does Legal Aid Still Exist for Family Cases?

There has been a lot of publicity in local press regarding the significant changes made to the legal aid system on the 1st April 2013. It is now a commonly mis-held belief that legal aid is no longer available for family cases such as divorce, financial matters and applications concerning children. This is not strictly true.

There are indeed many circumstances where legal aid is still available for family law cases and it is important if you find yourself in a situation where you need legal advice regarding a family matter that you contact Hewitts Solicitors off Tesco Car Park. Legal Aid is available for cases where a child has been taken in to care; is subject of a child protection plan; where a person seeks to protect a child from abuse and for people who have suffered domestic abuse. In the above circumstances legal aid may also be available for any associated family case such as divorce.

Evidence must be provided to support the risk of abuse or violence. This can be obtained from the police, health visitors, social workers GP, domestic violence organisation, refuge etc. The definition of domestic violence is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between individuals who are associated with each other.

Legal Aid is still subject to a financial assessment and at Hewitts Solicitors we will be able to assist you in calculating whether you will meet the financial qualification for Legal Aid.

At Hewitts Solicitors we can guide you through the process of applying for Legal Aid. We offer free initial telephone appointments to discuss the circumstances of your case and whether legal aid may be available for you. Please also feel free to view our website at www.hewitts.co.uk If Legal Aid is not available we are happy to discuss payment plans to meet your financial circumstances. Hewitts Solicitors, here to help! See our Advert Page ?

Any community youth group from Aycliffe who are interested in applying for a small grant can contact us via Great Aycliffe Town Council for more information at 01325 300700 or e-mailing info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk Being a Youth Council member is a fantastic opportunity to gain skills in a number of different areas including leadership, organisational and social skills, whilst also aiming to improve relations between the residents of Great Aycliffe. The meetings also act as a way of giving young people an understanding of what democracy means by involving them in the democratic processes demonstrated by the

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Horndale's "Outstanding" School Invite Visits

Horndale Infant and Nursery School are very proud of their "Outstanding" Ofsted award and would like to remind Newton News readers of this high status!

Since starting back at school in September, school and nursery have been very busy! As well as all the excellent learning that the children do, there have been lots of other exciting things!

Y2 children visited Aycliffe Dental Practice. The children were greeted by Jackie and Claire who showed us how to brush our teeth correctly for two minutes. We sorted foods which were good and bad for our teeth and then we had a 'ride' in the dentist's chair. On our way home we called at St Clare's Church to look at the poppies at the War Memorial as we have been learning about Remembrance Day.

Our annual Arts week centred around China this year. We learned to speak some words in Chinese, had great fun making origami Royal figures, making Chinese flags, decorating Chinese lanterns, learning about New Year celebrations and tasting Chinese food. Our visitors Lip Lee and Apple taught us origami and dancing. What fun we had!

This year for Children in Need we came to school looking spotty! During the morning we had our faces painted with spots too. We sent our money off the Children in Need as here at Horndale we like to help children who aren't as lucky as we are.

Silverband Falconry visited us this term with their fantastic birds of prey. Richard showed



us his owls, hawks and ravens. It was fascinating to learn about these interesting birds. Some children in Year 2 made excellent observational drawings of the birds. In the afternoon we had a fantastic display outside on the yard and watched the birds in flight. After we heard about the terrible disaster in the Philippines we decided to have a non-uniform day and give a £1 donation each. We sent our money off to the Disaster Emergency Committee so that it would help the people in need have fresh water and may be buy some food. Christmas is an exciting time of the year for the children in

our school. At the moment we are busy rehearsing for our Christmas concert. Our Nursery children are singing about a snowman, the Reception children are acting out the Nativity and our Y1 and Y2 children are performing 'A Present for the Baby'. The children are displaying their skills as actors, musicians and singers. Performances are on 12th and 13th December 2013. If your child is due to start Nursery or Reception in September 2014 please come along and have a look at our School. Please telephone the school office for an appointment 01325 300228.

HUNTSMAN FC REMAIN UNBEATEN

Table topping Huntsman travelled to Tommy Crooks Park to take on 4th place Wheatsheaf and recorded a 5-2 victory to maintain their 100% record in the league. The gaffer was forced into 2 changes from the impressive 13-0 victory the week before; Mark Percival replaced the injured Callum Musgrave while Shaun Mackintosh came in at right back for Carl Bates.

The pitch was in poor condition and this hampered the passing style Huntsman like to play but it didn't stop them breaking the deadlock on 5 minutes. Pete Sproates father of the inform Sproates brothers is to thank for the first goal as he got intoxicated Mike out of his pit in time to make kick off! A long ball forward by Steven Williams was met by Sproates who rounded the keeper before passing into the empty net.

The second goal soon followed, which was against the run of play, Wheatsheaf were piling bodies forward and this allowed them to be picked off on the break, a good interchange of passing in the middle of the park freed Anth Cox who drove at the opposition defence from the left before hitting an unstoppable shot into the bottom corner.

The game was put out of sight on 30 minutes when Dave Neale made in 5 goals in 4 games from centre midfield, a high ball forward saw a mix up between the defender and keeper, Neale nipped in and flicked it over both players' heads and walked the ball in the net. It got better for the Huntsman before half time when Jamie Herd scrambled

home from close range after the home team failed to clear a corner.

The second half was a poor affair and sloppy defending allowed the Wheatsheaf a way back into the game a long ball forward wasn't dealt with and right wing cross fell to the feet of the winger who fired home into the roof of the net from 12 yards.

The Huntsman controlled the game there after but missed plenty of chances before they added a 5th substitute Andrew Richardson set up the goal with his first touch playing in Shaun Sproates who fired home into the bottom corner. Chances continued to come and go for the Huntsman but the final goal of the game went to the Wheatsheaf, goalkeeper Dodds failed to deal with a cross ball he parried into the feet of the centre forward who fired home from 2 yards out.

Huntsman had a chance to score a 6th when Michael Sproates was brought down inside of the box but captain and man of the match Lee Redpath couldn't get his first Huntsman goal as his tame penalty was saved safe to say he won't be taking another!

The game finished 5-2 a good result despite playing poorly. They will be looking for an improved performance when they return to home action against Tompkins at Simpasture Park on December 8th 10.30 kick off.

Aycliffe Sports Club's 100% Home Record

After last week's disappointing result to Spraire Lads, Aycliffe Sports Club faced a return fixture against bottom side Green Dragon, who they had beaten convincingly 11-0 in the away tie at the start of the season.

The game started very brightly with the home side looking for a repeat of the early season clash. A good move down the right hand side saw Chris Jones latch onto a through ball and slotted home the first goal of the game on 5 minutes.

It took just another 5 minutes however for the visitors to equalise and shock the home team. A second goal soon followed for Green Dragon after a loose ball was left waiting in the box and with the defenders slow to clear, the visitors took the lead on 15 minutes and went into the break surprisingly in front.

A harsh team talk and a bit of soul searching gave the home side the incentive to get back

into the game for the second half. On 55 minutes, a through ball from midfielder Gareth Boyes again found the hard working Jones who raced through for his second goal of the game. Chase McMullen then hit a rocket of a shot on the hour mark to make it 3-2 as the home side began to dominate.

Chris Jones completed his Hatrick on 70 minutes with a header from a cross from the hard working Jonathan Clegg on the right. It was Clegg who rounded off the scoring, with an equally spectacular strike, to match McMullen's effort earlier to make it 5-2 and maintain the 100% record at home.

Next up is an away tie to The Wheatsheaf - which should prove to be very competitive games as both sides lie on 19pts in the division - albeit Aycliffe have 4 games in hand which they hope to now make count.

MoM: Chase McMullen

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Legends in Snooker Match at Spennymoor

One's already survived the jungle and the other is still facing the prospect of more gruesome Bushtucker Trials - and they're both heading for County Durham in January.

Steve Davis - currently a contestant in TV's I'm a Celebrity - and Jimmy White - who came third on the show in 2009 - will be taking part in a Snooker Legends match at Spennymoor Leisure Centre on 23 January 2014. Tickets are now on sale and organisers are expecting the event to be a sell out.

Joining Jimmy White and Steve Davis will be professional snooker referee Michaela Tabb along with commentator and former player John Virgo. Tickets are £12 for an end tiered seat and £20 for a standard seat. VIP tickets, £60, are also available and include a drinks reception with the snooker legends.

Mark Lee, manager of Spennymoor Leisure Centre, said: "Last year's televised Premier Poker snooker event which we held was such a success that we decided to bring snooker back to Spennymoor. "It is with great pleasure that we present Snooker Legends at Spennymoor Leisure Centre and we look forward to welcoming Steve Davis following his return from his jungle

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GREENFIELD OLYMPIC LEGACY PROJECT LAUNCHED

Following their success at the County Sports awards recently, Greenfield Community College were awarded a Get Set Olympic legacy grant to further develop their PE and sporting opportunities. The school are organising a range of festivals, Out of School Hours sporting clubs and Community opportunities, to help build a lasting Olympic legacy at the school. Taking inspiration from the Olympic Values of excellence, friendship and respect, and the Paralympic Values of determination, inspiration, courage and equality. Greenfield aim to make a real difference to their students and the local Community. Greenfield students will have a range of new free out of school hours opportunities with



Evergreen Special School & Byerely Park Yr 1, with Get Set Trophy & Greenfield leaders at Greenfield Cluster Yr 1 Get Set Olympic Legacy CBebies event

local clubs (in addition to their highly recognised programme), including Gymnastics with Athena Gymnastics Club, Dance with Aycliffe dance academy, Table Tennis with Bishop Table Tennis Club, Cheerleading, Trampoline and much more.

Also many Community Sporting Opportunities at the school will be offered Free to children in the local community on Free school meals / or in need of financial support.

In partnership with the Department for Education, Get Set, the official British Olympic and British Paralympic education programme in the UK, (www.getset.co.uk) invited schools to apply for grants of up to £5,000 to support them in delivering activities which maximise the legacy of the Games and

ensure that schools continue to drive teaching and learning and motivate young people.

The Greenfield initiative is one of approximately 100 projects nationally to be supported by this grant. Greenfields successful bid will further add to the Schools ambition to raise aspirations and transform lives through sport and physical activity.

Seb Coe, Chair of the British Olympic Association said: 'Get Set to Plan Your Legacy is a great opportunity for schools to contribute to the legacy of the Games and to make a lasting impact in their communities. We are looking forward to seeing what they achieve.'

Tim Reddish, Chair of the British Paralympic Association, added: 'This initiative will empower schools and communities around the country to deliver the Games' Legacy objectives. The network of schools involved will make a real impact and help to build a lasting legacy.' Get Set wanted to support successful projects to help them develop further. Well done to Greenfield on their successful bid. This is a fantastic opportunity for Greenfield students and the local Community. For details of how to get involved or for more information contact Michael Rippon on 07879117224.

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Public Notice

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PARISH OF GREAT AYCLIFFE

Due to resignation, there will be an Open Vestry Meeting on 15th December at 4pm in St Clare's Church. This is to elect an interim Parish Warden with responsibility for St. Clare's until the 2014 AGM in April

AFTER the third time of having my door bell ripped off at a cost of £15 each time, I would like to know who breeds the low life, the morons, the imbeciles, who are hell bent on ruining other people's property. Annoyed Pensioner

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RUNNING NEWS

Last Sunday 15 members of Aycliffe Running Club travelled to Cumbria to take part in the Ravenstonedale 10K. The race is organised by Howgill Harriers, who take their name from the nearby range of hills called the Howgills.

The weather was ideal for running, dry with no wind but rather chilly. The beautiful scenery soon takes mind off the agony of the 2 mile climb at the beginning of the race. Then there is always the reward of the 1 mile descent back into the village at the end, where there is hot soup waiting to be served at the Kings head pub.

Lee Wren, one of the clubs best runners was suffering with stress fracture, but as the photo shows, he seems to have found a way of keeping his weight off the injured leg for most of the race and got round the course in 42m:34s in 42nd place.

However, Dez Fielden, who is having Achilles problems, was still determined to finish under 40 minutes and did this easily in 38:50 and was first home for the club in 16th position.

Other notable performances came from Susan Milburn, 1st F 0/55 and 84th overall in 48:54, Judith Porter, 1st F 0/60, and 129th overall in 54:47, and Anne Kellett who surprised herself with a time of 57:03, 146th.

Other results were - Peter Milburn - 26th - 40:32, Martin Knox - 30th - 41:22, Peter Smith - 63rd - 46:00, Sandra Collins 76th - 47:43, Michael Brunskill - 83rd - 48:51, Shelley McCormack - 95th - 50:06, Trish Kay - 104th - 51:19, Kat Aspey - 155th - 58:07, Beverley Phillippo - 162th - 59:20, Ray Todd - 169th - 61:34.



The following day seven of our athletes were engaged in the cross/country event at Croft.

In the ladies race Penny Johnson was the only representative from the club and finished 43rd in the time of 32:59.

In the senior men's race, Martin Sedgwick was first home for the club, 92nd in 40:26, followed by Kevin Greenall, 93rd in 40:40, Colin Gibson, 95th in 40:55, Alan Wilkes 103rd in 44:59, Rob Nicholson 105th in 46:17, and Dave Thompson 106th in 49:48.

On the same day Chris Forster competed in the Blythe Sands Run, This 5 mile event uses a handicap system according to age and gender. Race instructions simply read "Keep the North Sea on your left on your way out and on your right on the way back" Chris got a revised time of 39m:32s

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HALL GARTH LONG SERVICE AWARDS



18 Staff at the Hotel and County Club were treated to a three course lunch by General Manager Pam Mooney who thanked them for their dedicated and loyal service. Together they have clocked up a staggering 371 years service at the hotel, with the longest serving staff having both 24 years of service.

Christmas Wishes

LOVELASS, Michael and Pam of Langley Road, send all of their neighbours and friends in the town, Christmas Blessings and best wishes for 2014 xxxx

JOHNSON, Tommy, Molly and Dandy of Beechers Grove, wish all of their neighbours and friends around the town, a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2014 xxxx

Obituary

COXON, Jean of Newton Aycliffe peacefully in hospital after a short illness on 22nd November, aged 88 years. Loving Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Family and friends please meet for Service at Wear Valley Crematorium (Coundon) on Tuesday 10th December for 2.45pm. No flowers by request. Donations in lieu if so desired to Plan UK. Finsgate, 5-7 Cranwood Street, London EC1V 9LH

Property



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SHILDON
2 bed bungalow in good area, mature/professional couple. £490pcm. Bond and references required.
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RESIDENTS MEET

Linden Place Residents Association meet on Monday 9th December at 6pm at Agnew Community Centre. All Residents welcome.

Thank You

MICHAEL TREVOR. Doreen and family wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown to them during their recent bereavement. Also for the cards, letters of condolence received and donations of £220 for Help the Heroes. Special thanks to Neil for being there with his help and support. Thanks to Rev Julie Wing for a comforting Service and to David Scott and the staff of the Co-operative Funeral Services. **STEPHEN CLARK.** Helen and all the family would like to thank everyone for the sympathy, kindness and tributes received after the very sad loss of Stephen. Your thoughts are of great comfort to us all at this sad time.

LYNN MOHAN and family would like to express their sincere thanks for the many cards, flowers and kind messages following their recent loss of Ian. For the donations of over £700 that were collected in aid of the British Heart Foundation. Special thanks to John Whitehouse Funeral Directors for their sympathetic approach, organisation of flowers, catering and the Big Club, and also to the Leisure Centre staff. Finally to all family and friends for their continued love and support **COLIN WOODWARD** Tara and Lee would like to thank family and friends for all their sympathy and kindness at the sudden loss of their Dad Colin. For the continuous flow of flowers, cards and kind words and for the donations to Cancer Research (£150) and British Heart Foundation (£150). Special thanks to Colin at the Co-op Funeral Services, Rev Anne Melton for the lovely Service and to the British Legion and Amanda for the lovely buffet

Births



Jack West
Congratulations Sarah and Garry on the birth of your Son "Jack Henry". Thank you for another beautiful Grandson. Lovely little Brother for Harry. Love, Mum, Dad and Uncle Dan xxx
Congratulations Sarah, Garry and Harry on the birth of our gorgeous Nephew and Cousin "Jack Henry". Love, Nicola, John, Tom, Becky and Adam xxx

Congratulations

NEIL ROSS Happy 40th birthday. Have a great day. Love, Mam and Dad xxxx

PALLISER, Melanie and John. Happy 14th Wedding Anniversary to my Wife Melanie. I love you more today than I did yesterday and thank you for our boys Jake, Callumm Kain and Saxon xxxxx

RICKY HARDY Happy 21st birthday. All our love, Auntie Anita, Uncle Micky, Ross, Robyn and Reed xxx

RICKY HARDY Happy 21st Son. Love and best wishes, Dad and Yolanda xxx

RICKY HARDY Happy 21st. Lots of love, Nana and Auntie Lynne xxx

RICKY HARDY Happy 21st. Love from Uncle Ian, Auntie Karen, Curt, Brad and Megan x

RICKY HARDY Have a lovely 21st. Love from Auntie Ally and Uncle Andrew xxxxx

RICKY HARDY 7th December 2013. Happy 21st Ricky. Lots of love, Mam, John, Dean, Mel, Ryley, Wayne and Nana McKay xxxxx

CLARE SAMS 6th December 2013, Happy 40th Birthday Clare!! You're one mad crazy friend and we love you lots Hope you have a fabtulous party next week, Lots of love from all your bezzies Xxx

In Memoriam

SHAMEENA (Sam) Peacock, 1/12/12. In my heart you will always stay, loved and thought of every day. A great friend who I miss dearly. Love, Graeme xxx

LORNA RYMAN In memory of Lorna, 7th December 2003. It's ten years since you were taken from us, but even as time goes on, our treasured memories never fade. Forever in our thoughts Mam. Love, Yvonne, Paul, Annabel and Emily xx

HAZEL YOUNG, I know you're watching over us, high in Heaven above, and everyday throughout our lives we will think of you with Love. Miss you Mum. Love, Carol, Gary, Donna, Stu, Gary, Dean and Chantelle xxx

JUNE ELLIS 8-12-12. One year today we had to part with a Mother we love with all our hearts. Remembrance is sweet, but sad to recall, she is loved by us and respected by all. Miss you so much Mam. It's been the longest saddest year. So unbearable without you. All our love, Ian, Penny, Linda and Davy xxx

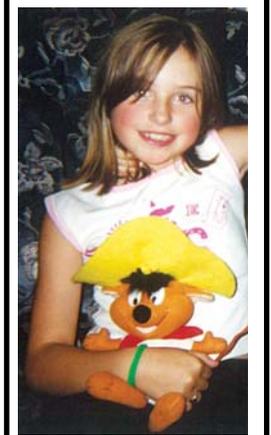
JUNE ELLIS 8-12-12. Today, tomorrow, our whole lives through, we will always love and remember you. Miss you Nana. All our love, Dale and Scott xxx

JUNE ELLIS 8-12-12. Treasured memories of a dear Sister. One year today you slipped away, I think of you every day. Time goes by and life goes on, but in my heart you will never be gone. Love and miss you, Sister Freda xxx

TREVOR PLASKITT Died 12-2-2010. Always in our hearts and prayers, so sadly missed. Your loving Wife Valerie. Loving Dad to Daughters Shirley and Julia, Adam, Jason and your loving Grandchildren Jonathan, Maxine, Louis and Mia. Loving family and friends. God bless xxxxx

BOB DICKINSON 10th December 1991. In loving memory. Every day in some small way, memories of you come our way. Though absent you are always near, still missed, loved and always dear. Loving Wife Peggy and all the family xxxxx

Joanne Louise Dobbin



8th December 2013
Happy 21st Birthday
Lots of love 'n' kisses from Dad and Beverley
xxxxxxxxxx

Joanne Dobbin



Happy 21st Birthday
You have become a beautiful lady, inside and out! Lots of love, Rachael, Chris and Jacob xxx
Happy 21st Birthday
on your 21st. Love, Mam and Thomas xxx

Aaron James Sim



Happy 1st Birthday
10th December 2013
Lots of love, Mummy, Daddy, Kayla and Robyn
xxxxxx

Abbey Eloise Edden



Happy 21st Birthday
5th December 2013
We're so proud of the amazing woman you've become!! All our love, Mam, Dad, Dane and Regan xxxxx

You Don't Need to Spend Xmas Day Alone

You don't have to be alone this Christmas Day. You could spend it with a great bunch of people! The 'Helping Hands' team is waiting to hear from you to join them for Xmas Lunch - all free!

Organiser Alwyn White says "We still have 20 places left and we want to fill them, as every place taken has the potential to bring some joy into someone's life!"

There are many people that would rather not be alone and most think they won't ring us in case there is someone worse off than them. If that is you, then we're asking you to make contact now. We are determined that this is going to be one of the best celebrations that local charity Helping Hands have organised so far!

We have enough volunteers and funding now - thanks to the most amazing response from Newton News readers. Please let us know if you'd like to join us now by phoning or texting 07936 431262. You can even Email lifeline.action@googlemail.com and we will get back in touch with you.

Christmas Day Menu 2013

- Selection of Canapés
- *****
- STARTERS
- Pate, chutney, melba toast
- Smoked Salmon served on a bed of salad
- Seasonal Melon with fruits of the forest compote
- *****
- MAINS
- Traditional Roast Turkey with all the trimmings
- Roasted topside of Beef, Yorkshire pudding
- Honey and mustard glazed gammon
- Vegetable Wellington with roasted cherry tomatoes and mushroom gravy
- *****
- DESSERTS
- Christmas Pudding and brandy sauce/custard
- Chocolate and Orange Cheesecake
- Strawberry Trifle
- *****
- Selection of cheeses and biscuits
- *****
- Fresh Coffee/Tea and Mints

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or Email: syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Autumn in Lakeland

Aycliffe Fell Walkers couldn't wait to get away to the Lake District for their Lakeland walk last month! So keen were they that one member literally missed the bus, and had to pursue the vehicle in a car to catch up! The forecast was good and 46 eager walkers journeyed across the Pennines hoping to enjoy the hills and woodlands around Keswick. They would not be disappointed! The coach first set-down at the Scales Inn where many chose to partake of coffee before ascending Scales Fell and onward to Blencathra. Next coach stop was Thirlmere, where the majority alighted – some to climb Helvellyn; some to ascend to Watendlath Fell and High Tove; others wisely stayed low, avoiding the strong winds on the high ridges, to circle around Thirlmere, planning close-encounters with woodland paths and autumn leaves. Those that had taken to the ridges later descended through Ashness or Brundholme Woods, whilst others that had stayed low enjoyed the splendour of the Great Wood

below Walla Crag. All found themselves surrounded by kaleidoscopes of vibrant red, yellow and brown autumn colours as they 'splodged' through seas of fallen leaves! Derwent Water soon loomed and a walk around the lake ensued; nearer Keswick, dozens of Canada and Greylag geese crowded around bread-throwing walkers down by the water's edge. What a heart-warming magical sight to see so many species together, although the Mallard ducks and other smaller species didn't really get a look in! All club members enjoyed their autumn break and later, in Keswick, the rich and colourful hues of the real ale being consumed by the many thirsty walkers jostling round the bars, well; that was another heart-warming magical sight to behold! If you would like to join "probably the best fell walking club in the world", application for 2014 membership is now open; simply visit the website www.afwc.org.uk or contact the Secretary, Alan Holmes on 01325 488225.

Greenfield at County Rowing Finals

Five students from Greenfield Community College travelled to Maiden Castle to represent Sedgfield in the County Durham Rowing finals on Thursday 28th November. The students gained a place on Sedgfield's team after qualifying recently in Sedgfield's interschool rowing event. All Greenfield students performed extremely well against some of the top rowers in the County. A number achieved their personal best scores, with Madelyn (pictured above in her Greenfield Rowing club kit) gaining a place on the Yr 9 County girls rowing team, after she achieved her best score of the season. Well done to all involved and good luck to Madelyn in the Inter County finals in 2014.



Rebecca Lowes (Yr 11), Madelyn-Pateman Patrick (Yr 9), George Scaife (Yr 8), Scarlet Fairhurst (Yr 7) & Megan Cross (Yr 11)

Aycliffe Rugby Team Stumble to Defeat

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club travelled to Richmondshire for their latest match in Durham and Northumberland Division 3. Despite having a number of players unavailable, Aycliffe were still confident of victory. The early exchanges, with Aycliffe playing downhill, were fairly close, but it looked likely that Aycliffe would score if their backs could get good ball. Richmondshire missed three penalty kicks at goal before Aycliffe took the lead. A penalty kick from the hosts failed to reach touch and was caught by Darrell McLaren. The ball was passed through the backs until it reached James Thacker who set off on a mazy run, beating most of the opposition players before touching down wide out on the left. The conversion was missed. A number of other chances to score came Aycliffe's way prior to the break but none were taken. At half-time, the score was 5-0. In the second half, Aycliffe began to concede large numbers of penalties as some of their basic technique deserted them. Richmondshire's kicker had now found his range and began to add the points. With 10 minutes to go, the home side were 9-5 ahead, when they pounced on poor Aycliffe defence to add a converted try which was to deny Aycliffe even a losing bonus point. The game ended with Richmondshire ahead by 16-5. Aycliffe will now have to refocus their efforts for the rest of the season, beginning with the home game against local rivals Sedgfield on 7th December; the game having 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. Despite this setback on the field Aycliffe Rugby Club received some good news from local fundraiser Honest John

who managed to raise £500 and donated the money from his Aycliffe Community Kitty to the clubs funds which will help purchase various playing tops and training equipment. Huge thanks from all associated at the club to Honest John and the community of Aycliffe.



Chairman Brian Parsonage receiving cheque from Honest John

Big Club Team in Quarter-Final

Jason Steele's Big Club side look to continue their impressive cup form when they take on Pelton in the League Cup quarter-finals this weekend. Aycliffe WMC, who play in the Durham and District Sunday League, beat West Auckland WMC in the County Cup last week and have been handed a trip to Stockton Hardwick in January. But first they hope to book their place in the semi-finals of the League Cup this Sunday when they take on Pelton at Woodham Academy (December 8, 10.30am kick-off). "It's another big game for us but they're all big games in this league," said Boro 'keeper Steele, 23, who this season teamed up with his old school, Woodham, hosting the Big Club's games there. "We're doing well in the cups, which means we're still playing catch-up in the league, where we've won three and lost three, but we're hoping to win some silverware this season so Sunday's game is really important to us – it'd be great to see some local support." • Newton Aycliffe WMC v Pelton, Sunday December 8 (10.30am) at Woodham Academy, address DL5 4AX.

Aycliffe Swimmer is Scottish Record Holder

As reported some weeks ago Elisabeth Yaneske won Gold at the Scottish National Championships. We have just been notified that the time she set for the 1500 meters freestyle has been ratified and is now the Scottish Record - A special Xmas present for her. North Eastern Senior/Junior Regional Championships held at Sunderland Aquatics Centre 30th Nov/1st Dec. Representing Sedgfield 75 were Phillip Walker, Mathew Bradley and Hannah Featherstone. They competed in ten events on Saturday making a total of seven finals. Mathew won silver and bronze in the 100 FS as Junior and Senior and Gold in the 50 Breast as Junior. Hannah won Gold in the 50 FS and Gold in the 200 Back as Junior and Silver as Senior. On Sunday Phillip and Hannah swam in six events making four finals. Hannah won silver in the 100 Back as a Junior and won Gold and Silver as Junior and Senior in the 100 FS. It was the first year for Mathew and Hannah competing in the senior events and without doubt much of their success over the weekend was down

to the support given by Phillip who has a huge amount of experience competing at this level. Next weekend is the turn of the younger swimmers who will be competing at the Derwentside Xmas Meet. Looking to next year we have been informed that Hannah has been selected to attend the England Development Camp on the 3rd to 5th Jan 2014. The news seems to have got much better since we found out we have gained sponsorship from Hay's Travel based in Newton Aycliffe.

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