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# NEWTON NEWS

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## POLICE STATION RETURNS TO TOWN CENTRE



Police Commissioner Ron Hogg is shown here with the Deputy Chief Constable Micheal Banks, Susan Johnson Chief Executive Officer for the Fire Service and County Councillor Michelle Hodgson.

The Fire Station conversion in the Town Centre, to accommodate the Police, is complete and was opened on Wednesday this week. They moved everything from their rented premises on the Business Park to their new offices and are now open for business.

The new arrangement makes sense as the Police try to meet more budget cuts. They made the decision not to build a new police station, but share premises with the Fire Service guaranteeing their service would not suffer.

Most people agree there will be a higher sense of security in bringing the police station back to the town centre and this move, complete with blue lamp, is very welcome.

## Community Aid Partnership Formed

The Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership (GACAP) was officially launched this week and the first Chairperson is Pauline Chambers Chief Executive of Citizens Advice Bureau. Vice Chairman is Steven Mitton of County Durham Furniture Help Scheme, Secretary Joan Clark from the Youth Centre and the Treasurer is Liane Robinson from Disc where the Inaugural Meeting was held.

The partners agreed the constitution and will now work together to provide help for people in need in our area in a cohesive and efficient manner.

Any welfare organisation, statutory or voluntary, in this area may join the partnership and share

the benefits of joined up thinking in tackling any problems that affect people's wellbeing. The partnership exists to refer people in crisis to a resource which can give immediate assistance.

Contact the Secretary Joan on: 307522, e-mail: [treasurer.nayc@live.co.uk](mailto:treasurer.nayc@live.co.uk)

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Spray Tan & Gelish - £22  
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Offer valid until 28th February 2014, not in conjunction with any other offer

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**Tue** - Roast Pork Dinner OR Chicken/Cheese Omelette/Beans  
**Wed** - Minced Beef Dinner OR Sausage, Egg & Chips  
**Thu** - Roast Chicken Dinner OR Salad  
**Fri** - Beef Hotpot & Mash OR Smoked Haddock, Mash, Peas  
**Sat** - Mince & Dumplings  
**Sun** - Burger in a Bun with Chips OR Roast Beef Dinner  
**OR Roast Chicken Dinner**  
**Call Ian or Lesley on 01325 300203**  
to arrange your Meals On Wheels  
[www.FeastLand.co.uk](http://www.FeastLand.co.uk)

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## CIVIC CAROL SERVICE

The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs. Barbara Clare, will host a Civic Carol Service on Sunday, 22nd December 2013 in St. Clare's Church, St. Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe, at 6.00 p.m. The Service will be attended by Civic Dignitaries from the surrounding areas and Councillor Mrs. Clare would also like to cordially invite members of the public to join her in this celebration of Christmas. Refreshments will be available in the Church Hall following the service.

## Is the Clock Passed it?

The question is about the Town Clock, Should it stay or be knocked down with the rest of the block? For once again it's on the blink, As I stand, look and listen, it makes me think. That unfortunately it's not going to last, As at present it's striking the hour at ten minutes past. So if you have an appointment that cannot be missed, Best have a good timepiece on your wrist! For the clock can confuse you as to the right time, And thus my friends my little rhyme.

Mr. C. Barlow, Hunter Road

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## Simpasture Ward Report

Last May, Labour Party Councillors John Clark and Derek Atkinson were elected to represent Simpasture, on Great Aycliffe Town Council.

Apart from representing the interests of our electorate, when attending GATC meetings, one of our collective pledges was to visit every home in Simpasture ward - within the first year - to either make ourselves known or to leave a contact calling card.

This pledge has very nearly been achieved. We have also willingly delivered Phil Wilson, our MP's, constituency issue leaflets to Simpasture ward households. We receive contacts from constituents, either by phone or to our dedicated GATC email addresses. As a result the following issues have been resolved.

A new road sign will be erected in Ritson Road, probably early February 2014. This replaces

one damaged by a vehicle. We were also concerned about the condition of a road sign in Mertz Road. This will also be replaced. We were contacted by residents from Lee Green, about chronic parking problems, caused in part by the unusual configuration of that area (oddly, no actual footpath running alongside the front entrances of many of their gardens).

Councillor Derek Atkinson met with representatives living in Lee Green and then passed on their concerns to Aycliffe West Labour Party DCC councillors, Eddy Adam and Kate Hopper. They arranged for a site visit, during November. This is a live issue and a number of options are under consideration.

Some residents of Lee Green were at November's Simpasture PACT meeting, held at Simpasture Court Meeting Room. Residents of Lee Green and Emerson Way contacted us about the garages in Lee Green/Emerson Way. They had heard rumours that these garages were to be demolished, with the land being used for housing.

Councillor Atkinson contacted DCC Planning Department who had not received any planning application from such as Livin. As several of the garages are privately owned, any proposed development would not be straight forward. We have also dealt with concerns from

residents in Finchale Road, Bowes Road and Moule Close. One or both of us regularly attend the Simpasture PACT meetings. These meetings (advertised in the Newton News) give Simpasture residents regular feedback and the opportunity to meet and liaise with the police and other representatives of our community, including councillors from GATC and DCC.

The next Simpasture PACT meeting will take place on January 14th 2014, starting at 630 pm. We would love to see you there. Current issues include illegal parking in and around the Simpasture shops area and street lighting.

The police have worked to resolve parking problems, issuing parking tickets where appropriate. Much of their responsibilities re parking have now passed to the Parking Enforcement Officers (tele: 03000 263985).

It is to be determined how effective they will be. If Simpasture residents have any problems or issues that need attention please contact either Councillor John Clark (johnclark.labour@gmail.com), or Councillor Derek Atkinson (derekatkinson.labour@gmail.com or tele:301395). Thank you and a Merry Christmas to one and all! Derek Atkinson and John Clark (Councillors).

## A Taste of Roman Led to Job for Laura



A LOCAL shower manufacturer and designer, Roman, has welcomed a new addition to their Marketing team. Laura Knox joins Roman's Marketing team as Marketing Executive.

Laura undertook some work experience at Roman Limited, Newton Aycliffe based manufacturer, during her last year at University and has kept in touch with the company ever since. After studying German and Business Studies in Leeds, Laura went on to work at the Bathroom Manufacturers Association in Stoke-on-Trent and was involved in various roles within the association, including

marketing, PR and training. Laura says "I was absolutely delighted when an opportunity came to return to Roman as their Marketing Executive, and to be back working with such a great team and market leading shower manufacturer. Marketing plays a key role for the business and I am extremely excited to be involved in this. I was very keen to move back to the North East and I am incredibly lucky to be doing a job I really enjoy right on my own doorstep. I'm very much looking forward to the new challenges and opportunities that lie ahead."

## Golf Club Support Cancer Charity



INEOS Golf Club held their Presentation Night on November 30th, 2013 and pictured are 2013 Club Captain Mick McCabe (left) and 2012 Club Captain Kevin Barker (right) handing over a cheque for £1500 donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.

## Brilliant Town Centre

Dear Sir,  
Doesn't the town centre look brilliant! The lights are lovely and there's a real feel of pride about the place. Can't wait for the opening of Stevens on Friday 13th! With new beginnings in mind I wish Ken Robson and his 'Friends of West Park Group' every success with his plans to revive the boating lake. Ken needs you! I hope many more people will get behind him and encourage the regeneration of Newton Aycliffe's undervalued green spaces.  
Patricia

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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 16th December - Simpasture**  
**Tuesday 17th December - School Aycliffe**  
**Wednesday 18th December - Bluebell Way**  
**Thursday 19th - Silkin Way**

## THE TURBINIA

**\* Saturday Night Live \***

*The Very Best of Rock - Normally NO Cover Charge*

**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"**

Bio: Overdrive are a dynamic rock covers band playing a selection of classic rock songs from the 60s to now. Taking you through the great ages of music from the Who to Kings of Leon, Madness to Sex Pistols, Deep Purple to Foo Fighters. With an all action front line, a big sound and great lights, this is a band not to be missed".

Covering tracks by Stereophonics, Bad Company, Nickle Back, The Fratellis, Bowie, Green Day, T-Rex and more.

"Singing and dancing guaranteed!! these guys know how to party"

**Saturday 27th December - "No Fun"**

For more information on bands go to  
**www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034**  
**Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke**



# A Night in Bethlehem



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints staged a "Night in Bethlehem" at the church last Saturday. The hall was designed to replicate a marketplace on the night Jesus was born. Stalls with food, crafts and games added to the experience and the evening ended with carol singing and the nativity.

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# FREE XMAS CONCERT AT THE LEISURE CENTRE THIS SUNDAY

If you receive your Newton News in time this is to remind you that the annual Xmas Community Concert is on at the Leisure Centre this Sunday 15th Decemehr from 2.30pm - 4pm. Admission FREE! This is your opportunity to join in the carol singing and listen to local youngsters perform. It is a lovely event and this year a youth brass nand is brought together, by John Tobin, from Greenfield

and Woodham Senior schools to accompany the singing. George Dixon former head teacher at Heighington School will also play the organ and Santa Claus will make an appearance. Town Mayor Barbara Clare and our MP, Phil Wilson will attend to see some sparkling Xmas music. Come along and enjoy the start of the Christmas festivities in Newton Aycliffe.

# U.K. PROGRAMME BOOSTS STUDENTS' GLOBAL AWARENESS

British students will be taught about global trade, security, sustainability and development as part of a new programme for UK schools, International Development Secretary Justine Greening announced last month.

The Global Learning Programme (GLP) will teach students how the challenges facing the world are being tackled through innovative new technologies, better governance and job creation, and will help them understand the potential of economic development to lift people out of poverty.

A recent survey of CEOs in the UK highlighted concerns that young people's horizons were not broad enough for a globalised and multicultural economy. They warned that Britain faces being left behind by emerging economies if our young people are not given a more international outlook. Almost all said it was important for schools to help young people develop the ability to think globally.

In England, the GLP will enhance the curriculum by introducing an international perspective and helping place what UK schools are already doing in a global context. It will widen students' horizons by helping them make connections between their own lives and issues that are important in a rapidly changing and increasingly globalised world.

Rod Bristow, President of Pearson UK and spokesperson for the Development Education Consortium said:

"In today's globalised world it is not only exciting but also really important that our young people have opportunities to learn about the experiences of people from every corner of the world.



"The Development Education Consortium is delighted to have been given the opportunity to deliver this programme, which we believe can open students' eyes to the lives of other people around the world."

The GLP is the largest and most ambitious programme of its kind in the world, aiming to reach half of the UK's schools by 2017. In England, where the Programme will be delivered by Pearson and the Development Education Consortium, 140 schools have already signed up to take part.

As an Expert Centre for the new GLP, Greenfield Community College will support a network of local schools as they develop their approach to global learning.

# Tesco Foodbank Collection



Tesco collected 91 large containers of food items for the Foodbank from generous customers recently. The County Durham Foodbank in Chester-le-street will inform Tesco the numbers of meals the collection will make and this will be used to calculate the Tesco 30% top up donation.



# XMAS PARTY GIFTS FROM HONEST JOHN



Thanks to the kind £200 donation Linzi Nicholls received from Honest John, Helping Hands can now buy a gift for all our special guests joining us for our Christmas Day Celebrations.

Linzi says, on average we can multiply every £1 given x 10, so this donation will make a big difference to all the lives that will be touched from the sheer generosity of this donation. Honest John told us that this is exactly what he wanted it to be spent on so we are delighted to buy the gifts on his behalf.

Helping Hands have many volunteers working on the Christmas Day dinner which means we can add special touches to the day. It's going to be ultra special for our guests. We really don't feel like we're giving up our Christmas Day but we believe our guests will make our extended family celebrations complete. There is great excitement in the preparations and we are so looking forward to the day. We still have a few places left for those who will be spending the day alone. It could be a one-parent family who cannot afford Christmas. Please let us know if you'd

like to join us now by phoning or texting 07936 431262. or e-mail lifeline. action@googlemail.com and we will get back in touch with you and go through the menu choices. We offer a friendly confidential service.

# Xmas Dinner for only £5

Due to how popular Christmas dinners have been The Cubby are serving them from 16th to 24th December. Please book if possible on 307449 - We have been able to keep the cost to £5 per meal and you have a choice of Turkey, Chicken, Pork or Beef with all the trimmings. The price also includes dessert of either Christmas Pudding or Mince Pie with cream or custard.

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Important: Book your 15 **FREE** hours for 2 & 3 year olds  
**Limited Places** - Contact your local nursery below:

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Aycliffe Village

Fishburn Primary School

Evenwood Village

Newton Aycliffe

Bishop Middleham

Manager: Jan Hooper

Manager: Tina Elmar

Manager: Carol Woods

Manager: Kerry Dixon

Manager: Vicky Hutchinson

Manager: Natalie Richardson

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**01325 313513**

**01740 620683**

**01388 834161**

**01325 315623**

**01740 651224**



## OPENING HOURS FOR COUNCIL BUILDINGS THIS CHRISTMAS

Durham County Council's customer access points and most council buildings will be closed over the Christmas and New Year holidays. They will close at 12.45pm on Christmas Eve and re-open on Thursday, 2 January.

In the event of an emergency, you can still contact the council on 03000 260 000 or use the 24/7 automated payments line on 0845 835 0120. A range of issues can also be reported to us by logging on to [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk)

Leisure centres will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day and will close at 4.00pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Libraries will be closed over the Christmas and New Year holidays. Those facilities normally open on Tuesday (Christmas Eve) will close at 12.45pm with normal opening hours resuming from 2 January. Adult day centres will be closed on Bank Holidays but open as normal on all other days.

Opening times and further information about what's on at Durham County Council's museums, theatres and other venues can be found at the following websites:

[www.bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk](http://www.bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk)

[www.countydurham.gov.uk/sites/dli](http://www.countydurham.gov.uk/sites/dli) [www.nrm.org.uk](http://www.nrm.org.uk) [www.galadurham.co.uk](http://www.galadurham.co.uk) [www.killhope.org.uk](http://www.killhope.org.uk) [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk) search 'Hardwick Park'.

The usual out-of-hours number will be in place for homelessness advice and support. Call 01388 722 538. For children's centre and register office opening times, contact your local venue. Some household waste collections are also set to change:

Tuesday collection as normal on 24th and 31st December Wednesday collection will be Friday 27th December and Thursday 2nd January 2014 Thursday collection will be on Saturday 28th December and Friday 3rd January 2014.

Friday collections will be on Monday 30th December and Saturday 4th January 2014. Normal collections will resume from Tuesday 7th January 2014. To check your normal collection day, enter your postcode into the 'My Durham' facility at [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk), where you will also find further details on Christmas closures.

## Aycliffe Artist's Fame Spreads



Aycliffe artist Dan Walls has produced a lot of indoor and outdoor murals all around the North East. He has also painted a multitude of canvases, custom sprayed guitars and vehicles. He moved from tattoo studios and now works casually at Aycliffe's Life Line Ink. His business "Illumination Wall Art" has been growing quickly with 200 pieces of art completed including work for local of businesses. He was commissioned by Durham brewery for 3 custom pieces of art for their limited edition ales. He has designed posters and illustrations for Planet Leisure's live music events.

Dan has launched a website [www.illuminationwallart.com](http://www.illuminationwallart.com). Since I started experimenting with vehicle spraying I have had a good amount of requests for it, one of the most memorable was for Hardwick live where I was commissioned to spray paint a huge mobile bar with 70's style artwork that was a challenge but loads of fun! I have also just finished some work for this year's Polar Express Project in Weardale. With them being licenced by Warner Brothers it's always a lot of fun to use their resources and get in the Christmas spirit. Dan has worked with charities, raising money and teaching young people a little about the value of art and having pride in our area.

He worked alongside the Trimdon Village Council and was able to produce a large outdoor mural that acted as the back drop to their new play area. Amongst others Dan has connections with the Princes Trust, Albert Parks Sea Cadets, and Durham Recovery Centre where people get advice and counselling for drug and alcohol related problems. He hosted street art workshops for Durham P.A.C.C where he spent a week with some



troubled kids and got them to think more about their environment and how they can express themselves with art as an alternative to anti-social behaviour. and he is in talks to do a similar project in Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre. Future projects involve Greenfield Art's Centre and hopefully He will be doing something huge at a local up and coming gym over Christmas! Dan hopes to work in France next year where he hopes to build a network and meet interesting people. Contact: [illuminationwallart@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:illuminationwallart@hotmail.co.uk) [www.facebook.com/illumination.wallart](http://www.facebook.com/illumination.wallart) Tel:0797 4602803.

## Where are they Now?

This photograph was taken in 1975 of a 5 a-side team called The Swifts: Steven Kilburn, Kevin Maw, Paul Gibson, David Thompson, Andrew Gargath, Steven Rawlinson, Trevor Hodson.

Douglas Dunn formed and ran the team who played at St. Oswalds roller skating rink which at the time doubled as a 5 a-side football pitch and for many years a healthy league operated there. Do any of the players still live in the area or where they are now?

The Swifts were not the most successful team, getting thrashed most of the time but the coach was always impressed with their sheer enthusiasm which never wavered despite being bottom of the league for the duration of the season!

Their sportsmanship saw them rewarded in 1975 with the Sportsmanship Cup for their conduct despite catastrophic losses. They were also presented with the Emu cup from Ernie Mullen who was a major force in running the league.

Can Newton News readers help with any information on the Swifts team? Ring Brian Dunn on 077 666 200 28



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## CHOCOLATE CAKE FOR LITTLE GEMS



Vice Crosby, Chairman of the management committee of the newly named Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre surprised everyone last Friday at Little Gems Toddler group when he delivered a large chocolate cake to celebrate Little Gems first birthday.

Eyes popped as the cake was cut and mums and toddlers tucked into the cake. The tell tale signs of the cake were seen around the faces of the toddlers. Jayne Latcham who has been running the group for 9 month said "it was a lovely surprise and the mums appreciate the thought behind it"

Jayne and the management committee, volunteers and staff wish everyone a merry Christmas and a Happy and peaceful New Year Year. Little Gems will break for the holidays from Friday 20th December to Thursday 9th January. For more information about Little Gems who now meet both Thursday afternoon and Friday morning please telephone the Youth Centre on 307522 or just pop in with your toddler.

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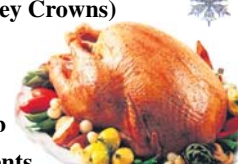
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## Greenfield Christmas Cards for Charity

Over the past month Amethyst tutor group at Greenfield Community College have been working with local artist Jilly Greenwood to design and make Christmas Cards which they are now selling to raise money for “Plan.” The group started the project by learning more about the charity, discussing how everyone has the right to receive an education, regardless of locality, gender or race. “Plan” is a charity that supports women and children in developing countries. They do this in a number of ways, including running the ‘sponsor a child’ scheme which supports children’s care and education within different communities, they also help girls overcome barriers to education and start/support shelters for abused women within developing countries. The students tried a variety of different printmaking techniques including collage, mono and coca-cola lithography to create a range of designs which they have assembled into Christmas Cards. The cards are for sale now in reception at Greenfield Arts for 50p each. All of the proceeds will go to “Plan” to support the work they do. Amethyst tutor group would like to thank Jilly, who initiated the project, for giving up her time and materials to help make the project happen!



## Great Time Had by All



Thanks to everyone who attended the Woodham Academy Christmas Fair on Saturday 7th December. It was a wonderfully festive event which left visitors spoilt for choice. A whole range of activities were on offer from face painting to writing letters to Santa. There were families enjoying Christmas paper crafts, making tree decorations, decorating Christmas biscuits, and music making. Santa Claus arrived amid a flurry of excitement and stayed for the whole morning, entrancing the younger children, receiving letters and hearing what they hope he’s going to bring on Christmas Day. Woodham Sports Academy worked non-stop on table tennis coaching and

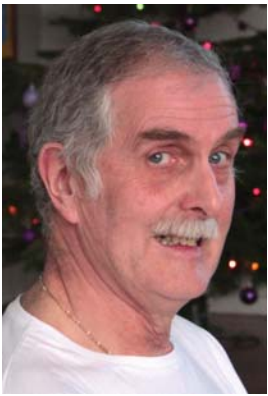


Woodham Dance Academy ran a carousel of dance workshops throughout the event. Meanwhile the family computer games workshops kept everyone entertained with “Cracking the Code”. We would like to especially thank the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe for their tremendous support at the event. After an exhausting morning of enjoying all the activities on offer, it was time for a well-earned buffet lunch before heading home. A great time was had by all!



## SCHOOL CARETAKER SHAVES HIS HEAD IN AID OF CHARITY

Last Friday, 6th December, Mr. Foster, the caretaker from St. Mary’s Primary, had his hair shaved off in assembly for Breast Cancer funds. His wife was diagnosed two years ago, but sadly, after she was given the ‘all clear’, it re-occurred. Their two sons, Adrian and Steven, had already shaved off their hair. They set up a website, with a target to raise £1000; so far it has reached £1500 so a new target of £2000 has been set. The children sold cakes left over from the school Christmas Fair after the assembly. Mrs. Foster wanted to help raise funds after seeing how many people were diagnosed with breast cancer. She became determined to help cancer sufferers and advised that



if you have breast cancer, don’t be afraid. If you feel like something is wrong, go to the doctors straightaway. Mr Foster commented..”We will be happy with any donations you give and the website will remain open until 31st of December at [www.justgiving.com/Adrian.Foster/4](http://www.justgiving.com/Adrian.Foster/4) Reported by Rachel Partridge, year 6.



## AGNEW FOOD DONATION POINT

Please note that Agnew Community Centre in Morrison Close is now an official donation point for food collection used by the Xcel Church to help those families in need and which are mainly through referrals from Social Services. The Centre is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm and a container is available in the Foyer. So if you live near the Centre please give generously to help those families who through no fault of their own need help with emergency supplies. For more information ring Ron Mitchie on 07749 236853.

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## ACADEMY JOINS THE NETWORK OF TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Woodham Academy has been accepted to be a part of the prestigious Network Of Teaching Excellence in Computer Science. Launched in September 2012 by Computing At School and BCS Academy of Computing, the aim of the Network of Teaching Excellence is for schools to either provide or access a high-quality, sustainable training infrastructure. The NoE initiative is supported by The Department For Education, OCR, AQA, CPHC, BSC, CAS, Microsoft and Google.

As the government, industry leaders and educators call for more Computer Science in the school curriculum there is a real need to raise the confidence level of existing ICT teachers to enable them to embrace the delivery of Computer Science. Darren Smith, Director of ICT at Woodham Academy and a long-time proponent for the move towards a more computing based curriculum said "Not only have we been accepted in the Network of Excellent but we have been designated a lead school. Obviously I'm thrilled that my work and that of my colleague, Mrs Lind, has been recognised nationally but this will also give me the opportunity to share my knowledge and experiences with local primary and secondary schools where the teaching of Computer Science is not yet established" Woodham Academy has GCSE Computing classes in Years 11, 10 and 9 and is in the process of redesigning the



provision for years 7 and 8 to incorporate further Computer Science concepts. Students at Woodham Academy already create apps which they can run on their own android phones, produce sophisticated textual programs and control events through simulators.

Darren Smith said "Although I will be spending time helping other schools develop their Computing curriculum that does not mean development will stop at Woodham. I am about to launch a scheme which will allow our most digitally literate students to train and support teachers and am investigating an international system known as Open Badges." Christine Forsyth, Head teacher of Woodham Academy, said "The recognition is well deserved. The Computing Department has worked hard

for many years to ensure we are at the forefront of Computer Science teaching." You can follow Woodham Academy's Computing Department on twitter: @WoodhamDigital or on Facebook: www.facebook.com/WoodhamDigital

## Police Appeal

The Police recently placed an appeal for witnesses/information in Newton News requesting information regarding the theft of a pedal cycle from LIDL car park at Newton Aycliffe on 15/11/13. The name of the bike previously printed was incorrect and the correct description is Diamond back, 21 gear, 26 inch wheel, orangy red mountain bike. Has quick release wheels front and back and 2 mudguards. has oil near the back wheel. has bottle in bottle holder on bike frame and paintwork is scuffed under the seat area, has hard tailed front suspension. If you have any information which may assist police would you please contact PC 2228 Woods on 101 quoting incident number DHM-15112013-0512.

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## NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Friends of Senior Citizens from Neville Community Centre wish all our supporters and all senior citizens in Newton Aycliffe and district a very happy Christmas and urge you to keep warm at all times. We are selling Home-made Ginger wine for £1.80p per bottle available Tuesday and Thursday from 2-3pm. Pop in and buy a bottle - Cheers! Check4Life the NHS mobile surgery will be visiting us on Tuesday 17th December from 10.30 - 3pm. Join us for a Mini Health Check for Blood pressure, Diabetes, High Cholesterol etc. Results while you wait! A walk-in service or you can book a slot on 313924.

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No Issue Week Ending Friday 27th December

Friday 3rd January 2014 - New Year Issue  
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### Office Opening Times

Closing 4pm on Friday 20th December  
Skeleton Staff in attendance until reopening  
on Thursday 2nd January 2013 at 8.30am

The Management  
and Staff of Newton Press  
and Newton News would like  
to wish all Newtonians a  
Merry Christmas and  
Happy, Prosperous New Year





## Planet Leisure Bowling League

It was a close week again at the top of the league as the top two teams won by the same amount of points. Pinheads won 6-2 over The Optimists with Pinheads losing the first game by 24 pins. The Wenwees won 6-2 over The Clanger, the Wenwees then lost their first by 16 pins, but Steve Goth took the high scratch game of 215 away from Mark Baptist which he held with a 214 game. Pinheads & Wenwees are on 44 points each; the Clangers are in third on 39 point. In fourth place the Strike Force on 33 point after playing their outstanding game. They went ahead of the M & M's due to them losing 6-2, to the Strike Force. Bowl Movement played the Late Starters and it ended 4-4. Misfits played the Shildon Strikers and that also ended 4-4.

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## Xmas Fete Raised £1500



The Christmas Fete at Aycliffe Village Primary School was a very successful event. The PTA had worked exceptionally hard to make it so. Fabulous raffle prizes had been donated by many local businesses. Parents and pupils enjoyed the Fete with Santa's Grotto being a key attraction to the younger students. The many local stallholders also enjoyed their evening. The staff would like to thank everyone who attended and everyone who contributed towards making it a success, particularly the PTA. A grand total of £1562.85 was raised.

## 'XTRA' OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN & SPORTY READERS



An organisation, launched this year - which engages local children in physical activity using non-traditional methods such as 'Spy school', Dance and Martial Arts has already taken on coaches from the Aycliffe area and is on the look-out for more as it plans to start local clubs in the New Year. Marina Antoniou, who launched Sports Xtra North East in September is keen to tackle child obesity and inactivity by involving them in unique classes in Primary Schools and Nurseries and provide opportunities for local sports graduates and professionals. Marina an Army Physical Training Corps Instructor and former member of the GB Bobsleigh Training Team - said, "I know how difficult it can be during the early stages of a career in Physical Activity and I am passionate about creating opportunities for local sports coaches. Not only will they gain experience and benefit as Sports Xtra North East grows, but the

work they will be doing - helping children develop confidence by giving them the opportunity to find an activity they love - is extremely varied and rewarding." Sports Xtra North East will be running 'Sports Xperience' courses at Longfield Sports Complex, Darlington and Spy School at Egglescliffe CofE Primary School on December 23rd 2013, runs sessions in schools and nurseries throughout the year, as well as Saturday Futsal Clubs for three to seven year olds. Readers who are interested in a career in sports coaching, or parents, schools and nurseries wishing to book children onto a course can contact Marina on 07549 162261 or visit www.sports-xtra.com

## FROM THE SECRETARY OF GACAP

Dear Sir,  
I would like to thank Syd Howarth from the Newton News for the sterling work he has done in pulling together Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership whose abbreviated mission statement is: "Helping individuals and families living within the GACAP area stricken by crisis, disadvantage or ill fortune who can be directed to the best resources or partners within GACAP to satisfy their needs or be able to signpost people to the right source for information, advice and guidance"  
Joan Clark,  
Secretary GACAP

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## MOORE LANE PARKING

Dear Sir,  
Over the past nine years of living on Moore Lane we have had continuous very annoying parking problems everytime Moore Lane Sports club has a match or event at the club. I had one car written off and two other cars damaged by people coming from the club. Residents are sick of not being able to park outside their homes. The club have a huge field and two car parks yet their customers continue to take up the whole street blocking roads and dangerously parking on corners so visibility is hard for drivers. We are tired of having damaged cars and lack of parking due to the club's inconsideration. We would very much like them to take some responsibility and come up with a solution to this problem. Angry Neighbour  
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## WECAN PARENT'S GROUP CHRISTMAS FUN DAY



The WECAN Parents' group from Greenfield Community College thank everyone who donated prizes for their Fun Day on 23rd November, and those who came along to their Christmas family fun day. To Helen Rutherford's School of Dance, Emma Cox and Mr Tobin and his band. Lots of fun was had and Santa made an appearance. The group raised a fantastic £421.45. If you are interested in joining the WECAN parents' group then please have a look at our section on Greenfield school website or contact Greenfield College.

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## Wildcats Edged Out by Eagles



Durham Wildcats went down 75-90 against rivals Eagles Newcastle in front of an enthusiastic Aycliffe crowd on Sunday afternoon. The visitors started the game strongly, edging the first quarter 21 points to 18 led by big man Malik Cooke.

Durham's Danny Huffor took the game to the visitors in the second period, leading his team into the locker room at half time winning the close contest by just one point. Game MVP Huffor, new to the Wildcats this season, impressed home supporters again with 16 first half points to give his team real belief that a first ever Wildcats win over Newcastle was more than possible.

The visitors however had other ideas, and a 17-6 run at the start of the third quarter saw the Eagles take a comfortable lead for the first time in the game. Following a Wildcats timeout, Durham gained the momentum once more to pull the game to within five points, but this was followed by another Eagles run that saw the visitors take a double digit lead late in the quarter.

Durham fought back to within six, as big man Mike Allison scored two key baskets in the final minute of the penultimate quarter to lift home spirits going into the final 10 minutes.

Charles Smith, who had been relatively quiet for the visitors throughout the games, came to life in the final 10 minutes making consecutive 3 pointers to all but end the contest.

Odiba Attah converted a number of chances for the Wildcats late on, but it was too little too late as the travelling supporters from Newcastle were left celebrating on the full time buzzer. The points leave Newcastle joint top of the table, while defeat for

Durham leaves them looking nervously over their shoulder in 7th following wins for Cheshire (9th) and Glasgow (8th) over the weekend.

Coach Davie was disappointed not to get his team's first ever win over their neighbours, "We started really well and worked hard to get the lead and felt we were in control of the game going into the half. In the third quarter we didn't execute our game plan and when you play a team like Newcastle, you can't make mistakes, or they will punish you. Once they got a comfortable lead, it was always going to be very difficult for us to get back into the game."

Davie was keen to praise the magnificent home support following the game, "the atmosphere today was something else, both sets of supporters were fantastic and kept the noise levels going throughout the contest. The home support this year has been great, but today was

something else, despite the defeat, it was a very proud day for the club, and I hope we can repeat tonight's atmosphere many times in the future."

Coach Davie's attention will now turn to next Sunday's game at Glasgow Rocks, a team the Wildcats sit level on points with in the BBL table. "We have some extra time this week to prepare for next weekend's game. Glasgow are a difficult team to play, but if we focus this week in training and work hard to correct our mistakes, I'm confident we can get back to winning ways".

Durham are back in action at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Sunday 22nd December for their final game of 2013. Cheshire Phoenix will provide the opposition for third time this season, the 'mini-serious' is currently tied at 1-1. Tickets are available online now or directly from Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. Tip-off on the 22nd is 4pm, doors open from 3pm.

## Antlers Restored



Jan Ward, Technology Teacher at Greenfield, came to the rescue of the Rotary Club Santa Sleigh when one of the reindeers lost its Antlers. She and students Sam Robinson and Chris Waters made new ones ready for the street tour which began on Monday this week.

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## Town Centre Post Box & Telephone

In answer to readers' questions the post box in the town centre will remain at its current site until works are completed in the next phase of the town centre redevelopment..

A new public telephone will be installed on the wall on the ground floor level of the multi storey car park lift lobby.

## A LITTLE PEACE OF MIND...

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## XMAS GREETINGS FROM THE AGNEW CENTRE

On behalf of the Trustees of the Agnew Community Association we wish all residents of Great Aycliffe a great Christmas season. We send our thanks for any and all help over the year from County and Town Councillors and Staff, GAMP team and Board, Xcel Church, Newton Press and any others who we have worked with. Our friends in the voluntary sector and in particular David at Woodham Community Centre, Katy at Greenfield Art Centre and Joan at the Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre who we have done various projects together and proved we can work together for the greater good of the Community. We thank our regular users, Aycliffe Day Nursery, Aycliffe Spiritualists, The Brett Lambert Tai Chi class, Arriba weight loss class, PK All Stars Youth Club, Icing Ladies, Art class and all the many other users. Our thanks also to the Probation Services Community Payback scheme in which we have been blessed with many fine people who have paid their debt to the community without us being judgmental. We look forward to the whole community thriving in 2014 and being blessed with happiness and good health in mind and body. Ron Mitchie, Secretary

## GOOD RESPONSE FOR MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS CARD

On Monday, Mayor Barbara Clare welcomed Rob Caygill to the Great Aycliffe Town Council offices to thank him for submitting his scene of Aycliffe-in-winter, which she used on her civic Christmas card. Barbara said: 'We have a town which is environmentally excellent, and I wanted to be able to boast about it when I sent my card to the other civic dignitaries in the County. Rob's photo of the Nature Reserve was stunningly beautiful.' However, the Mayor received many other photos, any one of which would have made an impressive Christmas card. Here are three other photos of those sent in, which prove what the Mayor says – that we live in a beautiful town.



Brian Kay captures the Christmas charm of Woodham Burn



Peter Milburn chanced upon the Aycliffe Insect when it was frozen solid



Bill Angles gives one of Aycliffe's many walks the Van Gogh treatment

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## The Nia Way to Fitness



## LONGER HOURS POST OFFICE

Newton Aycliffe Post Office is on the move to a nearby site where it will open as a new modern 'main' open-plan branch with significantly longer opening hours.

The move is part of major modernisation programme across the Post Office network designed to make it easier for customers to do business, through longer opening hours and modern open plan environments.

The new branch is at Young's Newsagents, 66 Beveridge and will have a mixture of two open plan and two traditional screened counter positions with a Post Office serving point provided for use at the retail counter that is available to transact a wide range of Post Office services during shop opening hours.

Customers will also benefit from earlier morning opening hours and Sunday opening. The new opening hours will be 06:30 to 17:30 Monday to Saturday and 06.00 to 12.00 Sunday.

Post Office Regional Network Manager for Scotland and Northern England, Suzanne Richard-son, said: "We understand how important having a Post Office is to residents in Newton Aycliffe and we are confident that this new modern Post Office will meet the needs of the local community and secure services for the future. She added: "The modernisation is part of a major investment programme to convert the Post Office network to new-style branches and this investment, the largest in the history of the Post Office, makes a commitment to no more branch closure programmes."

A Nia Taster Session is at Woodham Community Centre on Thursday 19th December at 3.30p.m. Entry by donation.

No special equipment or experience is required, just wear comfortable clothes that allow you to move and bring some water. Nia is generally done barefoot, but participants can wear shoes, if they need to for medical reasons.

For information ring Anne anne@supplechange.co.uk. Website: www.supplechange.co.uk

Nia is a way of keeping fit that doesn't hurt, that people generally look forward to and helps them to grow –

quite literally – in height and as a person!

Nia is a way of moving that anyone can do, regardless of age or level of fitness and is never boring or dull. It has been around for 30 years, and now in the North East with classes in Aycliffe, Darlington, Durham and Hexham. Students have found that it helps to keep their joints moving, their muscles toned, burns calories and lifts the spirit.

It's not competitive; it's much more important to feel good after a Nia class and people generally do. Even people with health issues have found they can exercise in a way that suits their Body.

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## Conversational Spanish

Dear Sir  
Talking to a few friends in regarding language classes for adults it came to my notice there is a potential for Conversational Spanish Classes, especially for those who wish to learn a new language or those who wish to practice and improve their Spanish for when going on holidays.

It is with this in mind that I would like to consult with the wider community in Newton Aycliffe and ask those interested in practical

conversational Spanish classes to register their interest indicating the level they would like to attend i.e beginners, intermediate or advance level. Should there be a sufficient level of interest I would be happy to organise and provide conversational Spanish classes all levels during the day and or evening, hopefully by January 2014

Please contact Dr. Carlos Jimenez-Novoa on 07740 103455 or by e-mail: carlos1849@icloud.com



# Falcons Flying High

Newton Aycliffe Under 10 Falcons played host to Darlington 21st All Stars B. After a break of 2 weeks the lads were hoping to build on their previous win. In what was an even game, Aycliffe took the lead from the penalty spot as the ball bounced up and hit an unlucky All Stars player on the hand. Up stepped Tom Jasper to slot home the penalty. HT 1-0. All Stars came out on the front foot in the second half and headed home the equaliser. The lads picked their heads up and it wasn't

long before Aycliffe retook the lead from a cool finish from Tom Jasper for his second of the game. All Stars pushed for an equaliser but the lads caught them with some good counter attacking football and added a third with a long range bullet from L Horner. FT 3-1. Another hard fought victory for the Falcons. Mom L Horner who held the ball up well today and capped a top performance with a great goal. Let's take this performance into next game. Well done boys

# BADMINTON TEAM QUALIFY FOR FINALS



Greenfield entered their U13 Boys badminton team into the U14 School Sport Partnership County qualifying tournament last week. All boys played extremely well and the team were absolutely delighted to qualify through to the County finals, against teams a year older than themselves from Sunnydale and Sedgefield. Greenfield's team included, Connor Elston, Aiden Wong, Owen Robinson & Matthew Davis. Very well done boys, and good luck in the County Finals. Next week Greenfield's U16 Girls and U16 Boys Badminton teams are set to compete in the U16 County badminton qualifying event; their U15 Girls Basketball team are travelling to Sedgefield to take part in the South West Durham Basketball tournament; their U13 Girls football team are looking forward to playing their first match of the season against free.

Wellfield on Thursday, and their Year 9 girls are attending the Girls Sport launch at Coxhoe Leisure Centre on Friday. A fantastic range of interschool competitive sporting opportunities in just one week, good luck to all involved and enjoy. Sport Greenfield focus on fifteen target sports and all include regular competition and strong club links. Contact Michael Rippon on 07879117224 for Sport Greenfield holiday activity information including Primary Girls Football with NAYCFC FREE over Christmas. Come along and join in the fun on the 27th December.

# AYCLIFFE STROLL TO ANOTHER HOME WIN

Newton Aycliffe returned to winning ways and the top 10 of the Division One table after a comfortable 3-0 victory over hapless Billingham Town. Goals from Paul Broom, Tom Atkinson and Dan Wilson saw Aycliffe to a second successive three-point haul - after their impressive 4-2 defeat of Newcastle Benfield - in a match in which Allan Oliver's men barely broke a sweat. The visitors - who had lost their last two away games 11-0 and 9-0 and are rooted to the foot of the table - could only name nine players in their starting line-up. And were it not for a superb display from goalkeeper Mark Bell and wayward finishing, Billy Town could have been on the end of another heavy defeat. Jamie Owens and John Close went close with early headers before Atkinson fired narrowly wide. Either side of the half-hour mark, Stuart Owen flashed

an effort wide and Harrison Davies crashed a shot off the bar. But the deadlock was finally broken 11 minutes before the break when Broom slotted in from the right. Bell prevented Davies from adding a second with a fantastic save, but could do nothing from the resulting corner when his defence failed to clear their lines and Atkinson pounced on a loose ball and swept in. Owens missed the chance to get his name on the scoresheet when his spot-kick, awarded for a foul on Aycliffe's top-scorer, was clawed away from the bottom corner by Bell. Youngster Kurt Seymour became the second Newtonian to hit the frame of the goal on the hour mark but Wilson soon popped in a third after great work from Dan Mellanby. Owens was frustrated when a couple of headers narrowly missed the target before Stuart Owen made it a hat-trick of shots bouncing off the bar.

Bell continued to frustrate Aycliffe's players in the closing stages, saving Dion Raitt's header from point-blank range and then palming away Wilson's low drive. Aycliffe will now hope they can match their first-rate home form with a rare win away, when they travel to Guisborough on Saturday. Off the field, the club are hosting an entertainment event after Christmas. On Sunday 29th December, local band Live Lounge will entertain the Sports Club. Midfielder Dion Raitt is the lead singer of the group and has rave reviews from other performances at various establishments around the region. They will be supported by international vocal comedy entertainer Simon Cain, and local rapper Bygate on the night. It starts at 7:30pm at Moore Lane, with tickets £10 and available from general manager Dan Lewis on 07581 784726 or hospitality manager John Gaskarth on 07590 925469.

# Aycliffe FC Away-day Misery Continues

Newton Aycliffe slipped to a third consecutive away defeat as they failed to hold on to a one-goal lead at Morpeth and suffered a 2-1 defeat. Tom Atkinson's deflected strike was all Allan Oliver's men had to show for a dominant first-half display, which could have seen the visitors five goals up. But the hosts responded in style in the second period, with goals from Michael Chilton and Adam Forster completing a surprise victory. Aycliffe, who handed new signing Kerry Hedley, were almost ahead within 90 seconds as Jamie Owens' header from a Stuart Owen corner crashed back off the post. Soon after, Atkinson rounded the goalkeeper just to see his goalbound effort cleared off the line, before Owens fired over from the edge of the area after winning possession deep in the Morpeth half.

Atkinson. A run of four consecutive away games which has seen the club pick up just three points and slipped to 15th in the table, but back-to-back games at Moore Lane Park - where the Royal Blues have lost just once in the league this season - could see them return to the top 10. On Saturday December 7, Aycliffe host struggling Billingham Town at MLP, with kick-off 3pm. Before Christmas, Marske United - complete with former Newtonians Danny Lambert and Danny Earl - make the trip to the Sports Club on Wednesday December 18, with Ashington the visitors the following Saturday, December 21. Admission for all games at MLP is £6 adults, £4 concessions with all under 12s free.

Aycliffe had a strong appeal for a penalty turned down in the 15th minute as Paul Broom was upended in the area. But the travelling Newtonians did not have much longer to wait for the breakthrough. Owens releases strike-partner Atkinson whose shot was turned into his own net by David Hiffle. Hedley then beat his marker out wide and crossed for Atkinson, who saw a header blocked before Broom fired over from the rebound. But the home side were a different team after the break and set about getting back into the game. Steve Anderson's cross picked out Chilton in the area, who headed past Andrew Spence just before the hour mark. And Aycliffe were denied a point in the dying stages when Forster burst into the area before firing past Spence from close range. The defeat followed on from a disappointing 3-2 defeat at Billingham Synthonia, in a game which saw Aycliffe lead twice, with two goals from

# FUN WITH PUDSEY AT SUGAR HILL



1st Four Kidz out of school club at Sugar Hill had a great time supporting

Children in Need. Young people and staff wore pj's and onsies to raise money and children took part in some Pudsey bear themed activities. The club also had a raffle for a Pudsey Bear sweetie tree, which was won by James Henry from Horndale Infant School. If you want any information on pick ups or drop of from any school in Aycliffe please ring either Liz or Sharon on 07583 381008.

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# PCP GIVING TREE IN AID OF MACMILLAN CHARITY

Local healthy living charity, the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP), has a 'Giving Tree' to raise funds for the Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Service based at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe. People are welcome to

place a personal message to loved ones on the tree which can be found in the Pioneering Care Centre, in return for a small donation. Message tags are available from reception and anyone that places a message can take home their very own bauble.

Carol Gaskarth, Chief Executive of the Pioneering Care Partnership, said: "The Giving Tree is an ideal opportunity for people to support an important cause at a time of year when our thoughts are often with those who are no longer with us."

"It also enables us to remember and celebrate the excellent work that the Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Service have done over the past year to support local people affected by cancer. All donations raised will help Macmillan Cancer Support to continue to develop a wide range of services."

For further information on the many activities provided by the PCP, which aim to improve people's health and wellbeing please get in touch: pop in to the Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4SF, tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net visit: www.pcp.uk.net.

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Tuesday 24th Dec - 3-11pm  
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Sun 22nd Dec - Childrens Party 2-4 Free Entry

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New Years Eve - Karaoke -Disco

New Years Day - Karaoke 2-6

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# Accolades for Best in Business



### AWARD CITATIONS

#### Engineering & Manufacturing - Winner Ebac Group Ltd

Darren Race, South Durham Business Network - "Ebac is a fantastic UK success story and an organisation committed to ensuring engineering and manufacturing remains a pillar within our local and national economy. This has been demonstrated through the continued investment and diversification of products from dehumidifiers, water coolers, air sourced heat pumps and coming soon... washing machines and fridge freezers. The new washing machine venture will reintroduce the manufacturing of washing machines in the UK, and help to reduce the 4 million that are imported every year. It will also generate 200 jobs."

**Outstanding Contribution to South Durham** - winner Syd Howarth of Newton Press. Debra Swinburn, Partner at Evans & Co. Solicitors said: "Not only has Syd been the founder of Newton Press, now in its 50th year of operation (an achievement in itself) but he has also been a pillar of the local community through his involvement with the Round Table and Rotary Club raising money for good causes. Sedgefield Borough Council Local Strategic Partnerships, Sedgefield Business Network and South Durham Business Network, Aycliffe Youth Centre new build - chairing its Management Committee for several years, the organisation of the Annual Community Christmas Concert since inception in 1998 and pioneering the Care Partnership for great Aycliffe. As well as work in the immediate area, Syd is also a Trustee on the West Africa Trust - a charity that raises money for Education, Water and Health projects in West Africa raising over £150,000 in the last 10 years. This is just a snapshot of the range and variety of selfless support and commitment to helping others. Syd has always given and supported unconditionally and never sought any recognition. It was a pleasure and a great honour to recognise Syd's achievements. This is not only a recognition of what he has done in South Durham, but a LIFE TIME achievement award for a very special, well regarded and respected unsung hero."

#### Employer of the year - winner Thorn Lighting

Brenda Wilson of South Durham Engineering & Manufacturing Forum: - "It's important to recognise those companies who have made a significant contribution to the local economy and County Durham through employment and sustaining jobs. Thorn lighting is recognised as an employer of choice and has provided many jobs and economic security to many local families. Their recent relocation and decision to remain in the UK when a number of other large engineering and manufacturing companies chose low cost economies has to be recognised."

They have also invested heavily in an impressive and highly efficient manufacturing and production facility further securing jobs and employment - whilst providing safe and ergonomically efficient working conditions".

#### Innovation of the year - Joint winners CSI Drugs & Alcohol and The Bignall Group

Darren Race, Chairman of South Durham Engineering & Manufacturing Forum - "This was a very difficult category to judge resulting in joint winners. Both businesses are quite different but each demonstrated significant strength in innovation. CSI Drugs & Alcohol - have established a £1million state of the art laboratory based in NetPark Sedgefield using the latest drugs and alcohol testing service to all sectors. Using the latest testing processes they are able to accurately and cost effectively identify and reduce risk for their clients. Their supportive approach which includes social science and support helps to transform business performance giving a direct and significant return on investment. The Bignall Group - continue to punch above their weight through the proactive engagement with university undergraduates, the Technology Strategy Board and the costly and timely process of patent registration. This is a perfect example of BIG not always being best."

Accolades for enterprise excellence were awarded to the best in business across South Durham recently. Winners of the South Durham Business Awards were unveiled at a prestigious ceremony held at Redworth Hall hotel on Saturday 30th November - with almost 200 business people in attendance. Celebrating its third year the awards have become County Durham's top accolade for Durham based businesses - recognising the outstanding contribution that local businesses make to the regional economy.

The event organised by South Durham Business Network and Engineering and Manufacturing Forum and sponsored by Business Durham and Bishop Auckland College - recognise business excellence, innovation and achievement. Awards included business apprentice of the year, best online business, employer of the year and best business start-up.

The awards were presented to winners by Cllr Neil Foster, portfolio holder for Economic Development and Regeneration at Durham County Council. Other awards were presented for the best in engineering and manufacturing, innovation of the year, employer of the year and outstanding contribution to South Durham.

Darren Race, Chairman of the South Durham Business Network said: "The awards have been a great success. This year has been our best year ever with even more categories and nominations. It is so important to recognise and showcase the achievements of all those businesses based in Durham. We have some fantastic businesses here and we need to celebrate and promote their success."

"Businesses have faced a number of challenges over the past few years. They have not only survived a tough economic climate - but have found innovative ways to grow and sustain their businesses."

County Durham has such a diverse range of innovative businesses and I'm delighted that some of these companies have been recognised for their outstanding achievements".

### LIST OF AWARD WINNERS 2013

**Business Apprentice of the Year** - John Greenwood from Livin, Spennymoor (sponsored by South Durham Engineering & Manufacturing Forum)

**Engineering Apprentice of the Year** - Alex McKenna from the A-Tech Academy, Newton Aycliffe (award sponsored by D & J Franks Renewables)

**Customer Care Award** - Vinovium Associates Ltd., South Church (awards sponsored by South Durham Business Network)

**Employee of the Year** - Abi Smith of Stuart Hall & Co., South Church (sponsored by Redworth Hall Hotel, the Puma Group)

**Employer of the Year** - Thorn Lighting, Spennymoor

**Engineering & Manufacturing Award** - Ebac Group Ltd., Newton Aycliffe (award sponsored by Izumi products UK Ltd)

**Exporter of the Year** - The Bignall Group, Shildon (sponsored by Business Durham)

**Home based business** - Bale Traders, Bishop Auckland, (sponsored by South Durham Business Network)

**Innovation Award** - a joint award to CSI Drugs & Alcohol (Sedgefield) and the Bignall Group (Shildon)

**Online Business of the Year** - Zine, Barnard Castle (sponsored by Au Fait)

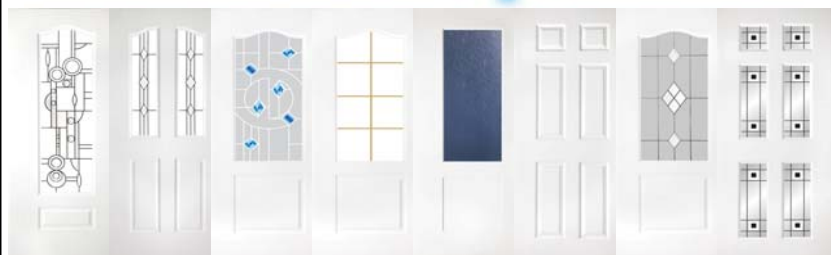
**Retailer of the Year** - N. Hocking Butchers, Spennymoor (award sponsored by South Durham Business Network)

**Service Business of the Year** - H and S Consultants UK Ltd., Darlington (sponsored by Northumbria Business Service Ltd - NBSL)

**Start-up Business of the Year** - The Contemporary Cleaning Company, Spennymoor (award sponsored by Barclays Bank)

**Outstanding Contribution to South Durham** - Syd Howarth from Newton Press, Newton Aycliffe (award sponsored by IZUMI Products UK Ltd., South Church)

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# Keeping the Elderly Warm at Xmas

Dear Sir

Thanks to all the knitters that responded to my request to knit blankets/shawls to keep our elderly lonely people warm. Please keep on knitting there is still a lot of wool and plenty of people who would benefit from your kindness.

I would like to hear from any neighbour that knows of any person living alone who would benefit from one of these blanket/shawls. I will be delivering them personally to ensure your security. My volunteers are all CRB/DBS checked and after all the blankets are delivered would like to visit as many older lonely people over the dark days

of winter.

We would also like to take you to our community house to meet other people and have a cup of coffee/tea followed by a game of Bingo.

For a small charge you can have a bacon butty or bowl of soup and a bun all freshly cooked and delicious to eat. Come on senior citizens get in touch, we are trying to bring you something to look forward to every week.

As I have been in hospital could the volunteers please give me a ring to enable me to contact you again. To contact me for a shawl or a visit please ring.

Dorothy Bowman 01325 308094 / 07967 901477.

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# Poor Support for Residents Association

There was a disappointing turnout for the formation of a West Ward Residents group. However, I would like to thank Acorn Residents Association members, West Ward Partnership members, local councillors and the five residents for an interesting

and informative discussion. The group decided to nominate Mr Ray Howe as the main point of contact. He is an experienced and respected local resident campaigner.

The group plan to meet again at the end of January 2014 to set up a group constitution to represent the Burnhill area (black houses). In the meantime, if you would like to get involved, contribute or raise an issue please contact Cllr Eddy Adam in the first instance. eddy.adam@durham.gov.uk Tel: 07900 701966.

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# ARRIVA DELIVERS NEW £1.8m JEWEL BUS



Arriva North East is excited to announce the launch of Sapphire, a new premium bus service which went into operation on 6th December on route 7 between Darlington and Durham.

The buses were officially unveiled at Walworth Castle where guests were treated to a very special display featuring all 11 of the brand new vehicles. The Sapphire buses are a new concept from Arriva offering customers a first-class journey experience and providing an investment of £1.8m for the people of Co. Durham. All vehicles are equipped with power points to charge phones and lap-tops, free WiFi, audio visual facilities and seating

features providing extra comfort for customers.

Arriva North East is one of only four Arriva companies in the UK to get a special delivery of these premium buses, and will be the first to launch live service information on its Arriva Bus App for its Sapphire service 7. The app will allow customers to track exactly where their bus is and help them plan their travel in a much more convenient way. At the event employees were on hand to talk about the additional benefits the buses offer and to introduce the dedicated Sapphire bus drivers to both customers and guests. Nick Knox, area managing director for Arriva North East

said: "We're delighted to be bringing the Sapphire brand to Durham and Darlington and we're so excited to be announcing further investment into the local area. We have now invested nearly £7m in 2013, including the introduction of the gas buses."

"This Sapphire service will offer customers a new and improved experience, we're confident that customers will be delighted with the enhancements and we will be looking forward to receiving their feedback over the coming months."

The Sapphire buses will run on Route 7 between Darlington - Newton Aycliffe - Chilton - Ferryhill - Durham.

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# Woodham Careers Fair



On the evening of Thursday 15th November, Woodham Academy once again opened its doors to welcome businesses, students and parents to its annual Careers Fair. A wide array of providers exhibited to support the school's Careers Education programme and the evening provided essential information to young people in Year 10 and 11 about post-16 and post 18 progression routes.

At the event students were offered the opportunity to speak on a one to one basis with a careers advisor and the ICT facilities were opened to allow opportunities for further research.

Sarah McGinnety, the event's organiser, said 'This is an excellent opportunity for students to speak directly to providers of their choice to find what is available to them once they leave Woodham Academy.'

The event continues to be successful because of the excellent relationships the school has with external providers and the dedication it gives to ensuring each and every young person is aware of the post 16 and post 18 pathway choices locally'.

# PRAISE FOR DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Sir,  
May I record thanks to Durham County Council for rejuvenating the flower beds by planting new bulbs along Williamfield Way We will now have a carpet of colour in the spring instead of the overgrown eyesore that there has been for many years  
Dorothy Bowman.

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# PLAN FOR SCHOOL AYCLIFFE WIND TURBINE

**Durham County Council** are to consider an application from **Philip Hodgeson** for the erection of a single 34 metre high Wind Turbine on land between Ineos and Heighington Station.

The nearest residential property to the site is The Chesnuts at School Aycliffe and notices of the application have been attached to various poles in the area.

Any objection must be made to the County Council before the end of December. The application details provided by Urban Wind Ltd. are available on the County Council website.



# Ex Holiways Employee Lands New Job



Neil Atterby (51) of Rowan Place who worked for Holiways for 20 years has taken over as the new body work specialist at Gregg Little's garage. If you have a bump or a scrap over winter then please pop down for an instant quote. We are happy to offer FREE courtesy cars whilst your car is in workshop Neil is a VW enthusiast and goes to shows such as Hotrods, VW shows, and it was through this shared enthusiasm that Neil heard about the job opportunity from Norman Travers a workshop manager at Littles.

# Poor Street Lighting

Dear Sir,  
After a number of weeks, and several letters of complaint, I have yet to see a response in the Newton News from our Council regarding the new and totally inadequate street lighting. I once again appeal to them to resolve this matter or at least respond. As a home owner with CCTV, I have yet again a perfect example of this new lighting rendering my cameras virtually useless! I invite the council and local police to come and see for themselves, if my word is not believed! As a fairly new resident of Newton Aycliffe I am shocked at the

lack of response from our council having come from a very pro-active area. It would be nice to know if anything is going to be done about the lights or are we stuck with them indefinitely? I appreciate and applaud the council for their energy saving approach but when I am then left to floodlight the front of my house in order to protect my property it kind of defeats the purpose don't you think? Or is the council not bothered about that, as it is me picking up the bill and increasing my carbon footprint in the long run. Ms A Jones  
Aycliffe Resident

# Is Nature Protected?



Dear Sir,  
Work has started on building the 170 new houses on the protected 'Area of Special Scientific Interest' in the Cobblers Hall estate area of Newton Aycliffe. The photo was taken last Saturday and I wonder how this 'development' will affect the protected Natterjack Toads? Mike Baker

## In Memoriam

### Sheila Gibson



The memory of you lives on with me.  
Till we can be together again.  
Miss you so much!  
Love you always Fred.

**PAUL SIMPSON** Died 17th December 2012. Remembered with love and laughs by all the girls at Bethany House.

**MERRY XMAS MAM/NANA/NANS** - Sending Christmas wishes your way. We may be apart, but you are forever in our heart.

Merry Xmas, Jacqueline, Vic, Rob and boys.

**STEPHEN PARKER** 12th December 2004. Close to my heart you will always stay, loved and remembered every day. Love always, Margaret xxx

**STEPHEN PARKER** 12th December 2004. If tears could make a stairway and memories a lane, I'd walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again.

From your loving Daughter Susan and Grandson Shaun xxx

**ENID PARKER** 17th December 1996. Loving memories we have locked in our hearts, you shall not be forgotten because we are apart. From your loving Daughter Susan and Grandson Shaun xxxxxxx

**BILL BAKER** December 17th. Loved and sadly missed. Barbara.

**GLADYS BEADLE** 13th December 2012. In loving memory of a dear wife, mother and Nanna. It doesn't take a special day. To bring you to our minds.

For days without a thought of you are very hard to find. Love from Ray, David, Sue, Michael & Julie, Gary & Sue, Angela & Dean and all grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**TERRY LUNDNUM**, December 12th 2002. We often think of bygone days when we were all together.

The family chain is broken now, but memories live forever. Your loving husband John and family.

**RITA THOMPSON**. 11-12-2008. Till memory fades and life departs Rita will stay forever in our hearts. Sister Doris, family and Grandchildren. Love you xxx

**JOHN CASSIDY** (Cass) 12-12-1987. Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day, Unseen, unheard, but always near.

Still loved, still missed and ever dear. Love you always, From Doris, family and grandchildren xxxxx

**STEVE STEWART**. Four years, and never a day goes by when I don't think of you son.

Love from your Mam.

## Obituary

**CHRIS STUBBS**, Biscop Crescent, Newton Aycliffe, Deceased Saturday December 7th 2013. Beloved Wife, Mother, Nana, Great Grandmother and treasured friend.

Those we love don't go away, they still walk beside us every day, always near and always in our thoughts. Chris you were and still are loved so very much and sorely missed by all. Family and friends to meet at Xcel Centre, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6AP for a Service on Wednesday December 18th at 11.45am followed by cremation at Durham Crematorium DH1 3TQ at 1pm.

Chris wished for mourners to be happy not sad and celebrate her life not her passing. So the family ask all attending to wear at least 1 item of purple clothing, instead of black.

## Birthday Remembrance

**MARGARET KELLY** 12th December love and miss you so much. Always yours. Paddy xxx

**WENDY GRAHAM** 12-12-1960. Thinking of our wonderful Sister Wendy. Miss you always. Kay and Mandy xxx

**WENDY GRAHAM** 12-12-1960. My beautiful wife Wendy I miss you always and love you forever. Thinking of you every day. Your loving husband Charles, xxx.

**GEORGE ELLIOTT** (Chilton) Thinking of you Dad on your birthday. Always in our thoughts. Love and miss you, Rob and Barbara xxx

**GEORGE ELLIOTT** (Chilton) 14th December 1928. As I opened my eyes this morning I blew a kiss to the sky above, and whispered "Happy birthday Dad" and sent you all our love. We miss you so very much. Love, Pauline, Bryce, Michael and Stephen xxxx

# School Governor Retires After 20 Years



The whole of Sugar Hill primary school came together in an assembly recently to say farewell to Mrs Lyn Swift, who is retiring from her post of Chair of Governors for the school. Lyn has been a Governor at Sugar Hill for 19 years and has been a great friend to all staff and children over that time. She has given so much of her own time selflessly and willingly, and everyone at Sugar Hill wanted Lyn to have the send-off that her great service deserved.

Every year group in the school made or performed their own special tribute for Lyn, including songs and poems performed with enthusiasm during the assembly. All the children worked very hard and enjoyed giving their performances, and a lovely afternoon was had by all. Everyone at Sugar Hill wants to thank Lyn for everything she has done over the years and to wish her a long and happy retirement.

## For Sale

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

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

**CANON 40D** Camera + 18-55mm lens + Canon 430EX flash gun, boxed and in excellent working order. £350. Tel 07595 023823

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

**WOOD** dining table, 160 x 86cm, 4 chairs and matching breakfast bar chair. £50 ono. Tel: 01325 300313.

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

**MATTRESS** double and Kingsize memory foam pocket sprung, unused still in packaging will accept £100 each can deliver, Tel 07501526622

**"CELEBRITY"** (Green chenille) rise/ recliner chair V.G.C. £300 tel 01325 317858  
**BRAND NEW** King size jumbo drawer divan with orthopaedic mattress, still wrapped and can deliver. £225. Tel: 07789 113343.

**CALOR GAS** Fire, as new, £50. Tel; 321134.

**BLACK DECO** Fridge freezer in mint condition. 160x54. £130. Tel; 07824116092.

**MOBILITY SCOOTER** for sale £200. 07596 779532.

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

**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

## Congratulations

**CLAIRE WINTER** wishing the best mammy and girlfriend a very happy birthday on 13th December with lots of love Freya and Andrew xx

**CHLOE MILLER** our special girl Happy 16th Birthday on the 15th December we are so proud of you. Enjoy your day. You are amazing, love you so much, Mam and Dad xx

**CHLOE MILLER** 15th December Happy Sweet 16th Chloe. We love you to the moon and back. Hope you enjoy your ride in the limo. Love from Grandad, Auntie Mandy, Uncle Gary, Darren, Danny and Jenna xxx

**ELLEN VOY**. Happy 50th birthday Mam, lots of love from Alex, Kirsty and Owyn.

### Robert Brandyn Salmon



**Happy 18th Birthday**  
19th December 2013  
Have a fantastic day!  
Lots of love, Mum, Dad, Jordane and Nicholas xxx

## Christmas Greetings

**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 xxx

**MACKEY**, Enid and Geoff send Seasons Greetings to relatives, friends and neighbours at Woodham.

**GLENYS GARRITY** wishes family and friends a happy Christmas and New Year.

**DORIS CASSIDY** and family send all their families, neighbours and friends Happy Christmas greetings also a healthy and prosperous 2014. xxx

**OLIVE HAMMOND** would like to send to her family, friends and neighbours, old and new, Seasons Greetings for a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Love and peace for 2014 from Olive.

### Joseph Thompson



**18 Today - 21st December**  
**A man now.**  
Happy birthday to the nicest Grandson ever  
Love, you loads  
from Nana xxx

## Public Notice

Whoever keeps throwing stuff at our windows they need to stop! We are getting sick of it now, hot chocolate on Monday 9th December and other fluid the week before. All this is after our son's bench stolen. If it carries on the police will be informed.  
Very angry resident  
Dent Walk.

# AYTP Give Away McBusted Tickets

Aycliffe Young Talent Project are deep in rehearsals for the big party called "A Glam Rock Christmas", which will be held at the Working Men's Club aka "the Big Club" on Saturday December 21st. The show with a Glam Rock and Christmas theme will have 3 bands "The Unsound", "White Vinyl" and "Skyway Mile" all with roots in Aycliffe along with soloist Emma Hayman, Gaynor Lambert, Fran Porritt, Alice Jordan, Keira Durham, Beth Clarkson & Gemma Parker.

11yr old guitarist Billy Dunn will be making his first public performance at the show. The night is sure to be going to be a hit with limited tickets available, call 321123 or 07704 646346 to buy tickets and support the youngsters

of Aycliffe. There is also a raffle with some great prizes, a free Buffet courtesy of FeastLand and 2 tickets being given away to see McBusted in Newcastle including transport.

All you have to do to get a chance of winning the tickets is attend the event. AYTP send out a big thank you to Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre for their sponsorship of the event.

If you would like to be part of AYTP then look us up on Facebook, www. AYTP.co.uk. AYTP have been going for about 9 months now and have helped a lot of youngsters make their way on stage, in the recording studio, on radio and introduced good protocols for their future in the entertainment industry. As well as helping to raise money for local charities.

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# Dozen for the Huntsman School Sports Partnership Gym Festival



Huntsman made it 12 wins out of 12 last with an impressive 5-0 victory over Tompkins to edge 3 points away from promotion to Division 1. Having had 2 tough games already against Tompkins the gaffer decided to move to a 5 man midfield with Carl Bates replacing the league's top scorer Jamie Herd who dropped to the bench while Callum Musgrave replaced Mark Percival at the heart of defence. Huntsman started in confident fashion and could have been 2 up within the first five

minutes had it not been for the woodwork, first Dave Neale crashed a 25 yard effort off the bar then Callum Musgrave saw his bullet header rebound off the bar from a right wing corner. They continued to dominate throughout the half playing some lovely football but the final ball was lacking so no clear cut chances were being created.

The deadlock was finally broken 10 minutes before the break when Anthony Cox delivered a delightful free kick on to the head of Shaun

Sproates who guided the ball into the roof of the net to give the Huntsman the lead all of the possession deserved. They went in at the break 1-0 up and the message was more of the same but to improve the final ball. They took the message on board and finished the game off within the first 15 minutes of the restart. They doubled the lead on 50 minutes when Shaun Sproates won possession on the left wing and fed a lovely ball inside for Anth Cox to run onto, he raced towards goal before firing past the keeper.

The game was as good as over when Michael Sproates playing with a thigh injury picked up in training added a third, he picked the ball up on the right and cut inside before curling home from 25 yards with his swinger.

On 60 minutes it was Dave Neale's turn to get in on the act adding his 6th goal of the season direct from a free kick, way out on the left wing Neale managed to curl the ball into the top corner with a classy finish. The game was wrapped up when two substitutes combined, Andrew Richardson slotted a lovely ball into the feet of Jamie Herd who side stepped the defender before firing into the bottom corner.

The last 15 minutes were played out with the Huntsman dominating, Lee Redpath had one cleared off the line, Andrew Richardson fizzed one just wide and Carl Bates beat 5 men Lionel Messi style unfortunately his finish was messy too.

The game finished 5-0 a convincing win from start to finish with the Huntsman defence never troubled as they picked up there 5th shut out in 6 games. Man of the match went to Shaun Sproates for an excellent display in the lone striker role.

Huntsman make the short journey to Moore Lane Park to face the British Legion in the first round of the league cup the winner facing a quarter final game against Yates. We hope to see you there!!



Greenfield Community College gymnasts opened Sedgefield's School Sports Partnership festival which ran on the 3rd and 4th December. Twenty eight schools took part in a fabulous gymnastics festival organised by the partnership, at the South Durham Gymnastics Centre in Spennymoor. Attending from Newton

Aycliffe, were Greenfield Community College, Horndale Infants, Vane Road, Sugar Hill and Aycliffe Village. They all performed very impressive routines - very well done to all who took part.

Greenfield's gymnasts were trained by Samantha Robson from Athena Gymnastics Club (Sedgefield's Junior Club

of the year), this is part of Greenfield's new Get Set Olympic Legacy project. Through this project Head Coach Samantha is now coaching at the school every week.

Greenfield students are very much enjoying this fantastic club opportunity, and a wide range of other new activity opportunities through their Get Set funding. The school is delighted to have been given this financial support to build a lasting Olympic legacy for their students and the local Community. Greenfield Gymnastics Club with Sam from Athena continues after

Christmas every Thursday. Anyone interested in the Club sessions can contact Samantha on 07800 847527 for more information.

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## Christmas Holiday Girls Football Coaching



Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club have organised a free coaching session during the Xmas school holidays, open to any girls in yr 4 / 5 / 6.

Girl's football is one of the fastest growing participation sports in the UK and the football club has 2 teams competing each week in leagues as well as a development section for girls, which is steadily growing in numbers.

Berni Borsberry, Girls Development Head Coach, explained that the club coaches regularly visit local primary schools, and they have noticed that there are a lot of girls showing some basic skills and a lot of enthusiasm.

The football club is giving these girls an opportunity to have a fun couple of hours, after the excitement of Xmas, to play football in a warm and safe environment.

The session will be at Greenfield School Sports Hall on Friday 27th December from 10.00am-12pm.

Booking required by Friday 21st December 2013 If you

are interested please ring Berni -07939045242 Or visit [www.naycafc.co.uk](http://www.naycafc.co.uk) and email following the links

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## NEWTON NEWS

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