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AYCLIFFE GIRL MEETS "ONE DIRECTION"



The Rays of Sunshine charity arranged for an Aycliffe girl to meet her idols "One Direction". Lauren Armstrong is 11 years old and

attends Woodham Academy and has undergone three major operations. Lauren had a brain tumour removed at the age of 6 and has had

two lots of spinal surgery to correct congenital kyphosis (curvature of the spine). She was nominated for a

continued on page 2

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School Club Xmas Party



Throughout the weeks approaching Christmas the children had the opportunity to take part in a variety of festive activities including making Christmas cards, crackers,

special gifts and treats to take home. On Tuesday 16th December the children at Woodham Burn Out of School Club celebrated Christmas with their very first OOSC

festive Christmas dinner. After school the children tried a variety of traditional foods including turkey, vegetables, roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding and all the trimmings. For pudding the children had cake rather than Xmas pudding. The children and staff looked forward to their OOSC Christmas Party and a visit from Santa. Children and staff hope family and friends both old and new had a very Merry Christmas and wish them a Prosperous New Year. If you require further details, would like to visit the club or to book a place in school hols / term time for your child, please contact Kendra Green (Manager) on 01325 300080.

Aycliffe Girl Meets "One Direction"

continued from Front Page

wish by a play specialist at the RVI in Newcastle. The charity organised the weekend including travel to London by train and a two night stay in a hotel. The family were taken to a venue near Wembley Stadium by a limousine and had lunch at a Frankie and Benny's. They were then taken to a cinema close to Wembley where they saw part of the film with One Direction 'This is Us' and the band appeared part way through shining torches around the cinema. They sang a couple of songs and answered questions before children went to the front and had photographs taken with the band. Lauren was so excited and overwhelmed by the whole experience and was thrilled to have a hug from Niall (her favourite). She was given a bottle of their perfume from Harry and also received a goody bag containing a signed sweatshirt, a watch and two tickets to their concert next year. It was magical not only for Lauren but for all the family including younger sister, Emma. Lauren has been through a lot for a child of her age

and has had to be extremely brave and still has to attend the hospital on a regular basis for check-ups. The family are hoping she won't need further surgery on her spine, but this has not been ruled out and she will be closely monitored for the rest of her life.

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES HOGGING LAYBYS

When does a public layby become a private truck and van park? This is happening a lot in Newton Aycliffe with drivers parking commercial vehicles for days at a time, which means no one else can use the layby. Some also obstruct the entry/exit road by parking on the path, making it hard to get past either by foot or by car. It also presents visual problems getting past these large vehicles. Families with pushchairs have to go into the road putting their lives at risk! They also park on the grass which looks unsightly. Laybys are really meant for short stay visitors who can park their cars safely off the main road.

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Covering tracks by: Bad Company, Billy Idol, Bon Jovi, Cult, Deep Purple, Gary Moore, Hendrix, Satriani, Pink Floyd, Rory Gallagher, Santana, UFO, ZZ Top and many more.
www.unclegilbert.co.uk

Saturday 11th January - To Be Confirmed

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What a momentous event it was when Aycliffe charity Helping Hands team held its first Christmas Day lunch at the Bethany Centre where more than 100 guests and volunteers joined together in to celebrate this wonderful day. With the help of the Newton News we recruited volunteers that we were proud of. They gave their best and shone brightly as they served our special guests. Mother and son team Cheryl and Connor spent hours of their time preparing the delicious food and said 'we heard about this in the Newton News and it's been a privilege to be part of it' Cheryl added after seeing it all, I've shed a few tears in the kitchen, it's all been

remarkable. The whole event was full of so many special things as the day unfolded. Guests who would have spent Christmas Day alone received a four-course meal, together with a personal Christmas card, present, framed photograph and a visit from Father Christmas. There were also Carols, quizzes and pass the parcel on offer. Project Manager Alwyn White said: "This is the first year we have done this. We did not want people to be alone this Christmas, unless they wanted to be of course and we were delighted with how it has turned out." She added: "It is not a question of if we do this



Aycliffe Charities Helping Each Other

A certain sign the new Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership is working was news that St. Mary's Church donated £125 to the Helping Hands Xmas hamper appeal. When Helping Hands first asked the St. Vincent de Paul charity to donate to this appeal, it was thought due to restricted funds and the constitution governing the charity they could not help. However, on further consideration and advice from new Parish Priest Fr. Michael it was decided there was no reason why the Church couldn't support the appeal. This is a good example of the new partnership working together. Also, when Ernie Temple from the Foodbank appealed for volunteers for the food collection at Tesco, two members from the SVP and two members of St. Mary's Church, turned out to help.

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again, it's when, with how many and where. We would love to hear from anyone who would like to keep the momentum going so we can add other special events throughout the year. We

only have a team of about 20 volunteers but our vision for 2014 is massive and we need a lot more support. If you'd like to make tentative enquiries please e-mail lifeline.action@googlemail.

com and you will be guaranteed to receive a swift reply. Together let's make 2014 a much brighter year for people who are struggling in our community."

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Aycliffe Village	Manager: Tina Elmar	01325 313513
Fishburn Primary School	Manager: Carol Woods	01740 620683
Evenwood Village	Manager: Kerry Dixon	01388 834161
Newton Aycliffe	Manager: Vicky Hutchinson	01325 315623
Bishop Middleham	Manager: Natalie Richardson	01740 651224

Helping You Manage Your Money in 2014

A local church is one of 1,138 across the UK offering free courses to help make money management a successful resolution for 2014.

Life Church in Newton Aycliffe will be running the CAP Money Course following the successful training from the debt counselling charity Christians Against Poverty.

CAP Money coach, and member of the congregation, Linzi Nicolls, said: "We are really pleased to be able to put on this popular course, which 10,000 people attended in the UK just last year.

"January is a great time to take a fresh look at your financial situation and make a plan for the year ahead. Lots of people are keen to manage their money, but often don't have the basic skills, so this course is a really effective place to start."

It is designed for anyone whether unemployed, receiving benefits, working, self-employed, retired, newly married or recently divorced. "Even if you went a bit overboard at Christmas, it's not too late to do something now about your financial situation.

With the help of the CAP Money Course, we have seen

people back in the black and start saving - sometimes for the first time in their lives," said Linzi.

One course attendee said: "Before the CAP Money Course, we never knew where we were and felt overwhelmed about how to budget. Now our finances are clear and we're confident managing them."

The Helping Hands team are also supporting this course. Alwyn White says "With households feeling the squeeze on their disposable income, we've all got to get a bit more knowledgeable about our money to get through these tough times. If you know how to save and budget effectively, it can have a hugely positive impact on the whole family." We at Life Church and the Helping Hands team want to invest in people's lives by supporting them by putting on this course.

The first course takes place soon in Newton Aycliffe, starting 12-2pm on 13th January then 20th & concluding on 27th January. Book your place on the Life Church course by phoning or texting 07936431262 or emailing lifeline.action@googlemail.com

Carols at the PCP Centre



The children from the Eden Nursery and Options Club, who meet at the PCP Centre, entertained guests with Christmas Carols in the hall.

It was a joyous occasion and Chief Executive Officer Carol thanked everyone for their efforts and said how much people looked forward to this event which gave a wonderful start to the festive season.

Be a Good Neighbour This Winter

With the weather remaining unpredictable, people in County Durham are being reminded to think of others.

Durham County Council is asking people to be a good neighbour during bad weather, by:

- Calling on those living nearby to check if they need anything.
- Looking after the vulnerable by getting in touch with people who are ill, older or who live on their own and may need a helping hand.
- Keeping drives and footpaths clear by shovelling snow for friends and neighbours if they struggle to do it themselves.

The cold weather can significantly increase the risk to those who are already vulnerable. Spare a thought – and perhaps a little time – for friends, relatives and neighbours who may struggle in the worst of the winter.

Check they are warm, especially at night, and have food and medicines so they don't need to leave the house.

Remember, a small act can make a big difference.

SIGHT LOSS CAN BE AVOIDED BY REGULAR TESTS

Almost two million people in the UK are living with sight loss, yet over half of sight loss can be avoided say experts.

Sight is the sense that lots of people fear losing the most, yet many of us don't know the best way to look after our eyes. It is important for sight tests to be part of everyone's healthcare routine, just like going to the dentist.

It is important to get your eyes tested every two years, even if you think your vision is fine, as some eye conditions may not show symptoms. A sight test isn't just about checking whether your vision needs correcting with glasses or contact lenses.

Sight tests can detect many conditions which, if found early, can be treated successfully avoiding potential sight loss.

Other serious health conditions, such as high blood pressure or diabetes, can be detected through regular sight tests. Awareness of the link between

diet and good eye health is low – a recent survey found sixty per cent of people living in the UK had no idea that what they eat can affect the health of their eyes.

Vitamins, minerals and carotenoids found in many fruits, vegetables and other wholesome foods can help protect sight and keep eyes healthy.

Excessive alcohol consumption and smoking can lead to serious health conditions which can have a detrimental effect on eye health. After ageing, smoking is the biggest risk factor for developing macular degeneration. Smoking also increases the risk of developing cataracts.

Protecting eyes from the sun is very important. Sunglasses should have the right level of ultraviolet protection. Visit <http://www.visionmatters.org.uk/> and <http://diabeticseye.screening.nhs.uk/> for further information about protecting your sight.

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Timber Theft from Aycliffe Woodlands

Dear Sir,
Over recent years there has been an alarming rise in the number of reports of people removing fallen timber from our woodlands around the town. This can be linked to the trend for people to purchase traditional wood burning appliances such as wood burning stoves and garden braziers to burn timber. While the use of these types of appliances can be seen as a sustainable source of fuel it is important to note that timber taken from our nature reserves can have a significant detrimental effect on the local wildlife. Fallen and dead timber provides an invaluable

habitat for many types of wildlife including food for insects, fungi and birds. It also provides cover for many other species such as birds, amphibians and mammals. The removal of this resource will therefore have a significant impact on the wildlife which will make our woodlands their home. For this reason Great Aycliffe Town Council will leave fallen and dead timber on site in the form of habitat piles and anyone proven to be taking the timber for their own benefit is liable for prosecution. Great Aycliffe Town Council would therefore encourage members of the public to remain vigilant of people removing timber from Council owned land and report any concerns to the police on 0345 6060 365 in the first instance. Any further information can be passed onto Great Aycliffe Town Council on 01325 300700. Again, anyone who has invested in this type heating is encouraged to buy their timber from a reputable dealer and would encourage everyone to enquire where their timber is sourced from. Steve Cooper, Environment Officer, Great Aycliffe Town Council

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FIRE SERVICE BRIGHT IDEA LEADS THE WAY

A bright idea by County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service aims to help prevent electrical fires this Christmas. The fire service is the first in the country to hand out an 'Amp Selecta™' as part of its free Home Fire Safety Checks. The Amp Selecta™ is a simple to use guide, which shows the levels of electrical current used by common household appliances. The design of the guide, in the form of a wheel, provides a quick and easy way to check if you are at risk of overloading the sockets in your home. It shows the power used by everyday electrical appliances so you can work out if you may be putting yourself at risk. Andrew Allison, community safety manager for Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service said: "Fires caused by faulty or misused electrical appliances account for around 40 to 50 per cent of all house fires. We will be handing out the Amp Selecta™ during all of our free home fire safety checks to help people understand when they are at risk of overloading their sockets. "Many people are unaware that each socket can only



provide 13 amps, even when you use an extension lead. Most of us probably use a lot of our sockets anyway, but we chose this time of year for this launch because new games consoles, lights for the trees and all sorts of extra gadgets will be appearing in our homes. We already have a 'Socket Overload Calculator' on our website and this is another tool to compliment that. We worked with a local company, Auto Items Ltd. to help them develop this and we think it will make a big difference to the safety of people in our area." People are urged to take extra care and stay safe by:

- Testing smoke alarms weekly. If you haven't got any fitted then contact the fire

and rescue service.

- Not cooking after drinking alcohol. If you've been to a party then get a take-away.
- Taking extra care when cooking – distractions can mean it's difficult to concentrate.

To arrange a FREE Home Fire Safety Check with FREE smoke alarms call County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service on 0191 3755561 or visit the Service website www.ddfire.gov.uk where you will also find more safety tips to help you and your loved ones stay safe. Pictured from left: Andrew Allison and Dave Yews from Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service with an enlarged version of the new 'Amp Selecta™'.

RESOLVE TO BE A LIFESAVER IN 2014

People from the North East are being asked to make 2014 the year that they start saving lives by giving blood. With the festive season coming to an end, NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is hoping people will pledge to become regular blood donors for their New Year's resolution. The New Year period is often a particularly challenging time for blood stocks due to the wintry weather and dark nights keeping people indoors. And as hospitals need 7,000 units of blood each day to treat patients with chronic conditions like cancer and anaemia, along with people needing treatment for often life-threatening illnesses and injuries, NHSBT is encouraging new or returning donors to book an appointment in the first weeks of 2014. Donna Batty, NHSBT's lead donor relations manager for the North East area, said: "People often set themselves very difficult and drastic challenges for their New Year's resolutions which they struggle to complete. "However, we are asking people here to do something very simple which should only take around an hour of their time, a few times a year. Making and keeping a New Year's resolution to give blood will give you the satisfaction of knowing you are saving lives. "We can also guarantee you a warm welcome, a nice drink and a biscuit to stave off the cold January weather." Anyone aged between 17-65, weighing more than 50 kg (7 stone 12lbs) and in general good health could potentially start saving lives by becoming a blood donor. There is no upper age limit for donors who have donated in the last two years. For more information or to book an appointment, call 0300 123 23 23 or visit www.blood.co.uk A session will be held on 20th January at Woodham Community Centre, St Elizabeth Close, Woodham. from 2.30pm - 4 pm and 4.45pm - 7pm.

CHARITY HANDS OUT HEAT PADS

Helping Hands have been given 1000's of HeatMax pads to the elderly and homeless. Organiser Alwyn White said 'we are delighted to have been given these pads to distribute to the most vulnerable people in and around our community. As the temperatures plummet these pads will supply extra heat to those that need them the most' Volunteers from Life Church will be distributing again in the near future Please e-mail lifeline.action@googlemail.com if you need some. HotHands warmers are made of natural materials including iron powder, water, salt, activated charcoal and wood fibre. Once removed from the specially designed outer packaging the exposure to air activates the ingredients and the warmer begins to build heat. Always allow 10 to 20 minutes for the warmers to reach their optimal temperatures. HeatMax® is an air activated warmer and

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Gentlemen

Dear Sir,
May I thank the two gentlemen who helped me when I fell on the Bridle Path as I walked towards Burn Lane on Friday 6th December. I broke my shoulder and I wish to thank them so much for their kindness, care and concern as I didn't get their names. C Corker

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SEDGEFIELD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Scout Group Recognised for Supporting Young Carers



1st Newton Aycliffe Scout Group has been rewarded for supporting those Cubs, Beavers and Scouts who have caring responsibilities at home.

They are the first Scout Group in County Durham to be awarded with the Young Carers Charter and they were presented with the Charter by the Chuckle Brothers at Darlington Civic Theatre.

The Scout Group has been working with Family Action The Bridge Young Carers Project to create a welcoming and caring environment for those youngsters who look after loved ones.

It also aims to encourage children who are not carers to give more support to their friends who need it most.

It is hoped that by taking this awareness out into the community and by spreading

the need for understanding and appreciation that young carers deserve, everyone can lead full and enjoyable

childhoods. Cath English Group Scout Leader said, "It's all about having empathy and understanding."

An Open Invitation

Life Church will be hosting a very special **Guests Service** called 'An Evening of Celebration' on **Thursday 9th January at 6.30pm** in the main hall at **Greenfield School, Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe.**

The evening will comprise of a few two to three minute testimonies from people who have had their lives transform in 2013 whilst being at Life Church like a lady who is a recovering alcoholic and another lady who says 'before becoming a Christian I was just existing and now I'm living again.'

These are truly inspiring stories to hear. Some of the **Helping Hands** team will be sharing highlights from 2013 and there will be an opportunity for people to volunteer for community work in 2014.

It will be café style as we sit around tables with cappuccinos and cake and as always in Life Church it will be FUN!

Please come along and see for yourself we don't think you will regret it.

A YEAR OF FAITH AT St. JOHN'S



To mark the Year of Faith St John's School and Sixth Form College, A Catholic Academy in Bishop Auckland, commissioned local ceramics artist Christine Constant to work with a group of Sixth

Form students to design and create new Stations of the Cross and altar candle holders for the school Chapel. Before they began the design process the students spent some time reflecting on each Station. This allowed the students to relate to the Station they had chosen. The students and Christine were incredibly moved and inspired by the whole process especially since some of the students had no experience in ceramics.

On 3rd December, Bishop Seamus Cunningham visited St John's to bless the new Stations of the Cross and was deeply impressed by the work of Christine and the students. The Stations of the Cross and candle holders are a legacy for the students who will be educated at St John's in the years to come.

Let's Get Lean in 2014

The Weight Loss and Wellness Challenge for January 2014 is about to commence not at one venue but two venues this time. The Challenge takes the participants' through a 12 week course, teaching them about different aspects of nutrition - related to weight loss. One challenge which has been running since 2012 is held at Agnew Community Centre on a Thursday evening and provides an informal and friendly setting. The next one is due to start on Thursday 9th January 2014 at 6.30pm nicely after the kids go back to school and we all return to our normal routine! The other challenge starts the day after on Friday 10th January 2014 at 12.30pm at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre.

As well as a weekly weigh in and a different topic of learning each week, every participant has a one to one appointment so that their specific nutrition and diet problems can be addressed. As well as measuring weight, body fat % and hydration, we also look at muscle mass, visceral fat and bone mass which gives people the bigger picture of their bodies... not just the number on the scales! We also take measurements to gauge inch loss and this is monitored over the weeks so that participants get to see their statistics improving

which really helps in terms of motivation and body composition.

Personal Wellness Coach Jules who runs the classes says "This unique mix of education and motivation, with the added incentive of winning a cash prize is providing Newton Aycliffe's slimmer's with a solution that works. I have been around people who have lost weight, improved their health and made new friends which is lovely to see - including myself. I became part of this because I saw how effective the challenge was"

The 12 week Weight Loss Challenge costs £39 to join. The finishing prizes are based on percentage body weight lost and participants can win up to £300 (depending on number of participants joining the challenge!).

Participants from the latest challenge have all said that the support from Jules has been a massive help with them achieving their goals !!

Jules also offers 1:1 weight loss coaching for those that are unable to attend a class and this support is run from her home generally on a Monday afternoon and evening.

If you would like to book your place (I would encourage to do so ASAP) contact Jules now on 07966 968388 as these classes will fill up fast!

What do you have to lose?

Join a fun **WEIGHT LOSS CHALLENGE** to help you reach your weight loss goals!

Thursday 9th January 2014 at 6.30pm
at Agnew Community Centre or
Friday 10th January 2014 at 12.30pm
at Aycliffe Youth Centre

Book your place now contact Jules on 07966 968388

12 week course which includes: • Your own personal coach
• Group support to cheer you on • Free meal plan
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Top Achievers win cash prizes - Class sizes limited, hurry!

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Saturday 25th January 2014

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Rotary Club Record Xmas Collection

Fantastic Community Effort



The Rotary Club had a very successful charity collection at Christmas touring the streets with Santa and his sleigh as well as in Tesco's. They also held their annual Community Christmas concert in the Leisure Centre which also provided funds from a raffle and collection. Needy families in the town will have benefitted from all this effort, by receiving hampers to ensure they had a great time over the period. Club President Geoff Batchelor said he was overwhelmed by the generosity of Newtonians

and thanks all those who supported Rotary not only at this time, but throughout the past year. "So many people have contributed to our success this year and we are indebted to everyone including Tesco who allow access to their store to collect on a regular basis. They also make up the hampers and make sure we get excellent value for money. We are most grateful to John and Jennifer Manners and the staff at A-Tech Fabrications who refurbished Santa's



Sleigh and did such a magnificent job. Brian Hoare at Croxdale Fast Fit at Aycliffe was also helpful with technical advice and Gary Quickfall at Samwon was very kind in offering storage space for the sleigh when not in use".

Tackling Enviro-Crime in Co. Durham

More than a hundred fixed penalty notices were issued to people in County Durham for offences such as littering and dog fouling. Durham County Council's neighbourhood protection team operates throughout the county to tackle enviro-crime and during November the team issued a total of 107 fixed penalty notices. Of those, 79 were issued for littering, 26 were issued to people who had failed to comply with a litter clearing notice and two were issued to people who failed to pick up after their pets. Two offenders were subsequently prosecuted at magistrates' court for non-payment of their littering fixed penalty notices. In addition to the fixed penalty notices the neighbourhood protection team investigated 171 incidents of flytipping and issued 118 advisory letters and 32 litter clearing notices in relation to properties with untidy gardens and yards. Ian Hoult, neighbourhood protection manager at Durham County Council, said: "County Durham is a beautiful place and we, along with the majority of people who live here, want to keep it that way. "Environmental crimes, like littering, dog fouling and flytipping, blight our communities and are a real concern to residents. "We urge anyone with information about such incidents and those responsible to report it to us so that we can investigate and take action." Anyone with information about enviro-crimes, including dog fouling, littering and flytipping, or about incidents of anti-social behaviour is asked to contact Durham County Council's neighbourhood protection team on 03000 26 1000.

AYCLIFFE RECRUIT SAILS THROUGH NAVY TRAINING

A 17-year-old from Newton Aycliffe, was among the successful Royal Navy recruits on parade at HMS Raleigh to mark the successful end of basic training. Engineering Technician (Marine Engineer) Owain Jones arrived at the Royal Navy training base in Cornwall in October 2013. During a 10-week course he has been given a thorough induction into the Royal Navy, learning skills that he will rely upon throughout his time in the Service. The course culminates with the passing-out-parade attended by families and friends. Owain is a former pupil of Greenfield Comprehensive School. He said: "I joined the Royal Navy to have a job to be proud of, travel the world and for the job security. The training has been a great experience which has taught me many new skills. After finishing my professional training I hope to progress up the ranks."

After a period of Christmas leave Owain's next port of call is HMS Sultan. There he will learn the skills in marine engineering to keep the ship running smoothly, safely and effectively. Once fully qualified he will work on everything from the ship's hull and engines to its electrical, fuel, hydraulic and fire fighting systems. As the ship will be away from port for weeks at a time, he'll be trained to make spare parts and other vital components in the ship's workshops. The Royal Navy's Initial Naval Training course is underpinned by nine Core Maritime Skills that are the

foundations of naval life and underpin operational effectiveness. Recruits are taught the basics of Naval discipline and customs. They learn about navigation and are given the chance to take the helm of their own medium sized inflatable boat during a waterborne orienteering exercise. With Royal Navy personnel playing a vital role in Afghanistan and other land-based operations, recruits undergo training in basic combat skills which includes survival in the field. Fitness is a key component of the training and is delivered using a disciplined method of military fitness which focuses on developing co-ordination and individual physical strength and endurance. As the course progresses the recruits take part in three extended exercises to test their skills and understanding



of the principles they have been taught. Details of career opportunities within the Royal Navy are available online at www.royalnavy.mod.uk or by calling the Recruitment Line on 08456 07 55 55.

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Town Council Xmas Santa

Dear Sir,
Just to say thank you once again to all the guys who toured the streets in the awful weather on Christmas Eve to wish all Aycliffe children and adults a Merry Xmas. Well done Santas and drivers. And due credit to our Town Council. You made a lot of children very happy and may it long continue. Thank you. Julie Ferguson

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Late Councillor's Budget Creates Jobs for Apprentices



Russell Mills (Samwon), Alison Kirk (DCC), Brian Riley (GAMP), with apprentices John Leighton, Daniel Stott and Tommy Robb

Up to twenty engineering apprentice posts are to be in place in the Newton Aycliffe and Middridge area as part of a specially funded scheme. It has the double bonus of getting unemployed 16 to 24-year-olds into work and also helping local businesses. In the past two years Durham County Councils apprenticeship programme has helped over 300 young people find work.

Last year Samwon Tech took on three apprentices for their machinery servicing and supply base at Northfield Way, Aycliffe Business Park. They were supported by the County Durham Apprenticeship Programme funded by Durham County

Council.

This local scheme is being funded by the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Area Action Partnership (GAMP) and the neighbourhood budget of the late Durham County Councillor Enid Paylor. GAMP Coordinator Brian Riley said: "This is an exciting opportunity for both business and young people trying to get into the world of work. It is partnership working for the benefit of the local community and helping young people get on the employment ladder and also assisting local businesses during this difficult economic period."

Garry Quickfall, managing director, Samwon Tech, said:

"All our apprentices have settled in really well and are getting great experience as well as studying to get business qualifications. It is really good to be part of the community and to recruit young people who may be finding it difficult to get work."

Apprentice Tommy Robb added: "One of the great things about the apprenticeship route is the fact we gain valuable real work experience while earning complimentary qualifications." For further details contact Durham County Council's employability team on 03000 262009 or email m.lamb@durham.gov.uk

Slimming World Helps Members and Charities

Debbie Wilson, Diane Morris and Nicola Dale are Slimming World Consultants in Newton Aycliffe who are improving peoples lives in more ways than one! Not only are they helping their members become healthier and slimmer, they have carried out various charity activities throughout 2013!

As their members are losing weight eating everyday filling foods like pasta, rice, meat, fruit, veg and treats like chocolate, wine and takeaways, Debbie, Diane and Nicola were overcome with the generosity of their members for donations of old clothes and loose change to help charities. Cancer research and Great North Air Ambulance have been extremely grateful for donations and Nicola said "it is a pleasure to help worthy causes and what makes it even more special is that it is our members who are doing it". Debbie, Diane and Nicola would like to personally thank every member who has donated in 2013 and to say how incredibly proud they are of each and every member's success – Slimming World is changing more lives in 2014! If you would like to lose weight, the easy way: Contact: Debbie on 07980 063898 Diane on 07876133509 Or Nicola on 07791 909376

THE GIFT OF A NEW JOB



Aycliffe company Whurk Recruitment held a Christmas party with a difference – a champagne reception to say thank you to its clients for a spectacularly successful first year in business. Whurk was founded by Managing Director Laura Claughan only in April, but 2013 has

seen the business grow rapidly to a team of eight. The company provides high quality recruitment in a number of areas, including manufacturing, engineering and distribution.

Laura chose to set up her business in Newton Aycliffe because of the recent vibrancy of the Business Park. And she told her guests that she cannot wait to start the new year, which will see the firm introducing more new ideas and initiatives: "There is a deep satisfaction in putting the right person in the right job, especially just before Christmas, with

all that means for that person and their family.'

Great Aycliffe's Mayor Barbara Clare, who attended the party, said she was pleased to be able to share Whurk's celebration. Barbara has made it one of her main aims as Mayor to build links with Aycliffe's businesses, to let them know how much they are valued by the community. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) comprise by far the largest part of County Durham's economy; if each of them were to employ just one extra worker, the County's unemployment problem would be solved.

End of 116 Bus Service

As of Saturday 4th January 2014 the 116 Town Service will be withdrawn.

This also means that there will only be a morning bus to School Aycliffe from Newton Aycliffe and an afternoon bus band offered by the Scarlet Band 16A. Residents may want to use the Link 2 service offered by County Durham County Council.

As of the 5th of January 2014 Arriva new fares apply including a 20p increase on the Adult Day Ticket plus 50p on the weekly ticket.

Film Show

The next "Feel Good Film Show" at St Clare's Church, on TUESDAY 7th JANUARY, features "KEEPING MUM", British comedy at its best, starring Rowan Atkinson, Maggie Smith, Patrick Swayze and Kristin Scott Thomas. Tea and coffee at 1pm, included in the £2, and the film starts at 1-15pm. Everyone is most welcome to join us. Bring a spot of lunch with you. Tables are set out to enjoy a friendly social occasion. Further details from Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755.

Fayre Raised £925



Aycliffe Care Home held a fun Christmas Fayre, which was attended by The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs Barbara A Clare, and members of the local community.

The fayre raised more than £925.00 for extra treats for the residents at Christmas and there was face painting, balloon making, a tombola, stalls selling bric a brac, books, cds and cakes, refreshments and fun festive games, including pin the nose on the reindeer, for everyone to enjoy.

Aycliffe Care Home, which is part of Akari Care, is located on Burnhope Way and is a purpose built 54-bed home that provides 24 hour general

residential and dementia care. The home also provides general nursing and dementia nursing care.

Shirley Summerbell, Peripatetic Manager for Akari Care, said: "Everyone had a fantastic time at the Christmas Fayre and we were thrilled that The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs Barbara A Clare, could join us.

Our residents always love meeting members of the community, so it was great that lots of people came along to support the home and residents. The fayre left us feeling very festive and the money raised will go towards extra Christmas treats for our residents."

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 15th January 2014

Environment Committee

FOLLOWED BY

Recreation Committee

7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend. "The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 70 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".

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Tenants Moved into New Homes in Time for Christmas

Homes and communities business livin has completed its largest new home development scheme providing much needed family homes in County Durham.

The site on Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe has been transformed after a £2m investment, which saw the former disused Greenfields Nursing Home demolished earlier this year.

Now comprising 11 two-bedroom and 11 three-bedroom homes the development - made available for affordable rent through the Durham Key Options, choice based letting scheme -welcomed its first residents last month.

Built in partnership with the Government's Homes



Enjoying a cuppa David Evans, development surveyor for livin with tenant Christina Pearson and Lauren Richardson, home lettings coordinator for livin



The new development at Greenwood Court

and Community Agency and house-building group Galliford Try, the site is part of the £28m investment project by livin to provide 350 additional

homes by 2015. Christina Pearson, who moved in last month said: "This is our first home together since getting married and we really couldn't wait to move in.

"The children love it here and the house is really warm and cosy. We've hardly had the heating on, it really feels like home." Wayne Harris, executive director property and development for livin, said: "The new homes have transformed this area of Newton Aycliffe by replacing the disused nursing home that had become a blight on the local community.

"We had a lot of interest in the properties which are a small step as part of a larger project to provide high quality and affordable homes to families locally." The homes, which are built to strict environmental standards, boast a range of energy saving features making them 25 per cent more efficient than homes built using standard building regulations. Stephen McCoy, managing director with Galliford Try Partnerships North East, added: "Working with affordable housing providers like livin to increase the quality and choice of rented homes available in the region is central to our business. We wish the new residents at Greenfields well in their comfortable new surroundings."

For more information about livin's new homes development or how to apply for a property with livin visit livin.co.uk/findahome, email homechoice@livin.co.uk or call 0800 587 4538.

COUNCIL DISCUSS CHANGES TO COMMUNITY ALARM SERVICE

Members of Durham County Council's Cabinet heard proposals for the future of the authority's Care Connect service at a meeting on Wednesday, 18 December.

Care Connect provides a round-the-clock alarm monitoring and response service for older and vulnerable people living in their own homes.

As part of its Medium Term Financial Plan, the council needs to reduce the cost of providing the service by £1m from 2014.

Cabinet was being asked to agree to a number of proposals which would enable the service to make the required savings.

These include changes to the way in which customers are assessed as well as improvements and efficiencies

such as vehicle sharing and a review of telephony costs.

Cllr Eddie Tomlinson, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for housing and rural issues, said: "A review of the Care Connect service identified a number of savings that could be made through changes to our general ways of working.

"However, more fundamental changes to the way the service is delivered are needed in order to make the savings required as a result of the current budget pressures.

"We are considering options as to how to maintain the high level of service customers currently receive without reducing the core of the service - the ability to respond to vulnerable needs."

Under current arrangements,

customers' needs are assessed every 13-weeks. Changing this to an annual assessment would create significant savings and would bring Care Connect in line with other services.

The change would not affect access to the 24/7 control room or response service.

Around 13,400 households currently receive a Care Connect service for free while a further 4,700 private customers pay a weekly charge.

Service users can contact the control room on 03000 262 195 if they would like to discuss the proposals

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Year 11 Students Return to Reminisce



Earlier in December the class of 2013 were invited back to Woodham to receive their exam certificates and celebrate their success in GCSE exams.

Many students took the opportunity to celebrate thanking teachers and collecting outstanding Art and Technology projects they had completed.

The students reminisced about their time at Woodham over pizza, recalling their favourite moments of the past five years. The students who have now left have gone on to study further at establishments all over the north east of England.

Ryan Metcalfe who was one of the students to achieve more than 12 GCSEs at grades A and A* said: "We have all missed Woodham since we left in the summer. Looking back at the five years I made the most fantastic friends and met some truly amazing and inspirational teachers". Ryan is now studying A Levels in Economics, Computing, Maths and Physics at Queen Elizabeth 6th Form college, Darlington. Another student also now studying at Queen Elizabeth, William Kirton, who also achieved all grade A and A* describes his time here as, "Truly amazing, I couldn't have wished for a better five years".

We thank everyone for joining us at our celebrations and would like to wish everyone great success in their chosen subjects and life beyond Woodham Academy. We would be delighted to keep in touch with all students to see how they get on in the future.

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READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



We are grateful to our reader Les Travis who took this remarkable photograph of the town centre. If you have an interesting digital shot of Aycliffe please send it to: syd @newtonnews.co.uk

NEW SENSORY GARDEN AT AYCLIFFE VILLAGE SCHOOL

Pupils from the School Council at Aycliffe Village Primary School have worked hard over the last two years to fundraise and create a Sensory Garden in the school grounds. Emma Simpson, former Secretary of the School Council, came back into school this week to see the garden she had put so much effort in to creating, but had left the school before it was actually completed. Last year's School Council asked all pupils what they would like to see in the garden and drew up plans and ideas of what it would actually look like. The photograph shows Emma with the pupils from last year's School Council and with the current School



A Healthier 2014

With a healthier lifestyle topping the list of New Year's resolutions, making those all-important small changes to your diet and activity levels can make a big difference to your heart and health for years to come. Now is the time to take stock and think about how you can introduce new habits and behaviours to make them an integral part of your everyday life. Are you ready to take on the challenge and cast off those unhealthy habits and risky behaviours and make 2014 your turnaround year, setting yourself up for a healthier and happier future?

Here's how you can get set for 2014 and the rest of your life ahead with these handy tips to a new you:

- Eat at least five portions of fruit and vegetables each day - remember, fresh, frozen, tinned and dried all count, as well as traditional salad items, so stock up on their delicious goodness.
- Increase your fibre intake by choosing whole-grain bread and cereals, eating fruit and vegetable with their skins on where possible and making more of beans and pulses.
- Oily fish such as salmon, sardines, mackerel and fresh tuna are great sources of heart-friendly omega-3. Include at least one portion each week together with a second portion of high protein, low fat fish.
- Cut down on harmful cholesterol-raising saturated fats by reducing your intake of red meat and cheese, and by swapping from whole milk to semi-skimmed or skimmed milk.
- Ditch the salt and help to keep healthy blood pressure - use tasty herbs and spices to cook with instead and remove the salt cellar from the table. Limit processed foods which are also high in salt and check all your food labels for hidden salt.
- Drinking too much alcohol can put on the pounds and increase your blood pressure and cholesterol levels. If you do drink, limit alcohol intake to no more than 2-3 units a day if you're a woman and 3-4 units a day for men.
- Engage in some form of physical activity every day - a brisk walk at lunchtime, dancing, a game of tennis or football, a cycle ride or a run. Exercise will help you to lift your mood and keep a healthy weight and encourage an all-round healthier lifestyle.
- If you smoke, stop. There's no such thing as a healthy smoker and being smoke free is the single, biggest, important factor for a healthier new you. January 2014 could be the start of the rest of your life, and a

healthy lifestyle is just what you need to help get the new year off to a winning start. Why not inspire others to do the same by encouraging and supporting those around you? And when the going gets tough, visualise the benefits of a healthy old age for you and your family and a quality of life worth living. For more information and advice about healthy living, contact Heart Research UK on 0113 297 6206 or email lifestyle@heartresearch.org.uk

Council members. Mr Gargan, Head Teacher, praised the efforts of the pupils and parents for their help in raising funds towards the school grounds development and also thanked Mrs Michelle Postma for her help in securing a Big Lottery Grant to fund the Garden. The garden was installed by School Grounds Staff, Gail Webber and Neil Miller with help from the current Year 6 pupils. The pupils are all looking forward to using the garden as soon as the better weather arrives.

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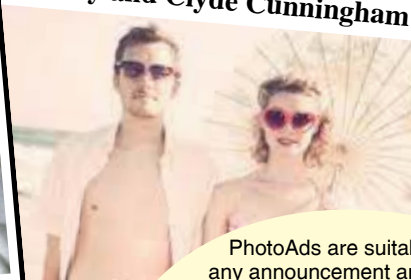
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MULTICULTURAL CHRISTMAS



Lots of colour and vibrant music filled the building as Harvest Christian Centre held their Christmas Service. Church Pastor Geoff Walvin said, "As we are a church community made up of people from different cultural backgrounds we were excited to host a Christmas Service of this type. Newton Aycliffe has always been a place which has welcomed newcomers into its community and our service highlighted its warmth and

openness." As well as the UK, India, Sri Lanka, Lebanon, Germany, Czech Republic and Lithuania were represented. It was an amazing day. Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for many years we'd love to meet you. The church meets at Bethany Centre, Woodham on Sundays at 10.30am and all are welcome. For more information phone 01325 308284 or check out www.harvestchristiancentre.org.uk.

Council Hit Hotspots to Keep you Warm

Durham County Council continues to lead the way in helping people to keep warm in their homes and to save on energy bills and is looking forward to a New Year in which schools, businesses and community buildings may also benefit.

As one of the founder members of the regional Warm Up North partnership, supporting energy efficiency, there is plenty of support and advice available to cut down on heating bills.

Stuart Timmiss, head of planning and assets, Durham County Council, said: "Whilst the government's recent changes to the way in which we can help may have changed our focus, residents will continue to benefit from significant support. This includes having their homes checked and fitted out with everything from cavity wall and loft insulation to boiler repair or replacement."

"Since its launch in September, Warm Up North has recently celebrated its 200th installation. Much of this time has been spent on recruitment and getting the right suppliers in place to deliver goods and services, therefore we expect significant increase in delivery going into the 2014. Warm up North is available to everyone, seeking to maximise whatever offers are available to residents."

Latest figures also show that more 2,000 people have called the special Hotspots advice and referral service to get expert advice on everything from heating and fuel debt support to fire safety checks. It can also be used when there are problems with a lack of hot water or heating. All referrals need to be made by frontline health and social care staff.

Funding from Hotspots comes from Public Health Durham County Council and key partners include Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue. Stuart Timmiss added: "The council believes that the best way of tackling energy bills is by making our homes more efficient but we also want to promote the Warm Homes Discount Scheme which provides qualifying householders with a £135 discount off their electricity bills. Everyone who qualifies will get a letter from their utility provider before the end of January. But why wait? Contact them now to find out how they can help."

"An exciting year ahead offers more opportunities for schools to start reducing their bills whilst at the same time improve the environment in which our children learn. We hope to launch the schools offer in the spring with many options available to suit every school; we hope this will quickly convert into a much wider opportunity, building on what

the council has already learnt from making its own buildings more energy efficient.

"By investing now the council has shown how it will manage the significant energy rises we are currently experiencing. Over the last 18 months we have opened two new primary schools, both of which are the most energy efficient in the country, reduced energy consumption in four of the highest energy consuming buildings by 40per cent, installed Photovoltaic panels on 36 buildings and implemented a range of energy reducing projects, some of which have

cost little or no money across all of its buildings. "County Durham has already met its challenging 2020

40per cent carbon reduction target (on 1990 levels) and is now aiming to achieve a 55% reduction by 2031. The council's streetlighting project is yet another example of how in partnership we will reach this target with 40,000 street lights to be replaced with LED's reducing consumption by up to 70 per cent.

The Council also provides crisis help through the Welfare Assistance Scheme which includes immediate financial

help to top up gas and electricity meters or help with paying energy bills.

Cllr Neil Foster, Cabinet member said: "We are committed to helping people make their homes warmer and cheaper to heat and are delighted to be at the forefront of a range of schemes to make this possible. As a council we really take our responsibilities seriously by leading by example. What we have found is that we have reduced energy consumption, our staff have become fully on board and the environment in which we work has improved."

LITTLE GEMS CHRISTMAS PARTY



Little Gems celebrated Christmas early with their Christmas Party. All the children and parents wore their Christmas party clothes and enjoyed some yummy food. While enjoying party games, Santa paid a surprise visit bringing with him a sack full of presents for all the boys and girls. Jayne Latcham who runs

Little Gems said "Everyone really enjoyed themselves and loved seeing Santa". Nicola Morgan (parent) said "Kids had a fab time at Little Gems Christmas Party. We can't wait to come back in the New Year". Little Gems will restart on Thursday 9th January 2014 at 1pm and Friday 10th January 2014 at 10am.

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TOWN CHURCHES CHRISTMAS BOOST FOR FOODBANK



Churches Together gave a Christmas Boost to Durham Foodbank based at St Clare's Church with 200 selection boxes and a donation of cash.

Geoff Walvin Chair of Churches Together along with members of the churches presented Ernie and June Temple (seated front in the photo) with the goodies along with chocolates donated from Wilkinsons customers and a voucher from both Wilkinsons and Tesco's.

Ernie was delighted to accept the gifts which will be given to all who use the foodbank and hoped that it brought a

little Christmas cheer to families and individuals struggling financially through no fault of their own at this time of the year.

Ernie would like to thank the people of Great Aycliffe for their continued generosity and a special thank you to Wilkinsons and Tesco's for their support.

The foodbank provides essential assistance to people of Aycliffe and surrounding areas and vouchers can be obtained from various agencies across the town, so no one need go hungry at this or any other time of the year.

AYCLIFFE WOODLAND & WILDLIFE UNDER THREAT

Dear Sir,

If you go down in the woods today you're in for a big surprise. There is likely to be less wildlife these days, less wood as well, at least in the part of our woodland that I walk in.

The woodland walk from Gunn Lane to Clarence Chare and along the old railway line up to Beechfield roundabout is under threat. Young males (I won't say men) are hunting with rifles with telescopic sights. Exactly why anybody needs a telescopic sight to kill a pigeon I'm not sure, they sit until you are within six feet of them before they work up the will to move.

Presumably these poor excuses for manhood are so unsure of themselves that they need that extra reassurance of a telescopic sight - a sort of comfort blanket. They are having a devastating effect on the pigeon population though; it is very noticeable how few we are seeing now, that applies to squirrels too. Of course, pigeons aren't the most popular of birds, especially in the town centre; but this is in a nature walk. There they are part of the wildlife, a popular and easy meal for birds of prey if nothing else. Without pigeons those birds of prey will kill other birds.

When the idiots have wiped out the pigeons will they stop killing? Of course not,



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

they will kill other creatures to convince themselves that they are "men". The other problem is the theft of wood from the nature walks, fallen trees and branches. This wood is being taken by people with wood burning fires, a cheap source of fuel. The problem is that all the wood is being taken and it is bound to have a detrimental effect on the wildlife.

All this fallen wood provides a protective environment for small creatures, without it the place is like a desert. The woodland from Gunn Lane to Clarence Chare is particularly bad and the other stretch is going the same way. Fallen wood also provides the world where the creatures at the bottom of the food chain live. The rotting wood is vital for a healthy wildlife, which is in enough trouble without these thieves making it worse. I have spoken to a council representative responsible for the environment and I didn't get the impression that they were aware of the problem. As the stock of fallen wood runs out there is evidence of trees being chopped down and removed, so a problem there is and it won't go away

by itself. I would like to appeal for help from people who walk through our nature walks. We dog owners, for instance, walk through there daily.

If you see a private person taking wood they are stealing it. If you see someone carrying a gun in the woods they are up to no good. They do not have permission to shoot there and if they have a gun they aren't just taking it for a walk, they are killing wildlife. Please ring the council (300700) and/or the police (101) quickly with a description, a vehicle number if possible.

We are so lucky in Newton Aycliffe to have beautiful nature walks with an amazing array of wildlife, trees, flowers and fungi but it has to be protected from its greatest enemy, the human idiot.

Walk through our woodlands starting in late February and watch everything awaken after winter, it really is a wondrous place. See it through March and April and by May you will know why it is worth protecting. All of us who walk in it have a duty to protect it.

Ric Hargreaves

Join GACAP

If you wish to join Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership as a volunteer or wish to register as a partner, providing welfare service, to people in need, contact Secretary Joan Clark at: treasurer.nayc@live.co.uk Tel: 307522.

Garden Club

The next meeting of Bishop Auckland Hospital Garden Club will take place on Tuesday 7th January at 8.15 at the Hospital Club on Escomb Road. A free event - All welcome.

Flower Club

The first meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club of 2014 will take place on Monday, 6th January at Shildon Civic Centre at 7.30pm when Maeve Nattrass of Darlington will entertain with a talk entitled 'From Top to Toe' Free to members Visitors £5 (pay on the door)

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In Memoriam

David Barkley

5th January 2011

A loving Husband, Dad and Grandad. Today, tomorrow our whole lives through, we will always love and remember you. Love, Pauline and all your family xxx

Caroline Kennedy

17/8/56-28/12/03

I remember the day I met you, the day God made you mine. I remember 10 years ago I lost you and will until the end of time. Through all my tears and heartache, there's one thing for which I'm glad. That you chose me to share with you those special years we had. A teenager at 16 when we met, a teenager at 47. All my love always Peter xxx

Though it's been 10 years now since you were taken away, the memories are still strong and I wish you were here today. I can't see or touch you so I know you're not here, but I've still got the past and in my heart you're still near. If I could see you one last time you know what I would do, Release all my emotions and say Mam I LOVE YOU!!! Love Stephen, Angela, Jacob, Serenna and Leland (the one you sent down to repay me!!). Xxx

I'm sat here thinking what to write, to sum up the last 10 years. One thing that goes without saying Mam, is that I've cried a million tears. I did not want to carry on without you but you would have wanted me to. If there's anybody I want to make happy, that anyone is you. Nathan isn't a little boy now he's growing into a bright young man. He talks about you often Mam and visits your garden when he can. Macy and Lucas have been born and are small children doing well. It breaks my heart that you're not here to see them but try my best not to dwell. I'll try to make you proud Mam, I'll try to fulfil your wish. Your going to look down and smile Mam, that's a daughter's promise. So rest in peace sweet Mam you'll be thought of everyday. We love and miss you dearly, someday we'll meet again. Michelle and Damian xxx

Nanny I hold you close within my heart and there you will remain, to walk with me throughout my life until we meet again. All my love Beth xxx

I still remember your face Nanny, and the games we used to play. The Jaffa Cake game is the clearest, seems only like yesterday. I knew you until I was 4 years old, so I'm told I'm the lucky one. But it doesn't stop me missing you Nanny, now that you are gone. Love Nathan xxx

You are spoken of everyday Nanny, although we did not meet. We look at your photographs daily, visit your garden and sit on your seat. All our Love Macy and Lucas xxx

Newton News apologise to the Kennedy family for omitting part of the advertisement from the previous issue

GORDON O'BRIEN 4th January 2008. Often thought of and sadly missed. Phil and Davey.

JOHN ALAN PARKER, 3-1-2012. Memories of a special Dad and Grandad. Love from Kay, Mike, Michael, Sean and Zoe, xxx

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

"ALL SORTS" selling anything and everything for Charity. Reopens on Saturday 4th January at 10am. Then normal opening times every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10am to 1pm at St Clare's Church

FORMER Woodham Golf Professional; Full range of golf equipment, shoes and clothing for sale. Ring 07599 528153. Email: ernie.wilson@live.co.uk

BRAND NEW King size jumbo drawer divan with orthopaedic mattress, still wrapped and can deliver. £220. Tel: 07789 113343.

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

NINTENDO 3DS black in box £80; Nintendo 3DS blue in box £80; PSP GO in White £50; PSP GO in Black £50; PSP £45; DS LITE inc Guitar Hero £40; Swap Phone Watch never used still in box £60; 3DS Games Mario Cart £15; Super Mario Land £20; Pacman and Galaga £15; Lego Pirates of the Caribbean £15; Lego Star Wars 3 £8; Transformers £10; Ridge Racer £10; Street Fighter £10; FIFA 2012 £5; PES 2011 £5. Tel 07789 502173

Public Notice

DONATIONS needed of Bric-a-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring Honest John 316 630

RSPCA Durham and District cats and kittens for adoption, fee applies to cover 1st and 2nd vaccination, also neutering and ID chip. Please Tel 311 215

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Obituary

HARLAND, Aycliffe Village. December 18, (peacefully at home), Kathleen (Kate) nee Slater aged 71 years. A dear Sister, Sister-in-Law, Aunt and friend to many. Funeral today, Friday 3rd January, would friends kindly meet for Service in St. Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village at 11.45am followed by cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon at 12:30pm. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu in aid of the Butterwick Hospice may be given or will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6EN. Tel: 01325 318600.

HODGSON, Babs, Barbara, aged 78 years, peacefully on 20th December of Simpature Court, Newton Aycliffe. Dearly loved Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Funeral on Monday 6th January, 2014. Would friends please meet for Service in Wear Valley Crematorium at 11am. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired may be sent for Cancer Research UK c/o Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe. Tel: 01325 318600

YOUNG, December 26th (Peacefully at home) of Newton Aycliffe. Clarice (nee Moore) aged 66 years. A much loved Mam of Michelle, Glen and Stephen. A devoted Grandma, Great Grandma and a very dear Sister, Aunt and friend. Would friends please meet at St. Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village on Wednesday January 8th for a Service at 11:00 am followed by a private burial.

Personal

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Tel: Syd
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Congratulations

Jean Wilson



Happy 80th Birthday
24th December 2013

Happy birthday Mam. Hope you had a great day. Lots of love, Billy, Joyce, Paul and Gavin xxx

AMY



Congratulations Amy on your 18th Birthday. Love from Mam xxxx

AMY, Birthday wishes on your 18th. Hugs, love and kisses from Beth, Carl, Olivia, Maddie and Charlotte xxx

AMY, Happy 18th birthday from your big sister Ruth and Adam xxx

DAN BLACKETT 28th December 2013. Happy 21st birthday Son. Lots of love from Mam and Dad xx

DAN BLACKETT 28th December 2013. Happy 31st Dan. Love, Beccie xx

BLACKETT Daniel, 28th December. Happy 21st Daniel, Love and best wishes from Auntie Julia, Uncle Paul, Laura and Beth, xxxx

REED 5-1-13. Mam and Dad, happy 40th Wedding Anniversary. Love, Michelle xxxx

REED Mam and Dad, happy 40th Wedding Anniversary. Love, Marc xxxx

REED Nanna and Grandad, happy 40th Wedding Anniversary. Love, Callum xxxx

REED Nanna and Grandad, happy 40th Wedding Anniversary. Love, Jacob xxxx

REED 5th January, Happy 40th Anniversary George. Lots of Love from Yvonne, xxx

REED 5th January, Happy 40th Anniversary Yvonne with love from George, xxx

LAUGHTON Matty, 2nd January. Happy 18th Birthday Son. Have a lovely day. Love from Mam, Keith, Brooke, Charlie and Lisa-Jo, xxxx

New Year Wishes

HAPPY NEW YEAR from Godfrey and Shirley Bennett to friends old and new.

Thank You

JOANNE SCOTT Thank you so much for everything you do for my Dad, Eddy and also for us as a family. We really couldn't manage without you. You are our guardian Angel. Love, Mandy xxx

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P.A.C.T. Meeting

Police And Community Together

A PACT meeting will be held at Neville Parade Methodist Church Hall on Thur 9/1/2014 from 6-30pm to 7-30pm.

PC Alan Thompson and PCSO Richard Scott are your Community Police Officers and they want to hear your views and opinions on any local issues.

Councillors and Representatives from all responsible partners will attend when available.

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Woodham Sport Academy Students Meet Tony Blair



Friday 29th November is a date that 4 year 11 students from Woodham Academy will never forget, as they had the chance not only to meet former Prime Minister Tony Blair but also enjoy their breakfast with him.

Held at the Copthorne Hotel in Newcastle, overlooking the River Tyne, the day was a celebration of the Tony Blair Sports Foundation's 6th Birthday party and its partnerships with schools,

local associations and voluntary groups. Joshua McNulty, Gabrielle Welsh, India Roddam and Haydn MacLean ate breakfast and chatted with Mr Blair about what we do at Woodham Academy, opportunities they have had within the Sports Academy and why this venture and partnership is such an exciting one for everyone involved at Woodham Academy.

Back in the summer Woodham Sports Academy created a new and exciting partnership with the Sports Foundation, which would see students develop their leadership skills by taking part in and delivering courses, activities and festivals. Tennis was the sport chosen

and 16 students will have the opportunity to work alongside Michael Hume (Tennis coach for the Foundation) completing a Tennis Leaders Award and hosting a tennis festival for our local primary schools. The event itself will take place on Tuesday 1st April and will involve 64 students playing tennis, umpiring and officiating and organising the festivals format. Liam Clough, Sports Academy Director, said "This partnership is a fantastic opportunity for our students to develop and excel in leadership. The Tony Blair Sports Foundation has a fantastic reputation for leadership and this was something that we wanted to offer our students".

AYCLIFFE FC END YEAR IN STYLE



Newton Aycliffe FC ended the year with a resounding win at Sunderland RCA on Saturday. A year which hasn't seen too many away victories was ended on the front foot for Allan Oliver's men, and they will be looking to build on this momentum into 2014. The difference for Aycliffe this season has certainly been the strikers, who have been in hot form all season. And this was very much in evidence at RCA.

The game couldn't have started better for Aycliffe, who despite kicking up hill and into the wind had an early shout for a penalty turned down, as a Jamie Owens shot appeared to be blocked by the arm of the defender.

But he wasn't to be denied for long, as he soon turned home from close range to give Aycliffe the lead.

Midway through the half, the referee did award the visitors a penalty as a free kick from Harrison Davies struck the arm of the RCA wall. Owens

coolly slotted home to double Aycliffe's advantage.

And shortly before half time the game was effectively over as a contest. Excellent link up play between Owens and Davies, whose cross was finished by Atkinson.

In the second half, Aycliffe grabbed a fourth, as new signing Stephen Butterworth opened his Aycliffe account with an unchallenged header from another Davies corner. The hosts threatened to try to make a game of it with a header against the crossbar, but in truth Aycliffe saw the game out comfortably, to record not only a welcome away win, but also a rare clean sheet.

This win came on the back of a very gutsy home defeat against high flying Ashington. Ashington had looked in complete control of the game at 4-1 with 10 minutes to go. However late goals from Dan Mellanby and Jamie Owens gave Aycliffe hope, and indeed James Oliver spurned

a gilt edge opportunity to grab a point with the last kick of the match, which finished 3-4. Off the field, Aycliffe hosted a very successful entertainment evening last Sunday. Local Hip hop artist Bygate, and hilarious comedy vocalist Simon Cain were the warm up acts, before Aycliffe midfielder Dion Raitt took centre stage with his band Live Lounge. They proceeded to sing a range of popular music which had the packed audience singing and dancing as a great way to finish the year.

Aycliffe are without a game now until January 11th, when they visit Marske. Boss Allan Oliver will be hoping the break will allow a few of his injured players to return as they seek to consolidate their top 10 position into 2014..

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Woodham in Wigan



A group of seven Woodham Ambassadors and two members of staff were invited to a National Anti-Bullying event held at the DW football stadium in Wigan. Schools from all over the country were there to creatively explore and understand the issue of bullying through interactive sessions.

They networked with other passionate young people, exchange ideas and share good practice. Woodham Academy Ambassadors took part in some exciting workshops, developing their

skills through dance, poetry, music and art. They gained practical ideas and received top tips on how to prevent bullying and so ensuring that everyone feels safe and happy in school.

Woodham Academy Ambassadors have been working really hard this term to develop and implement ideas in school to raise awareness of the effects of bullying. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to meet other young ambassadors of all ages and abilities who all want to make a difference.

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