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FREEZERS GOING CHEAP!

25 FREE TO COMMUNITY GROUPS

A business deal which saw Aycliffe manufacturer Ebac acquire a stockpile of 6,000 chest freezers is to give a boost to community organisations.

When the company bought the Norfrost brand and machinery out of administration, breathing new life into the chest freezer range, the remaining stock of the Scottish business came as part of the agreement.

Now, ahead of a factory sale day on Friday, January 31st and Saturday, February 1st, Ebac is offering community groups around the North East the chance to get in touch for a chance to receive one of 25 freezers, free of charge.

Pamela Petty, Managing Director of Ebac, said: "We want charities, community groups and not for profit organisations to get in touch, if they can put a chest freezer to good use.

"The 6,000 freezers we have came as part of a larger deal, so we want to pass some on to the community, in the spirit of the Ebac Foundation.

"Additionally, the factory sale will be a great chance for the public to come along



and get their hands on a new chest freezer before the first to be made at our factory come off the production line in a few months' time."

The factory sale will allow members of the public a chance to get their hands on a freezer at a significantly reduced price. It will take place at Ebac, in Ketton Way, Newton Aycliffe, from 8am to 6pm on January 31

and from 10am to 3pm on February 1. Ebac will be offering free delivery to buyers in the local area.

Representatives of organisations which believe they can make good use of one of the Norfrost chest freezers should write to Pamela Petty at Ebac, Ketton Way, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham DL5 6SQ.

EXCELLENT MOCK EXAM RESULTS



Josh Adcock and Kray Williams receiving their successful higher grades in Mathematics and English.

Last week saw a highly successful mock exam results day at Woodham Academy.

The school mirrored the final results day and presented students with their envelopes with mock exam results inside. A small number of students also received real results in Mathematics and English. These results were excellent and reflected the hard work put in by both students and staff.

Deputy Headteacher, Jonathan Lumb, said "By replicating the process of the summer, the results day demonstrated the importance of examinations to all students. The students will sit their final examinations in all subjects in May and June and we wish them all the very best".

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Club's 5th New Year Party Adult Drama Group Seeks New Members



New Friends New Places held their annual Christmas Party at the Navy Club on Wednesday 7th January. It is five years since the Club first started. Many new friendships have been formed and many miles have been travelled.

Come and join us every Tuesday 2.00pm until 4.00pm. Transport can be provided for the first two visits. Our monthly Mystery trip and meal takes place the 1st Sunday in every month. You are welcome to join us and on 11th February we are

having a "ELVIS PRESLEY" LOOK ALIKE to entertain us. Come and join us. We also have line dancing, armchair aerobics, Bingo etc.etc. For further details ring 01325 308094

Shildon Centrestage are now looking forward after last year's enjoyable productions of All Greased Up and The Witches, which brought music, dance, and plenty of fun moments to the Shildon Civic Hall for the Theatrical Group.

We now have to move on from these superb shows and bring 2014 on in style. The group's first presentation will take place at the end of May with their own take on 'Treasure Island', and as per usual the production will have the usual mix of laughter, drama and great music to suit everyone, young and old.

To help improve the production, the group are looking to recruit new members into the

CentreStage family. So if you love to sing, dance or act, and would like to be part of a community theatrical group then come and join the fun. If being on the stage is a little bit scary to you, then working backstage and helping with putting the production together could well be your forte, there is more to a production than just the cast members.

Have you done drama before, maybe been part of the group before or been in one of our younger sister groups The Cats or Tearaways in years gone and really enjoyed the experience then why not give our group a go? All we ask is that anyone interested should be over 18

years of age as we are an Adult Community Group, meeting at the Shildon Civic Hall on a Thursday Night.

The Director for the show, Andrew Timmiss who comes from Aycliffe says, "We had some really good fun doing last year's shows, and we intend to do the same again. Our members come from Shildon, Aycliffe, Heighington, Chilton and Bishop Auckland and would love more

from the local community to join and help the group grow and allow us to improve on what we did last year."

So if you are interested in joining us for Treasure Island, then give us a ring on 01388 774838 or 01325 313363 and come to the Civic on Thursday nights and meet the Cast and Crew. We really look forward to meeting you, so don't delay, give us a ring today.

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Little Acorns Visit Pantomime

With the help of a donation from Honest John, Little ACORNS visited the Gala Theatre in Durham to see the panto Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood. Did they have a great evening? Oh yes they did! As usual it was a brilliant show and thanks to J&C coaches for providing transport.

Big thanks also to our friends, Councillors Kate Hopper and Eddie Adam for donations towards transport costs to the Mini Moos Adventure Farm. ACORN are currently organizing an outing to South Lakeland Zoo in February and such is the demand for these trips that a second bus has been hired.

Once again ACORN have been successful in securing funding from the National Lottery "Awards for All scheme" to replicate all of 2013 events, so if you enjoyed our activities last year watch out for 2014's events including the popular Easter Petting Zoo and Easter Egg Hunt.

ACORN incorporating little ACORNS and Neighbourhood Watch meet monthly at the Royal British Legion Club and welcome anyone with an interest in community involvement to make our area



and town the best place to live and work in the world.

ACORN motto : Having fun while getting things done. Follow us on facebook ACORN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION or to find out more about what we do take a tour of our website www.acornresidents.com

We are an inclusive friendly group so pop along to meet us and have your views heard. Our next meeting will be held at the Royal British Legion

Club with little ACORNS meeting at 5.30 and ACORN Residents meeting at 6pm on 13th February. Speaker this month will be Susan Tron from the Autism Centre. Police representatives and Councillors will be available to give feedback, advice and support.

For more details please ring Ken Robson on 321471

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Friday 14th February 2014

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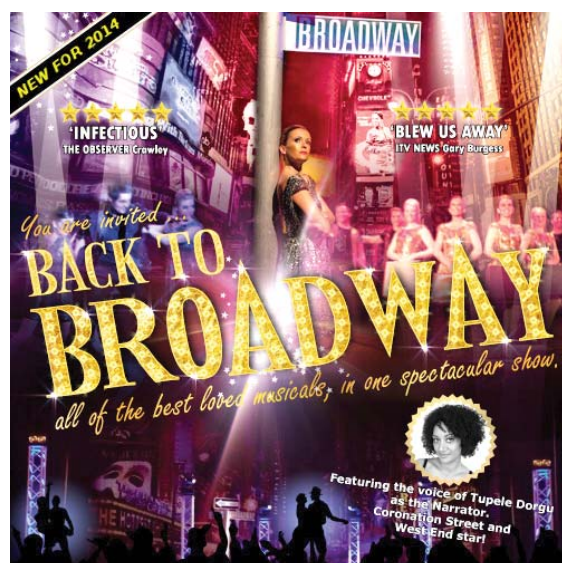
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A sensational show which combines classic hits from Broadway's biggest musicals will be showcased in Middlesbrough Theatre on February 15th at 7.30pm.

Tickets which are priced £16.50/Concessions £15 can be purchased by ringing the box office on 01642 815181 or emailing box.office@middlesbrough.gov.uk

NEWTON NEWS

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THE TURBINIA

*** Saturday Night Live ***

The Very Best of Rock - Normally NO Cover Charge

Saturday 25th January - "Bon Jovi Forever"

with special guest support - 'THE KILL'

Gig Pit Review: "I went up The Tuns, glad I did, never seen 'The Kill' before, known Mark for years, what a band, top drawer! Not a great fan of Bon Jovi, but I have to say these are the best tribute act I've seen, and Greggs vocals in both bands were awesome, guitar playing was immense and the rhythm section tight as anything. Grown men stood open mouthed, and the women went berserk. Great nite lads!"
Rockermouth Review: "Great band! Still haven't seen the Bon Jovi Forever set, but it's the same line-up as The Kill . . . and they rock! Talented lads, the lot of them. A great set of musicians, and Gregg has frontman skills and stage presence to back up his excellent voice. Then add to that a cool and interesting set list, a quality PA rig, and you've got a superb package. Can't wait to see the lads play again. But maybe next time at The Office".

Saturday 1st February - "Born Villains"

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Saturday 8th February - "F.M."

For more information on bands go to

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Excellent Behaviour Rewarded Students Learn Value of Foreign Language



At the end of last term a group of students at Greenfield Community College received an award from the Progress and Guidance team to celebrate their excellent behaviour over the term. The students from each year group were chosen for receiving the most "house points" which are given by teachers throughout the term. As their reward each student received a prize, which were generously donated from local businesses: Wilkinsons, Peacocks, Roots Hairdressers, The Rec, Rock Antics and Planet Leisure.

Helen Duffy, Progress and Guidance Manager at Greenfield said "We have been blown away by the generosity of local businesses who have donated prizes in order to support this fantastic reward scheme. We received so many donations that we have saved some to continue rewarding the students throughout the year. Thank you to all who donated prizes!" Congratulations to Adara Natrass, Aidan Wong, Corie Easton, Leonie Wong, Katie Young, Connor Elston and Francesca Daykin.

Students at Woodham Academy had a visitor on Wednesday 15th January from Hair and Beauty Industry Training Ltd. The focus of the visit was to show students how languages are important to the world of business. Brenda Allan has spent her career working in the fashion industry and currently trains budding hairdressers, engineers and business admin apprentices. Her varied career has seen her living all over the world and attending internationally recognised fashion events such as Fashion Week in Paris, London and Milan. Students learnt how Brenda used her linguistic skills to lead teams of staff from a variety of different countries, communicating in English, French and German. The event was a real eye-opener for our young people who had no idea that languages would be needed within a career such as fashion. John Coley, Head of Languages Department said, 'At Woodham Academy we strive to give our young



people the best opportunities to progress and this event supports our new initiative to use language in real life situations'. The school used the 'Inspiring the Futures' service to find Brenda. This

service sees people from all sectors and professions volunteering to visit schools and colleges to talk about their job, careers path and route they took into employment.

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Caught in the Act!

Town Councillor Derek Atkinson saw a Tesco van cause the damage shown to a grass verge on Shafto Way and questioned the driver. He didn't seem to care much and enquired what he could do about the mess? Counc Atkinson got in touch with his Manager at Durham City depot who promised to pay for any restitution. Durham County Council were made aware of the incident and our Town Councillor waits to see if the damage will be repaired. The Police are also starting to take notice of this damage and treating as obstruction those areas which interfere with pedestrian access. Fixed notices and fines will be issued where this is reported and residents can inform the police on 101.



Numeracy Awareness



Woodham Academy recently held a numeracy awareness week. The purpose was to increase student understanding of where they use numeracy in other areas of the curriculum. The students found numeracy in a wide range of subjects including, art, cookery, technology, history P.E., Woodham Learning, English, Young Enterprise and science. Students used numeracy in a variety of different ways; in

science they used formulae to calculate wave length, speed and voltage. Some students used trigonometry to calculate how far planets are away from earth. In history students used percentages to calculate how the demand for the model T Ford car increased as the price fell. Art students made patterns using rotation and reflection and used ratios to help them mix an exact paint colour. Young Enterprise found out how to calculate VAT and Woodham Learning students worked out the profit made on their cake sale. Students were asked to record their numeracy experiences and take them to their mathematics lessons. Each teacher was given a numeracy box; these had been specially designed by year 7 students and showed their perception of numeracy. When the class had discussed their experiences the entries were put into the box. A random sample of entries was selected and their authors won a prize of a £10 Argos voucher. Other lucky students received a lunchtime pass allowing them to "jump the dinner queue" for a week.

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A group of 65 students and teachers from Greenfield Community College and Sunnydale Community College enjoyed a superb week in the Valley D'Aosta, Italy for the annual school ski residential just before Christmas.

Greenfield have a rich heritage of international skiing enabling more than 2000 students to participate in skiing over the last 14 years. This year, beginner, intermediate and advanced skiers excelled on the Italian Piestes, developing confidence and skill, whilst having the adventure of a lifetime.

The Greenfield ski team were delighted to be joined by a group from their federated school, Sunnydale. This was the first time they had participated in the ski course and all participants thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

'Skiing is an activity that benefits participants in many different ways. Fitness, and health with adrenaline aspects obviously high on the agenda, but the skills developed around looking after yourself, high levels of organisation and working outside of your comfort zone. These are lifelong learning skills that are difficult to replicate back in the classroom,' said Stuart Dixon, Greenfield Community College's Assistant Headteacher.

'We take learning outside of the classroom exceptionally seriously in both schools and understand how it impacts upon the learning of young people. All students on the course were a credit to themselves and their school.' The schools are looking forward to the next ski residential; Pila 2014!

FREE ADVENTURE COURSE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Each year, in the first week of August, the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe sends one or two young people aged 15 -20 to Alnmouth on a week of outward bound and team building activities as part of RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards).

Talented young people are invited by Rotary Clubs in the North East to attend a RYLA course at the camp for 5 days. The free course is a blend of physical activity and leadership training producing a unique experience and learning environment.

The RYLA programme also enables young people to debate issues of professional responsibility,

improve leadership and communication skills while having fun and making friends.

RYLA gives young people the opportunity to participate in activities such as rock climbing and rafting, and the chance to be a group leader. They will also be able to debate issues of professional responsibility and human relations with other young people.

RYLA can help you improve leadership and communication skills and learn more about businesses and institutions. RYLA helps you gain skills and in the increasingly competitive job market will help you stand out from the



Free Lessons in Taekwondo

Are you bored of the gym already? Looking for something interesting to learn? If you are aged 7 years and over why not come along to Woodham Chi Taekwondo Club 7-8pm on Tuesday and 10.30am-12noon on Sunday, first 6 lessons FREE!

Try before you join, you have nothing to lose. Look forward to seeing you there. If you have any questions please ring Master Kevin Mitchell on 07536 061450.

PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE



Woodham Academy Art Department's photography challenge is back! After the success of the Summer challenge which ran for every day over the month of August, the Christmas Ph-HO-HO-HO-tography Challenge ran for two weeks over the Christmas holidays. Each day a different Christmas themed topic was set and the challenge was to submit a photograph for each day. The challenge was open to anyone following the department on social media with photographs uploaded from students, siblings, parents, teachers and even international followers of the department.

Although each daily topic was Christmas themed, the prompt could be interpreted in any way and any kind of photography manipulation was accepted. The only rule was that the photograph must be your own - not taken from the internet. The result is a truly collaborative piece

of art and an interesting glimpse into how the families of Woodham Academy students celebrate and enjoy the Christmas holidays. The photographs show amongst much more - gifts, decorations, friends and families, winter woollies, light, colours and food.

Some of the photographs were taken on the spur of the moment, some were old photographs and some were cleverly posed and created to fit the prompt. The Photography Challenge is now on display in the school and also available under the #waxmaspic on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

You can follow other Woodham Academy departments on social media also, including the House system. Departments post daily with updates of important information, coursework and exam dates, exam and revision tips, student work as well as much more.

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LUNCHEON CLUB STARTS

A Luncheon Club has opened at the Western Area Community Centre, Silverdale House
It is held each Wednesday starting 29th January at 11.30 with Lunch at 12.00. The Cost is only £4.00 for three courses followed by BINGO.
If you have difficulty attending/reaching the venue we will pick you up. The No. 5 & 5a stops nearby.
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60th Wedding Anniversary



Jagdish and Mary Vadgama (centre) with Deputy Mayor Wendy Hillary and her husband Jed

Jagdish and Mary Vadgama of Ranulf Court had a surprise visit from the Deputy Mayor Wendy Hillary on Thursday 16th January to congratulate them on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Jagdish met Mary in 1952 in Whinlton where she lived and worked as a Nurse. Mary's mother brought the couple together as she thought Jagdish, who was a very studious person, should have some time off. Jagdish migrated here from Kenya to study dentistry at Durham University, financed by his hard working father, whose main aim in life was to see all his children well educated.

Jagdish and Mary's first date was a visit to the local cinema and they soon became firm friends - so much so that Mary broke off her engagement with a soldier and she married Jagdish two years later.

The couple have been back and forward to Newton Aycliffe since the 60's when Jagdish started his dental practice in Faulkner Road. Prior to that they lived in London and Burnham-on-Crouch and it was a friend of Mary's, living in Newton Aycliffe, who suggested the new town needed another dentist.

Jagdish took the opportunity which he says he and Mary never regretted. In 1973 they moved to Australia, to live with their son, but returned here after a year when Jagdish was employed by the County Council as a School and Care Home Dental Officer, first at Billingham and then from Newton Aycliffe Health Centre (now demolished).

In 1981 he bought premises in Shildon and opened a part time dental surgery which he sold in 1990 when he and Mary decided to retire and move to Walsall to be near another of their sons. In 2002 they bought a house back in Aycliffe, again to live near another son, Michael, who works in logistics. The couple have four sons, Simon is a Pharmacist, Mark is in Australia working in advertising and Geoffrey is in the Tourist industry.

There are three grandchildren and one great grandchild. The family came together

to celebrate the anniversary and Mary and Jagdish will be travelling to Berlin in the summer for their own holiday celebration. Mary said they've had a good

life together and are very content in Newton Aycliffe. They travelled the world, met wonderful people in each community they lived and enjoyed rich experiences.

Parking at Moore Lane Sports Club

Dear Sir,

In a recent issue of Newton News the committee of Moore Lane Sports Club were accused of having little regard or concern for the residents living close to the club. The issue related to parking on match days and other events.

The Management Committee take the wellbeing of our neighbours very seriously and endeavour to minimise any form of disruption and inconvenience.

The Sports Club and the Football Club make every effort to provide parking for visitors even going so far as providing "Park and Ride" on major events.

It must be pointed out the Sports Club has only one car park and does not have a field; the other parking area is Council owned.

It does have an award winning cricket ground, one of the best rugby pitches in the county and an F.A. standard football ground that is the envy of many.

No details of vehicles being damaged or written off have ever been reported to the committee although on many occasions careless drivers have been witnessed turning left out of Gunn Lane, tending to just glance right and pull straight onto incoming traffic who have been forced onto the right hand side of the road. Parking in and around the Sports Club suffers the same problem as every other street in the town, but we assure those concerned that we shall continue to mediate with the local council and police to restrict, wherever possible, the number of vehicles visiting the club.

Any concerned residents are invited to express their grievances to the Management Committee at any time.

Sports Club
Management Committee

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AYCLIFFE BUSINESS PARK GROUP CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR

Significant Opportunities for the Town

The Steering Group of Aycliffe Business Park Community (ABPC) has set out ambitious plans for the year ahead as it approaches its first birthday. A special event is being held at the Xcel Centre on the park, on Friday 31st January from 8am, to celebrate the group's first anniversary.

As well as regular news and networking sessions, with revamped formats, the Steering Group is also planning a series of specialist best practice events, where firms will get a chance to take part in free seminars staged by local business leaders. The group has also been boosted with the addition of a new member – social media expert and managing director of Au Fait Marketing, Rachel Townsend Green.

Steering Group chairperson Kerina Clark, manager of the Xcel Centre, said: "I think it's right to celebrate what has been achieved over the last year but we also need to look



Steering group (left to right): Pamela Petty, John Finley, Kerina Clark, Dave Spensley and Rachel Townsend-Green.

ahead to the coming year.

"As well as the regular events we're also looking to organise a schedule of activities which will further enhance the links between businesses and schools.

"A lot of work has already gone into this - such as the acclaimed Apprenticeship Awareness Programme, which both Woodham Academy and Greenfield Community College took part in. Later in the year there will also be an opportunity for community and voluntary groups to talk to businesses and explore areas of mutual benefit."

The Steering Group is also asking local businesses to engage in feedback and surveys to enable them to improve future programmes. Vice-chair of the group Pamela Petty, managing director of Ebac, added: "We need to know what is

working, and what is the attraction for attendees.

"Every company differs from one to another and their needs aren't necessarily the same. Some will purely find the networking useful, some will find the best practice sessions more valuable and others just want to be part of the business community. "We need to make more businesses on the park aware of what we are doing and get them involved. We're seeing a lot of SMEs at events, but we also want the bigger companies to show their hand and see what we're all about."

The first birthday event will look at the opportunities for growth on the park and how businesses can get involved, rather than just letting it happen.

Kerina added: "The aim of the ABPC is to provide businesses with a platform to identify areas, ideas and avenues to improve their own future prospects.

"We should also see how we can help to facilitate businesses having a say in the future of the park itself." Business Durham managing director Simon Goon will talk

to guests at the event about what he sees as the potential for growth and how to might respond to this.

Simon said that the opportunities for growth in Newton Aycliffe are "significant", but says local firms have a huge part to play in building on the park's recent success.

"We see Newton Aycliffe as a fantastic opportunity," he said. "But we need we need explore how businesses can help shape the future changes, and help maximise the opportunities for growth. "The Aycliffe Business Park Community has provided the platform for engaging with the business community, we can use this to start a discussion about the future." But Simon is warning it won't happen overnight, and we must first understand what needs to be done to realise potential.

"The opportunities in Aycliffe are significant, but we first need to understand the present before we start to shape the future," he said.

"There are potentially more than 100 hectares of land that could be developed for business in Aycliffe, but do we have the capacity for utilities? Do we have enough skilled people to service new enterprises? There are a lot of questions that need to be answered

"We have to develop a longer term strategy to deliver growth in a planned way. We have to think logically and formulate our ideas so when the opportunity to expand comes, we're ready, and we'll be asking the local business community if they want to be part of that process."

To find out more about the birthday event on 31st January, and to book, go to www.aycliffebusinesspark.co.uk

100th Birthday Celebrations at Aycliffe Care Home



Celebrations were in full force at Rose Lodge Care Home in Newton Aycliffe as they celebrated the 100th birthday of one of its residents. Mary Heslop celebrated her milestone birthday with family, friends and everyone at Rose Lodge who enjoyed a special tea party along with live entertainment at the home. Mary, born near Stanley, worked as a nurse, matron and midwife in many of the regional hospitals including Darlington Memorial Hospital. She is one of seven siblings, never married or had children but has lots of nieces and nephews who visit her regularly. Mary started her day by opening presents and, of course, receiving her birthday card from the Queen. The

party kicked off later that afternoon where Mary was presented with a special birthday cake and everyone sang 'Happy Birthday'. A singer provided entertainment which had staff and residents dancing and singing along. Care Manager Karen Frew-

McGill, said: "It was a wonderful day for everyone involved. Mary had a fantastic time and the party was a lovely way for us to celebrate her birthday. We have all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves this afternoon."

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Murderous Event at Heighington



On Saturday 18th January two murders took place at Midwynter Manor (AKA Heighington Village Hall) at a sell out murder mystery night. The evening was organised to raise funds to develop the St Michael's Church Garden of Remembrance. The audience of a 100 people

entered into the spirit of the night coming suitably dressed for the occasion. They were well fed and entertained and the eager sleuths had a challenge on their hands to discover the perpetrator of the heinous crimes. Organiser Andrew Maxwell thanked Barclays Bank for

their welcome support in providing matched funding from their Community Fund and as a result the event raised £1418. Thanks to Revd. Lissa Gibbons for the excellent script, the cast and kitchen/serving crew for providing an excellent evening's entertainment.

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A local branch of the biggest genealogical library in the world is located in Newton Aycliffe. The Family History Centre at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Shafto Way is part of a global network of over 4,600 centres. It provides access to the records of over 3 BILLION people in over 100 countries. The centre provides free access to subscription genealogical websites. For a small fee, patrons can also access the vast circulating collection of the Church, which includes 2.5 million microfilms and microfiche (the centre has microfilm and microfiche readers as well as computer workstations). It's run entirely by volunteers. Liz Shearer the director and her team, Christine Clayton, Pat Cliff, Brenda Lodge, Sandy Sanderson and Kevin Wallis are happy to help anyone with their family history research. The centre is free, and open to the public on Tuesdays 10a.m.–4p.m. & Thursdays 10a.m.–4p.m. also 6:30p.m.–9p.m. A telephone appointment is recommended, since workstations are limited;

phone 313632. Further information is on the website: https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Newton_Aycliffe_England_Family_History_Center The Church of Jesus Christ has long been known for its interest in family history, which it sponsors through FamilySearch – easily the largest genealogy organisation in the world. Its vast record collections are made available through the central Family History Library in Salt Lake City and many branches, like the one in Newton Aycliffe. Its Website, FamilySearch.org is one of the most popular genealogical resources ever created. The statistics are staggering. There are over 2 billion names searchable online; the site receives over 10 million hits per day from over 3 million visitors per month, and since its launch the site has received over 150 million visitors. Initially it was accessible only by Church members, but now it's available to the general public, free of charge – why not have a look? Do you know who you are? Would you like some help finding out? Now you know where to go!

A fund which finances training for unemployed people in Newton Aycliffe and Middridge to enable them to find work is celebrating further success. Since its launch in November 2012, over 200 local residents have benefitted from training funded by the scheme with 56 of them going on to secure employment. It's the biggest project to date for Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) and has seen cash spent on both an Employability Skills Fund which can respond to specific training needs and a Discretionary Fund which removes barriers that prevent people from accessing training. Examples of specialist training include:

- Fork lift truck training
- Specialist Gas training
- Tiling, plumbing and plastering
- Hazardous off-shore training
- HGV Training

The fund is managed on GAMP's behalf by Bishop Auckland College. Success stories include Martyn Cutress who received support towards completing his Level 2 Horticulture course with S&D Training. The support he received and through his hard work resulted in Martyn being awarded "2013 Apprentice of the Year "at a recent Awards event hosted by S&D Training.

The project has recently received further funding to continue to meet the needs of local job seekers. Funding has come from GAMP Area Budget, Durham County Councillors Gray, Clare, Adam, Dixon, Hopper, Hillary and Iveson's Neighbourhood Budget and additional funds from livin. Brian Riley, GAMP Coordinator, said; "This project is unique to the GAMP area and brings together a wide range of partners to address barriers to employment. We are encouraging unemployed people from Newton Aycliffe and Middridge who think they could obtain work through specific training to apply to the fund". Anyone who is unemployed and from Newton Aycliffe or Middridge, can contact Denise Hopps at Bishop Auckland College for further information via: denise.hopps@bacoll.ac.uk or on (01388 443078)

AYCLIFFE CADETS HIT THE NEW YEAR RUNNING



1407 (Newton Aycliffe) Squadron Air Cadets have hit the new year running with an excellent set of results at Durham and Northumberland Wing's Inter Squadron X-country. It was a cold and wet day, making for muddy conditions underfoot. Our cadets battled through though and, with some squadron spirit and a lot of determination, competed well. Strong performances were given by every cadet who ran. Several of our cadets have made it through to the next round of the competition at Lancaster, where they will represent the Wing. At the end of the event, our Under 15 Boys finished 2nd and our Under 17 Men came in an impressive 1st place. Overall 1407 Squadron came 3rd. All of the cadets had a fun day despite the weather, with some interesting choices of clothing. All of the staff are very proud of the cadets' achievements and were pleased with their excellent behaviour at the event. As well as the cross-country, cadets have already been flying, target shooting and done initiative exercises this year. There are plenty more activities coming up including gliding, camps, navigation and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. If you're aged between 13 and 18 and are interested in joining then see our website www.1407aircadets.org for more info.

Music Charity Wants a Volunteer Pianist

Dear Sir,
The Creative Dream Works based on Aycliffe Business Park is a newly formed a charity supported by the Artic Monkey to raise funds to provide music and creative activities for disadvantaged people in our community. We are looking for a young person, preferably between 15 -18 years old who plays piano and keyboards (Elton John style) to volunteer work with the charity on various projects. No qualifications are necessary just talent and enthusiasm! If you are interested please contact us on email address: gerry@TCDW.org.uk Gerry Starkey.

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TRIP OF A LIFETIME TO SOUTH AFRICA

What made me want to apply for this once in a life time experience? Perhaps it was because my parents worked supporting people, Mum in a pre-school and my Dad in the prison service. I am a scout leader and I like to think I help children to develop within themselves to become more confident. My Mum first suggested I volunteered to work abroad and I filled in the form as it sounded right for what I wanted to do with youth work. I received a phone call from International Citizen Service for an interview in York. After the interviews all the candidates returned home not knowing if they were successful or not. After three weeks I got a phone call from ICS congratulating me as I was accepted and would go to South Africa for ten weeks. I told my Mum and Dad and everyone I knew as I had to start fundraising for the eight hundred pounds I needed to take the trip. I completed a 27 mile sponsored bike ride with my Dad. It was raining on the day and muddy, but OK for the first 13.5 miles. On

Bryan Witt, a 21 year old Newtonian and ex Woodham Student took an opportunity to complete voluntary work in South Africa. He has submitted his story to encourage others to do likewise.



the way back, Dad got a puncture and it couldn't be fixed. I continued with the ride and we did it! This was a good way to raise money and with other donations I reached my £800 target. I went to Birmingham for training where I met everyone going to Africa. This was interesting as we were all different characters and I did not know if I would get on with them or how they would get on with me, but we all became like a big family. The training was great and we had a laugh with some of the things we had to learn. The following months were long and I could not wait to go, and as we got all the things I needed for the trip, the days became longer and longer. With everything packed the suspense was killing me as all I wanted to

do was to go to South Africa as soon as I could. The BIG BIG day came and I was on my way, really really excited to be on a train to Manchester Airport, Heathrow to Johannesburg and on to Cape Town and Bain's Kloof in the mountains for in-country training. What a view and such an awesome welcome from the South African volunteers who broke into song on our arrival. We spent a week there and then were all split up to go to our home-stay and placements for nine weeks. I was put in the best place for me, Hout Bay, working for an organisation called "ABC for Life". It stands for Angel Become Carers for Life and we were teacher's assistants at Sentinel Primary School. My home-stay hosts were very very kind to me and became my adopted uncle and aunt. They had three sons and the two elder sons had children who I got on with very well. I also had a second family, as one of my South African friends became my best friend over there and I enjoyed being with his wife and kids. For nine weeks I worked with the children at the school. In class I helped them with reading and their work ready to be marked by the teacher. I also took a few of the children out of class at times to help them to read which was rewarding as they became quite confident reading out loud. The volunteers met up at weekends for activities such as a boat ride to Seal Island, Table Top Mountain and other interesting things within Hout Bay. At the end of each week we visited an indoor market for sightseeing and enjoyed the entertainment. The main reason for the visit was to complete an HIV and Aids awareness project. This took a lot of planning as we had to plan role-play and sports related games to help get the message across. This included planning for the World Aids Day working with three different year groups, a class at a time, of up to thirty pupils. We split the class in half and worked around the subject

and produced statements we were given at training which took about three to four days to run. We produced a poster of the school and got the children to put red ribbons on it and around the trees. We had a cake stall and sold them to raise money for paint, which was needed to decorate a room given to ABC. I did manage to get in touch with a local scout group, the 2nd Hout Bay Sea Scouts. This was really interesting as it was a different type of Troop to the one where I am a leader at home. It really was fun and the scouts welcomed me in. I learnt lots of things that can be used in my Scout Troop at home. I presented a necker from my group and badges,

and they gave me the same things to take home. The day came to go home and nobody wanted to leave. I was sad, but glad at the same time for the experience I had gained. I said my goodbyes got in the taxi and headed to Cape Town Airport to find all our hosts were there to wave us off. This brought on a lot of tears as we headed to the plane back home. Once I got home I had to get used to things like cars not using their horns all the time, the absence of calls to the mosque and no siren coming from the harbour about every hour on the hour or the school bell ringing. A month later there was a de-briefing in York where everyone met up again. We discussed ideas about "action back at home" and to pass on to our communities the story of our amazing trip to South Africa. **Bryan Witt**



LEARNING DISABILITY HEALTH TRAINER PROGRAMME AT PCP

Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) can support people with learning disabilities to be healthier; with thanks to a grant from the Great Aycliffe and Middlesbrough Partnership (GAMP). PCP Health Trainers are trained to offer advice on diet and nutrition, physical activity, goal setting, making changes and much more. It is with particular thanks to £5,000 from GAMP's Area Budget and £5,000 from the Neighbourhood Budget of the late Councillor Enid Paylor that PCP Health Trainers can work with groups and individuals, including family members and carers, to raise awareness of the benefits of a healthy diet and lifestyle choices.

Ang Quinn, PCP Health Trainer said "Learning disabilities can make it more difficult to understand new information, learn new skills and communicate. This means some people with learning disabilities need help to live independently. For example, they may find maintaining a healthy weight difficult, and need help understanding information and advice about diet and nutrition, cooking and regular physical activity. Being underweight or overweight raises the risk of serious health problems, and can affect their quality of life." The Health Trainer sessions encourage everyone to participate, have fun and learn about becoming healthier, it also includes one to one sessions. Some of the comments from

people PCP have helped include "the Health Trainer helped me realise I was eating too much of the wrong food." And "I have really enjoyed the course, it's taught me what is good and bad for me, I now eat a lot healthier". PCP are also looking to recruit volunteers to help with this project. Volunteers will receive full support and training to become Health Trainer Champions so they can work with the clients to help them become healthier. For further information on the Learning Disability Health Trainer service contact PCP at the Pioneering Care Centre, Carers' Way, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham DL5 4SF. Tel: 01325 321234 email: healthtrainers@pcp.uk.net or visit www.pcp.uk.net

£600 Donation to Scout Group

Dear Sir,
On Behalf of the 1st Newton Aycliffe Scout Group, I would like to thank Honest John for his magnificent donation of £600. He collects for us every year and we would like him to know how much we appreciate his donations. We hope that the people who support him by giving him items to sell and the people who buy items from him will continue to do so in the future, so that he will be able to help other charities on the town. Long may he continue to do so. Bill Goudie
Group Chairman

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Dogs on a Lead Can Also be Dangerous



Dear Sir,

Whilst out walking around Woodham Way on Sunday 19th January at around 12 noon, my wife and I went single file on the pavement so a young lad walking towards us with a small Terrier type dog on a lead could pass us.

As we passed each other and without any warning, the dog lunged at me and sank it's teeth into my left leg above my knee. The lad, about 15, in a dark green coat with his hood up, as it was raining, pulled and pulled until it let go, but not before tearing my trousers. On immediate inspection I found teeth marks in my leg.

The boy would not give me any details of where he lived other than to act dumb and said he couldn't remember the name of the road where he lived.

I would urge people to take great care when walking passed dogs that appear on the face of it to be ok as this one was clearly not and I am nursing a very sore leg.

I have been interviewed by the police and have given them a full description and statement of events. I am a big bloke but wonder what might have happened if it were a mum walking with her kids!

David Powter

Town Centre Vandalism

The recent vandalism in the refurbished town centre is a poor reflection on the youth of Newton Aycliffe.

The only way to stop these mindless persons is to have the town centre completely sealed at night, also it must be fully monitored by CCTV cameras.

J M Gowland

Ed; We have received numerous letters disappointed with this news, but many predicted it would happen. If CCTV was brought into use again in the town centre criminal activity would be detected and deterred.

Big 6 Meet

The partnership of local Authorities who are meeting regularly to use their combined strength to influence Government policy is working well.

Cllr Simon Henig as Chairman of the North East Leadership Board said "All 6 Leaders and the Elected Mayor met and held a very constructive meeting on Friday January 17th. We all reaffirmed our commitment to the need for a strategic body for the area. We will continue to discuss the way forward and will maintain regular dialogue with the Government."

Council Budgets and Savings – What the Public Said!

More than ten and a half thousand people across County Durham took the chance to vote on which local groups should get funds in their area and thousands also gave Durham County Council their views on where a further £100m in budget cuts could be made.

The public turned out at events staged by all 14 Area Action Partnerships through the autumn from Consett to south Durham and the east coast to Barnard Castle. The community sessions, offered cash pots to local not-for-profit groups – with the public vote deciding the winners. Residents attending were also invited to take part in an exercise in which they were asked to decide which council services they would protect and which they would reduce spending on.

The results will now be presented to the council's Cabinet at a meeting on January 22.

The region's largest local authority faces overall spending cuts of £222m (2011-2017) in the face of significant reductions in Government grants. With more than £100m already accounted for, members of the public were asked to say where they would make these required savings. As a result a widespread consultation, which ended last month, saw more than 4,000 residents take part. Additional responses were taken from workshops with children and young people as well as other groups.

Consultation 2013 – in numbers:

- 10,693 people attend 14 AAP events
- More than 3,300 (about 1 in 3) also give views on budget cuts
- 1,300 people participate in focus groups on budget cuts
- 270 board activity based budget exercises completed
- 97 per cent of those taking part in the exercise said it was a good way to involve the public
- 517 people offer budget views online
- Further responses via workshops including children and young people and people with disabilities

Leader of the council, Cllr Simon Henig, said: "We have long been believers in the value of community led budget and spending decision-making. Having trialled what is called a 'participatory budget' approach previously in our AAPs, we felt it provided an ideal opportunity to speak to the public about the very difficult financial position we have been put in.

"The response from residents has been extremely valuable as we seek the additional £100m in budget cuts we have to make. We will take these views on board, as we did previously in 2010, when we also asked the public which services they valued most and least.

"It was particularly interesting to see how very difficult many people taking part in the exercise found it to cut £100m from a budget. There was a great deal of discussion, debate, thought and

of course some compromise."

The consultation revealed that there was a high degree of consensus amongst those taking part on the areas which should take the highest reductions. These were:

- Finance, legal services, Information Technology and Human Resources
- Performance management, policy and communications
- Democratic support – decisions and elections
- Subsidised bus travel

Four other services were also very close to having a majority decision to cut budgets by above the average. They were:

- Grass cutting, trees and flower beds
- Maintenance of public buildings
- Planning services
- Borrowing for new development

Cllr Henig continues: "While many people were clear on which areas they would target for bigger cuts, it was far more difficult to get a public consensus on which services they wanted to see receive the greatest protection. Looking after vulnerable people was seen as a priority but given the scale of budget cuts almost all groups really struggled to find the £100m necessary. Many found they had to change their initial priorities to make the savings.

"I would like to thank all those people who took part in this extensive consultation and to say that their feedback will form an integral part of the decision-making process. I would also say that, as we have done, we will continue to seek residents' views on the tough decisions ahead, to ensure we fully understand how the changes we have no choice but to make, will impact on our communities."

Those taking part in the board activity however did prioritise seven areas for lower spending reductions. Those were:

- Job creation
- Social work/protecting vulnerable children and adults
- Support for adults in their homes
- Support for schools/education services
- Community projects/centres/partnerships/groups
- Gritting/snow clearance
- Children's centres/support for families

The consultation also sought peoples' views on the setting of council tax. While feedback showed there was little support for an increase of above two per cent, approximately two-thirds of the people taking part in the board game exercise felt an increase of up to two per cent would be acceptable.

The findings and results will be used to inform the council's continuing budget planning for this year and the future.



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P.A.C.T. Meeting

Police And
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WEST WARD

A PACT Meeting will be held at the following venue: Parsons Centre Methodist Church, Burnhill Way on Thursday 6th February from 6.00pm.

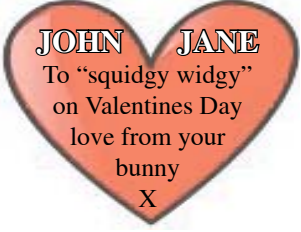
Please come along to hear updates and have your say on local issues. PC Mike Welch & PCSOs Nicola Shaw & Chris Noble are your Community Police Officers. Local Ward Councillors in Attendance. For more information on what's going on in your area visit www.durham.police.uk

Film Show

The next "Feel Good Film Show" at St Clare's Church, on WEDNESDAY 29th JANUARY, features "THE SOUND OF MUSIC", one of the best feel-good musicals of all time, starring Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer and a host of lovely sing-a-long songs.

Why not come along and get cheered up. Tea and coffee at 1pm, included in the £2, and the film starts at 1-15pm. Everyone is most welcome to join us. Bring a spot of lunch with you, tables are set out, and enjoy a friendly social occasion. Further details from Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755

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**Above example:
15p per word**

JOHN DOUGH
To my "squidgy widgey" on Valentines Day, love from your little bunny X

JANE DOUGH
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Government Slow to Use Euro Cash to Benefit North East

Euro MP Stephen Hughes, has called on the UK government to start funding programmes under the EU's new budget as soon as possible. Stephen said: "We're already into the new EU funding period and the government has made little progress in starting European programmes that will bring jobs and growth to the North East, helping families struggling from the cost of living crisis. "The government needs to ensure local and regional administrations are fully involved during the preparation stages and more flexibility is given for regions, like the North East, to establish their own priorities. The North East region will receive £616m in structural funding over the next seven years from the European Union to support local businesses, research and jobs."

Aycliffe Biogas Launch School Food Waste Campaign

Emerald Biogas, which opened its state-of-the-art food waste plant last year, is launching a campaign directed at schools across the region called 'Waste Warriors: Food for Thought' to tackle the growing problem of food waste. The company, which manages a commercial anaerobic digestion facility in Newton Aycliffe – the first of its kind in the north east – is giving schools in the north east the opportunity to take part in its school engagement programme and inviting pupils to become 'waste warriors'. Food waste is a growing concern and in the north east alone over 800,000 tonnes of food waste is generated every year, with over 80,000 tonnes of generated by schools in England every year. In response to the demand from industry to tackle the issue, Emerald Biogas developed its anaerobic digestion plant at its site in County Durham. Adam Warren, Director, Emerald Biogas, said: "As part of the project we will work with the pupils to help them understand the growing impact of food waste disposal and the environmentally friendly solutions that are available. Food waste to landfill is a growing concern, with over 80 kilograms thrown away on average in a primary school each week.



Through our initiative, pupils will have the opportunity to understand the problem of food waste and our innovative solution, which also results in the production of green energy." Five schools are already on board, with St. Edwards School in Middlesbrough, Coxhoe Primary School and Barnard Castle Prep School in County Durham, Hurworth Primary School in Darlington and Woodham Burn Community Primary School in Newton Aycliffe looking forward to getting started. Stephen Jones, Headteacher, Coxhoe Primary School, said: "Coxhoe Primary is very pleased to be involved with

Emerald Biogas and their 'Waste Warriors' campaign. We are very conscious about the need to recycle and pupils in our school have already set up methods to recycle plastic, paper, tin and card so this is an exciting and innovative project to help pupils recognise how they can further lower the carbon footprint they leave. The idea that we can use food waste to create energy is intriguing and I am sure will appeal to all of our pupils and further develop their understanding of active citizenship and our responsibilities to take care of the planet by seeking alternative and renewable energy sources for the future."

Alongside a presentation from the Emerald Biogas team on the benefits of recycling, pupils will work through a simple and fun workbook that will encourage collaborative working, creative design, problem solving and mathematics amongst other core skills. There is also a chance for the schools to win a £250 voucher by taking part in a poster competition. Adam added: "This is an exciting opportunity to talk to pupils about innovative thinking and how we can all make a contribution to the energy shortage issue whilst tackling the food waste to landfill problem." The project will take place over a period of two weeks and during that time Emerald Biogas will collect the participating school's food waste to process through the plant. Schools taking part will also be able to bring pupils on a site visit to the plant to experience the food waste-processing journey in action. The £8 million facility at Emerald Biogas has been designed to recycle food waste - leftover and unsold products - generated by commercial organisations including schools, food manufacturing companies, retailers and leisure outlets amongst others. Once the waste is collected Emerald Biogas then recycles it using the very latest anaerobic digestion technology to create valuable new commodities such as renewable energy and fertiliser for use on local agricultural land. Working with the private and public sector it is committed to

recycling and reusing the region's food waste to generate electricity, heat and bio-fertilisers.

Formed in 2009, Emerald Biogas is owned by three partners with a wealth of experience in agriculture and recycling. Antony and Adam Warren are the owners of long established food and animal by products recycling business, John Warren ABP. Together with Ian Bainbridge's diverse farming, land and resource management Agricore, they will provide the region with a beneficial sustainable resource.

John Warren ABP manages the collection for Emerald Biogas. With over three generations waste management experience and family owned, the company offers a food disposal service at Hamsterley and has progressed into the next generation of food processing. The funding for the project was made available through the Rural Development Programme for England, which is jointly funded by Defra and the European Union. For more information about Emerald Biogas at www.emeraldbiogas.com

XCEL XMAS GIVING HELPS LOCAL FAMILIES

Xcel send a BIG THANK YOU to the local community for making Christmas at Xcel such a success. This years Christmas production was attended by over 650 people and was a fantastic evening enjoyed by all there.

This year we took up an offering at this event and across our Christmas services and want to say THANK YOU for your generosity as nearly £1600 was raised with the monies being shared between the Philippine Outreach Centre as they work with organisations helping to rebuild the country, and also towards the continued work of Xcel Local.

Xcel Local provided presents for 74 children across 27 families from Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding

area of Spennymoor, Ferryhill and Darlington. Every family also received a Christmas hamper. This is in addition to the usual Food Bank requests, with over 1000 people helped during 2013.

The generous giving of our community will enable this work to continue, alongside visits and events for the elderly in local Nursing Homes, our PK Allstars Kids Club which runs in association with the Agnew Community Centre.

A Christmas party for 31 children was held by PK Allstars at the Agnew Community Centre, funded by Livin. For more information about the work of POCM or Xcel Local visit www.xcelchurch.com

Newton Aycliffe WI

We met for our first meeting of 2014! It was our AGM and this was followed by members enjoying a Fish and Chip supper!

We voted in our new President and were pleased that Lyn Swift was re-elected as well as the current committee.

For our guest we had a member from the County Durham WI Federation, Tina Bickerdike who enlightened all members old and new

on resolutions put forward over the years. This helped us all to understand just how important WI members are in changing how the organisation is run in the future.

The next meeting will be held at St Clare's Church Hall on Tuesday 11th February 2014 at 7.15. For further details please contact Lyn on 314805. New members invited for a warm welcome!

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FREE INDOOR FUN AT RACECOURSE FUNDAY

Sedgefield Racecourse is hoping to attract more family visitors to their track on Sunday 26 January by offering a family fun day that will see free indoor activities offered to children at this winter fixture. Entry is free for all children under 18 when accompanied by an adult, therefore in terms of value a family ticket of 2 adults & 2 children can be purchased for only £20 for this fixture making this a perfect family day out. Plus, due to the winter weather the racecourse will be offering families the chance to upgrade for free to the Collins Suite with indoor viewing facilities and a number of free activities for the children to enjoy. These will include: Punch & Judy shows, balloon modelling, creative crafts, bouncy castle, face painting and giant Jenga, Connect Four and Twister. Plus, children will be given the opportunity to join the Young Hooves Kids Club that is free to join with a welcome goody bag and is designed to make family days out at Sedgefield even more fun for under 18's. Gates open from 11.30am with racing from 1.10pm. Jill Williamson, General Manager at Sedgefield Racecourse says: "At a time when family leisure activities are increasing in price and

the age limit for free entry for children is forever lowering, we feel that the racecourse offers a competitive rate to other local attractions, making a family day out at the races an affordable, yet entertaining option. Children love days out at Sedgefield – fresh air, the thrill of seeing horses run and the free activities that are offered to keep them entertained for the afternoon." A special Winter Warmer package is also available in the restaurant for this raceday for families wanting to enjoy a two course Sunday Lunch. Prices are £35* for adults and £6* for children. For more information about racedays, or to buy tickets, visit www.sedgefield-racecourse.co.uk or call 01740 621925. *Advance bookings only.

LOCAL SPORT

Rugby Club Bounce Back with 50 - 0 Win

The town's Rugby Club returned to winning ways with a comfortable win over Yarm in Durham and Northumberland Division 3. After the previous week's narrow defeat, Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club were keen to bounce back with the visit of Yarm to Moore Lane. Aycliffe were able to select from a strong squad and were looking to gain a bonus point victory to maintain their challenge for a top three finish. Aycliffe, from the beginning, dominated the scrum; Bob Malvern's coaching sessions

rapidly bearing fruit. Despite the hosts having the majority of the ball, Yarm possessed some powerful runners and were threatening early on without getting too close to the line. The deadlock was broken when Chris Richards took a quick penalty and the ball found its way to Andy Littlefair who touched down near the posts. Luke Tinkler's conversion gave Aycliffe a 7-point lead. Soon afterwards, a Darrell McLaren drop-goal attempt struck the post; Aycliffe maintained their attack and, a number of phases later, the ball was passed out to the wing where Luke Crossen was able to score. There was no further score in the half and at the break Aycliffe led 12 - 0 and were being frustrated by Yarm's hard working defence. Early in the second half James Thacker scored a solo try to increase the lead. With the game approaching the final quarter, Aycliffe were still looking for the bonus point score, but finally it came from a powerful 5-metre scrum which saw Number 8, Deryk Cairns, pick up the ball from the back and cross the whitewash. Soon after, Gareth Parsonage was on hand to complete a good move and the Yarm defence began to crumble. In the final 10 minutes, Parsonage, Thacker and Cairns all added their second tries and Tinkler's total of five conversions saw Aycliffe to a 50 - 0 victory. Mention has to be made of Ryan Milford who put in an excellent performance in the unfamiliar position of hooker, and the whole pack, including replacements, who produced a much improved performance marshalled by captain, Warren Parsonage. Aycliffe's next visit Chester-le-Street's Riverside ground on 25th January and will hope to capitalise on their hosts' recent drop in form. The game will kick-off at 2.15pm. Newton Aycliffe are sponsored by Boola Clothing Aycliffe and Hayward Home Appliances trading as Serviceforce. Visit the website at www.pitchero.com/clubs/newtonaycliffe.

Aycliffe Running Club

On Sunday 19th January 2014 five members of Aycliffe Running Club braved the rain for the Brass Monkey Half Marathon at York. The race, which is hosted by York Knivesmire Harriers, had to be cancelled last year due to snow and, although no snow this year, conditions were very wet. However, the weather did not dampen the spirits of the 1500 competitors. The race was mostly flat and on public roads. It headed southwards through Bishopthorpe, Acaster Selby, Appleton Roebuck and back through Bishopthorpe to finish behind the racecourse grandstands. First to finish for Aycliffe was Graham Atkins 1:33:06, followed by Sandra Collins

1:47:44, Trish Kay 1:48:24, John Young 1:50:36, and Dave Mackenzie 2:04:36. On the same day at the Stockton Winter 5k Trail Series at Cowpen Bewley, Peter Smith and Kevin Greenall represented Aycliffe Running Club. It was reported as being a mud bath with competitors slipping and sliding but most runners seemed to enjoy the mud and some described it as being 'a great character building experience'. Peter Smith completed the course in 19th position and 1st M50 23:06 and Kevin Greenall 53rd in 26:39. Visit www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk for details about the club and their training sessions.

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Shildon Running Club

Shildon Seniors turned out in force at Sunday's NYSD Cross Country event at Summerhill, Hartlepool. This is the first season for many years that Shildon have had more than a handful of seniors racing in cross-country events but 16 enthusiastic runners turned out for this challenging course, the toughest in the NYSD calendar. For ten of the seniors this was their first ever cross-county and some were a little apprehensive about the depth of the steep-sided beck they had to run through! Fourteen women competed and first home for Shildon was Amy Etherington who finished in 5th position and 1st U20. An excellent run for Amy despite her having already raced at the Durham Cathedral Relays a few hours earlier. Consistent cross country racer Elizabeth Wood was second home for Shildon after a fast finish for 16th position and 2nd U20. Third team counter Shannon Ross (U17) and the youngest member of the team, had an excellent run to finish 41st with cross-country newcomer Lynne Foster only 7 seconds behind her and completing the scoring team for Shildon. A fantastic run from Lynne who is showing great potential for next season. First-timer Jeannette Turner finished 45th, and loved the whole cross-country experience and is another one to watch next season. Hazel Johnson ran well to finish in 51st position despite her new spikes not arriving in time for the race and led the next bunch of Shildon women, with Donna Dunbar in 53rd, followed closely by Julie Cane in 55th all showing no fear of the hills or the mud. Only 10 seconds behind, experienced cross-country veteran Pat Edwards was delighted with 56th position after a confident surge in the later stage of the race gained her several places. Hot on her heels, and spurred on by the course atmosphere and team spirit were Helen Race 58th, Nicola Dent 59th and Irene Ross 61st. It was amazing to see these seven ladies all finishing within 48 seconds of each other. Andrea Lowery enjoyed every step of her first cross country course especially the water jump and finished in 76th position. Sarah Tilley also enjoyed the atmosphere on the day and smiled all the way to

the finish for 77th place to complete the women's team. The Shildon Women's team did extremely well to finish in 5th place, an excellent achievement. In the Senior Men's race two Shildon athletes, also in their first cross country event, completed three big laps of the muddy undulating course. After a lot of sliding around in shoes without spikes Ian Rudge stormed to the finish spurred on by cheers from the other Shildon finishers in 103rd position followed by a determined Dave Beadle (also not wearing spikes) in 105th. Dave had slipped on a sharp bend and gashed his arm but still enjoyed the whole experience and both men are looking forward to the next cross-country outing when they will definitely be using spikes. The next NYSD meeting is at Richmond Racecourse on Sunday 9th February 2014.

Falcons Joint 3rd

Newton Aycliffe Youth under 10 Falcons hosted Darlington Spraire Lads and Lasses on a wet Sunday morning, after last week game was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch we needed a fast start. This was a very even game and we looked good on the attack and solid in defence. Alfie, Jack and Will are doing great defensive work, Zack was assured in goal and Tom was having a solid performance on the wing. Declan found gaps in the Spraire defence and Liam worked hard upfront. We took the lead towards the end of the first half, when Tom Jasper sent a rasping half volley past the Spraire keeper. Ht 1-0. Second half was a tight affair, with Aycliffe creating most of the opportunities. The Spraire goalkeeper made 3 good saves, the last of the 3 was unbelievable. FT 1-0. Not the best performance but good enough today. MoM Tom Jasper. A good goal and a good solid performance. Movement, tackling and passing was top notch so well done Tom and well done everyone. Five wins in a row and now joint 3rd in the table

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

Special Recreation Committee

WEDNESDAY, 5th FEBRUARY, 2014
 at 7.15p.m.

ITEM ON THE AGENDA

To consider items in connection with the Oak Leaf Golf Club.

QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 20 minutes has been also set aside for an elector to ask questions, give evidence or make representation on any item of business included on the agenda. If members of the public have any questions it would be appreciated if they could make them known prior to the start of the meeting. Agendas / Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk) The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend. "The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".

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There is little need to be sensational in our editorial as we are under no pressure to increase circulation, therefore we can hear both sides of an argument calmly without upsetting either party. In most cases we are able to resolve a matter without having to go into print.

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Local company Siesta
Blinds welcomes new laws
on window blind safety
which come into effect in
2014. They are members of
the Association which has
campaigns for safer blinds,
working with the government
and EU standards bodies to
make child safety standards
for new window blinds much
more stringent.
New regulations will make
it illegal to sell or install a
window blind that does not
meet the new standard. The
rules include maximum cord
and chain lengths, the fitting
of safety devices at the point
of manufacture, product
warnings, point of sale
information and instructions
on packaging.
Jim Forbes of Siesta Blinds

says: "We fully support the
new regulations and will
ensure all new blinds we
supply are compliant and
fitted correctly. We are also
ready to help any customer
who has existing blinds with
cords or chains to fit devices
to make these safer"
Since 2009 the Association
has worked tirelessly to
educate consumers on
window blinds with cords or
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by the Child Accident Trust
and the Royal Society for the
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**Parents, Grandparents and
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if they have a life threatening
or critical condition.
All hospitals in the region
and the ambulance service
are currently extremely busy
and are asking for support in
focussing on emergencies.
People using these services
for minor conditions can add
to this pressure and take up
valuable time needed to treat
critical cases.
Members of the public are
encouraged to consider other
options when they are ill and
it's not an emergency, such
as taking care of themselves
at home, phoning NHS 111,
visiting a local pharmacist
for advice if they're unsure
about symptoms, or making
an appointment with their GP.
Dr Mike Guy, medical
director for the Durham,
Darlington and Tees area
team of NHS England, said:
"GP practices and pharmacies
had alternative opening times
in place over the festive
season, but normal opening
hours have now resumed.

"We'd like to remind
everyone that A&E and 999
are for health emergencies
only, including major
accidents, broken bones,
breathing problems, severe
chest pains, unconsciousness,
suspected stroke, and major
blood loss.
"Many ailments, such as
colds, sore throats, upset
stomachs, and winter
vomiting, should be treated
at home with pain killers,
rest and plenty of fluids, or
with the advice of your local
pharmacist."
People can also visit their
local NHS walk-in centre or
minor injuries unit.
Dr Mike Guy adds: "Walk-in
centres are open most days
between 8am-8pm and can
treat illnesses or injuries,
such as sprains, insect/animal
bites, minor cuts, bruises and
burns."
For more information about
NHS walk-in centres and
other NHS services available
near you, visit NHS Choices,
or call NHS 111 for advice on
what to do.

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Freephone Number to Advise the Elderly

Independent Age, the older people's charity which tackles older people's poverty and loneliness through the 'ABC' of advice, befriending and campaigning, has launched a new freephone number for its advice service. The launch of the freephone number comes at a time of year when Independent Age typically sees an increase in calls to its advice service from people who have been left concerned for an older person or relative following

a Christmas visit. Often Christmas can be one of the few occasions when families visit older relatives, and many therefore notice a deterioration in their relatives' health or an increase in general frailty. Independent Age's advice service offers free and confidential advice and information for older people, their families and carers. Its team of trained, experienced advice workers offer practical advice on issues such as social care, welfare benefits, befriending services and other social support. Independent Age also produces up-to-date information guides and factsheets about the most common issues affecting older people. These can be downloaded for free from the website www.independentage.org or ordered by calling **Independent Age on freephone 0800 319 6789**. Victoria Richards, Head of Advice and Support at Independent Age, says, "With the cost of living increasing, Independent Age recognised the importance to older people of providing a means of contacting the charity for free. We're particularly pleased to be launching this new freephone number at a time when we receive a higher volume of calls from people concerned about older relatives they have seen over Christmas."

LOANS AVAILABLE TO OWNERS OF EMPTY HOUSES

Durham County Council has signed up to a national scheme to increase affordable housing and help owners of empty properties bring them back into use. The National Empty Homes Loan Fund has been established to tackle the 710,000 empty homes across the country. Owners will be able to apply for a low interest loan of up to £15,000 to bring properties up to the Decent Homes Standard. As part of the agreement, the renovated property must then be rented out at 80 per cent of the market rate for rent for the duration of the loan, increasing the number of affordable homes available to residents. The initiative is a joint venture between the Empty Homes charity, the Ecology Building Society, central government, Durham County Council and 38 other local authorities who have signed up for the scheme. The Government established the £3 million fund following a campaign led by the architect and broadcaster George Clarke as part of Channel 4's Great British Property Scandal. The programme found that many owners of empty properties were unable to access funds to bring run down properties

back into use. Owners of properties that have been empty for over six months will be able to apply to the council for a loan between £5,000 and £15,000. The loans are paid in advance with a low interest of 5 per cent. Borrowers will need to make monthly repayments over a maximum period of five years. Loans will be made by the Ecology Building Society with Durham County Council working with owners to apply for the funds, saving them a £495 charge. Cllr Eddie Tomlinson, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for housing, said: "We're delighted to be backing this scheme which will be of great benefit to the county. Not only will it mean empty properties are renovated and brought back into use but it will also increase the number of affordable homes available to local residents." Commenting on the launch of the scheme, George Clarke said: "I care passionately about getting England's empty homes back into use for people who need them. This scheme provides real help to property owners to help achieve that." David Ireland OBE, chief executive of Empty Homes,

said: "This scheme is a real first in England and is a great example of central government working together with the public and private sector to try and reduce the number of empty homes in the UK. We hope the fund will enable hundreds of empty homes to be brought back up to standard and back into the housing stock." Home owners interested in applying for the loan should contact the council on 03000 261076.

Thank You

MARINA FARLEY thanks the person who handed in her house keys to Tesco Customer Service on Saturday 18th January. **TO THE** person who found my handbag outside Cafe Pronto and took it to the staff inside, I thank you very much. **LOWERSON**, Gordon and David would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their letters of sympathy and floral tributes during the loss of their Dad, Gordon. Also the £83.71 raised for Help for Heroes. Thanks to Lindsay Dade of John Meynell Funeral Directors for making a sad day into a beautiful day. He would be very proud. **ANNETTE GIBSON**. A big thank you to Chris, Kirsty, Jamie, Kev, Suz, Tasha and Cameron for making my party a success. Also to my family and friends for the lovely cards and presents and to the DJ and his sidekick, also to the bar staff.

Birthday Remembrance

George Smith

24th January 1936

If only we could see you just for a little while, to wish you "Happy Birthday" and see your lovely smile.

We cannot hold the hands of time or live again the past, but in our hearts are memories that will forever last.

Thinking of you on your birthday. Love, Madge, Sue, Roly, Christopher, Fiona and Great Grandchildren Charlie and George xxxx

Congratulations

Georgia Hutchison



20th January 2014

To our special princess, happy 1st birthday, love you lots Mummy and Daddy xx **To our** little sister, hope you have a fab 1st birthday love Callum and Morgan xx **Happy 1st** birthday Georgia, lots of love Auntie Michelle, Uncle Chris, Jack and Joe xxxx **Happy 1st** birthday to a special Granddaughter Georgia. Lots of hugs and kisses, Nan and Grandad xx **Happy 1st** birthday love Nanna and Grandad Ellie, Uncles and Aunties x

In Memoriam

DICKINSON, Walter James. 25-01-2012.

Wonderful memories of a very loving Brother and Uncle. We all miss you more than words can say. Forever in our hearts. Lots of love, Denise, Steve, Craig, Laura, Casey, Clarissa, Stephen and Channan xxxx

FRANCES MATTHEWS 25/01/2012. We miss you more each passing year. Your love we hold in our hearts so dear. Shared memories keep you near. God bless you Mam xx

TONY WARBURTON 24th January 2002. Treasured

memories of a loving Husband and Father. Another year has passed, the hour and day we will never forget. Always in our thoughts. Loving Wife Felicity; Daughter Gail; Son-in-Law Graeme. Hugs and kisses Grandpa from Jack, Winston and Oliver. Forever in our hearts xxxxxx

MARY ELLIOTT 27th January 2010. 4 years today you passed away, in our hearts you will always stay. Miss you. Love, Pauline, Bruce, Michael and Stephen xxx

MARY ELLIOTT (Molly). 27th January 2010. There's a face that is always with us; there's a voice that we long to hear; There's a smile we will always remember; of a Mam that we loved so dear. Love and miss you, Barbara and Rob xxx **JOHN LAMBERT** 22nd January 2010. A lifetime of memories and love, miss you more than ever. Sail away Sailor, enjoy the wind in your sails. Gone fishing. Love, Duchess

Adam Laing



29th January 2014

Happy 21st Birthday Have a great day. Love from Mam, Dad, Marc, Chris, Ashley, Nanna and Grandad

ADAM PATRICK LAING Congratulations, 21 on 29th January. Enjoy your night out with your pals. Love and best wishes from your Gran Julia, Keith and Roy xxx **HARRY PARKINSON** 24.01.13. Happy 1st Birthday. All our love, Mummy, Daddy and Big Brother Ethan x

Lost & Found

LOST on Tuesday 14th January. Gold butterfly brooch with coloured stones, may be found Simpature shops to Tesco shop or car park. Sentimental value, please ring 07837 210026. Reward offered.

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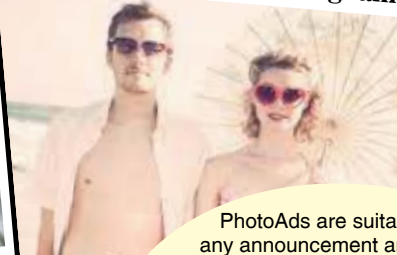


Happy 21st Birthday

10-10-10

to our beautiful Daughter on your 21st birthday. Lots of love from Mam & Dad xxx

Bonny and Clyde Cunningham



Golden

ations Mar

on 1st Jan

nters, Gra

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NEW TABLE TENNIS SATELLITE SPORTS CLUB

Bishop Auckland Table Tennis Club, Junior Sports Club of the Year winners at the recent Sport and Physical Activity Awards for County Durham, have teamed up with Greenfield School, winners of Secondary School Contribution to PE and School Sport at the same event, to establish a new exciting Table Tennis Satellite Club.

Matthew Porter, Head Coach of Bishop Auckland Table Tennis Club and coach at Greenfield believes this is a great opportunity for both the school and club,

"This is a fantastic opportunity for Bishop Auckland Table Tennis and Greenfield Community College, thanks to the support from County Durham Sport and Sport England, we are able to take this exciting sport into a new area. We have been able to create a new unique club for the young people of Newton Aycliffe. Hopefully some of the young people will also go on to take part in additional club sessions."

The new Sport England funded Satellite Club project coordinated by County Durham Sport, aims to get

more young people taking part in sport by taking activity to the heart of the local community.

The fun, community sessions based at Greenfield Community College are on every Monday 4:30-5:30pm (term time only). The session is aimed at all abilities to provide fun-filled sessions whilst learning key technical skills of Table Tennis.

The first session is free, usual cost £2, players aged 8 and above are more than welcome. For more information please contact Michael Rippon on 07879117224.



Aycliffe F.C. Held in Six Goal Thriller

Aycliffe were denied all three points on Saturday by a world class free kick late in the game as they returned to Moore Lane Park for the first time in 2014. The pitch passed a morning inspection due to the recent wet weather, but with areas of the ground being described as 'heavy at best' it was probably never going to be a day for defenders!

With just 5 minutes on the clock, Aycliffe took the lead, with Tom Atkinson showing great composure to finish right footed. And things got better for the home side after 12', as a Martin Young strike from 20 yards nestled in the top corner! From then on though, Crook took control of the half. On the 20 minute mark Spence in the Aycliffe goal somehow kept out a back post header from Hughes. However, with 34' on the clock, Crook's pressure finally told. Kyle Davies outstripped Oliver, and finished past Spence and into the bottom corner.

On 55 the visitors were level. Davies, who had been a constant menace for the Aycliffe defence once again got himself clear, before reversing the ball across Spence and into the bottom corner. However just a minute later Aycliffe regained the lead. A great run from Atkinson took him clear of the defence and he once again finished right footed into the bottom corner.

On 83' Mellanby was fouled. The home side appealed for a penalty, but the referee awarded a free kick on the edge of the box. Midfielder Young stepped up and rattled his free kick against the bar.

And in the cruellest of finishes, Aycliffe were made to pay for the missed chances. With just 3 minutes remaining, Davies was fouled on the edge of the Aycliffe area. He picked himself up to slot his free kick over the wall and into the top corner to complete his hat trick. Aycliffe were also able to open their supporters bar for the first time. The facility was well received, with the opportunity to purchase alcoholic drinks 'on the ground' being a real boost to the supporters. The Club are looking forward to the facility developing and improving over the coming weeks.

With no game scheduled for next weekend, Aycliffe's next game will be at home to West Auckland on Wednesday 29th January, with the game kicking off at 7.30pm.

Planet Leisure 10 pin Bowling

The league leaders Pinheads lost 6-2 to Misfits, and the second placed team the Clangers won 6-2 over the Bowl Movements. This closes the lead from 11 points down to 7.

The Wenwees who are in third place won 6-2 over fifth place team the M & M's. The Strike Force in fourth place won 6-2 over Shildon Strikers and The Optimists had a 4-4 draw with the Late Starters.

Mark Baptist bowled a high scratch game of 241 to beat his own high game of 219. The Pinheads Ron and Mark Baptist took the high team scratch game from 387 up to 427.

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Sportsability Festival



Last week, a selection of pupils from Stephenson Way travelled to Spennymoor to take part in a Sedgefield School Sports Partnership "Sportsability" event.

The event allows children of all ages to come together to receive taster sessions in sports and activities to learn about the need to develop their physical abilities.

Trained coaches gave demonstrations and provided skills workshops in a range of sports and fitness areas. These ranged from tennis and football skills to a session of Zumba fitness.

The event gave the children a platform to enjoy sports without the pressure of competition and introduced them to a range of different ways to keep fit and healthy whilst enjoying themselves. All of the children returned to school in good spirits having had a fantastic time at the event. Many commented on how they would like to look into further participation in the activities they'd done during the day.

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