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GREENFIELD COLLEGE LISTED "ABOVE AVERAGE"



This year's school league tables highlight the continued success at Greenfield Community College. In the summer the school achieved record results which have led the Daily Telegraph to identify Greenfield Community College as one of the 50 most improved secondary schools in England. The

Guardian newspaper, in its analysis, described Greenfield as above average and improving. Greenfield has shown the fastest rate of increase in A* to C including English and Maths. For the Government's Gold standard EBacc qualification Greenfield beat the national average of 23% with a performance

of 31%. They were the only school to achieve this for students with lower prior attainment out of all 34 secondary schools in the county. Head teacher Mr David Priestley said "these achievements demonstrate our commitment to maximise the potential of every child in our school." Having just celebrated

continued on Page 2

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Saturday 8th February 2014

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Friday 14th February 2014

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The dinner consists of a three course meal with a choice as well as entertainment.

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Friday 28th February 2014

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"SKA MANIA NIGHT"

Tickets available from the Legion bar or Sue

Priced at £4.00 each

TELEPHONE: 01325 312876

GREENFIELD COLLEGE ABOVE AVERAGE

continued from Front Page

some fantastic GCSE English results, the school is confident of the future. Year 11 students have just completed mock exams and are now in the process of careful preparation for summer exams.

Chair of Governors, Mr L Wilson said "Greenfield is on an exciting and powerful journey as a result of the

care and strong innovative teaching of the staff."

The continued success of Greenfield over the last 5 years has been recognised by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, which invited Head teacher David Priestley to talk about the journey of improvement at their National Conference in Manchester recently.

THANK YOU HONEST JOHN

The Young People of Burnhill Way Youth and Neville Parade JAM club would like to express their grateful thanks to Honest John for his generous donation of £500 to each group.

This money will enable the two groups to spend a weekend at the Hostel at Seahouses in May. Honest John and those that support his stall do a great job in helping organisations on this town.



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Support for Cancer Victims

A new support group for Cancer sufferers opens at Neville Parade Methodist Church Hall on 6th February at 6pm for anyone that has cancer or has finished their treatment. Macmillan is supporting the club and a lot of help can be obtained including food etc. Please contact Allison White on 07762 258696

THE IRON HORSE

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Friday 7th February, 7.30pm

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Saturday 8th February - "F.M."

Was this our best pub gig ever? Probably!

What can you say about FM? This was rock and metal utopia, a classic journey through the rock n roll hall of fame. They did the lot; Kaiser Chiefs, Foo Fighters, Sabbath, AC/DC, Zep and no real cheese, OK they did 'Whisky in the Jar', but hey! FM put a great amount of effort into this gig, sometimes mid week gigs just don't seem to have the same WOW/OOMPH.

The atmosphere was great as was the music, a superb night. What is particularly pleasing is that FM don't always take the easy option, ie: instead of sticking to 'Sweet Child Of Mine', they did 'Welcome to The Jungle', and on this performance many a year to come different GnR cover and one that takes a little more effort vocally.

Saturday 15th February - "1 0 1"

For more information on bands go to

www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

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Poppy Appeal Record

The British Legion Poppy Appeal organisers Dave and Tricia Preston are delighted to report the final record collection for Newton Aycliffe is £13,606.44p. Dave told Newton News how pleased he was with this magnificent effort, thanking everyone who helped and contributed to the amount collected. "I wish to thank the Co-op Funeral Service who provided transport to visit schools and factories with the poppies. Also the Rotary Club along with Trish Reed and her sponsors for the Charity Night at the club. May I also commend the collections made by the British Legion Women's Section in Tesco." said Dave.

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BT Lets Down and Angers New Estate Residents



The residents of Greenwood Court, the new estate built by Livin off Alston Crescent, moved into their super modern homes in November. Apart from a few snagging issues with the new build they are very happy, but are decidedly unhappy with BT who still have not installed telephone connection. They have been given three dates this month for the work to commence and nothing has happened, yet a few are receiving bills from BT and direct debits are being taken from their accounts. Livin report the infrastructure was in place and saw no

reason why the new homes can't be connected. Philip Clark, Chairman of Horndale Residents' Association, has been in communication with BT fighting hard to get them to start work. He told Newton News he has received e-mails from BT saying everything was being sorted. "They are just telling me lies and fobbing me off" said Phil. All the cable work is there ready to connect and I can't understand why they are taking so long and causing such inconvenience to the residents." he added. Residents have contacted

Ofcom to complain, yet still no progress.

Public Meeting to Form Friends of West Park

Would you like to become involved in a community group making a real difference in our brilliant town? Do you have special skills, enthusiasm or time to spare? By creating something for everyone to enjoy and a legacy for our children. join us to form "Friends of West Park" A meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 18th February, 2013 starting at 7.00pm in the Royal Navy Club, Burnhill Way, Newton Aycliffe. This meeting has been called to officially form the "Friends of West Park" group. The aims of the Group which is open to all residents of Great Aycliffe, are: To set up a group of volunteers who are willing to work with and under the direction of Great Aycliffe Town Council. To assist in litter picking cleaning of the lakes, planting of shrubs, bulbs, flowers and so forth. Hopefully we can come up with ideas on how to improve the park for the general good of the public, looking at projects, costing them, and raising funds and obtaining grants to finance them. Any suggestions will have to be ratified by the Town Council and long term implications taken into account. The aim of the Group is specifically to come up with ideas which if they can be agreed upon, can be financed from sources other than just the local Council. We wish

to add value to the West Park, its play areas and lakes environment for the benefit and general wellbeing of the public to enjoy this amenity, its open space and wildlife. Ken Robson

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Horndale Residents Association Meeting

A representative from Roc Solid is the guest speaker at this month's meeting of Horndale Residents' Association. Roc Solid supply accommodation for young people and young families who come from various backgrounds and need support. Roc Solid gives them a chance to move on in their lives and become valued members of our society. Please come to see the good and important work they do, in our community. This is a great opportunity for us to understand and ask questions about the services they provide. It has been nearly a year since we discussed supporting the local food bank which has fed 1,500 families with 6tons of food in the last year. This fantastic work by the volunteers at St. Clares

is only possible due to the astounding generosity of the community. I wish to thank all those who have made our support possible, I know things are tough but urge you please continue your support. I wish these appeals were not needed but the facts have to be faced to help the neediest in our community. The meeting on Wednesday 5th February starts at 6pm with refreshments at 5.45pm followed with the PACT meeting. Representatives from Livin, Police, councillors and street/park wardens will be in attendance to give reports and answer any concerns or problems you may have. Please come along and help us to make your good neighbourhoods better places to live which is only possible by all working together. Philip Clark, Chairman

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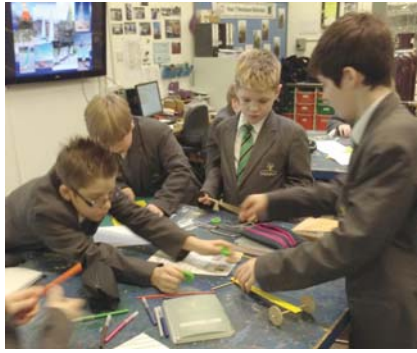
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Evenwood Village Manager: Pam Hutchinson **01388 834161**
Newton Aycliffe Manager: Claire Browning **01325 315623**
Bishop Middleham Manager: Natalie Richardson **01740 651224**

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Woodham Year 7 STEM Day



The whole of Year 7 recently took part in a Specialist Day to learn and develop their knowledge of and understanding of STEM. STEM, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics are key subjects that students study during their time at Woodham. Students completed multiple STEM activities during the day. From scratch, they developed and manufactured air fresheners, creating both the scented gel and the casing to house the product. Students then spent the remaining time manufacturing a land yacht. This task allowed them to develop both their team work skills and also their specific STEM skills



within one project. They then raced the yachts in competition with all other students from the year group. This was a valuable experience allowing the teams to bring together skills from a range of different subjects and combine them as they would do in the working world.

NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Neville Community Centre wishes to start a two new clubs: **CARPET BOWLS** every Monday from 10am - 12 noon and **FAMILY TABLE TENNIS** each Saturday morning from 10am till 12 noon. To show an interest please ring Peter on 313924. Volunteers are needed to help run these clubs - please ring Peter if you can assist.

BINGO SESSIONS every Monday and Friday at 7pm - everyone welcome.

NEW AGE KURLING is a sport for all ages - why not give it a try. Pop in any Tuesday 1-3pm or Friday 2-4pm. You will not be disappointed.

We have a large stock of Bric-a-Brac and books packed in boxes for just £5, ideal for Car Boot Sales.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS VISIT GREENFIELD GALLERY



Over the past week we have been joined by two classes from local Primary Schools at Greenfield Arts. Aycliffe Village Primary Year 6 joined us last week for a guided tour of all the sculptures we have on site and currently in our gallery. The group were really well behaved and came up with some great insights and ideas about our sculptures! They are working with Mrs Clifford on sculptures for their sensory garden - even making their own tools to carve with -

we look forward to seeing their progress soon!

Class 2 from St Joseph's RC Primary joined us for a gallery tour and workshop on Monday, investigating the current exhibition by Phoenix Art Group. They spent time searching the exhibition carefully and considering the artworks. Afterwards they made their own folded and

printed books with our Gallery Assistant, on the Great Fire of London. The group were very well behaved and creative with their illustrations.

We would like to thank both schools for their visits; we hope they enjoyed their time with us as much as we did, and look forward to more opportunities to work together in the future!

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Aspire are holding two Barre Concept Workouts that is totally new to the area and taking the fitness world by storm. Workshops are being held at the Aspire Studios, Durham Way North, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6HP Email: Sharon@aspirefitnessclasses.co.uk Call: 07879 996728.

Friday 31st January 18.30-20.00

Sunday 2nd February 16.00-17.30

Free to Aspire members and £5 to non members suitable for all levels of fitness.

"ELVIS" AFTERNOON

An Elvis Presley "Look Alike" entertainment, Tuesday 11th February 2014 at the New Friends New Places club. You are invited to attend admission £3. - 2 pm until 3.30pm at the Navy Club. Our club meets every Tuesday from 2.00pm until 4.00pm. with Line Dancing, Armchair Aerobics. Quiz, Bingo etc. New members are always welcome. A Mystery Tour is on the first Sunday of every month cost: £10 plus Sunday lunch. We have 3 seats left for 2nd February. Come and join us, you are very welcome.

Break Dancing at Greenfield



On 15th January Joe Cooper, a professional break dancer from Wreckonize dance company, came to Greenfield Community College to work with Greenfield's boys only break dance crew, ICeL8. The Greenfield group will be working with Joe over a

period of time in preparation for the Dance Festival held at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on March 25th. This is just one of the many great opportunities created by visiting arts and sports professionals who have worked, both in person and

via Skype, with Greenfield in recent months and who have supported great teaching happening across the school. Thank you to Joe for joining us, and to Mrs Etherington for arranging this great opportunity for our students - watch this space for ICeL8!

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Sport Relief Mile in County Durham

The Sport Relief Mile is back - and it's coming to County Durham. The Sainsbury's Sport Relief mile is one of the UK's biggest fundraising schemes with events taking place across the UK on Sunday 23 March. Durham County Council is organising an event in Barnard Castle and people are encouraged to get involved and show their support by completing the mile in any way they choose - fancy dress is optional. From small children with their families to super sprinters racing against the clock, the challenge is suitable for all. Participants don't have to be sporty to take part and people can complete one, three or six miles in any way they choose. The event will take place at Teesdale School and those running six miles will set off at 10am and those running one or three miles will set off at 10.30am. By being sponsored and raising money entrants will be helping to change lives in the UK and across the world in some of the poorest countries. To take part people can enter now at www.sportrelief.com

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AYCLIFFE'S £8 MILLION ENERGY PLANT OFFICIALLY OPENED

The north east's first commercial food waste anaerobic digestion (AD) plant, which will generate enough energy to power 2,000 homes every year, has officially opened last week in Newton Aycliffe.

Operated by Emerald Biogas, the £8m state-of-the-art AD facility based at Aycliffe Business Park, will serve the north east's need to recycle food waste and create renewable energy, processing 50,000 tonnes of leftover food from businesses across the region, including Vale of Mowbray, Greencore and SK Chilled Foods.

At a VIP launch event, hosted by renowned broadcaster and writer Janet Street-Porter, over 100 invited guests, from local authorities and national businesses, to schools and the mayors of Darlington and

Great Aycliffe celebrated the launch of the biogas facility.

Addressing the impact of the food waste issue in her keynote speech, Janet said: "This facility will bring a range of benefits to the north east community, including reducing the need to send food waste to landfill, and the creation of green energy and fertiliser. In other regions across the country, local authorities already collect food waste from residential areas, which is food for thought indeed."

"I am passionate about protecting our countryside and feel we should be doing even more to look after our local community, and as part of this strategy, supporting local businesses and jobs."

Waste Minister Dan Rogerson said: "Dealing with waste properly not only benefits the environment but will also help

create jobs and build a stronger economy. Our £2million grant has helped develop this plant which will treat food waste and recycle valuable nutrients back to the land."

As part of the official proceedings, guests were treated to a two-course lunch, with food sourced from local suppliers. Then were able to see the AD process in action during a tour of the facility, where the leftovers from the event were processed, generating both energy and fertiliser.

Adam Warren, Director, Emerald Biogas, said: "The opening of the food waste plant builds on the success and experience of the team, which was created by the partnership of directors from regional businesses John Warren ABP and Agricore."

"Through this investment we will contribute a continued source of renewable energy to local businesses, while also providing a sustainable solution for dealing with food waste which traditionally goes to landfill."

"Food waste is a major concern for the north east, where 800,000 tonnes is generated every year and as part of today's celebratory launch I am delighted that we as a company are playing a valuable role and providing a long term regional solution to this national problem."

"As part of our commitment to reducing food waste to landfill and creating green energy,

we also launched a campaign for schools across the region and are inviting pupils to become 'waste warriors', with school and site visits, educational activities and a poster competition as part of the initiative."

The 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 it is recycled 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 company, Agricore, they will provide the region with a beneficial sustainable resource.

John Warren ABP manages the collection for Emerald Biogas.

With over three generations of waste management experience and family owned, the company offers a food disposal service at Hamsterley and has now progressed into the next generation of food processing. The bio-fertiliser derived from the waste treatment process is supplied to land owners within a ten-mile radius of the plant through Agricore, which delivers a diverse range of agricultural services and products to the farming community.

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.

Funding was also secured through HSBC. HSBC's Tyne Tees Commercial Centre supported the Emerald Biogas project via a £3.6 million funding package. HSBC Tyne Tees Area Commercial Director Pat Dellow, said: "To see the AD facility operational is fantastic and we are pleased to have been able to support this project via a funding package. This is the only facility of its kind in the North East and it will play such an important role delivering a sustainable energy source to the area. We were impressed by the management team, the innovative nature of the project and the company's plans for the future."

For more information visit Emerald Biogas at www.emeraldbiogas.com



L – R: Directors Ian Bainbridge, Adam Warren, Antony Warren, Director, with Janet Street Porter and Jayne Winter, RDPE Area Manager (North East) at the AD facility in Newton Aycliffe.



Town Mayor Barbara Clare and her Consort John (seated front right) were guests at the launch.

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- 19th February: 5 - 7pm
- 5th March: 5 - 7pm (National Apprenticeship Week)

To confirm your place on any of the above, or for more info, contact Kirsty Haden on 01325 313194 or khaden@swdt.co.uk



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the law. This could result in you receiving a fine, points on your licence and the likelihood of your insurance being void.

Jack's Driving School at Aycliffe are finding many people have been towing a caravan, horse box or even towing at work sometimes for years, unaware that they have been doing anything wrong. To upgrade your licence to enable you to tow legally you must sit a driving test. The B+E category is an hour long test which includes a reverse manoeuvre, coupling and uncoupling a loaded trailer, and an extensive drive

possibly including motorway and dual carriageway driving. You will also have to answer and demonstrate 5 questions on vehicle safety checks.

Jack's Driving School instructors are all highly trained, high grade instructors who have extensive knowledge in not only trailer training but all other forms of driver tuition. We are all fleet trained and have attended several courses to improve our instruction skills.

If you would like to further information on how to tow a trailer, or are interested in any of the services we offer please call Jack 07949195184

ACORN R.A. PLAN SUPER 2014 EVENTS

Successful residents association ACORN will be holding their monthly meeting at the Royal British Legion club on February 13th starting with little ACORNS at 5.30pm and the main ACORN meeting at 6pm. With a packed itinerary of events to plan, little ACORNS the junior section, will be kept busy throughout the year. ACORN have been able to secure funding from the Big Lottery Fund to put on events in the community throughout 2014.

If you or your children would like to be involved in this planning please come along, little ACORNS meetings begin at 5.30pm and last till approximately 6pm when the main ACORN event starts. Children are welcome to remain but must behave whilst adults are speaking. High on the list of activities planned will be events which promote some physical activity and community events aimed at bringing the whole community together for fun and games.

Due mainly to the efforts of our events coordinator Leanne Robinson and Vice Treasurer Christine Thompson, The trip to the South Lakes Zoo announced at the January meeting was oversubscribed within 24 hours and a second bus was fully booked within a week. Thanks to our friends at J&C Coaches for their help and advice.

Speaker for the February meeting will be Susan Tron representing the North East Autism Centre who are wanting to open up some of their facilities to local groups. With an underused sports hall and swimming pool it is hoped that revenue can be raised to support the centre. With Easter just around the corner plans are progressing to return the highly popular Petting Zoo to the Leisure Centre and if you have an organisation which you would like to promote at the event we would love to hear from you. The object of the Petting Zoo is to educate and entertain children and adults whilst bringing a range of animals to a local venue.

As usual police and Councillors will be present to answer queries and support the group so why not pop along, get involved or just have a coffee and listen to the conversation. Although ACORN does have a boundary we welcome anyone interested in the welfare of our wonderful town. Unfortunately living are no longer able to send a representative every month due to reorganisation of staff, but we will have someone bi-monthly.

Contact us through
www.acornresidents.com
Facebook acorn residents association
Tel 01325 321471
Ken Robson
Chairman ACORN
Residents Association

Judo Demo at School

An enthusiastic judo instructor from Destination Judo visited school last week to deliver a judo taster session to the children.

All year groups from Year 2 upwards received a 30 minute taster session in which children got to wear a traditional judo "uwagi" jacket and were shown and given a chance to try some of the basic holds and grips used in Judo.

Judo translates as "the gentle way" and, unlike other martial arts, focuses more on subduing an opponent with throws and holds than striking them. This makes it an ideal pursuit for young children to gain the necessary exercise to remain fit and healthy.

The two morning sessions were organised by the school in conjunction with the

Sedgefield School Sports Partnership, with which the school works closely to provide high level coaching and varied physical activities for the children.

In the past year, Stephenson Way has successfully provided a high number of opportunities for physical enrichment as part of our ethos of ensuring the children make the most of their abilities both physically and mentally.

The children visibly enjoyed the energetic sessions set to popular music and the enthusiastic instruction from Judo Dan. By the end of the session, the children had received a good work out and learnt some basic judo. All of the pupils who took part were invited for further sessions which take place locally, at the Youth Centre.



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Rags to Rich Hobby



Dear Sir,
Following up on an notice on matmaking at Bowburn my wife and I spent an absorbing 2 hours there and was amazed at the stunning quality of mats made from rags. We made a decision to take it up and want to encourage others to do the same. Many hobbies have an initial set-up cost, but clippie matmaking isn't one of them. I made the simple wooden frame and "proggies" from webbing available at Boyes along with the hessian for the mat base. Pegs were used to tension the hessian and we cut strips of material approximately half inch wide and 2 inches in length.

You work one piece of rag and one hole at a time. All the holes are 3 or 4 strands

of hessian apart. The mat is worked upside down with the proggie on top.

you make a hole in the right hand corner, push a rag half way through then work the other half through the next hole. The first end of the second rag goes through the second hole of the first rag, you need one hand underneath feeding the rags through - just keep repeating this process until the mat is complete.

The mat shown has a denim surround and measures 75cm x 50cm. It is destined for use in my Granddaughter Millie's bedroom.

Ken Farrell
ED: If you have a hobby you would like Newton News to feature please get in touch. Tel: 300212.

north east
autism society

Autism Workshops

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Starting January 2014

We have secured funding to start a new Parent Workshop programme.

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- Sleep
- Diet
- Behaviour

How can you access the course?

This is a 6-week course and will run throughout 2014, please register your interest now.

To be included on this course and added to our waiting list please contact Cath Blair at the North East Autism Society on **01325 328 080** or email catherine.blair@ne-as.org.uk

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It is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore the impact that digital technology is having on today's educational landscape. At Woodham Academy over the past twelve months, the school has developed an innovative 'Global Classrooms' project using Skype to connect with classrooms and guest speakers from across the globe. Exciting lessons involving 'Skype in the classroom' - a global community and website for teachers who want to use Skype to bring the world to their students - at Woodham have included

live fitness and dance lessons with a school in America, careers lessons with human resources executives from Skype's London office, modern foreign language speaking lessons with schools in France, question and answer sessions with ex-students working for top companies around the world and even talks from high profile sporting stars. Due to this highly imaginative and creative way to deploy technology in the classroom, Microsoft UK Education invited, assistant head teacher and leader of teaching and learning, Jon Tait to speak about the school's work with Skype in the classroom at the BETT Show in London last week - the largest education technology show in the world. Jon delivered presentations every day on behalf of Microsoft and Skype to hundreds of teachers from all over the world about the benefits of using Skype in the classroom and how this has helped raise achievement at Woodham Academy. Jon Tait, Assistant Head Teacher at Woodham Academy said 'In today's digital world we all have a duty to develop our students into global citizens that can communicate effectively with people from across the globe. By using Skype in the classroom we have provided amazing learning experiences and opportunities for students to communicate and collaborate on a global scale. By connecting with guest speakers, international experts and education partners here at Woodham, we really can create world class education opportunities for our students without having to leave the classroom'. Jon went on to say 'being able to showcase our approach to using digital technology in our classrooms on the very biggest stage is fantastic and is tribute to all of the hardworking and talented teachers at Woodham'.

Search for Dirty Dancers

Local youth theatre group "The Tearaways" are about to start auditions and rehearsals for their next production which will be performed in late June, and will be their musical adaptation version of " Dirty Dancing ", everyone's favourite dance musical.

A spokesperson said "The group is on the lookout for young people aged 11 to 19 years of age in the Newton Aycliffe area, who can Sing, Dance or Act, or are willing to learn, and who would like to be this production. We are also needing extra volunteer choreographers for the show too, as this will be a large production and a complete change in style of dancing and music from what the group have previously done for 17 years. " If any young people are interested in joining or want to be a choreographer, please ring 01325 313363 / 01388 774838 / 07747 826324 or go to www.tearaways-shildon.co.uk

GARDEN CLUB

The next meeting of Bishop Auckland Hospital Garden Club will take place on Tuesday 4th February at 8.15pm at The Hospital Club on Escomb Road. All welcome.

LUNCH CLUB

Silverdale House Western Area Community Centre Lunch Club every Wednesday 12 until 2. 30pm, £4, followed by BINGO. If requested a lift can be arranged. Ring 01325 308094 or 07967 901477.

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Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership



The new Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership met at the Youth Centre this week and reported much progress since being formed in December. The partners agreed the design of their logo and talked about promoting the organisation and extending the membership to include every welfare group, agency operating in the area. The partnership was working but it was clear there were still a number of flaws in the way aid and assistance was being communicated to those in need in our area. There have been some cases where people who find themselves in crisis have not known where to turn. It is at this point where information and communication is lacking. GACAP aim to fill this gap and are working to ensure people in need receive the necessary help and assurance. Ernie Temple the Foodbank co-ordinator in Aycliffe gave an update on the service provided and expressed his appreciation for the support received from the

townspeople. He said from talking to visitors to the Foodbank there was a need to direct them to other members of the partnership who could help with debt management and basic cooking instruction. Helping Hands offer budgeting courses which run over three sessions and they were proving to be very successful. GACAP aim to produce a directory of partners and the services they offer. They will be available for general distribution as a reference guide so that people in crisis will no exactly who to contact. For further information on GACAP please contact the Secretary Joan Clark at the Youth Centre, Telephone 302577 or e-mail: treasurer.nayc@live.co.uk



Evangelical Church Lady-bower off Meadowfield Way on Wednesday 5th February 2014 at 6.30pm Come and have your say on local issues. The Police, Neighbourhood Wardens, Park Wardens and some local councillors will be in attendance. Your attendance will be appreciated. Thank you.

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Aycliffe Air Cadet Awards



1407 (Newton Aycliffe) Squadron ATC recently held their annual presentation evening. The squadron continues to perform excellently, as highlighted by the number of awards and certificates gained by the cadets during 2013. With many parents in attendance, proceedings began with the enrolment of Cdt Addison, Gove and Nelson and continued with the presentation of 1st Class badges to Cdt Pears and Hastie. 1407 squadron provides cadets with the opportunity to gain nationally recognised awards and qualifications. Three bronze, three silver and one gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards were presented, along with 9 HeartStart 1st Aid and 9 ELA Workplace Hazard Awareness certificates.

For Sgt McCormack to achieve his Gold DofE Award is an incredible achievement of which he should rightfully be proud. A cheque was presented to Newton Aycliffe RAFA Wings Appeal by Cdt Addison C and Armstrong who had raised funds as part of their Silver D of E Awards. The second half of the evening saw the awarding of the squadron's trophies for 2013 by Sector Commander Sqn Ldr John Scott. Best Probationer: Cdt Hastie Scott Shield for Most Improved Cadet: Cdt Addison C. Tom Downs Cup for Endeavour and Service: Cdt Stewart Scott Trophy for Citizenship: Cdt Olley Sports Trophy: Cdt Robinson Crabbe Cup Aircraft Recognition: Sgt Lowe

Thanks to Councillors

Dear Sir, The J.A.M. Club wishes to thank Councillors Sarah Iveson and Jed Hillary for their donation of £200 from their Council Neighbourhood Budget. The money will go to subsidise a weekend away for 20 children in Seahouses at the end of May which we could not have done without this help. Margaret and the gang

Laverick Memorial Trophy for Shooting: Sgt McCormack Sedgefield Veterans' Trophy for Attendance: Cdt Appleton Boddy Trophy for Best NCO: Sgt Lowe Fryer Shield for Cadet of the Year: Cdt Armstrong Certificates of Merit were awarded to Cdt Pears and Powell for their excellent service and to Cdt Addison C. and Stewart for their good attendance. Cdt Addison C., Armstrong and Stewart were promoted to Corporal, Cpl Butterfield was promoted to Sergeant and Sgt Lowe was promoted to Flight Sergeant. The work of adult volunteers was also recognised, with Mr Scott receiving his Basic Expedition Leader Award. This will allow him

to help deliver the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and adventure training to the cadets. The evening was rounded off with a raffle and lots of photographs. The night was an excellent celebration of the achievements of all the members of 1407 squadron. Flt Lt Scott would like to thank all of the staff for their hard work and commitment to the squadron. The squadron are currently recruiting new cadets and any young people aged 13-18 who are interested in joining are welcome to attend a parade night or get in touch. We have an action packed schedule, full of exciting opportunities. Details can be found on our website: www.1407aircadets.org

Grass Verge Parking

Dear Sir, I noted with interest the piece in the Newton News regarding a van damaging the grass verge. We live in Greathead Crescent and if you walk down the street from the top to the turning to Gunn Lane you will see we are effectively living with what resembles a ploughed field. Too many cars and residents park on the grass disregarding the fact that they don't live at the house they have parked outside! Our car is garaged so that is one less. We have lived here in excess of 25 years and never have we seen so much mud on the paths. I have never argued with neighbours and don't intend to start now by telling them not to park there. It needs the grass removing and either replaced with tarmac or a proper bay made as at the top of Shafto Way. I have written to the Council and their reply boils down to no money. Is there any way to solve this problem? B Jewell (Mrs)

Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership



- 1 Helping residents stricken by crisis, disadvantage or ill fortune and directing them to the best resources or partners within the area to satisfy their immediate needs and provide information, advice and guidance.
- 2 The resources of the group to be made available by unconditional, empathetic members of GACAP to provide, support, information advice and guidance.
- 3 To co-ordinate resources to the best and most cost effective method of delivery to those in need.
- 4 The partners will draw down support from each other and welfare agencies, acting as referrers and first point of contact.

For more information or to become a partner or volunteer please contact the Secretary
Joan Clark on 307522
E-mail: treasurer.nayc@live.co.uk



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Front Row L-R: Jay Seymour, Rob Beadle, Jacob Newnam, Matthew Osborne

British shower manufacturer and designer, Roman, are the proud shirt sponsors of the Barnard Castle under 11s Rugby team. The manufacturer is sponsoring the under 11s Rugby team throughout their 16 matches of the season. Roman, who is based in Newton Aycliffe is an established UK Brand, who supplies showering products all over the World, have been designing and manufacturing showering solutions for over 29 years. The Barnard Castle under 11s Rugby team have been sporting the Roman sponsored kit whilst playing this season. Despite the team

facing some challenging games they have triumphantly beaten all competition in the regular season so far. They have had an outstanding season which has seen them successfully compete against and beat Bishop Auckland, Penrith, Wensleydale, Richmond, Westoe, Durham City, Alnwick and Morpeth under 11s Rugby teams. David Osborne, Managing Director of Roman comments, "We are very proud to be sponsors of the Barnard Castle under 11s Rugby team, as we are keen to support young talent. They have once again played extremely well this season and it is a great group to be

involved with. Their style of rugby and team spirit is what rugby is all about. We look forward to supporting them for their remaining games of the season and wish them luck."

FLOWER CLUB

At the next meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club, Area Demonstrator Denise Marmont from Bowes will present an evening of flower demonstrating on the theme of 'Flower Delights'. Monday 3rd February at 7.30pm at Shildon Civic Centre Free to members. Visitors £5

Rugby Club Move to 3rd

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club had another convincing win to move up to 3rd place in Durham and Northumberland Division 3, a seven try performance seeing them to a comfortable 39 - 0 win away to Chester-le-Street. With the return of a number of players from injury, Aycliffe were able to pick from a strong squad on a wet day at the Riverside.

Initially, Chester-le-Street were on top in the forwards as Aycliffe struggled to get into the match in the slippery conditions. Gradually though they began to impose themselves and after a number of attacks, they took the lead when Chester made the mistake of kicking the ball straight to James Thacker, who made them pay by touching down under the posts. Luke Tinkler added the conversion and, soon after, had the chance to extend Aycliffe's lead, but his penalty kick brushed the outside of the post. Aycliffe's forwards were beginning to make their opponents suffer in the scrum where props Cymon Lee and Bob Malvern were dominating their opposite numbers to the satisfaction of front-row coach Steve Turnbull. In the lineup too Aycliffe were looking strong and from a catch by Ronnie Gilyeat, they mauled the ball towards the line with Warren Parsonage breaking away to score a try. At the break Aycliffe led 12 - 0. At the beginning of the second half, Chester again kicked the ball to Thacker, who drew the defence to allow winger Luke Crossen to add another try. Pressure from the Aycliffe forwards near the goal line allowed scrum-half Chris Richards the space to dive over the side of a ruck to add further points. Another try followed when Thacker released the other winger Adam Gascoigne. Tinkler added the sixth try after combining with Richards to shred the defence. The Aycliffe backs were handling the ball well in the conditions, frequently keeping moves alive when they threatened to break down, with centre, Darrell McLaren sucking in defenders to create space outside. The final try came from a penalty; Richards saw Thacker unmarked out on the wing and chipped the ball into his hands; Tinkler's second conversion of the afternoon completed the scoring. This was an excellent all-round performance from Aycliffe who will look to maintain their challenge at the top of the table for the rest of the season. Aycliffe have no game on 1st February, returning to action on the 8th when they host Houghton with the 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.

Students Work with Tin Arts



On Wednesday the 15th of January Tin Arts came to Greenfield Community College to deliver dance workshops to Year 9 and 10 GCSE Dance classes. The aim of the workshops was to inform the students of the opportunity to join Youth Dance Group "Twisted," which is run by Tin Arts. The group are based in Durham and perform all over the North East. This is a fantastic

opportunity for Greenfield pupils to get involved in this established and quality group. The students thoroughly enjoyed the workshop, showing confidence in their existing dance skills and the new ideas shown to them. They showed a lot of potential for becoming a part of the Twisted Youth Dance Company; we look forward to seeing future performances!

VANE ROAD WINS GOLD



A group of Year 5 & 6 children took part in the Sportshall Athletics competition at Sunnydale Leisure Centre. The children were fantastic in all their events and ended the day as gold medalists again! The next step of their journey will take them to the County Finals where they will represent Sedgfield SSP. Good Luck to you all.

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Woodham Gymnasts Compete in Carlisle

Woodham Gymnastics Academy has made an excellent start to the year with its performance at the Regional Milano Competition at the University of Cumbria, Carlisle. Woodham had two teams of four gymnasts compete in the competition, which was a qualifier for the national finals.

The gymnasts were required to perform a floor routine, two vaults and a group routine, where they had to perform complex group balances. Both teams certainly represented their school incredibly well, putting on an engaging performance, especially in the group section. One of the teams came in first place, which secured them a place in the national finals in March.

All the gymnasts should be extremely proud of themselves, both the older students, who have acted as team leaders and the younger students who put in excellent performance despite it being the first time they had competed for Woodham.



Rugby Club Receives Award



RFU President Bob Reeves (front row, third from left) presents Newton Aycliffe RUFC members with plaque marking 500th club to gain RFU accreditation.

On Thursday 23rd January, Newton Aycliffe RUFC, Darlington, welcomed RFU President Bob Reeves to the club to present a special plaque in recognition of them becoming the 500th club in the country to gain RFU accreditation.

The RFU President congratulated all present for securing the prestigious award: "Having been an integral part of their local community for 55 years, the club richly deserves this recognition. I am delighted to be here to help Newton Aycliffe RUFC celebrate becoming the 500th club to earn RFU accredited status.

"This is a fantastic achievement by the club and a significant milestone for the RFU and everyone involved in grassroots rugby.

"Club rugby lies at the heart of rugby in England the RFU is committed to supporting and strengthening clubs and growing the game in the communities around them."

The Rugby Football Union Club Accreditation scheme aims to help all rugby clubs in England become stronger, more effective, more efficient and more enjoyable places to play rugby.

The scheme provides a framework for a club to show what it is doing, how it does it, and where it can improve. It allows clubs to exhibit all that is good about rugby in their adult sections, mini and youth, women and girls and touch rugby, while demonstrating that this is all achieved in a friendly, welcoming environment.

Accreditation earns advantages including the Sport England Clubmark together with increased status and credibility with local authorities, educational establishments and potential sponsors.

Newton Aycliffe's success means that all clubs in County Durham have now achieved

their RFU accreditation under the guidance of RFU Rugby Development Officer Matt Bryan.

Newton Aycliffe RUFC President Rod Shepherd said: "Accreditation has confirmed the club's commitment to the development of rugby as a major sport and its standing in the community as a respected club, where enjoyment comes first and everyone is welcome to take part in whatever way they are able.

"We'd like to thank the RFU President for taking the time to join us to celebrate this historic day for the club.

"We'd also like to thank RFU Rugby Development Officer Matt Bryan who has been instrumental in enabling us to achieve this success. He has worked incredibly hard to make sure the club is in the best shape it can be and has guided us through the self-assessment process to earn RFU accredited status. His dedication and commitment to the growth of rugby in the North East deserves recognition.

"The club is dependent on a small but dedicated band of volunteers. As is often the case most of the volunteer team undertake more than one role and give a considerable amount of their time to providing an affordable and enjoyable rugby experience to the local community.

"We are also very lucky to have local sponsors including; Boola Clothing Aycliffe, Service Force, Honest John's Aycliffe Community Kitty, The Mortgage Advice Centre (Darlington & Bishop Auckland), and without them, replacing playing kit, keeping training equipment up to date and organising tours would be impossible."

Matt Bryan, RFU Rugby Development Officer, said: "I would like to congratulate Newton Aycliffe RUFC on achieving RFU accreditation. Everyone at the club has worked so hard over the past 12 months to ensure they meet the standards required to provide the best possible environment for their players and supporters. "We have worked together to identify priorities and the club is forward planning for the recruitment and retention of players. They have already been successful in welcoming 10-12 more players for their 1st team squad and are now putting plans in place for a second team and a youth section for the 2014/15 season."

Bryan Parsonage said "With a home Rugby World Cup in 2015 we expect to attract even more members. This is a great time for our sport and we can guarantee that anyone getting involved at Newton Aycliffe RUFC will have a marvellous time and make lots of new

friends.

"Whether playing rugby, helping out as volunteers or simply watching the games everyone is welcome and they can see from the plaque on the wall that we are right up there with the best."

Under 7's Players Wanted for Falcons FC

The Falcons are a new team playing their first year of football in the Alun Armstrong Winter League, but soon to play in the Russell Foster league in Durham. We are a developing squad and the boys are enjoying the experience and are now starting to put into practice what they are learning at our weekly coaching sessions. In the coming season we are going to need more player as we progress from 5-a-side to 7-a-side games so are looking to increase the size of our squad. All players of any ability would be welcomed so if you are in year 2 at school we would like to hear from you. Please contact Alan Gaskarth on 07776 483165.

PLANET LEISURE BOWLING LEAGUE

The game between league leaders Pinheads and Bowl Movements was cancelled, and the Pinheads still stay top the league,

Second placed the Clangers had a 4-4 draw with the Late Starters with the Clangers now three point behind the leaders. The Wenwees also had a 4-4 draw with Shildon Strikers and stay third with the Strikers sixth.

The Strike Force had two games to play and they won both by 6-2, first the Misfits then the Optimists. Strike Force stay in fourth place, five points behind the Wenwees.

The Optimists lost 8-0 to the M&M 's who stay in fifth place. Late Starter are eighth the Misfits are in seventh place with The Optimists at the bottom.

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IMPROVED SECURITY
WOULD PREVENT TOWN
CENTRE VANDALISM

Dear Sir,
I read the article in the Newton News regarding the recent
spate of vandalism in the newly refurbished town centre.
I'm sure a lot of readers, like myself could have predicted
this would happen as the area lends itself to becoming a new
skate park with the concrete benches being used as obstacles
by youths on skateboards, bikes etc. Whether the damage is
deliberate or accidental is matterless.
The whole town now knows that CCTV in the town centre is
not working which will inevitably attract more people at night
as there is no deterrent whatsoever.
We know the town centre is privately owned by Freshwater.
and they employ security staff there. However, the patrols
seem to wander around in pairs doing, what is anyone's guess
really. They work, I understand, between 9am and 3pm!
Perhaps to assist in combating the problems in the town centre
Freshwater could consider a redeployment of these patrols?
One could work days and the other work at night, finishing at 9
or 10pm therefore providing some form of deterrent to prevent
further damage.
A recent report mentioned damage to the value of £11,000.
Surely the cost of employing to provide such a patrol would
cost nowhere near that. And, if this did not suit the present
supplier of security then there are plenty of other companies
out there that would jump at the chance.
Steve Wild

Elderly Must Keep Active
Over Winter Months

Older people in Co. Durham,
are being encouraged to take
extra care and stay active
over the winter months to
keep as strong as possible and
prevent ill health.
Older people can become
vulnerable quickly during the
winter as a result of staying
indoors for long periods of
time. Health experts from
NHS England have come up
with five top tips which could
help people stay stronger and
healthier.
Five top tips
1. Keep active: Lack of

movement and exercise can
mean people become frail
quicker. Using the stairs is a
good source of exercise, but
make sure they are safe.

2. Eat well: Older people
can often experience lack of
appetite. By making sure they
eat at least one substantial hot
meal each day with snacks
in between and hot drinks,
they will remain stronger for
longer.

3. Exercise caution when
taking medication, especially
medicines that haven't been
prescribed by a doctor: Older
people with frailty are very
sensitive to medicines because
the body has trouble getting
rid of them. This can mean a
normal dose of medicine can
build up in the body and can
cause an adverse reaction.

4. Take vitamin D
supplements: Taking a
vitamin D supplement,
commonly as a tablet
combined with calcium, is
associated with a reduced
rate of falling for those who
are older and housebound.

5. Try to stay in touch
with friends and family:
Loneliness is a risk factor
for depression, poor sleep,
impaired thinking skills,

higher use of health care with
more GP visits, higher use
of medication, and higher
incidents of falls.

Dr Mike Guy, medical
director for Durham,
Darlington, Tees area team of
NHS England, said:

"We all want to enjoy
life to the full and remain
independent for as long as
possible, which is why we're
encouraging older people to
follow our five top tips to stay
well throughout the winter."

"Relatives and friends who
know an older person can
also help them to stay healthy
and provide support when it's
needed."

"By making sure they eat
well and move around as
much as they can, people
will see a positive difference
in their physical and mental
well-being."

NHS England has launched
the 'The earlier, the better'
public awareness campaign,
which is designed to
encourage people to nip
health problems in the bud
and avoid unnecessary stays
in hospital. The campaign is
particularly targeting people
aged over 60 years old and
the friends and family of
older people.

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Girls Football Tournament



Newton Aycliffe Youth under 11 Girls organised a triangular friendly tournament with Darlington Spraire Lassies and Bishop Auckland Girls at Greenfield Community College on Saturday 25 January. A very high standard of football was enjoyed by the large crowd on a cold but dry morning.

Newton Aycliffe v Spraire Lassies, a very strong Spraire side were our first opponents but the girls matched them in every department until early in the second half. Spraire moved the ball quickly and found ways behind our defensive line and despite the best efforts of the Aycliffe goalkeeper, Spraire found

the back of the net 3 times. Aycliffe had a couple of chances and battled to the final whistle but the final score was 0-3.

Bishop Auckland v Spraire, a very good game saw both teams producing exciting football. The first real chance fell to Bishop Auckland as a penalty was awarded for a hand ball but they were unable to convert it. The game remained scoreless until a great move by Bishop Auckland found the corner of the net. As the game entered the final minute Spraire broke away and scored a deserved equaliser - Final Score 1-1.

Newton Aycliffe v Bishop Auckland. The final game

was a closely contested game between 2 evenly matched sides. Chances were created by both teams but Bishop Auckland went closest as a scramble in the box finished with the ball crashing against the crossbar. Aycliffe were then thwarted twice by the Bishop Auckland keeper to keep the score level - Final score 0-0.

With girls football growing rapidly in Newton Aycliffe it was a pleasure to watch them showing a huge amount of enthusiasm and a large amount of skill.

Newton Aycliffe Youth now have an under 10 girls team preparing for the start of the new Summer Season in June and are inviting Yr 4/5/6 girls to come and join us at training in Greenfield Sports Hall every Wednesday until the end of March before we move outdoors to the Oakleaf.

If you are interested contact Berni 07939 045242

Aycliffe F.C. Hit by Fresh Injury Woes

Newton Aycliffe FC have been rocked by the news that hot shot striker Jamie Owens has a broken ankle and faces a spell on the sidelines. Owens was replaced midway through the second half in the last home game against Crook. At the time, although it was uncomfortable for him, no-one realised quite how bad the injury was.

The news filtered through last week that an x-ray revealed the break, and Owens now faces a spell on the sidelines, for around 6 weeks.

"It's a blow for us" said Manager Allan Oliver. "Jamie has been terrific for us this season, being one of the leading scorers in the League. But we've brought young Tom Atkinson in and he has been scoring regularly, and of course we have Dan Mellanby with all his experience as well as others I can use in there".

In a season where injuries have been a theme throughout,

Gibson has stepped up his rehabilitation work, and looks set to boost Oliver with a return to the squad in the coming weeks.

Off the field, the Club are working on a range of exciting upcoming events. They are looking to bring a Sky Sports PDC Darts player to an event at the Sports Club in the spring, as well as working with The Sports Club on a 'Party in the Park' music event at Moore Lane Park. It is expected the all day open air live music event will take place shortly after the end of the season, and is expected to be a hit, following the success of similar events at the Sports Club in the past.

Following a free weekend last week, Aycliffe are back in action this week as they host Durham City at Moore Lane Park. The game on Saturday kicks off at 3pm. Admission is £6 for adults, £4 concessions, with U12s going free.

Instructors Needed

Calling all Fitness, Yoga and Pilates instructors! Are you looking for a new class to teach? If so I would like hear from you. I am aiming to enhance our schedule with a variety of wellbeing/fitness classes.

Why not contact me at Oakleaf Sports Complex on 01325 300600 or e-mail me at great-aycliffe.gov.uk to arrange an informal chat. I look forward to hearing from you - Anne Watson

Aycliffe Biker Takes 112 Mile Challenge

Newtonian Owen Dawson has been accepted for The Fred Whitton Challenge in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, scheduled to take place on the 11th May. It is the UK's toughest Sportive with a gruelling 112 mile route with over 11,000 ft of ascent.

Owen from School Aycliffe will be tackling the steep passes of Kirkstun, Honister, Newlands, Whinlatter, Cold Fell, Hardknott and Wrynose, some of which are over 25%.

He started cycling at 40 primarily to loose weight and lower his cholesterol level from a dangerous 7.8. Owen has lost over 2 stone with his cholesterol level reduced to 5.4.

He has cycled almost 8,000 miles over the last 3 years on all the major British Cyclo-Sportive events in the North East, including the 146 mile Yorkshire Wolds Challenge, the Virgin Money Cyclone, the Great North Bike Ride, the Sustrans 133 mile Coast to Coast Challenge twice and the Coast & Castles southern route from Newcastle to Edinburgh.

If you would like to sponsor him help the Fred Whitton Challenge reach their £1million target in 2014. his official fundraising page is at www.justgiving.com/fredwhittonchallenge2014 please remember to click the gift aid box.

Also; JusTextGiving on his page on all mobile phones: Text OWEN65 £5 to 70070.



Owen Dawson was once a volunteer in the British Heart Foundation Shop.

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