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"MAD BAGGERS" AT THE METRO CENTRE

by Meghan Cumming (Year 10)



Arriving at the Metro Centre on Sunday morning, our aim was to sell sell sell! Being part of 'Young Enterprise' at Woodham Academy we set up a group of Year 10 students to look at our interpretation of what is involved in setting up and running a functional company. Various ideas of what we could sell were discussed and eventually we agreed on selling a range of tote bags with a variety of original art on the cover. Acquiring the skills of a graphic designer, we were also able to give our company both a name and an original logo 'Mad Baggers.' Our goal was to delegate duties and responsibilities in a way that the management of the company was fairly distributed. Unfortunately, as with many businesses, we had teething problems and had to change the role of project manager a couple of times. This was a positive as we were able to adapt to the changes around the business in preparation for our big day at the Metro Centre. The bags were made, the concept was becoming a reality and we all felt good about 'Mad Baggers.'

Arriving in the Metro Centre, we were full of optimism and hope for what the day would bring. Setting up the stall opposite Primark, we were in a prime location to sell our bags but our initial selling strategies did not bring customers in our direction. Our Project Manager took the lead and stood at the front encouraging customers to come over and look at our array of bags that were on offer for sale. We will never forget our first sale of the

day with 'high fives' going round the stall and beaming smiles all round. But it was a serious day of trying to sell

continued on Page 2

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Davys rock page review: "All in all, a great night with a great atmosphere and a lot of people dancing, so if you want to hear newer covers with a good mix of older rock 101 deliver."

Friday 21st February - "Shotgun Syndrome"

supported by "WE RISE TOMORROW" - "TWICE THE TRAUMA" and "CAIRO" - £3 cc - 7pm start

Saturday 22nd February - "Beer Monkeys"

Recent Gig-Pit Review: "Well what a great night watching the Beer Monkeys with new singer Drew and lots of new material since I last saw them over a year ago. Very enjoyable and a high standard of musicianship from all the lads . . . Sean on Guitar and Keyboard effects "100% Live"; Colin great solid bass player; new recruit Drew has a great range from The Script to Floyd and Stereophonics to the Foo Fighters also a great stage presence; Darren "Skin Spanker" Walker was totally awesome behind his lovely shiny Mapex Saturn kit, he's a great drummer that I really enjoyed watching. All in all they did a great job that appealed to everyone who was at the pub. They had a wide range of material that was played to a very high standard. Songs I enjoyed the most: "Another Brick in the Wall" - "Comfortably Numb" Pink Floyd; "The Bartender and The Thief" by Stereophonics; "Learning to Fly" Foo Fighters; "Rolling In The Deep" Adele

For more information on bands go to
www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034
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Vane Road School Shines Bright




On 30th January, residents from Newton Aycliffe visited Vane Road Primary School where they were dazzled by the wonderful light displays which the children had produced. Hundreds flocked to see the Vane Road Lumiere Event which began with a fantastic Great Fire of London display by Year 2, followed by some beautiful stained glass windows and a flashing chinese dragon; equally brilliant. Those after did not disappoint: Tudor houses, shiny robots (produced by the youngest children); glowing planes hung decoratively from a tree and pretty lanterns lit the path. Finally the trail ended at the illuminated "Ancient Wonders of the World" which was created by children from Year 6.

Hot chocolate or Bovril? Visitors were spoilt for choice at the little makeshift café set up in the 'Quiet Area'. After filling up on hot beverages and tray-bakes, a fire-eater entertained the crowd and Dan Stone set the sky alight with his dramatic and dangerous routine.

Headteacher, Mr. Pavey said: "It's great to see all the community coming out, supporting their children and showing an interest in their school life. The fire-breathing performance was absolutely fantastic, and an end to a brilliant evening showcasing the children's talents."

Overall, this was a great night-out for all and at just £1.00 per family, definitely worth the small amount of money. Everyone is very proud of the exhibition.

By Emilie & Kurt (Y6)

Mad Baggers at the Metro Centre

continued from front page

our product. We structured the group into two teams to allow continued enthusiasm and motivation to sell throughout the day. This appeared to work well for the group and our sales slowly mounted up. We were selling our bags! Mad Baggers was a functioning company in the Metro Centre. We felt proud to be representing Woodham Academy in this way. Although we did not win awards on the day, we were all winners in our group. We took a concept/idea and turned it into a company called 'Mad Baggers'. We all took away a sense of accomplishment for what we had achieved. We worked hard and the reward was the fact that our bags are being used by individuals all over the north east of England now by people that came and bought from our stall. How amazing is that?

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 or syd@newtonnews.co.uk

ROMAN'S EXPORT TEAM GROWS

Leading UK shower designer and manufacturer, Roman, is delighted to welcome a new member to their Export team, David Gray. David joins Roman's Export team as Export Sales Executive. David from Durham brings three languages to the department, as he speaks fluent French, Spanish and Italian and also intermediate level in Norwegian. David's previous role was a Customer Service Administrator in the manufacturing sector, where he organised logistics and dealt with export documentation for international customers. David will be a key addition

to the Roman team, with his export knowledge and impressive language skills. David says of his new role, "I'm very excited to be joining Roman as their Export Sales Executive, and to be working with such a well-established UK Brand. Export is a major focus of the company and significant growth opportunities in various international markets are continually being identified. I am delighted to be joining Roman at such an exciting time and very much look forward to being part of their success."



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M.P. Officially Opens Town Centre Post Office



Left to right Post Office Senior Stakeholder Manager Steve Bruckshaw, Area Sales Manager Carol Gunn, Phil Wilson MP, Chris & Diane Young with Chris's mum Joan and Dave Ogleby Post Office Field Change Manager.

Chris and Diane Young proprietors of the Newsagents, Stationers and Post Office in the Town Centre thought it only right and proper for Phil Wilson MP to be invited to officially open their new shop. "Without Phil Wilson's intervention we would not have a Town Centre Post Office" said Chris Young. "He made it possible for us to take it on and move from our old Steven's shop and expand our service to the town". he added. "We are grateful to him and the Landlords for their co-operation, also for the hard work put in by our staff and the patience of our customers" said Diane.

The shop services are now complete and enjoying good patronage with Paypoint, Debit and Credit Card facilities now available.

The new hours are popular: Monday to Saturday 6.30am - 5.30pm and Sunday 7am - 12 noon.

Dr Maths Visits Greenfield College



Last week Dr Maths, aka Steve Humble, visited Greenfield Community College for a day of maths fun and games with students. Steve is a member of the faculty of Newcastle University's School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences and the writer of the fortnightly "Dr Maths" column for the Evening Chronicle. He has a well-earned positive reputation for delivering activities to improve achievement in maths and student's enjoyment.

Over the course of the day students from years 7, 8 and 10 at Greenfield worked with Dr Maths to create maths walks around school. These will be put to future use by students as they continue their learning. In the afternoon all of Year 8 joined Steve for a Magic Maths afternoon, learning maths card tricks and more! All of the students involved enjoyed working with Dr Maths and learning whilst having fun! The visit from Dr

Maths was made possible by a grant from the Royal Institution of Great Britain's Enrichment and Enhancement Scheme. We hope that the skills and techniques developed during the day will continue to have a positive effect on students at Greenfield!

Retail Park Would Not Kill Off Town Centre

Dear Sir,
Thanks for the opportunity to give a response to the proposal of a retail park on the Business Park.

We SO need this. The existing town centre does have empty shops yes, but few are the size required to attract major retailers. Our 'twin town' of Peterlee in East Durham has so much more in the way of choice with discount retailers such as Lidl, X Catalogue Shop, Poundworld, Home Bargains and BM Bargains.

All of these in a town the same size as Aycliffe and with a similar demographic - though, if anything, Aycliffe is more prosperous and should have the greater choice.

I know from their website that Lidl is looking for a site in Newton Aycliffe and there must be others. Whatever happened to the interest in

Aycliffe that Home Bargains expressed some time ago after Newton News enquired? There's no reason why we shouldn't have retailers from further up the scale as well as discount shops - how about a Sainsbury's or Ikea even? We can but dream! Meanwhile, other towns get on with it and attract more and more in the way of retail investment. Incidentally, I already support our town centre shops and will continue to do so.

The last thing we need is to lose the few great shops we have - Aldi, Wilkinson's, Savers, Heron Foods, Boyes, Poundstretcher, Bon Marche and Select amongst others. Opening a retail park won't kill off the town centre if smart choices are made regarding the shops to be sited there.

Andrea McCulloch
St Oswald's Walk

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Newton Aycliffe	Manager: Claire Browning	01325 315623
Bishop Middleham	Manager: Natalie Richardson	01740 651224

*Aycliffe Village Ofsted Outstanding

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P.A.C.T. Meeting

Police And Community Together

A PACT Meeting will be held at Neville Parade Methodist Church on Thursday 20th Feb from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Your views and concerns on local issues are important so please come and meet your local Community Police Officers, PC Alan Thompson and PCSO Richard Scott. Representatives from all responsible Partners will attend when available. For more information on whats going on in your area visit www.durham.police.uk

Parents' Group Complete Course



The WECAN parents' group at Greenfield Community College recently completed a course in understanding teenage behaviour. The course was held at Greenfield and was made possible by funding from the Co-Op. The parents who attended the course found it valuable and enjoyable. The group earned a certificate for participating and completing the course, we hope the skills and knowledge they gained will continue to be useful into the future! The WECAN group meet regularly at Greenfield to support parents and students. If you would like more information or think you may like to come along, please contact Nicola Best at Greenfield Community College.

Best of Durham Illuminated

The best of County Durham was illuminated and celebrated at a showcase event in London. The reception, hosted by Business Durham, the business arm of Durham County Council, at the House of Commons, was a one-off opportunity to highlight the county's growing connection with light.

It followed the world class Lumiere festival and highlighted the ever increasing cluster of companies involved in the science of light, imaging, optics and photonics that have made the county their home. Lumiere is an Artichoke production and was commissioned by Durham County Council.

The reception included representatives from Business Durham, Durham County Council, Visit County Durham, associated businesses and Sedgefield MP Phil Wilson.

Cllr Neil Foster, Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "It was a hugely successful event with lots of positive feedback on County Durham being the place for business."

Organisations showcased at the event included: • Centre for Process Innovation, NETPark, Sedgefield. CPI helps companies to prove and scale up processes to manufacture new products and create more sustainable, efficient and economic industries of the future.

• Compound Photonics, Newton Aycliffe. Creating the world's smallest high definition projectors for mobile devices.

• Durham University, Durham. A world-leading University in optics and space science.

• PolyPhotonix, NETPark, Sedgefield. Pioneering the early adoption of organic light to create devices that improve quality of life.

• Thorn Lighting, Spennymoor. Indoor and outdoor lighting, controls and energy lighting.



(l to r) Dr Jonathan Sachs, Compound Photonics; Richard Kirk, PolyPhotonics; Simon Henig, Leader, Durham County Council; Sedgefield MP Phil Wilson and Simon Goon, Managing Director, Business Durham.

Be Wary of Flashing Headlights

Dear Sir,
Flashing your headlights to invite a pedestrian to cross the road, or a driver to enter or leave a junction or passed an obstruction is DANGEROUS. The correct use of a Flash of the Headlights is a "warning", when a blast of the horn would be inappropriate. Drivers should also be aware of Flash For Cash.

A concerned Motorist.

Editor: Police are reporting a rise in the number of deliberate 'flash for cash' car accidents, the Accident Advice Helpline offers advice to drivers on avoiding becoming a victim of the fraudulent insurance and compensation scam.

The scam involves road users flashing their lights at cars waiting at junctions, as if they are about to let them pull out, but then deliberately crashing into them and claiming insurance money as well as compensation payments.

It is said to be costing insurance companies hundreds of millions of pounds a year, as the criminals often claim for damage to their car as well as making personal injury claims for whiplash, sometimes even for people who were never in the car.

On top of this, the fraudsters are said to have fabricated bills for vehicle removal, storage, car hire and other expenses, claiming tens of thousands of pounds as a result of the accident.

The Highway Code says drivers should: "Only flash your headlights to let other road users know that you are there. Do not flash your headlights to convey any other message or intimidate other road users. Never assume that flashing headlights is a signal inviting you to proceed. Use your own judgement and proceed carefully."

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Getting off Heroin

Durham Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Ron Hogg visited Recovery Injectable Opioid (RIO) Clinic to learn more about a high intensity treatment for patients, who continue to inject street heroin.

This clinic run by Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust, was opened in November 2012 after winning a competitive tender for funds from the Department of Health. The aim of the service is to help people stop injecting, stop using street heroin and provide a platform to recovery.

Following his visit, Mr Hogg said: "I was very pleased to be invited to attend the clinic, it provides an excellent service and most importantly it is helping people on the road to recovery"

RIO provides time limited, supervised injectable diamorphine (pharmaceutical

heroin) to patients to help them stop using street heroin, stop injecting and start their recovery journey to abstinence.

Patients attend once or twice a day, up to seven days a week. Treatment is time limited and recovery plans are discussed at the beginning, during and end of the treatment phase. As part of their treatment, patients also receive intensive support and psychosocial interventions.

Dr Soraya Mayet, clinical director of substance misuse services added: "Patients have come to us with over ten years of drug taking when other treatments haven't worked and they have health complications and numerous criminal offences.

Since starting with RIO they have stopped taking street heroin or other substances and started to make progress towards achieving their personal recovery goals."

Care Home Cooking Competition



Rose Lodge Care Home on Carers Way will be opening its doors to the public on Tuesday 25th February from 12:30pm to host their very own 'Come Dine With Me' - style cook off competition.

Competing chefs at the home will be preparing delicious 3 course meals for visitors and residents who can then vote for

their favourite. The winning chef will take home a prize.

Other entertainment on the day will include a prize quiz and raffle.

The home is requesting a £3 donation from those wishing to attend. They also ask that visitors call the home to book a place beforehand on 01325 271 301.

Handbag Auction for Hospice Funds

A special Handbag Auction event will be held at Hall Garth Hotel on Friday 28th February to raise money for St Teresa's Hospice.

Among the items up for grabs will be new and pre-loved handbags, including designer brands such as Radley, Gucci and Prada. Over 300 will be auctioned off on the night, with every lot starting at just £1!

Any handbags remaining at the end of the night will be donated to St Teresa's Hospice to be used in its retail outlets.

The handbags have all been donated by supporters of the Hospice, for which the organisers are very grateful.

A raffle will also be held at the event, and the bar will be open.

To attend, register free at www.mahosivehandbagsauction.eventbrite.co.uk.

The event is part of a year-long fundraising campaign undertaken by Carrie Wilson and Liz Cook, who soon will be trekking across Iceland to raise funds for the Hospice. They leave on 2nd July 2014, and are aiming to raise over £4000 before then.

Carrie said: "This will be the third trek that we have undertaken for charity and we are always thinking of new and unusual ways to raise funds. This has proved to be hugely successful with donations of handbags pouring in. We welcome any donations and we will gladly collect."



Sales Manager Carrie Wilson and General Manager Pam Mooney

Planet Leisure Bowling League

The top of the league has tightened somewhat with leaders Pinheads on 82 points. The Wenwees played two games this week one was a catch up game, against the Late Starters which the Wenwees won 6-2. The second game was against Strike Force who won 6-2. Wenwees now have 76 points in second place.

The Clangers lost 6-2 to the Optimists and are joint third on 75 points with the with the Strike Force. M & M's have 62 points in fifth place as they drew 4-4 with the Misfits who are on 56 points in sixth. Next are Shildon Strikers on 52 points then The Optimists at 51 points with Bowl Movements on 48 points and Late Starters 46.

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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

www.ne-as.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 102820



Chris Simpson

Happy Valentines Day.

I love you Babe, from Sarah-Jane x

PS: Baby Christopher says he loves you too xxxxx

Sarah Travis

Happy Valentines Day to my Amazing Wife.

I love you with all my heart.

Paul xxxxx

Rachel Grieves

Happy Valentines Day.

Lots of love from Paul xxxxxxxx

To Super Dan

Lots of love on our First Valentines

Your Princess xxxxxxxx

To Laura

Happy Valentines Day.

Lots of love from Andrew xxxxxxxx

To Caroline

Lots of love to my gorgeous Wife on Valentines Day. Vincey xxx

To Lisa

All my love to my "Wife to be" on Valentines Day! JP xxx

To Joanne

On our extra special year.

Happy Valentines Day

Love always, Stuart xxxxx

Craig Jackman

All my love on Valentines Day and every day. SJ xxx

Dean Styles

Thank you for always being there.

You are my rock and my soul mate.

Love you all the world.

All my love always, Catherine xxx

Film Show

The next "Feel Good Film Show" at St Clare's Church, on WEDNESDAY 19th FEBRUARY, features "OUTSOURCED" stars Josh Hamilton and Ayesha Dharker in an unpredictable, hilarious tale of cultural misunderstandings as a call-centre manager travels to India to train his own replacement when his job is outsourced.

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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9 Temple Way, Newton Aycliffe
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Ginormous Town Centre Table Top Sale

Neville Community Centre are holding a "Ginormous" Table Top Sale in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre on Saturday 10th March from 9am till 4pm. (Tables set up at 8am).

This is open to car booters, home-made products, cakes, craftmakers. **BRING YOUR OWN TABLES!**

Ring 01325 313924 for a booking form or send a cheque or Postal Order made out to "The Friends of Senior Citizens" to Peter Beaty, 5 Ainsty Hunt, The Chase, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7PH. **BOOK EARLY AS SITES ARE LIMITED.**

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Support and Interest Grows for "Friends of West Park"



New community group "Friends of West Park" continues to fire public imagination and enthusiasm from Newtonians as the group launched with a photo shoot in the popular park.

Newtonians braved a chilly morning to come along to promote the park and the group, to get a warm welcome from ducks, geese and swans hoping for a tasty morsel.

With the inaugural meeting to be held at the Royal Navy Club on Tuesday 18th February at 7pm suggestions are flooding in. Ken Robson who is spearheading the new group commented that ideas



are coming forward from the facebook page "Friends of West Park" inviting the inclusion of schools in the project.

Recruitment for the group is expected to continue throughout the year as the group made up of residents from across the Great Aycliffe parish begin to plan projects. This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved in the community and leave a

legacy for future generations. With the biggest industrial park in the county located in Newton Aycliffe it is hoped that perhaps businesses may also wish to collaborate.

This is a friendly group who welcome anyone to join regardless of circumstances so why not come along, meet new friends and give the benefit of your knowledge and expertise for the benefit of all.

Good, Bad and Ugly

Newton Aycliffe Scout Supporters Association send a big thank you to EBAC for choosing them as one of the recipients of a FREE freezer. The freezer will be put to good use and is much appreciated. Thank you and good luck to EBAC for the future.

On a less happy note, although some people want to help there are others who think they can take things that don't belong to them. Over the weekend of 1-2nd of February a vase of artificial flowers was taken from the toilets at the Scout centre, these were donated to provide the 'finishing touch' touch to the washbasins following the refurbishment.

The vase is available to buy in B & M Home Bargains and it is annoying that someone stole from the centre rather than buy their own. It would be appreciated if the person who took it could go and buy their own and return ours to its rightful place.

GREEN DEAL ASSESSMENTS FREE FOR 50 RESIDENTS

NORTH EAST residents are set to benefit from more energy efficient homes this winter as the UK's largest energy efficiency initiative offers 50 free home energy efficiency assessments for the Government-backed Green Deal scheme to those living in Durham.

To mark the start of the NEW YEAR, Warm Up North, which is endorsed by nine North East councils including Durham County Council, is offering 50 households in Durham a free no obligation custom Green Deal Assessment to find out how they could make their homes more energy efficient.

Available on a first-come first-served basis, the complimentary Green Deal assessments, which would usually cost £99 each, will offer homeowners expert impartial advice from a certified Green Deal Assessor along with tailored recommendations to help increase the energy efficiency of their home.

Following an assessment, residents are able to choose whether or not they want to implement the advice and arrange the installation of recommended measures. If they choose to proceed, Warm

Up North will be happy to help arrange any required work, including boiler replacement, cavity wall insulation, external wall insulation, heating systems, loft insulation and PV solar panels – all of which are installed by local Green Deal approved companies.

Warm Up North also offers flexibility in how installations are paid for, including access to Green Deal Finance which enables qualifying households to repay the cost of the work through the savings made on their energy bills, eliminating any upfront payments.

The key benefit of Green Deal is that you not only get energy efficiency advice tailored specifically to your home and lifestyle, but you could also use Green Deal Finance to pay for the improvements without paying any upfront cost. You may even get some additional cash back through the government's Green Deal Cash Back offer.

Cllr Neil Foster, cabinet member for economic regeneration at Durham County Council, added: "The Warm Up North project is already helping households across County Durham to lower their fuel

bills by making their homes more energy efficient. These free home assessments to see how people could benefit from the scheme are available on a first-come first-served basis so it is important that people get in touch as early as possible."

To find out more about receiving a Green Deal Assessment for your home and how Warm Up North could help make your home more energy efficient, call the team on free* phone 0800 294 8073 or visit www.warmupnorth.com

COFFEE MORNING

Lindisfarne Care Home in Silverdale Place are holding a Coffee Morning on Wednesday 19th February 10am - 12 noon. As well as coffee, tea & cakes there will be a tombola stall and raffle taking place.

Everyone is welcome, please come along and support this in aid of our Amenities Fund for residents outings and treats.

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HALF TERM CHILDREN'S SHOW AT LIBRARY

If you are looking for something exiting to occupy your children over the school holidays, why not bring them along to the library to see Professor Brainstorm perform some hair raising experiments which will amaze your children. The session will be held in the library on Friday 21st February from 10.30am – 11.30am. This craft session is suitable for children aged 6 and over and due to demand places must be booked in advance by calling into the library or phoning 03000 269 519. The cost is 50p per child.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 26th February 2014

**Environment Committee
Recreation Committee
7.15pm**

QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend. "The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".



Another busy week of music in Aycliffe, "The Unsound" were on the Bishop FMs "Unsigned Live with Charlie and Mark" doing a live interview, having a laugh and playing some of their songs acoustically.

It's great to see our own lads getting some airtime. Hopefully "The Unsound" very own debut single "Take It Back" will soon be on the playlist for all the radio station, well done, Phil, Lee, Scott and Tom.

Punk/Pop sensations "As It Is" will this weekend be making their debut in our town, this is a great coup for Aycliffe and hopefully more bands will follow soon, "As It Is" could have chosen anywhere in the UK to have their pre UK tour show, thanks to AYTP and Planet Leisure, they have come to our town, so if you want to see this historic show, Saturday night at Planet Leisure is the place to take the family for this Free Family Event.

A talent show was held in Darlington last week and

the main attraction to the sell out event was Aycliffe's own Unplugged, starting the show and ending the show and lots of other local talent in-between. Tom S on the drums and Tom B took over the stage on lead guitar. It was well worth going to see, hopefully we will see Unplugged back on the town soon for a great entertaining show.

If you would like me to review your band or show on the town, then contact me via facebook, "Aycliffe Music-Man" is my name.

FISH & CHIP LUNCH FOLLOWED BY FILM

Neville Community Centre are selling daffodil badges in the Thames Centre and Sainsburys at Cobblers Hall in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Charity on Saturday 8th March. Volunteers are needed to help with the collection and are asked to contact Peter Beaty on 313924.

TABLE TOP SALE on Saturday 22nd February from 10am-2pm. Tables can be booked for £5 by ringing 313924. Bacon Sandwiches, coffee and tea served.

The Centre wants to start various activities including Family Table Tennis sessions, 50/50 Dancing, Carpet Bowls, Whist Drive, Dominoes. If you are interested please ring 313924.

LUNCH CLUB starts Wednesday 26th February at 12 noon. Fish & Chips followed by a film. Bookings now being taken at a cost of £3.50p.

ROSIE VIEW FROM THE BLUE BRIDGE



Kirsty Deacon-Brown's miniature Schnauzer dog, Rosie, is shown here on the Blue Bridge.

Kirsty's mum's next door neighbour lost her dog a while ago and missed the daily walks as it kept her fit and she enjoyed chatting to other dog walkers.

Kirsty offered Rosie for her to take out whenever she wanted as she would be at her mum's house during the day whilst she is at work at the PCP Centre. Rosie gets her 'walkies' every weekday morning and they have a great friendship.

"I would like to say a big thank you to June Heron for all the regular walks and the lovely dog coats and jumpers she has handmade for Rosie over the years." said Kirsty.

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"Sound of Music" Singalong

On Thursday 20th February at 7pm you can "Singalong, to the "Sound of Music" film. This One-night only screening of the film is at St Elizabeth's Church, Woodham and will be presented complete with subtitles so that the everyone can sing along!

Come in costume whether 'you're a drop of golden sun', 'girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes', or a pair of warm woollen mittens, Just show off your creativity!

So all you nuns, governesses and lonely goatherds, warm up your vocal cords and join us for a few of our favourite things. - Layee-odl layee-odl lay!

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Diversity Brought Aycliffe Firm Back on Track

MORE SKILLED PEOPLE REQUIRED

Aycliffe award-winning engineering company has recovered after bosses carefully guided it through the recession by exploring new markets. ALM Products, at Grindon Way Aycliffe Business Park, specialised in manufacturing and supplying hardware and systems for cubicles and lockers, and at its peak was turning over in excess of £3m a year. In 2008 the company diversified, setting up a new division called ALM Engineering Solutions, tapping into several sectors including the oil and gas, aerospace, nuclear and automotive industries. Named Durham and Wearside Manufacturing Company of the Year in 2013, ALM Solutions produce components from a wide range of materials including stainless steel, exotic alloys, titanium, inconel, copper and engineering plastics.



ALM's Production Manager Tim Walker (left) and Production Engineer John Blackburn with the firm's new lathe.

Turnover has steadied at £3m a year, the company has recently increased its workforce to 30 with two key additions to the management team, and more than £700,000

invested to increase capacity since 2009. Since August last year £200,000 has been spent on machinery, with a new £160,000 lathe its latest prize asset. And managing director Tony Thompson has set out an ambitious growth plan which will see turnover jump to £5m by 2015.

"We have the space and capacity to expand, and there's potentially a lot of work in the oil and gas sectors," said Tony. "We've diversified massively in the last 10 years, because we've had to, when a lot of engineering firms like us have gone to the wall."

"We've had to tap into different sectors, explore new ways of producing parts that were once alien to us."

"In October 2008 the business suffered significantly. We lost about a third of our turnover, but we've invested in state-of-the-art machinery to produce a range of parts. We'll take a bit of raw material and turn it into a component, and that could be components for any number of things."

"We're now producing parts for aircraft de-icing systems and subsea remote vehicles for example, and that's testament to how we've evolved over the years."

Tony, from Ingleton, started the business in 1994 and was originally based at South Church but relocated to Aycliffe Business Park in 1999.

Despite making two key appointments in recent months - production manager Tim Walker and production engineer John Blackburn - Tony has become frustrated with an ever-increasing skills gap.

"The new additions are part of our growth plan, but we need more skilled people," he said. "We can find the work if I can attract the right people to do the job, but that's proving really difficult."

"Our salary package and incentives rivals the biggest and most well known in the industry and we've also introduced a more attractive overtime rate, shift and fuel allowances."

"It's a serious problem which a lot of businesses are faced with right now, we currently have three apprentices and are looking to recruit another two by the spring"

More details about ALM Products can be found at www.alm-es.co.uk, or you can contact them on 01325 313377 or career@alm-es.co.uk

Table Top Sale in Heighington

There will be a Table Top Sale and Coffee Morning in Heighington Village Hall on Saturday 15th March from 10am till 12 noon.

The price for a table is £8 and can be booked by ringing 01388 772360 or 01325 312124.

Stallholders may set up at 8.30am. Admission 50p. All proceeds in aid of St. Michael's Church funds.

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Mayor Visits Agnew Youth Centre



Greenfield Students say "NO" to Smoking

Students at Greenfield Community College enjoyed an opportunity to find out about the risks of smoking during an action packed performance by the Gibber Theatre Group last week.

The lively performance covered all aspects relating to the dangers of smoking and empowered students by providing them with the information they need to make informed choices. Peer pressure, addiction, health risks, gender issues and financial implications were part of the strong message given to all of Year 9 students.

After lunch students experienced a workshop which gave them the opportunity to work with the actors, ask questions and examine how they may be influenced by others. This performance followed a number of similar experiences which have taken place at Greenfield recently. Previous performances have informed students about road safety, online safety and healthy eating issues. Yet again students at Greenfield have benefited from a focused learning event, and left feeling the message they were given, although serious, will help them in the future.

Town Mayor Barbara Clare and her husband and consort John Clare visited the very popular Youth Club at Agnew Community Centre last Friday.

Our civic leaders spoke to the children, then watched them enjoy games and the tuck shop.

PK All Stars is an after school community kids' club that meets every Friday at 6pm in the Agnew Centre.

It is open to all children aged 5-10 years of age. The PK All Stars is run by the Pais Project and offers an exciting night full of fun and games.

The project is a global youth

and schools organisation. The team is hosted by Xcel Church for the year and is organised by Chris Meyer, Callie Settles from Texas, Karla Sölter from Germany and Ebi Natarajan from India. The Pais team is working in 5 schools in the Newton Aycliffe area as well as running the after school club.

If you are interested in PK All Stars you can come any Friday from 6-7:30pm.

The cost is FREE for your first time and then only £1 after that. Be sure to bring extra money for our amazing tuck shop full of all of your favourite sweets!



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STILLER INVESTS £1 MILLION IN GROWING BUSINESS

A family-run distribution company is going the extra length after seeing turnover jump by 20 per cent to £10.5m this year.

Stiller Warehousing and Distribution, based on Aycliffe Business Park, has in the last six months invested in a fleet of state-of-the-art vehicles, worth more than £1m, to cope with healthy recent growth.

They include four extra-long trailers, which are 15.65 metres in length – two metres longer than the previous maximum length of trailer allowed on the road.

This is part of the Department for Transport's trial of longer semi-trailers (LSTs) for longer articulated goods vehicles, with an initial allocation of just 1,800 vehicles available nationally.

The trial is expected to save over 3,000 tonnes of CO2 nationally over 10 years, and the overall benefits are estimated at £33m in that time.

Stiller has also invested in new 18-tonne rigid vehicles, conventional trailers, urban artics and six brand new Mercedes tractor units.

The company has taken on 15 new members of staff this year, increasing its workforce to 115.

Turnover is expected to top £10.5m at the end of the current financial year, ending December, up £2m on 2012.

More than £3m has been



General Manager Matthew Stiller is taking the company into a new era

invested in its 14-acre Aycliffe site in the last year, and further cash has been ring-fenced to develop additional warehousing.

General manager Matthew Stiller is the third generation of the Stiller family running the business, taking the reins from dad Paul. The company was started by Paul's German father Gunter, who sold a herd of pigs to start up Stiller Transport in 1954.

"We've changed our company profile to the point where we're in a much healthier position," said Matthew, 28.

"It's been a consolidation exercise over a number of years, and now we're winning more contracts and recruiting more staff accordingly."

Matthew says the recent investment in LSTs was a

crucial one, as more palletised goods can be hauled in one trailer.

"They enable us to haul more – an extra eight pallets per trailer – so they make our trailers even more cost-effective. The longer semi-trailers must operate within the UK's existing domestic weight limit, which is 44 tonnes for vehicles of six axles, and it's estimated that every four of these LSTs on the road will save one vehicle, reducing the CO2 omissions overall.

"St's a sound investment. The vehicles are eco-friendly and our drivers love them – everyone's a winner."

Stiller's premises at the heart of Aycliffe Business Park includes a 15,000-pallet store within about 160,000

square feet, which stores for 15 customers from varying industries, including the likes of Gestamp Tallent and 3M.

Other companies – such as Go-Geo Thermal and Now Plastics – are tenants at Stiller's site and use it as its own "full-service" warehousing and distribution centre.

More recently, Stiller won a contract with worldwide firm Bidvest to distribute for a range of high-street food outlets across the region.

Matthew adds: "We've invested in the purchase of the site and since then we have continued to invest to some considerable degree.

"We've improved the facilities here. We've installed energy-efficient lighting and more efficient racking systems for storage. We've invested in mechanical handling and in training people and we plan to refurbish more buildings for rent."

Stiller is the largest shareholder in national award-winning firm Palletline, which has 70 members across Britain and operates an impressive UK-wide distribution service.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS WITH FOOTBALLING ABILITY

Students in the Newton Aycliffe area are being encouraged to consider a BTEC in Sport as a pathway to a career in sport.

Many talented students do not realise that there is a serious further education option which could lead to university career in sport related disciplines, teaching or even sports management. Students often go on the successfully acquire coaching qualifications and work in active leisure as well as amateur and professional sport.

In September each year Darlington College, in conjunction with the Martin Gray Football Academy, run BTEC Sports Level Two and Three courses in football which is open to boys and girls.

Bishop Auckland born Andrew White, a current BTEC Level Three student, has flourished on the course and, as well as make appearances in the Darlington Football Club first team, successfully won a place on the England Schoolboys under 18 team which recently won 5.0 against Australia which Andrew described as a "life changing experience". "I knew it was something I wanted to do when I was in year 10 at Longfield Sports Academy and I have given it everything since that time" said Andrew.

The courses are based at the Eastbourne Sports Complex



in Darlington where academic and active study is carefully blended to bring the very best out of students all of the time.

Darlington College's Principal Tim Grant said "Darlington College is delighted to work with the Martin Gray Football Academy on an exciting program which gives school leavers the chance to study

elite sport and prepare them for exciting future careers". Applications for 2014/15 is currently underway, boys and girls with footballing ability who are currently considering options in further education should contact the Darlington College admissions team on 01325 503035 or email admissions@darlington.ac.uk

RUNNING CLUB NEWS

Aycliffe Running Club recently took part in the Cathedral Relays and the results are as follows.

SENIOR MEN -

Aycliffe D. Team – Richard Campbell – 12:01 – Matt Heron – 12:29 – Dez Fielden – 11:00. Combined Time – 35:30 – Position – 46th

Aycliffe F. Team – Steve Smith – 14:01 – Jason Dixon – 16:26 – Richard Campbell – 11:58. Combined Time – 42:25 – Position – 66th

Aycliffe E. Team – Martyn Knox – 12:56 – Graham Miles – 13:20 – Michael Smith – 16:22. Combined Time – 42:38 – Position – 67th

SENIOR WOMEN -

Aycliffe C. Team – Shelley McCormack – 14:46 – Julie Nisbett – 16:33 – Elaine Morgan – 18:54 – Combined Time 50:13 – Position – 79th

Veteran Women – Wendy Bake – 14:13 – Michelle Dixon – 16:18 – Susan Clark – 19:43. Combined Time – 52:38 – Position – 80th

Last Sunday four members of the club competed in the Preston Park Trail race over 5k. After overnight rain it got out fine and condition weren't too bad underfoot.

Graham Atkins took advantage of this to produce his best performance of the series so far and was first home for the club finishing 25th in the time of 21m:36s. Peter Smith, who has been consistent throughout the series, was not far behind, 31st in 21:55, followed by John Burnside, 41st in 22:09 and 1st V/55. Finally Alan Wilks, who is making steady progress after recently re-joining the club, 83rd in 25:08.

RUNNING RESULTS

Last Sunday six athletes from Aycliffe Running Club braved the cold and mud of the old race course at Richmond. The course is very exposed but offers good views over much of the north-east. In the senior women's race over 5k Susan Milburn ran well to finish 46th in 28m:48s and was 1st V/55, followed by Michelle Dixon, who was competing in her first x-country, 52nd in 30:30. In the senior men's race Dez Fielden made easy work of the conditions to finish in an excellent 12th position in the time of 39:53, followed by Martyn Knox 46th in 45:59, then Matthew Heron, 57th in 47:29. Finally, Jason Dixon, who was also experiencing his first X-country, 91st in 57:40.

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NEWTON AYCLIFFE YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE OFFERS RUGBY TASTER SESSION

Their latest project is working in conjunction with Durham Tigers Rugby League Club, they are together delivering to Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding area a taster session of rugby league including touch rugby. This is the first of many projects incorporating the younger people of our community and those over 19 years of age since the name change from Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre to Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre allowed this to happen. The event will take place on Saturday 22nd February at Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre the first session will be for 8-11 year olds between 10am to 12 noon and the afternoon session will be for 12-16 year olds between 2 pm to 4 pm. Both sessions are suitable for boys and girls. The outcome of the event will be FUN FUN FUN for children and all for £2 per child. If there are any subsequent children of any age they will each cost £1.50. If you enjoy the taster session



Durham Tigers will offer you a free full training session at one of their training sessions at Sunnydale Leisure Centre. Like many disciplined sports rugby league coaching leads to healthy bodies, healthy minds, discipline, self

respect, self confidence and respect for others and of cause it's fun too. Durham Tigers have been established since 2003 and regularly meet at Sunnydale Leisure Centre in Shildon. They have been working behind the scenes with the centre for some time to bring this project to fruition for the local community. All coaches are qualified and comply with Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) requirements. This ensures they are able to work with young people. For more information about the event please contact Phil on 07949 706546 or 01833 641143 or Joan on 07730 471497 or 01325 307522 or check out Durham Tigers on their facebook page.

AYCLIFFE FELL WALKERS IN LEAD MINING COUNTRY

The last weekend in January can often bring unpleasant wintry conditions, but it looked like the weather might hold as 47 hardy Aycliffe Fell Walkers departed the town by luxury coach, aiming to explore the extensive lead-mining country above Swaledale; Surrender, Old Gang, Gunnerside and Swinner Gill.

Many alighted at Healaugh, ascending via well-maintained tracks alongside Barney Beck towards Surrender Bridge and the opencast mines above. Stronger walkers climbed up to Great Pinseat over rough ground; the extensive views from its summit over much of Arkengarthdale provided ample reward for the energy expended.

One happy throng made straight for the Punch Bowl Inn looking for a warming cuppa before heading 'onwards and upwards'. Others, keen to visit the lead mines in the area, alighted in Gunnerside and raced up the gill to gleefully explore as many mines as they could find before the weather broke.

Another section elected to climb mighty Kisdon above Kisdon Gorge, tackling the steep climb at speed – which certainly impressed the watching coach driver, warm and comfortable in his coach, which was now parked up near the pub in Muker.

Later, the now ruinous Crackpot Hall was visited and provided a sheltered lunch stop for some. The skies were looking quite ominous now – cloudy and quite dark, and it wasn't long before the wind picked up bringing stinging hail, sleet and snow along with it. It didn't seem to matter which way our walkers faced. The hail found a way of stinging and biting exposed unprotected skin.

All groups eventually arrived at Swinner Gill, descending thence to lower ground and crossing Kisdon Gorge and the river Swale via Rampsholme Bridge, for an easy stroll to the finish at Muker. All arrived back safely to the cosy hospitality of the Farmer's Arms with its excellent choice of food and real ales, where the locals declared that our walkers were "almost as hardy as Swaledale sheep!"

NEW SPONSOR KEEPS UNDER 9's TEAM WARM



Left to right, back row, Carolyn Mulley RPMI, Craig Turnbull NAJFC Under 9's Manager, Catherine Paterson RPMI, Middle Row, Ryan Jay Griffiths, Matthew Turnbull, Jake Hobman, Rory Forster, Harvey Peatling, Front Row, Declan Kavanagh, Charlie Cayless, Jack Lambert, Matthew Greaves, Edward Dunn, (not pictured Robert Hillman, Thomas Hillman and Sammy Clark)

Newton Aycliffe Under 9's are keeping warm this winter thanks to the help of locally based pensions administrator, RPMI. The Darlington based organisation has sponsored the team, providing new outdoor training tops to keep the cold at bay now they are back in action after a short break from the Teesside Junior Football Alliance.

Craig Turnbull, Manager for the team commented 'we would all like to thank RPMI for their sponsorship and helping the club to provide extra kit for the team. Many of the children have been playing with Newton Aycliffe since they were aged four or five and it has been fantastic to see them develop.

The help we receive from the local business community helps us to ensure that we can continue to support sport in our local area into the future'.

Catherine Paterson, Marketing Manager at RPMI added 'supporting initiatives close to where we work is important to us and it is great to get involved with the local community and see the positive impact we can have. We wish the team good luck as they start playing in the league again and look forward to seeing them progress.'

3M Appoints New Plant Manager

New plant manager Colin MacLeod has taken over the reins of the 3M manufacturing site at Aycliffe.

The appointment marks a return to the North East for Colin, who spent five years in management roles at the Heighington Lane site until 2007. He has most recently been a manufacturing operations manager at the company's super-hub site in Wroclaw, Poland.

"I'm really pleased to be back at Aycliffe," Colin commented. "The site has a very bright future and I'm looking forward to playing my part in it."

The Aycliffe plant employs around 320 people manufacturing respirators for worker safety and products for the vehicle aftercare market. Major capital investment is being made at the site into new production lines and it is currently ranked by 3M



as the global company's best manufacturing plant in the world. It also has a significant safety record among its employees which last year brought it an Order of Distinction from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents for occupational health and safety.

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Middridge Village Association Spring Fayre is on Saturday 5th April from 10 - 12:30 in Middridge Village Hall. Craft tables, tombolas and refreshments. Entrance 50p. Anyone wishing to book a table, please contact Marion on 01325 321753. Tables cost £5

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Children's Show by M.A.D. Productions

M.A.D. Productions of Aycliffe present a "Night at the Movies" on Wednesday 9th April at Woodham Community Centre at 7 p.m. The children will perform and special guests from "I Want to Sing" will make an appearance. Admission is £2.50p, Children £1. and under 7's are free! Tickets available by telephone: 310991.

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Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, Ron Hogg, has increased Council Tax for Durham and Darlington Police by 1.99%, from 1st April 2014.

He said: "I am very conscious of the challenge that people face in terms of their household finances, but I have taken this decision due to the simple fact we are losing over £4m a year as a result of cuts in government funding. This increase will add 6p per week onto the average Band D property Council Tax bill and 4p per week for a Band A property, which equates to £159.58 per year and £106.38 per year respectively. In total, it will raise £0.5m per year extra, most of which will go to replace the funding which we are losing over and above that which we expected. Despite this, we are committed to protecting neighbourhood policing within our communities. These funding cuts will inevitably mean fewer officers and staff, but I am working closely with the Chief Constable to ensure it has minimum impact and that we can continue to keep crime levels in Durham and Darlington below the national average which benefits everybody, not least individuals through lower insurance costs."

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St. John's Students at Berlin Conference

Two students from St John's School & Sixth Form College represented the UK at a conference in Berlin on the 7th & 8th February as part of

the Make IT Safe programme. Alongside ECPAT UK & the European Commission's 'Daphne' programme, Marie & Sam, both Year 12

students, travelled by train to Luton before flying to Berlin to work alongside their peers from the Netherlands, Austria, Belgium & Germany.

Presentations were given by leading experts in the field of internet safety and child exploitation. Marie and Sam also spent time working with the other Peer Experts from around Europe discussing their role within school, best practice & how to develop sustainability for the project.

Following the conference, Marie & Sam will be feeding back to the Digital Leaders in school to help develop workshops and resources to be used in school to make students more aware of the dangers of being online & how to protect yourself from these dangers. ECPAT UK has worked alongside St John's Digital Leaders to develop their understanding of the role of peer experts & trained 10 students within the school who will now work to promote safe use of the internet. Further workshops & training will take place throughout the academic year.

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Aycliffe Students Visit Darlington Art Gallery



This week a group of students taking part in the "Through the Looking Glass" project at Greenfield Community College visited Crown Street Art Gallery in Darlington, continuing the work of the project.

The exhibition "Inspirational Women of North East England: Past, Present, Future" was accompanied on Monday evening by a talk from artists and poets surrounding the "Love From, Women" project.

The group heard from many inspiring speakers on the night, including Vane Women's writers group, Rowena Russell from Newcastle University and artist Holly Pines. The event

was organised by Creative Darlington.

The girls from the "Through the Looking Glass" project were inspired by the women at the event, continuing the themes of this GAMP AAP funded project which is currently taking place at Greenfield Community College and Woodham Academy.

Visiting the exhibition was a fantastic opportunity for the girls to see and hear from local female role models.

The exhibition is part of a wider programme across Durham leading up to international Women's Day on 8th March. The exhibition is on display until 20th February 2014.

Students Inspired by Creative Designer

On Thursday 6th February pupils at two Newton Aycliffe schools were joined by representatives from North East company Orange Bus to hear more about the opportunities for careers in the creative industry.

Julian Leighton, one of the founders of Orange Bus spoke to students alongside Mark Bishop, one of the designers at the company. The students heard about how the company was formed and what it takes to be a designer, as well as the other jobs available in the industry.

The talk was part of a larger project which has been funded by GAMP AAP and managed by Greenfield Arts: "Equipped for Life." The project includes the talks to students and a 2 day residency for young people at Greenfield Arts learning new skills, exploring their design ideas and realising them into a finished product on Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th February at Greenfield Arts. During the residency the students will be able to use new equipment purchased by the project, which will remain after the project to be accessed by local young people, artists and the community.

The designs produced by the students during the residency will be judged by representatives from Orange Bus and the winning design will be used to promote the new facility to the public, on the web and in print.

Orange Bus is an award winning digital agency



providing strategic technical and design expertise to create amazing online experiences. They are based in Newcastle (soon expanding to London) and have many high profile clients including Philips, Newcastle City Council, Teachers Pensions and

Pearson Education. The residency during half term is part of the larger programme of activity for young people at Greenfield Arts, for more information and to book a place visit our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

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Grand Designs Echoed for Aycliffe Training Provider

Thriving local branding development agency Echo Graphics has recently completed a six-month project to give one of Newton Aycliffe's most prominent training providers a slick new image.

The agency, based at its HUB office for 18 months, has finished a detailed and thorough rebranding project to develop ITEC's corporate identity in line with the company's ethos.

Echo's creative director, Johnny Woods, and his four-man team all worked on the brief which has resulted in an eye-catching new look. The strategy behind the re-brand centres around communicating to ITEC's two distinct audiences: organisations who want to enhance their resources, and young people looking for employment.

The shade of turquoise represents ITEC's young market, whilst the striking purple relates to enterprise. "It's all about brand identity and how your brand communicates with its market," says Johnny.

"As an apprenticeship and training organisation, ITEC's image is essential to their growth and ability to connect with young people whilst simultaneously communicating the level of professionalism of the organisation to businesses and uniting the two.

"ITEC works with young people to get them into jobs, as well as to develop apprenticeship opportunities with businesses, and their



Johnny Woods surveys some of the branding work his company has done for Newton Aycliffe training provider iTec

brand needed to reflect that." ITEC approached Echo Graphics in June last year to start a brand overhaul, as their existing brand was over 10 years old and the logo was from their previous incarnation as an IT training company. Johnny adds: "To begin our process, we held scoping sessions and handed out employee questionnaires, so they could have their input on the branding redevelopment. "It's important all members of staff are in tune with their company's brand, ethos and message as well as the fact that they 'like' it. They need to identify and adopt the company ethos via the branding. If they don't, it almost defeats the whole object."

Following a large amount of creative sessions, Echo Graphics came up with a logo and the strapline "Blending youth with enterprise". Their pitch was selected by

ITEC over two rival firms. The branding process began and is currently in operation across signage, folders, social media, stationery and a new-look website.

"We presented our final designs to ITEC's staff during a presentation at the Hall Garth Hotel, and they went down extremely well," says Johnny. "We have received ecstatic feedback from the organisation so far, who feel the branding has lifted the company to a new level."

ITEC had been unhappy with their website for some time and had spent a considerable amount of time determining the best way forward. After careful consideration the decision was made to produce a new website plus go one step further and taken opportunity to rebrand the business.

ITEC managing director Chris Ford said: "Echo Graphics have been an absolute pleasure to work with, superseding my expectations every step of the way. Johnny and his team have done a remarkable job in changing the whole perception of ITEC and the feedback has been incredible. "The results have been evident from day one and a long-term relationship has been developed to continue to drive the business forward, working as a true creative partner supporting ITEC with all their ongoing marketing activities."

Find out more about Echo Graphics at www.echographics.co.uk

One Day Food Certificate Course

Woodham Village Community Centre is offering a subsidised course for individuals who require a food safety Certificate for employment, or as a volunteer. **Food Safety in the Catering Industry one day course - Level 2 National Qualification.** Normally these courses cost in the region of £60 but are available for £17-50 and are free to those on certain benefits. At this price places will go fast! At Woodham Village Community Centre on Wednesday 26th February from 8-45am to 4-30pm. Contact David Sutton-Lloyd on 316144

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Obituary

DAWN ELLIOTT

Newton Aycliffe

Peacefully on 6th February in St. Cuthbert's Hospice, surrounded by her family and friends. Dawn (Nee Avery, formerly Orr) aged 48 years.

Much loved Mam of James, Ellice and Jack and Step Mam of Sophie. Precious Daughter of Pat and Denis, Step Daughter of Kath and Bill, loving Sister of Jacky and Stephen, Sister in Law of Darren, loving Nana of Jay, Auntie of Louis and Owen and Partner of David.

Will family and friends please meet for a Service in St Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe on Monday 17th February at 11.00am. To be followed by cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon. Family flowers only, donations in lieu if so desired may be given to St. Clare's Church and St. Cuthbert's Hospice, plate provided in the church. Could everyone please wear something red to celebrate Dawn's life.

DENNIS WATERS

23/03/1948 to 05/02/2014. Died peacefully in his sleep at home. Will be dearly missed by his Daughters Mandy, Shell and Sammy; his Son Mali; all the Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren and all other close relatives and friends. Funeral to be held on Tuesday 18th February. Service at Neville Parade Methodist Church at 11am. Close family only to Crematorium.

DIXON 7th February 2014, peacefully after a short illness fought with bravery and dignity. Gladys, aged 83 years of Newton Aycliffe, formerly of South Shields. Devoted wife of the late John, much loved Mam of John, Linda, Jeanette and Malcolm, adored Nana and Great Nana. Funeral Tuesday 18th February 2014. Would friends please meet at 12.30 for a Service at St Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe followed by cremation at Coundon Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Donations if so desired to Macmillan Nurses c/o Seaton Leng & Son Ltd, 59a Bondgate, Darlington DL3 7JR.

JEAN McROYAL Passed away in hospital on 8th February, after a short illness, aged 86 years. Dearly loved Wife of the late Jack; devoted Mam of Simon, Julie and Andrew; Nanna and Gran to James, Tom and Charlotte; Mother-in-Law to Lesley, Matt and Celia and also a loving Sister and Aunt. Would friends please meet for Funeral Service at Durham Crematorium on Monday 24th February at 1.30pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to the Alzheimers Society

HANNAH WHITTON, died 9th February after a short illness in hospital, aged 92 years. Beloved Wife of the late James; A much loved Mum of Rodney, James and the late Barbara; A dear Mother-in-Law of Jennie and Julie; a dearly loved Nana, Great Nana and Great Great Nana. Would family and friends please meet at Darlington Crematorium on Thursday 20th February for a Service and Committal at 1:15pm.

RONNIE HEWISON 18th October 1949 to 9th February 2014. Sadly passed away in Darlington Memorial Hospital, surrounded by all of his family and most loved ones. Dearly loved Husband of Dianne (Mickey) Hewison; Treasured Father of Julian, Ailsa, Trevor, Ronnie and Anthony; beloved Grandfather, Father-in-Law, Brother and Uncle. Sincere thanks for all of the comfort, support, cards and flowers at this very difficult time. The Hewison Family

RONNIE HEWISON 18th October 1949 to 9th February 2014. Freed like a bird in Heavenly flight, guided by angels towards the light, a beautiful place above us. His special spirit will never die, for in our memories he is still here, and in our hearts he is held so dear. Mickey Hewison.

Thank You

JANET EGERTON - Gary, Stephen and Neville wish to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their cards, kind messages and support at this very sad time. Many thanks for the donations received in memory of Jan for Mick Knighton Mesothelioma Research Fund and the Macmillan Nurses. Thanks also to Jan Carr for the celebration of Jan's life and to Andrea from The Co-operative Funeralcare.

In Memoriam

COLIN MACCORMACK (Mac). In loving memory of my beloved Husband. Rest peacefully bonnie lad. Till we meet again. My love always, June. God Bless xxx

COLIN MACCORMACK (Mac). In loving memory of our wonderful Dad and Grandad. Miss you every day Dad. Ian, Heena, Andrew, Tila, Rachel, Phillip. Loads of hugs and kisses, Rebecca, Cameron and Haley xxx

COLIN MACCORMACK (Mac). One year since you left us. Thinking of you and missing our conversations, your friendship and advice. Rob, June, Gemma and Jack

BLENKINSOPP, Margaret. 12th February 2011. Gone but not forgotten. Brother Bill

PATRICK LAWSON 14-2-2000. The best Grandad anyone could have. Leaving behind great memories, which will be passed on to your Great Grandchildren to enjoy. Love, Martyn and family

LILY HILL (Lilpot). 15th February 2013. This week Mam I reach 50, friends ask what I want, I just want to say my Mam back if for only one day. Through life we shared some very special moments. I miss our laughs and chats. I even miss you buttoning up my scarf as if I was still a child. But I guess I'd always be your little girl in your eyes. I'm tired and lost without you Mam, I know life has to go on, I know you are back with my Dad and little Jodey, God bless you all, until we meet again. Your devoted Daughter Linda xxxx

LILY HILL 15th February 2013. (ikle) Nanna, we love and miss you. Blake, Joshua, Dan, Don (Great Grandsons) xxx

LILIAN HILL (Lily). 15th February 2013. In loving memory, I think of you every day and miss you lots and I often speak your name. All I have are memories and your picture in a frame. God has you in my heart forever. Love you always. Your loving Daughter Mavis xxx

JIM SMITH 15th February 2012. Thank you for the love you gave, the way you cared. A beautiful nature, a heart of gold, these are the memories we will hold. Your loving Wife, Elfriede, Ronnie, Karren, Family, Nadine, David and Daniel

PAUL STEVENS 17th February 2004. We think about you always, we talk about you still. You have never been forgotten and you never will. We hold you close within our hearts and there you will remain. To walk with us throughout our lives, until we meet again. Loved always and forever, Mam, Dad, Julie, Michael, Daniel and Kelly xxxxx

Congratulations

Charlotte Rose McAdam



Happy 14th Birthday on 18th February 2014. Lots of love from Mam and Dad xxxxxxxxx

Michael Charles



Happy 2nd Birthday 13th February 2014

To a special pirate, our Grandson on his 2nd birthday. Love you more, more each day. Love, your Nanna and Grandad xxx

To a very special Nephew on his 2nd birthday. Lots of love, Auntie Emma and Uncle Paul xxx

To a very special Nephew. Love you lots and lots. Hope you have a lovely 2nd birthday. From Auntie Lyndsey

ZOE J - Happy birthday on 14th February 2014. Lots of love, Mam, Dad and Bobza xxx

BEV Happy Anniversary on 14th February 2014. Lots of love, Rob xx

BENJAMIN BURKITT Happy first birthday to a special Grandson. Lots and lots of love from Nana and Grandad Burkitt xx

BENJAMIN BURKITT Happy birthday. Love from Susan, Gary, Abbie and Lexie xxx

CHLOE BARRIGAN To my beautiful Daughter Chloe. Happy 18th birthday, I am so proud of you. Enjoy your party. Love Mam, Paul, Olivia and Sophia xxx

CHLOE BARRIGAN 19th February. To a special Granddaughter on your 18th birthday. It's finally here, have a great time. Lots of love, Nana and Grandad, Tracy and Eric

KASIA TEGAN Happy 14th birthday "Treasure". Love you, Love you, 2-10, High 5, You Won! Auntie Pamela xxxxx

NEWTON NEWS

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Aycliffe FC Local Derby Postponed

Newton Aycliffe FC were once again left frustrated by the weather this weekend, as their big local derby at Bishop Auckland fell victim to a waterlogged pitch.

The home team had worked hard on the pitch throughout Friday, even bringing in a pump to remove water from the surface. But the recent wet weather, combined with the number of games forced to be played on the pitch at Heritage Park, meant the referee was given no option but to deem the surface unplayable.

And so Aycliffe look forward to hopefully two games in the coming week. First up on Wednesday evening they will attempt for the third time to make the trip to Crook Town. But it is the visit of big spending Celtic Nation next Saturday (15th) that will provide most interest for Aycliffe supporters. The Cumbrian outfit have been heavily backed by their American owner, allowing

them to bring in players this season from Bristol Rovers and Carlisle. It's certainly a different market from the one Allan Oliver is able to shop in! However, the game isn't one the home side will fear. In recent seasons they have proven themselves to be a difficult nut to crack at Moore Lane Park. Last season saw them defeat Darlington and West Auckland at home, whilst this season recent Vase winners Whitley Bay were beaten, whilst Spennymoor were held to a draw in the FA Cup. Boss Allan Oliver is a renowned motivator and what better motivation is there for the players than to defeat one of the favourites for the League.

Nation have a plan to move through the Divisions quickly, with promotion their aim for this season, as they look to establish a pathway that will eventually lead to the Football League. Hopefully the recent wet weather will subside,

giving Aycliffe the chance to put a spanner in the works! The game on Saturday kicks off at Moore Lane Park at 3pm, with admission being priced at £6 Adults, £4 concessions, with u/12's admitted FREE.

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Best Performance This Season by Town's Rugby Club

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club put in their finest display of the season against a mid-table Houghton team to consolidate 3rd place in Durham and Northumberland Division 3. In the two clubs' previous meeting, Aycliffe had scraped an unconvincing draw and they were looking to make amends this time. Aycliffe were able to field a strong side with Richie Littlefair returning to the side, but this time playing at hooker.

Aycliffe began the game in terrific style and were soon using the pace of their back line. Simple passing saw the Houghton defence broken as David Judge scored the first try of the match, which Luke Tinkler converted. More of the same followed with James Thacker and Judge both scoring.

The score was 19-0 within 15 minutes and the bonus point was quickly racked up; a well won lineout led to a driving maul, Number 8, Deryk Cairns, controlled the

ball at the back and added the fourth try. Thacker added another try on the half hour. Houghton now began to attack, and came close to breaching Aycliffe's line. The Aycliffe last ditch defence led to two players going into the sin bin, but the line held firm up to the break. At half time, the score was 33-0 to the hosts.

Beginning the second half with only 13 men, Aycliffe still manage to score when Thacker added his third of the afternoon, before the numerical disadvantage saw Houghton spread the ball wide and score in the corner. The period of Houghton pressure came to an end and Aycliffe reasserted their dominance.

Throughout the game, the Aycliffe scrum was on top and all the players performed well, Ash Elliott being particularly strong as he gains experience with ever match and scrum-half Chris Richards calmly controlled the game with his

good tactical kicking. The final quarter of the game saw Aycliffe add a further three tries.

Thacker added his fourth with a pacy run through the defence. Warren Parsonage showed great strength to score in the corner. The final try was, fittingly, scored at the end of a fine team move; Andrew Littlefair broke free and quick rucking saw the defence sucked in before the ball was quickly passed along the line to winger Michael Dunn. Tinkler finished the game with 5 conversions for a final score of 55-5 to Aycliffe.

Coach Peter Ryans was pleased with the progress made by the squad, with replacements fitting in well when they came on. Aycliffe travel to bottom club Jarrovians on 15th February with the kick-off at 2.15pm. Newton Aycliffe are sponsored by Boola Clothing and Haywoods Home Appliances. Visit the website at www.pitchero.com/clubs/newtonaycliffe.

CHARITY DARTS MATCH WITH LARGE CASH PRIZES

Its that time of year again for the 'Joe Ewin Memorial Trophy' to be held in The Turbinia Pub, Newton Aycliffe on Sunday 16th February. Doors open at 10am, register by 11-30am, Toe to Oche at 12 noon.

It is only £5 entry (all goes in the prize fund). If time allows we will run a blind pairs competition at the end for £3 each player.

This event is sponsored by TRIDENT TAXIS and HEINEKEN UK with £200 added to the Men's and £50 added to the Women's prize fund

Lets see if we can have some new champions this year to take James Forster & Michelle Down's crown.

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Greenfield - Durham Basketball Champions



Sunday 9th February was an excellent afternoon of basketball for the Durham Wild Cats National BBL team and the Greenfield Community College U13 players pictured above.

The Durham Wild Cats National League team played against the Birmingham Knights, and won convincingly after an outstanding display of basketball by 103 points to 70. The Wild Cats Inter-academy U13 Girls Championship, which the Greenfield team competed in, took place prior to this National League game at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre.

The Greenfield teams were delighted to finish in Gold and Bronze medal positions, with Durham Johnston in 2nd place. This was a close final where Greenfield 'A' Team won by 6 goals to 4, with a winning basket from Molly Waine.

Greenfield's Year 7 Team also played extremely well in this Year 8 tournament, losing out in the Semi Final by only one basket to Greenfield's Year 8 'A' Team. A special 'well done' to Anna Cialis-Hodgson (who

attends Byerley Park Primary School) who was selected by Greenfield Community College to represent Greenfield Academy at U13 level whilst still U11; a fantastic achievement.

The girls are now looking forward to the South West Durham Basketball Championships on Tuesday at Durham Johnston and to continuing Greenfield's success in this area. Good luck!

The Wild Cats Basketball Academy is based at Greenfield Community College and sits alongside many other successful sports clubs and teams for young people. Since its beginning it has enjoyed great success. New players from Primary and Secondary schools are always welcome to join in and have some fun with the Wild Cats every Friday from 4.30 - 5.30pm.

For more information about the Wild Cats, Table Tennis, Netball, Tennis, Jujitsu, Cheerleading, Gymnastics and many other Club opportunities contact Greenfield's Sports Manager Michael Rippon on 07879 117224.

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