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## INEOS SUPPORT TOWN'S WELFARE PARTNERSHIP



Left to right: Ineos Site Manager Paul Coleman, Joan Clark Secretary of GACAP, Nora Brewster - Administration Officer and Barry Wilkinson - QATQ Manager.

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Ineos, the first company to open at Aycliffe in 1947, are the first industrialist to show support for the newly formed Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership by installing a collection bin for employees to contribute food and household items for people in need.

The company has a proud record of helping our community and the "Busy Bees" Charity run by Nora Brewster recently made a cash contribution to GACAP. Site Manager Paul Coleman said he wanted to encourage the work of GACAP who are bringing together in partnership all those involved in helping people in crisis.

Nora is shown in the photograph with the special collection bin, the items from which will be passed on to those distributing aid including the Foodbank.

Joan Clark thanked Ineos and said they were leading the way and showing a great example. Anyone wishing to support GACAP should contact Joan Clark on 307522, e-mail: [treasurer.nayc@live.co.uk](mailto:treasurer.nayc@live.co.uk)

## AYCLIFFE FIGHTER WINS BRITISH TITLE

Lewis Harrop who trains with Viper MMA fought on Saturday 15th February

against a tough fighter from Trimdon. Lewis at only 17 made light work of the fight beating his 23yr old opponent in 2 minutes by a triangle submission.

Viper coach said: "Lewis is an amazing talent and at only 17 has a big future ahead of him, there's a lot of people tipping Lewis to be a big name in British Mixed Martial Arts.

If anyone would like to try MMA the club is known for its friendly atmosphere and new members are welcomed. We are based on the top floor of the Boxing Club and hold classes 6 nights a week.

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## Memory Lane Cafe

The Hospital of God, Seaham Day Centre, hold a Memory Lane Café on the fourth Thursday of every month from 12noon until 2.45pm. It is held at Burnhill Methodist Church, Sid Chaplin Drive, Newton Aycliffe.

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# Woodham's Got Talent



Last week Woodham Academy held auditions for their biennial production, Woodham's Got Talent. Auditions took place over three nights, and were attended by students from across the academy with a variety of acts. Fifteen places have already

been allocated to a mixture of ages right the way through from Year 7 up to Year 11. Acts include singers, a Year 10 band, solo and group dance, gymnastics and instrumentalists. Five further places will be filled on the return after half-term to complete the programme for the final.

The talent show has been a feature of the Performing Arts department's calendar for a few years now, giving students the opportunity to shine in their own individual talent or skill.

Although music department staff are always on hand to give advice or guidance, this event is primarily led by students themselves, as they are required to fully prepare their own performances, including choreographing their own dances, working together in instrumental ensembles or bands, or simply organising themselves to prepare their act.

The show will even be compered by Year 11 student Shay Whelan, who will entertain the audience in between acts. Already we have seen some impressive acts, so the final promises to be a thoroughly entertaining evening. Year 11 finalist Francesca Porritt, a regular performer in Woodham productions, spoke of her experiences: 'I particularly enjoy Woodham's Got Talent, partly because it gives me another chance to perform, but also because there is more variety in the performances. We can see and perform things that we wouldn't necessarily have the opportunity to do otherwise'.

Woodham's Got Talent will take place on Wednesday 12th March, 7pm in Woodham Main Hall. Tickets are priced at £4 for adults and £3 for concessions. For further information or to buy tickets, please contact the Academy on 01325 300328.

## P.A.C.T. Meeting

Police And Community Together



A PACT Meeting will be held at Simpstone Court Coffee Lounge on Tuesday 25th 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 what's going on in your area visit [www.durham.police.uk](http://www.durham.police.uk)

## NEW GARAGE OPENS IN AYCLIFFE



S-CARS have opened for business at the former Garden Centre on Middridge Road. The business is owned by Stuart Illingworth and run by Manager Gareth Moses.

S-CARS MOT and Service Centres already have two large independent garages in Spennymoor and Coxhoe. From single vehicles to Fleet Management, the garage provides highly competitive prices, excellent levels of service and complete customer satisfaction.

They are excited to be expanding into Newton Aycliffe where they already have a strong customer base. Gareth and his team look forward to offering new and existing customers the same quality service and repairs as they have been doing over the last 8 years in Spennymoor and Coxhoe.

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**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

**Saturday 1st March - "ELENBAK"**

"We do covers by the likes of Bad company, Free, Sabbath, Poison, Brian Adams, eurythmics & many more.

Review: "Elenbak: What a bunch of fighters these guys are! Back again after previously strong showings in past BOTBs, Elenbak return with yet more melody driven and insanely catchy soft rock. More new material in their excellently delivered set, but still it's the wonderful 'Samantha' that gets under your skin and refuses to be ignored - a summertime hit single if ever I heard one. Partnered to familiar favourite 'In This World' these are two great songs that really show the quality running through this band. Closing with a triumphant 'Someday' you have to believe that there is a cracking AOR album in this band just begging to be unleashed."

For more information on bands go to

**[www.turbiniapub.co.uk](http://www.turbiniapub.co.uk) or 313034**

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# Charity Stages Another Giveaway Fashion Show

## Free Clothes and Shoes to People in Need

Due to huge popularity the Helping Hands team are now ready to host another FASHION SHOW at the Youth & Community Centre on Saturday 8th March from 2-4pm. 2pm Reception and Nibbles followed at 2.15pm by the Fashion Show. At 3.00pm Refreshments will be served along with cake and prizes. Alwyn White project leader of Helping Hands said "I'm always astounded by the dedication of the team, especially our Fashion Show Director, Caroline Sturgeon. The team exceed all expectations and will make it an evening to remember for our VIP guests." All the fashion models are from Life Church in Newton Aycliffe that meets every Thursday at Greenfield School main hall at 6.30pm. The age range is from teens to pensioners! They honestly don't want to be supermodels; just role models. Lots of our models said they never thought

they would ever be able to do anything like this, and it has really boosted their confidence. None of the beautiful clothes and shoes on display will be sold but all given away to those who need them the most...generally those who are in financial crisis! Entry is strictly by invitation only and each person will receive five vouchers to redeem on the evening for items of their choice. We have a range of new ladies clothing from size 8 - 24. Caroline said we want to go the extra mile by making our guests feel special by providing them with that special something. This time around we are calling it 'Winter Wonderland'. We have some very practical clothing that will guarantee to keep people warm. We really want people to feel good about themselves, which I believe we can achieve! It will be a lot of hard work but it is wonderful to see the clothes

looking so great on the models and ultimately on our guests. Last time the models looked relaxed and happy as they walked down the catwalk, and it was truly amazing! We received such great feedback from the guests and it was a very moving event. We thoroughly enjoy putting on these fashion shows and are very much looking forward to the next one soon, but we can't do it without your help! We are looking for musicians who could play the violin/harp as our guests arrive and other musicians to play throughout the Show. We would also welcome sponsors to help fund this event. For every £1 donated we are able to get at least £10 worth of new clothing and shoes. Please support this worthwhile event if you can by e-mailing lifeline.action@googlemail.com for more information. We promise it will make a huge difference to the lives of those in need. Please contact Caroline Sturgeon 07779708844 to see if you qualify for a free invitation to the Fashion Show which promises to be another amazing event!

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## Godfrey's All Sorts



and raised £69. The winner with the name of 'Neil' was Amanda Drysdale from the British Legion Restaurant. Call in soon to see the goods - it is worth a visit and you are assured of a warm welcome.

"All Sorts" is a charity stall run and funded by Newtonian Godfrey Bennett at St. Clare's Church on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10am-1pm. Items on sale include bric-a-brac, toys, games, household goods, books and electrical fittings etc. Recent customers boosted the funds by having a go at guessing a bear's name

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## FREEBIES AT KIDZFLICKS

'Turbo' the new action packed Dreamworks movie will be shown at the children's cinema club, KIDZFLICKS on Saturday 1st March at 2pm. From the creators of 'Madagascar' and 'Kung Fu Panda' comes the biggest, funniest animated adventure of the year. 'Turbo' an underdog snail and his crew take on the biggest challenge ever to make their dreams come true!

To celebrate the first film club of the year, every child will receive a free drink and sweet mix-up included in £1 club membership fee, so please come along and pack the hall - doors open at 1:30pm for best seats!

## Cancer Support Club Meet

Dear Sir,  
I would like to remind people of Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas of the new Cancer Support group organised by Allison White, herself recovering from Leukaemia.

The meetings start at 6.00pm and finish at approx 7.30pm. Our next meeting is on Thursday the 6th Of March. and I can assure the meetings are not boring. The first meeting was a great success attended by members of the Macmillan Cancer Support group.

In the future we will be having guest speakers from welfare rights officers dieticians etc covering all aspects of the needs of people suffering or recovering from cancer and their carers.

This is not all doom and gloom as we propose to have

enjoyable outings to ten pin bowling, eating out or any other ideas members may have. Please come along to Neville Parade Methodist Church Hall and join our very friendly group where you can air your views or just sit and listen, and enjoy tea or coffee with biscuits.

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\*Aycliffe Village Ofsted Outstanding



# Friends of West Park Formed

A new community group, Friends of West Park, held their inaugural meeting in the Royal Navy Club to officially launch their venture, on Tuesday 18th February. People of all ages from across the Great Aycliffe area came along to get involved and after agreeing a constitution and electing officers got down to the task of putting forward suggestions for possible improvements to the park. Of course many ideas included general maintenance tasks such as walkway repairs but a great interest was shown in encouraging wildlife such as butterflies and ways to encourage families to visit the park.

Secretary Arun Chandran made it very clear that any improvement would have to be agreed with the owners of the park Great Aycliffe Town Council whilst Ken Robson said that it was his belief that the council would work with the new group for the overall good of the area. It was gratifying to see representatives of living, the youth council, many town and county councillors attending with the presence of Brian Riley from GAMP an added bonus. However it was the members of the public who set the scene with their willingness to join in. A mini slideshow was left to play throughout the meeting

showing progress from the building of the lakes through to present day. As a group we are collecting photographs of the area and would like members of the public to lend us their photos for copying to our archive.

The committee headed by Chairman Ken Robson, Secretary Arun Chandran and Treasurer Lucy Brown will be keeping members and the public involved through regular updates in the Newton News and through the popular facebook page "Friends of West Park".

True to his word Ken kept serious business to a minimum and led the way into a light hearted discussion highlighting the FRIENDS part of the groups name.

The appeal which Ken sent out through facebook for the public to adopt the fledgling group brought unexpected results in a surprise request to join the group by a Newtonian lady who is now living in Labrador, Newfoundland, Canada.

Susan Murphy, who was born in Newton Aycliffe and lived here for most of her life, married Leslie Murphy and moved to Canada 5 years ago. Susan returns to Newton Aycliffe each year to visit family and friends but takes a keen interest in her home town.

If anyone would like to join Friends of West Park or just be kept up to date with plans and events please contact Ken on facebook or 01325 321471. "The adventure begins"



Friends of West Park officers

# Eyebomb Fever Hits Woodham Academy



First Place Alivia Hoy's Bin Eye Bomb. 7EK

Wednesday the 29th of January saw 'Eye Bombing' fever sweep through Woodham Academy. The first House competition of 2014 began with a buzz of excitement as students from Year 7 and 8 flocked to the Art department to collect handfuls of plastic googly eyes! Eye Bombing is a craze that has grabbed the attention of social media sites such as Twitter and Pinterest.

Using nothing but a set of eyes and a lot of imagination numerous 'eye bombers' have turned everyday inanimate objects into humorous characters. Handrails, bins and post boxes are just a number of the ordinary objects that greet you with a smile or a shocked expression thanks to the addition of a pair of eyes! Filled with excitement and the task of creating their own 'Eye Bomb' Woodham Academy's students rose to the challenge and the House competition was a great success! Raby claimed first place thanks to Alivia Hoy in Year 7 and her brilliant bin eye bomb pictured! Closely followed in second place were Brancepeth and Lambton who were fantastic runners up thanks to group efforts from both Year 7 and Year 8 students.

The House System is now in its third year at Woodham Academy and the House Competitions are becoming ever more exciting and

challenging for students. This academic year has seen students competing in The Woodham Hunger Games, dressing up as Elves in 'Elf Yourself' and is about to launch 'The Great Woodham Sarnie Off' on Friday the 14th of February.

With the competition heating up between Houses to win the coveted Bullman Trophy it is set to be an exciting race to the finish in July!

You can view all of the entries for the Eye Bombing House competition and keep up to date with upcoming competitions and rewards at our Facebook Page 'Woodham Academy House

# £4m to Prevent Floods in Co. Durham

More than £4m is to be spent on flooding prevention schemes in County Durham over the next 14 months.

Durham County Council put in a number of successful bids for funding to the Environment Agency, which means important work to protect communities from flooding across the county can go ahead.

The schemes were identified during investigations by Durham County Council following significant flooding in a number of areas caused by extreme rainfall in 2012.

Cllr Brian Stephens, Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships at Durham County Council, welcomed the funding.

He said: "We are currently seeing how flooding is having a devastating effect on people's lives and businesses in the south of England.

"Many people here in County Durham have also experienced the disruption and difficulties that flooding can cause and this is something we want to try to prevent in the future.

"This funding will allow us to go ahead with important schemes which are designed to protect towns and villages from flooding. "It is particularly pleasing that, at a time when all councils are facing financial difficulties, we have been able to secure the funding for this work which will bring huge benefits to local people."

The schemes which have been given funding and the amount they have been awarded are:

- Greta Bridge – allocated £75,000 for 2013/14 and £25,000 from Durham County Council for 2014/15, taking the total investment to £100,000. This will allow work to begin next month (March). Project due to be completed in April.
  - Waldrige – allocated £88,000 in 2013/14. Work will start next month (March).
  - Seaham Harbour – allocated £2,337,000 for 2014/15.
  - Etherley Lane, Bishop Auckland – allocated £10,000 for 2013/14 and a further £50,000 for 2014/15.
  - Hood Street, St John Chapel – allocated £150,000 for 2014/15.
  - Lanchester – allocated £100,000 for design and investigation works for 2014/15.
  - Witton Gilbert – allocated £300,000 for 2014/15.
  - Chester-le-Street – allocated £120,000 for 2014/15.
  - Tindale Beck – allocated £343,000 for 2014/15. This scheme will be led by the Environment Agency.
  - Spring Gardens – allocated £617,000 for 2014/15. This scheme will be led by the Environment Agency.
  - River Wear, Stanhope – allocated £128,000 for 2014/15. This scheme will be led by the Environment Agency.
- Work at Greta Bridge and Waldrige will start next month and design and/or building work will begin on the other schemes during 2014/15.

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## Film Show

The next "Feel Good Film Show" at St Clare's Church, on WEDNESDAY 26th FEBRUARY, features "MRS PALFREY AT THE CLAREMONT" starring Joan Plowright and Rupert Friend.

A genteel widow comes to London full of hope, a chance meeting and two lives are changed. Why not come along and get cheered up. Tea and coffee at 1pm, included in the £2, and the film starts at 1-15pm.

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# “Fishing With Tom” Receives £12000 Award



“Fishing with Tom”, an Aycliffe charity were asked to apply for an award from Scoot. They submitted their story explaining how they help children across the North East enjoy fishing for free. (They only use volunteers with enhanced DBS checks). Tom has received the good news his charity has won £12000, a trophy and a certificate. The award provides funds to enable them to continue their good work and secure many places for young people of Newton Aycliffe and across the North East. The charity needs grants such as this as well as donations to continue and every penny counts. Visit the website [www.fishingwithtom.com](http://www.fishingwithtom.com) to donate through paypal (ebay) or you can send a cheque to the address provided Marked payable to F-W-T charity 1126214 (do not send cash) The facility is open all year but you need to book! We provide fishing for Disabled anglers / people with learning difficulties / schools / Clubs / team building / fun days as well as units dealing with health problems. Sited in the village of



Bishopton just 10 mins from Newton Aycliffe we have four well stocked lakes full of Rainbow & Brown Trout. The area is covered by CCTV which is in plain view and covering the classroom and kitchen. There are male and female and disabled toilets, a small

classroom and rest area. Anyone is welcome to come along for a chat and a coffee. All the volunteers are friendly and willing to help you where they can.

## Swim for £1.00 as Pool Re-opens

People are being invited to swim for just £1 at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre to celebrate the reopening of the pool following essential maintenance. The pool is due to reopen next Monday, Feb 24th and the £1 swim offer will be available the following weekend Sat 1st and Sun 2nd March. Lesley Tindale, manager at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, said: “We’re delighted with the work that’s been carried out and very pleased to be welcoming people back to the swimming pool. “We’re very grateful for people’s patience during the work and to thank them we are offering them the chance to swim for just £1.” People are advised to check the swimming pool opening times at [www.durham.gov.uk/swimming](http://www.durham.gov.uk/swimming) For further information people can also contact the leisure centre direct on 03000 266 446 or [leisure-newton-aycliffe@durham.gov.uk](mailto:leisure-newton-aycliffe@durham.gov.uk)

# Who Took Away My Favourite Takeaway?

Dear Sir,  
 Can somebody please create an advice service/ support group to help those affected by the change of management at the Chinese Takeaway near the Turbinia?  
 Following a recent attempt to enjoy a healthier lifestyle I spurned my favourite chinese food for quite some time. Recently my willpower disappeared and the lure of the world’s best Chinese takeaway was just too strong and I gave in and ordered the faithful “beef curry and fried rice”.  
 As soon as I got it home I knew something was terribly wrong. The packaging was totally different, panic stricken I ripped open the plastic container, and immediately my worst

fears were realised. Wrong colour, wrong smell, wrong taste, ALL WRONG! Upon investigation I was informed that the Chinese Takeaway had changed management some time ago. Why hadn’t I been told? Why hadn’t there been some sort of announcement? Is no one else devastated? For those of you who’ve had more time to come to terms with the loss, what coping strategies have you adopted? Has anyone contacted the previous management and pressed them for their secret recipe? I really am at a loss. Anyone who can offer any assistance please do so by reply. My Chinese Takeaway gone, but never forgotten  
 Dan Hodgson

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## Let's Do Something Different This Lent

Lent for Christians is a time of preparation of prayer and reflection as we journey to the cross and celebrate Jesus rising from the tomb on Easter Day.

But for many it is often a time when we promise to give up chocolate or stop smoking both of which are often broken before the first week of Lent is over, so why not do something different and join us for our Lent group based on the popular musical "Les Misérables".

The course begins on Monday March the 10th and will be held at St Clares starting with a Lent Lunch

at 12noon (optional) prior to the course starting at 1pm and St Elizabeth's at 7pm every Monday for five weeks. (Each session lasts an hour).

So why not come along, get to meet old friends and make some new ones. You don't have to be a regular church attender you just need to be open to the wonderful music of 'Les Mis' and enjoy a thought provoking discussion. Join us as we take you on a journey through one of the most popular musicals ever produced.

For more information contact Revd Julie Wing 01325 320278

## Aycliffe Care Home Scores Highly in National Survey

Local care home Rose Lodge Care Home in Newton Aycliffe, has just taken part in the country's largest and most authoritative survey of care home residents. The results from the survey have been made public today, with Rose Lodge performing particularly strongly, coming out with an overall performance rating (OPR) of 958 out of 1,000.

The nationwide survey, called Your Care Rating, is designed to give residents a voice, putting their care at the heart of understanding more about how well care homes perform. The Your Care Rating survey results are also a vital tool for families when they are choosing a care home for a loved one, giving them direct feedback on the views of the most important audience – the residents.

Over 20,000 residents in 1,055 care homes across the UK took part, providing feedback on a range of categories, across four broad Themes; Staff and Care, Home Comforts, Choice and

Having a Say, and Quality of Life. The OPR score is an overall score based on the results across the four Themes. Rose Lodge achieved scores of 996 out of 1000 for Quality of life and 994 out of 1000 for Choice and having a say, meaning the residents of Rose Lodge highly rate the overall standard of care they receive and how the staff value them as an individual, treating them with kindness and with dignity and respect.

Rose Lodge offers residential

and dementia care to the elderly and is part of care providers Countrywide Care Homes Limited.

Countrywide Care Homes Limited was established in July 2011 to provide high-quality and affordable care for the elderly.

The family-owned business may be new, but as the sister company of Maria Mallaband Care Group – one of UK's the most established specialised care providers – it has more than 18 years of experience behind it. Both Countrywide Care Homes and Maria Mallaband Care Group were founded by Phil Burgan, who is also Chairman & CEO of both companies.

While Your Care Rating has been designed to give care homes and operators valuable feedback on how each home is performing, it is not a nationwide ranking of the best and worst care homes in the country. When choosing a care home there are many other factors outside of the survey – including cost, location and need for specialist services. Every home caters for different needs and different resident preferences, which is why a like-for-like comparison is not suitable.

The survey was compiled by leading research company Ipsos MORI with input from the care home operators taking part, plus the National Care Forum (NCF) and the English Community Care Association (ECCA). This means the survey is the most authoritative of its type, and is also the country's largest, capturing more views of residents than any other.

Karen Frew-McGill, Care manager at Rose Lodge Care home, said: "We're delighted with our results from the 2013 Your Care Rating survey as it demonstrates how fulfilled our residents are. All of our scores across the four main themes are high and it just goes to show that the reality of day-to-day life in a care home such as ours is very good, something which is often at odds with the public's perception. That said, we still want to get even better and the results give us crucial feedback on where we can improve. When choosing a home, families should always ask if it takes part in the Your Care Rating survey, as it is the best guide to show what residents actually think about the care they receive."

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH WELFARE PROBLEMS

An army of local volunteers are being recruited to support people who are having problems due to the latest government welfare reform. The Welfare Champions project is the initiative of charity East Durham Trust and is seeking to recruit a team of local activists who will advise and signpost people who experience difficulties.

The project recognises that many people will often turn to people they know in the local community rather than contact official support services.

As the Trust's Chief Executive Malcolm Fallow explained "We are looking for people who are already well placed in the local community who will provide these vital first pieces of information to get

people on the right track."

The project, which is supported by Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) and Livin, is not looking to replicate that of the already well established such as the Citizens Advice Bureau service, but instead will complement this by providing signposting information to the right agencies for assisting with specific issues and cases.

Recruitment of Welfare Champions is currently taking place, within Newton Aycliffe. Volunteers will all receive full training and will be fully reimbursed with any out of pocket expenses.

To become involved in the project contact East Durham Trust on 0191 5693511 or email [info@eastdurhamtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@eastdurhamtrust.org.uk)



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## Students Prepare for Careers in Medicine and Dentistry



A group of Year 9 students from Greenfield Community College visited Newcastle University as part of a "MaD" day considering careers in Medicine and Dentistry.

Throughout the day the group, accompanied by their teachers, Miss Craggs and Mr Runciman, tried a number of different activities including making teeth moulds, identifying animal teeth, discussing dental hygiene, using a sphygmomanometer and stethoscope to determine blood pressure and a day in the life of a GP.

We believe creativity,

innovative experiences and collaboration with others enables us to achieve quality outcomes for students and helps influence their future choices.

The day was a great success, with members of the group now seriously considering careers in these fields, having experienced the variety of options available within both areas.

This is part of a series of creative ways of exploring Post 18 opportunities for students at Greenfield, with the aim of raising aspirations and awareness of the options available to them.

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## GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Dates and Times of Statutory Meetings  
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Wednesday 5th March 2014

### Policy & Resources 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](http://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”.

# Greenfield’s Exciting New Learning Lab Attracts Large Media Coverage

An innovative lab based at Greenfield Community College is only the third “School in the Cloud” to be opened anywhere in the world. It certainly made an impression on the lucky pupils who got the chance to try it out for the first time last week.

The quirky learning space, fitted out with artificial grass on the floor and surrounding computer consoles, is pioneering a whole new way of learning.

Children are posed questions they don’t know the answer to and have to work in groups – without adult help – and have to figure it out using the internet. They are encouraged in their efforts by a ‘granny’ who watches them via Skype. The new learning space, which will also be used by the community, was launched at a special event lat Thursday and was attended by visitors including Newcastle University’s Professor Sugata Mitra, the brains behind the project, head teachers, teachers and learning professionals from across the region. Guests could see a session taking place and heard from students who had used it to help them learn more about Animal Farm for their GCSE English lessons.

Katy Milne, Director of Arts and Creativity at Greenfield Arts, said: “We are thrilled to be one in seven ‘School in the Cloud’ projects across the



world. It has been wonderful to see the 6 months of planning and development come together as we launched our project and received such great feedback from so many people including Professor Sugata Mitra. We are very excited to really get started using the new spaces and for our young people, partners and the wider community to explore this innovative way of learning.”

The School in the Cloud was developed by Professor Sugata Mitra, who last year won the \$1m TED prize to fund his idea. At the Greenfield launch he held a session where he asked a group of pupils why teardrops are shaped the way they are. The youngsters discovered the answer in 15 minutes.

The School in the Cloud is based upon Professor Mitra’s research which has shown children can learn by themselves if they have access to the internet. His work has also shown that children do better if they are encouraged by a friendly adult – which is why the sessions are conducted with a friendly ‘granny’ observing

via Skype. Professor Mitra said: “Our hope is for children to be prepared for the future because they are confident and curious problem solvers who, by tapping into global networks, can work together to use technology and find solutions to ‘big’ questions.” There will be seven Schools in the Cloud. The first opened

in Killingworth, Tyne and Wear last year, while the first Indian site opened earlier this month in New Delhi. Five further sites will be opened in India over coming months.

## Busy Week at St. Elizabeth’s

A Busy Week at St Elizabeth’s Church in Woodham . . .

Saturday 1st March is St. David’s Day with a Coffee Morning, Cakes and Bakes, Raffle and delicious scones. Shrove Tuesday is on March 4th with Pancakes and a Beetle Drive evening at 7pm. Enjoy home-made pancakes and have fun playing Beetle all for £3.00.

Souper Lunch at 12.30 is on Wednesday 5th March. Choice of soups and puddings plus tea or coffee. Good value and friendly company all for £3.

These events are friendly, fun and helps the work of the Church in the community.

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# Husqvarna Will Take Six New Apprentices

The world's largest producer of garden care equipment which has a major Aycliffe operation is showing its commitment to training up young people by taking on six new Apprentices.

Swedish firm Husqvarna – which produces a range of Robotic mowers along with the Flymo range of products at its 45,000 square metre factory on Aycliffe Business Park – has teamed up with local training-provider, South West Durham Training (SWDT), to take on two new Apprentices every year for the next three years.

It's the first time Husqvarna – which employs 240 full-time employees and also has a further 420 temporary staff on its books – has taken on apprentices in nearly six years.

Scott Maclean, and Nathan Bresnen, both 18, are already seven months into their electrical and mechanical Apprenticeships, working with SWDT's trainers, and are due to join Husqvarna in March to complete the programme.

Husqvarna's facilities manager Joe Storey said: "One of the problems we have at Husqvarna is finding the right skill levels. "You can end up with someone who's really good with electrical but not very good on mechanical, and vice-versa.

"What we want to do is train these guys to the level we want so they're competent in electrical, hydraulics, pneumatics and mechanical, so we get the best of



Husqvarna facilities manager Joe Storey (left) and SWDT's business development co-ordinator Jeremy Cannon with the two apprentices, Nathan Bresnen (left) and Scott Maclean.

everything.

"The last time we took on Apprentices was six years ago, when we felt that we had enough people and the skills, but then through skilled people retiring, being promoted or leaving us, we've suddenly found ourselves with a skills gap." SWDT specialises in training courses for the engineering and manufacturing sectors, working with Tata Global Beverages and Nifco UK Ltd, operating from the same site at Aycliffe since 1967.

It recently celebrated its highest ever Apprenticeship success rate, which at 85% is 12% above the national average.

Business development co-ordinator Jeremy Cannon said: "This is a great opportunity for the apprentices. We're delighted to be working with Husqvarna on delivering skilled people

for its workforce."

Nathan says he has already learned a lot during his tutoring at SWDT.

"We're learning electrical principles, how to wire up panels, and also the mechanical section, taking apart a milling machine, put it back together and see if it works," he said.

"It's a really good opportunity for me to get started on my career and work up to get a full-time job."

Scott, meanwhile, sees it as an opportunity to move on to further education. "It's a good way of learning and getting the knowledge," he said. You're not just understanding why things happen, you're actually doing it at the same time. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and also a chance to advance and go on to a higher level of education. "And the facilities at SWDT are excellent. I've been on other engineering courses in the past and this blows them out of the water."

Do you need more skilled people? Find out more about SWDT and Apprenticeship opportunities at [www.southwestdurham.co.uk](http://www.southwestdurham.co.uk) or call 01325 313194.

## Make a Peg Doll and Proggy Mat

Crafty kids can learn how to make a peg doll and create their own proggy mat next week. The DLI Museum and Durham Art Gallery is holding a series of free half term Make Do and Mend craft sessions.

During the Second World War, families had to make toys out of any materials they could find. Inspired by the creative wartime spirit, the DLI is inviting children and their families to try making peg dolls, proggy mats and bunting and learn how to use knitted dollies.

The free drop-in sessions run from 10am to 4pm from Monday, 17 to Sunday, 23 February. Normal museum admission charges apply. For more information, call 03000 266 590, [dlidurham.gov.uk](mailto:dlidurham.gov.uk) or visit [www.dlidurham.org.uk](http://www.dlidurham.org.uk)

## HOW APPRENTICESHIPS COULD BENEFIT AYCLIFFE BUSINESSES

Businesses large and small in the North East are being offered the chance to attend a free advice forum next month which is designed to help employers find out more about taking on an apprentice and discover the benefits to business that apprenticeships can bring.

The North East Apprenticeship Forum takes place on Wednesday 5 March in Newton Aycliffe as part of National Apprenticeship Week 2014, and will give employers the opportunity to seek advice about government funded training in a wide range of industries including Hospitality & Catering, ICT, Business Administration & Customer Service, Engineering & Manufacturing, Hairdressing and Construction.

"If you are an employer and thinking about taking on an apprentice, you can find out all you need to know about how apprenticeships can benefit your business and discuss the various funding options with expert training providers," explained Simon Liversedge, area manager (Newcastle & Durham) for HIT Training, the UK's leading specialist provider of hospitality and catering apprenticeships.

The forum takes place at SW Durham Training Ltd on the Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham. Employers are invited to attend either

the free business breakfast networking session between 7.30 – 9am, or the lunchtime session (12.30 – 2pm) for the chance to network with other businesses and to find out about local grants and regional funding for apprenticeships. Free sausage and bacon sandwiches, tea & coffee and a lunch time buffet will be available.

Local schools and young people interested in an apprenticeship are also invited to attend between 10am and 12 noon, and to take part in a range of 'have a go' workshops, speak to local providers and browse current vacancies.

To register your interest and to find out more about the event, visit [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/apprenticeship-forum-tickets-10408400807](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/apprenticeship-forum-tickets-10408400807) or contact Simon Liversedge at HIT Training on 07940 491610.

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## VAN MATTRESS SCAM WARNING



Don't buy supposedly 'cheap' mattresses from the back of a van. At worst they could be fire hazards and at best uncomfortable and dirty.

That's the warning from the National Bed Federation (NBF) today as it officially launches a new mark of approval designed to protect consumers from a scam that is sweeping the nation. The NBF believes hundreds, possibly thousands, of so-called 'bargain mattresses' are being sold across the country each week. The sales are often straight from the back of vans by rogue traders touring neighbourhoods and looking for opportunist sales. But they are not bargains at all: often they are simply discarded old mattresses that have been recovered by unscrupulous dealers who then sell them on 'as new'.

Said Jessica Alexander, executive director of the NBF: "What we have uncovered is an illegal and dangerous practice. Some of the mattresses being sold won't meet UK flammability regulations – others are just plain filthy and worn out.

"Unfortunately a lot of consumers are being fooled into thinking they are buying a new mattress as the old ones have been recovered and, on first inspection, appear to be new. What they are actually buying is a mattress that had been discarded, intercepted on its way to disposal and simply put in to a cheap new cover."

Some of the more brazen traders are even using the logos of well-known manufacturers and retailers on their vans to further fool consumers into believing they are 'bagging a bargain'. We would encourage members of the public to come forward if they feel that they have bought something which is not up to standard. In our experience, products such as mattresses that are sold off the back of a van in this way should be treated with extreme caution. Consumers will not necessarily know who they are buying from and will find it extremely difficult to obtain any recompense."

We would urge the public to come forward and report cases to us, via the CACS on 08454 040506, as without their help we are unable to know the true extent of this problem."

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## AYCLIFFE BUSINESSMAN HELPS CHOOSE BEST FISH & CHIP SHOP

A North East seafood business has been enlisted to play a vital role in judging a number of awards for the 2014 National Fish & Chip Awards.

Aycliffe - based Collins Seafoods, one of the country's largest suppliers of sustainably caught Frozen at Sea Fish, were tasked with finding the most sustainably and responsibly focused fish and chip shop in the UK for the Good Catch Award, as well as taking part in the final judging stages for the Independent Takeaway Fish and Chip Shop of the Year Award category. The Award recognises fish and chip businesses that are leading the way in the responsible sourcing of sustainable fish, working to protect fishing supplies so they are available for future generations to enjoy. As a co-sponsor and judge, Collins Seafoods was well suited to this role given its commitment to championing sustainable fishing practices and the fact that it only supplies fish caught from sustainable stocks. It co-sponsored the award with the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), which has officially certified Collins



L - R: Toby Middleton of Marine Stewardship Council; Richard Collins of Collins Seafoods; Rob Taylor, James Wood, Chris Richardson and Jean-Christophe Novelli.

for the majority of their cod and haddock fish as part of their sustainable and responsible approach. Managing director Richard Collins, who presented the award during the recent London awards ceremony, said: "This is the first time we've been a judge and co-sponsor of the event and it has given us a real insight into how the sustainability message is getting through to the industry and the great work being done to ensure the widespread responsible sourcing of fish. "The awards are extremely highly regarded within the industry and I'm delighted to have had the opportunity to reward the business that most deserves the Good Catch title."

The national winner was Richardson's Fish Bar in Fleetwood, Lancashire, who as part of the overall judging process, were visited in a mystery shopper style visit earlier in the year by Richard Collins and Good Catch representative Samuel Stone. Richard Collins said: "The whole process has been thoroughly enjoyable but the main highlight for us was being able to visit shortlisted businesses. Having been in the industry since 1980, we feel we have brought a professional supplier's point of view to the judging process and it was very interesting to see how competing businesses incorporate sustainability into their business." One of the other local winners judged by Collins was Quayside in Whitby, North Yorkshire who won the coveted Independent Takeaway Fish and Chip Shop of the Year Award. The National Fish & Chip Awards are among the most respected in the food industry with fish and chip businesses from across the UK vying for top spot in a number of key categories. As an MSC certified company Collins is heavily focused on highlighting the importance of sustainability to its customers and recently launched a new logo which it is asking the fish and chip shops which they supply to display, to show the quality and source of the fish they sell. Collins holds an MSC Chain of Custody (CoC) certification which is an identification, control

and traceability program to ensure that products labelled or marketed as MSC-certified, originated from a genuine MSC-certified fishery. This certification verifies that there are processes in place to trace, control, manage and segregate MSC-certified products and this is carried out by way of an audit process, followed by continual surveillance audits. For more information on visit [www.collinsseafoods.co.uk](http://www.collinsseafoods.co.uk). The 2014 National Fish & Chip Awards were organised by seafood authority Seafish and culminated in a ceremony in London on Wednesday 22 January.

## Art & Design Workshop

Students at Woodham Academy who are currently studying for a GCSE in Art, took part in an Art and Design workshop led by two Graphic Designers on Thursday 6th February. The aim of the session was to give students an insight into careers within the graphic design sector. The guest speakers were volunteers from the company 'Inspiring the Future' which provides fun, easy and effective ways to provide young people with an insight into different career sectors. Students found the workshop both informative and interesting. The workshop formed part of a project entitled Equipped For Life which has been sponsored by the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership. All students who took part in the project have been given the opportunity over half term to attend a series of workshops to further refine their skills.



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# Uncle George Celebrates his 100th

George Bisgrove a resident of Bethany House at Woodham celebrated his 100th Birthday on 18th February and received a visit from the Mayor Barbara Clare and his only relatives Great Niece Victoria and Great Great Niece Samantha. He was born in Somerset and had a career in the Royal Navy serving in ships and submarines all over the world. He met his wife Vera who was a Chief Petty Officer and after they left the Navy the couple settled in Shildon where they lived for many years. After the death of his wife, George moved into Hackworth Care Home and on its closure he was fortunate to get a place in Bethany House.



# A Night at the Museum!



Year 8 Greenfield Community College students had a rare opportunity to spend a night at Newcastle's Great North Museum: Hancock recently. Seven students, chosen from over 400 applicants from across the North East, spent the night in the museum in sleeping bags on the floor amongst the natural history collections and took part in activities at Newcastle University. The event was designed to give students a taster of university life and was a great opportunity for our Greenfield students. This is just one of many further education opportunities organised by staff at Greenfield, inspiring students to look at possibilities for Post 16 progression. Students arrived back at

school full of excitement, if not a little tired after their adventure. One student said "It was so amazing you can't describe it in one word, it makes me really want to go to University now. The best bit was handling bugs because we learnt new things." Others in the group commented on how the trip gave them a new positive perspective on going to university and how they couldn't wait to go for real. At Greenfield we set out to raise aspirations amongst all our students, this creative and somewhat different approach to experiencing

Post 18 opportunities has certainly inspired this group of students and raised their awareness of exciting routes for the future.

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## NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

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 Beatty 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 has started various activities including Family Table Tennis sessions, 50/50 Dancing, Carpet Bowls, Whist Drive, Dominoes every Saturday 10am-12 noon. 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 £3.50.

An **ART CLASS** is being considered for each Wednesday from 10am-12noon. Admission £2. If you are interested please ring 313924.

**DAY TRIP TO YORK** Monday 17th March, leaving Byerley Park School at 8.50am, St. Clare's 9am, Neville Community Centre 9.10am, Aycliffe Village 9.25am, Heighington 9.35am. Cost £12 - ring to book.

**A PRESENTATION OF VETERANS BADGES** is on Saturday 7th June. The badge is offered by the government free in recognition of service in the armed forces including National Service. Please apply for a form from Peter Beatty on 313924.

# Family Art Exhibition at Spennymoor



Lynn Rocks and her father, Colin Richardson are bringing their outstanding collection of 'Through the Generations' art once again to the Town Hall in Spennymoor. This spectacular exhibition of art work by this local family of artists will include a vast array of artwork for sale at affordable prices throughout the month of March at Spennymoor Town Hall Gallery, DL16 6DG.

Entry to the exhibition is free and will feature paintings for sale covering many genres, from original fine art oil paintings to interior friendly giclee reproductions, giving greater appeal to a wider audience. There will be something to suit everyone's taste, style and pocket; from serious art collectors/investors; to people wishing to brighten their living or working environment with something colourful that matches their décor; to beautiful gifts that will last a lifetime. The exhibition will run for one month from Saturday the 1st of March, closing on Saturday the 5th of April. The artists will be present on Saturday the 1st of March so please come along and meet them in the gallery from 10.00am to 2.00pm whilst soaking up the atmosphere and maybe starting or adding to your art collection or picking up the perfect gift for Mothering Sunday. Opening times are: Saturdays: 10am – 2pm and Weekdays: 12noon – 4pm (Not open on Sundays)

## Place your Mothers Day (30th March) Greeting in your community newspaper the "Newton News"

**MA BAKER**  
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Happy Mothers Day  
Lots of love from  
Danny, Anita and Kenny  
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**Above example:**  
**£10.00 (inclusive)**  
(maximum 15 words)

Write out your copy in the box below, add up the words, put the total cost on and hand in to:

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**Deadline: 5pm Wednesday, 26th March**  
**To be printed Friday 28th March**

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**Above example:**  
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**Above example:**  
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**Elmfield Place Newton Aycliffe**

3 bedrooomed terraced house, unfurnished with carpets, curtains, blinds & cooker. Hall, breakfast kitchen, lounge/diner, downstairs shower/WC, 3 double bedrooms, bathroom/WC with overhead shower. Gas CH, front garden with shed & vehicle access. EPC rating D. Rent £450 pcm

**Belford Way Newton Aycliffe**

Modernised 2 bedrooomed detached bungalow, unfurnished recently refurbished & in good condition. Entrance hall, lounge/diner with fireplace, overhead gas fire, kitchen, inner hall, bathroom, WC with overhead shower, 1 double & 1 single bedroom, conservatory. Gas CH, front & rear gardens (rear South-facing), parking. Rent £495 pcm

**Delaval Close Newton Aycliffe**

2/3 bedrooomed modern terraced house, unfurnished with carpets & cooker. Fitted kitchen, inner hall, lounge, 2 double bedrooms, 1 small single bedroom/study, bathroom with overhead shower, separate WC. Gas CH, enclosed garden with shed. EPC rating C Rent £450 pcm

**Bluebell Meadows Newton Aycliffe**

Modern 2 bedrooomed terraced house in pleasant area, unfurnished with carpets, some blinds, fitted kitchen, fitted robes, entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with overhead shower. Gas CH, gardens front & back. EPC rating C. Rent £475 pcm

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# DARTS SUPERSTAR VISITS AYCLIFFE



Newton Aycliffe FC has announced its latest fundraising event, with Sky Sports' PDC darts player Terry 'The Bull' Jenkins coming to Aycliffe Sports Club for An Evening of Darts on Friday 9th May, 2014. Jenkins, 50, is the current world number 19, having previously been ranked

In what promises to be a spectacular event, Newtonians are being offered the chance to take on The Bull in a leg of 701 darts. By simply selling spaces on a specially designed darts 'domino card' to friends, family and work colleagues, the first 18 people who return the £30 generated by the card will be granted the chance of glory on the oche. These people will also gain free entry to the event, which is priced at a very reasonable £10 for standard floor seating. A limited number of VIP tickets are available for the evening, priced at a mere £20, and include early entry to meet Jenkins, the opportunity to share a complimentary pre-event drink with The Bull and access priority seating near the stage for the duration of the evening. As well as the 18 legs of darts during the evening, there will be a special auction for one further competitor to try their luck against The Bull, as well as a darts themed raffle, table snacks and a special Q&A session with Jenkins at the end of the evening. One lucky ticket holder will be drawn at random to play the final game of the night. Standard floor tickets are priced at just £10, and include entry to the event which will have a real darts stage set, lighting, professional MC and walk-on music. VIP packages are priced at just £20, but there are a limited number available so fans are urged to book up quickly. Tickets can be booked by contacting Paul on 07703 732342 or Dan at 07581 784726.

# Get Active with Nordic Walking



The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) has a huge range of activities, support and classes aimed at improving your health

and making you feel better!

It offers friendly exercise sessions for all ages and levels of fitness which are delivered by fully qualified instructors. Nordic Walking is one of the newest activities that is proving very popular with people who have tried it.

Nordic walking makes use of specially designed poles to enhance the natural walking experience and is a fully body exercise which improves joint mobility as well as releasing tension in neck and shoulders whilst burning 46% more calories than normal walking.

The friendly Get Active Nordic Walking class takes place on Wednesdays 9.45am-10.45pm costing just £2 per session. And to motivate people to get fit in February, the first session is free.

Poles will be provided and the first few lessons will teach you the technique before you progress onto the walk which is led by a qualified leader around picturesque parts of the Aycliffe Way.

Further details from the Pioneering Care Centre, Carers' Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net visit: www.pcp.uk.net Or find us on Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: /PCPandCentre

## Running Club Results

On Sunday 16th February Sandra Collins from Aycliffe Running Club joined 218 other runners at the inaugural Catterick 10K road race. All profits from the event entries and event shirts have been donated directly to the Help For Heroes charity.

Weather conditions were good and the runners even saw some sunshine. The course was very hilly in parts and included part of the Richmond 10K route. Sandra had a good race and finished in 49:12 gender position 10, category position 5.

There was a good turnout from Aycliffe Running Club on Sunday 16th February at Cowpen Bewley for the Ann Johnson Absent Friends 5 mile trail race. Although having a fall and injuring his knee in the last mile of the race, Dez Fielden was first to finish for Aycliffe in 33:05 3rd male over 40 and 10th position overall.

Next to finish for Aycliffe was Matt Heron in 35:50 followed by Martyn Knox 36:41, Peter Milburn 37:38, John Burnside 38:28, Nigel Holmes 39:16, Peter Smith 40:16 and Kevin Greenall 44:14 who was 3rd male over 60 and 84th position. First lady to finish for Aycliffe was Kelly Smith in 44:30 and 88th position overall, closely followed by Gary Minns 44:38 and then Chris Forster 45:17.

Judith Porter completed the course in 51:34 and was 3rd female over 60 and 149th position followed by Laura Knox who finished the course in 51:51. www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk

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## Basketball Glory for Vane Road



Congratulations to the 15 children who represented Vane Road Primary in the SSP Basketball Festival at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on 13th February. The children demonstrated great skill, hard work and sportsmanship throughout the competition. Special congratulations to Vane Road Team B who won 6 - 0 against Aycliffe Village Team B in the final and who will now go on to compete in the next round of the competition at a Durham Wildcats game.

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## Valentine's Day Meal at Woodham Academy



Woodham Academy celebrated Valentine's Day in style by serving up a hearty menu to pupils and staff. The Romantic Roulade (Chicken stuffed with tomato and parmesan cheese) was a very popular choice. For vegetarians, there were Love Boats (Peppers filled with spicy cous-cous). Then to sweeten up were luscious love cakes (jam shortbread topped with love hearts). Love heart cups cakes were also enjoyed. Perhaps nothing says "your special" better than a shortbread cookie in the shape of a heart! Linda Vipond, Woodham Academy's chef, said "Creating dishes around themed days is the perfect opportunity to introduce some new and exciting dishes for our customers to experience."

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**R.A.F.A. A.G.M.** The A.G.M. of the Newton Aycliffe Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association will be held in the Canopus Club, Barrington Road on Wednesday 12th March 2014. Doors close at 8pm prompt. All members are cordially invited to attend.  
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# From Redundancy to Business Owner

A lifelong Newton Aycliffe resident and entrepreneur has been successful in launching a bathroom and kitchen installation business thanks to the GAMP Area Action Partnership's flagship 'Step into Business' grant scheme. Eddie Hall of E Hall Installations is Newton Aycliffe's most recent resident to secure funding via 'Step into Business', a scheme set up by the AAP with the aim of helping residents obtain the funding and assistance that is essential to their business ideas.

The new business venture came after Eddie was made redundant from Husqvarna where he had worked as a Tooling and Process Development Technician for 4 years. In the current climate Eddie recognised people are now often deciding to extend and improve their homes rather than move and felt a business offering bathroom



and kitchen installations could capitalise on this trend. Eddie set about enhancing his existing skills base and focussed on plumbing, plastering and tiling. He secured funding through GAMP to complete the plastering and tiling courses whilst self funding the plumbing course. This has created a selling point for Eddie as he is now able to fit both bathrooms and kitchens without the customer having to arrange or wait for other plasterers and tilers. Having completed the initial training GAMP were then

willing to support Eddie further by contributing to the cost of his tools. Eddie said "The support I have received from GAMP and South Durham Enterprise Agency (SDEA) has been invaluable. I have been able to develop my skills and also purchase the tools I need to carry out jobs. I was able to purchase a router and a number of saws that are essential to my livelihood and allow me to carry out jobs that previously I wouldn't have been able to". Eddie is now running his

business within the Newton Aycliffe area and beyond. You can contact Eddie on 07988 864 879 to discuss your requirements.

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**Experienced Commercial Recruiter Jordan Hind joins Whurk at Aycliffe to deliver permanent and temporary office and executive senior management recruitment services. Having recently relocated to Newton Aycliffe, Jordan was looking for a new opportunity and was made aware of Whurk, when reading an article in Newton News. Managing Director, Laura Claugan said "I was delighted when approached by Jordan, as her skills bring much value to our business. We have seen a huge shift in the market and the demand for temporary and permanent staff has grown significantly" Jordan has already secured a 2 year exclusive deal with Washington's Canford Audio and in just her sixth week of employment the future is looking very promising. Whurk Recruitment is approaching its first full year in business and predicts an exciting year 2.**

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# GAMP Encourage Partnerships



Woodham Community Centre hosted an informal event to discuss young people's views to be considered by GAMP in their support to the community.

Great Aycliffe and Middridge Area Action Partnership had previously funded a report that liaised and consulted with young people in our area over key issues identified as

their priorities. The event allowed parties who work or are involved with young people to look at ways to help tackle these issues in future planning. Areas of concern considered included activities for young people, Support for the community and voluntary sector, including older people. Employment, Enterprise, Education and Training. GAMP is encouraging more partnership working in the town and the meeting was thought to be very worthwhile.



On Saturday night, Brighton Pop/Punk sensation "As It Is" stormed a packed Planet Leisure, and I haven't seen such a buzz at any gig in Aycliffe before. Before that they stopped off to do a house show for a local resident Hannah Bussey, a payback, as Hannah helped them get in the studio and record their album. Before the live music started, they ate at "Smokin Burrito's" where the food is great. The function room buzzed with expectation and "As It Is" arrived and "Ricky Clark" went on stage and produced a great acoustic show, with a mixture of his own songs and a few well known covers. Ricky was recently played on the radio and is getting lots of publicity at the moment, and his show is definitely worth seeing. Ricky had to extend his set to a full hour as "As It Is" spent time, signing autographs, posing for photos, selling merchandise and talking with the many fans. When they finally got on stage, they put on a show second to none, bouncing around the stage and interacting with fans. The front of the stage was surrounded with fans dancing

and singing along. Lead singer "Patty Walters" said that Aycliffe is the best show they ever had and the audience was great. He was glad they choose Aycliffe to do their pre-tour warm up. He promised to visit again on their next tour. He thanked Planet Leisure, Aycliffe Young Talent Project, Bury Guest House and the hundreds of fans for making them feel so welcome. There were some super fans outside the Bury Guest House where they spent the night on the way up to Glasgow to start their UK tour. The next bands at Planet Leisure, on Saturday 1st March, is Aycliffe's own "White Vinyl", who are fresh from being on radio and have learned more new covers for their set list. "Heather Story" from Middlesbrough will be supporting them. She has been playing gigs as far afield as London and supporting some big acts on tour. It's Heathers first time playing in Aycliffe and I am sure she will go down well. If you would like your band / venue / gig to appear in Aycliffe Music Scene, contact Aycliffe Music-Man on facebook.

## Birthday Remembrance

### John Robert Farmer

26th February

It's your special birthday. I'm sending a dove to heaven with a parcel on its wings. Be careful when you open it, it's full of beautiful things. Inside are a million kisses, wrapped up in a million hugs, to say how much I miss you and to send you all my love. Happy birthday John. Love and miss you, your loving Wife Mary xxxx

### Dad

Remembering our Dad on his birthday. Behind our smile there lies a tear for our Dad we lost and loved so dear. Our hearts still ache as we whisper low "happy birthday Dad we miss you so". Lots of love, Paula, Brett, David and Christine xxxx

### Grandad

Sweet are the memories that will never fade, of the best Grandad that God ever made. Happy birthday Grandad on your special day. Love and miss you, Jack, Jayden, Harry and Oliver xxxx

**PAUL GIBSON** Forever in my heart Son. Miss you every day. Love, Dad xxx  
**PAUL GIBSON** Sending birthday wishes up to you big brother. Love forever, Mandy and family xxx  
**LAMBERT**, John Raymond. Born 21-2-1914. Special thoughts sent to you on your birthday. From you loving Wife Olive; Daughter Denise and all the family  
**CUNNINGHAM** (Jimmy), 21st February. Birthday memories of a wonderful Son and Brother. Gone but never forgotten. Mam, Susan and the boys

### Mackenzie Jackman



#### Happy 16th Birthday

Hope you a great birthday and enjoy your birthday meal and driving experience. All our love, Mum and Dad xxx

### Mackenzie Jackman



#### Happy 16th Birthday

Hope you enjoy your day. Love from Madison, Grandie, Grandad & Rose, Grandad & Lesley, Nan & Davy, Auntie Mireille, Uncle Simon, Bryn and Aron, Uncle Jay, Auntie Lisa, Jordan and Cerys, Rachael and Gary, all your family and friends and lots of licks and woofs from Maverick, Marley and little Madison xxxx

## In Memoriam

**BOB KENNEDY** 10.2.1938 to 23.2.2009. In our thoughts and in our hearts always. R.I.P. Love, Win and all the family xxxx

**ELLEN** **ATHERTON** and **WILLIAM HALL** Remembering on 25th February. Though absent you both are very near. Still loved, still missed, still very dear. Always loved by Mark, Julie, Markie, Kayleigh, Geordie, Agnew, Jean, Hughie, Darren and Natasha xxxxx

**JOHN ARRAN HUGHES** 22nd February 1992. You are too precious to be forgotten and too priceless to ever be replaced. We miss the way we used to be, we miss you so very much. You were one in a million and will live forever in our hearts and minds. You are our last thought before we sleep and our first thought when we wake. Loving you forever. Mam, Dad, Garry, Paul, Vicky and Daughter Maxine xxxx

**EDWARD HUBERY** (Eddie). 17/6/1938 to 25/2/2011. Loved and missed. Always in the thoughts of his Wife Gwyn and Family  
**PETER REDDEN** 24/2/2013. On this day the angels came and took our best friend Peter away. With no goodbyes, but all good memories of you will last forever. So good night and God bless, till we meet again. Love, Ann, Gary and Darren xxx

## Congratulations

### Megan Harrison



**Happy 18th Birthday** to our beautiful Daughter. Love you all the world. Mam, Dad, Curt, Brad and Charlie xxxx

**MEGAN HARRISON** To a very special Granddaughter on her 18th birthday. Love you loads, Nana and Grandad  
**MEGAN HARRISON** Happy 18th birthday Megan. Hope you have a lovely day. Love, Uncle Paul and Auntie Leann  
**MEGAN HARRISON** Happy 18th birthday. Love from Uncle Ken, Auntie Gail and Pebbles xxx  
**MEGAN HARRISON** Have a great 18th birthday. Lots of love and kisses from Nana and Auntie Lynne xx  
**MEGAN HARRISON** Happy 18th. Love from Uncle Peter, Yolanda and Ricky xxx  
**MEGAN HARRISON** Happy 18th birthday Megs. Lots of love, Auntie Aly and Uncle Andrew xx  
**MEGAN HARRISON** Happy 18th birthday. Have a great day. All our love, Auntie Anita, Uncle Micky, Ross, Robyn and Reed xxx

**JAMIE COCKFIELD** Happy 10th birthday Son. Lots of love, Mam and Dad xxx  
**JAMIE COCKFIELD** Have a cool birthday Jamie. Love, Matthew xx  
**JAMIE COCKFIELD** To a special Grandson, happy 10th birthday. Love, Gran, Granda Pete, Nana and Granda Len xx  
**CHRIS PEACOCK** 24th February 1974. Happy 40th to a special Husband, soul mate and best friend. Love you always. Amanda xx  
**CHRIS PEACOCK** Happy 40th Dad. Lots of love, Kennedy, Holly, Lilli and Tyler xxxx

**BENJAMIN BIRKITT** Happy 1st birthday beautiful. Love you lots and lots. Love, Mammy and Daddy xxx  
**CAROLINE** Happy 50th birthday. Love from Yvonne, Shaun and Konnor xxx

## Obituary

**SYLVIA SCOLLARD**, of Newton Aycliffe peacefully on 13th February aged 67 years. Sylvia was much loved by Vince, Debbie, Alan, Julie, Brian, Sandra and Tony. Also a dear Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Family and friends please meet for Service at Wear Valley Crematorium (Coundon) on Tuesday 25th February for 10.15am  
**TEBBLE** 16th February, peacefully at home. John aged 77 years of Newton Aycliffe. A much loved Husband of Brenda; dearly loved Dad of Stephen and Mark, also a dear Father-in-law, Grandad and Great Grandad. Funeral Tuesday 25th February. Would friends please meet at 11.00am for Service and Cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if desired, may be made after the Service for The Macmillan Nurses.

### Samantha Hemmingway



**Happy 21st Birthday Sam**  
Lots of love from Mam and Dad xxxxxx

### Alex Fraser



**Happy 21st Birthday**  
Lots of love from Dad, Joannah, Ellie, Mica and Callum  
**Happy 21st Alex**, love and best wishes from Grandma and Grandad xxxxx  
**All the best** from Linda, Dave, Caroline, Jack and all the family xxxx

### Kieran Dixon



**Happy 21st Birthday**  
25th February 2014  
Congratulations Kieran on your 21st birthday. You make us so proud. All our best wishes and best of luck for the future. Lots of love, Mum, Dad and Sister Karina xxx

## Thank You

**ANNE LINTON** To the best Mum in the world for everything you have done for me, and also Poppy "Muscles" Christon and Lily "do I really have to" Christon. You have both been amazing and made me so proud. "I love you all the woods". Mum xxx

### Caroline Kidd



**Happy 50th Birthday**  
Lots of love and best wishes on your special day. From Mam and Dad xxxxx  
**Hope your 50th birthday** is as special as you, with all our love and best wishes from Jack, Michael, Olivia, Jack and Laura xxx  
**To the Best Sister** in the world, Happy 50th Birthday. Love from Linda, Dave and Kate xxx  
**Hello**, is it fitTEA, you're looking for? Happy birthday Auntie Caroline. Lots of love, Lauren and Chris xxx  
**Have a wonderful 50th birthday** Caroline. Love from Ray x  
**Have a brilliant birthday** Sis. From Gary, Jo(anna), Alex, Ellie, Mica and Callum xxxxxx

### Jack Gelder



**Happy 13th Birthday**  
love from Mum, Dad, Emma and Layla xxxx



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## Looking For Foster Carers

The Acorns is a well established child care provider based in Darlington and offering a range of services for looked after children, care leavers and homeless young people. We are now looking for local people to join us as foster carers in our new fostering service and work with us to make a real difference to children's lives.

Professional carers look after children and young people in their own homes and support them to achieve their potential and move their lives forward. Foster placements are needed for all age groups



—from babies leaving hospital to older teenagers — and from all sorts of circumstances. There is a particular need for carers who could look after brothers and sisters so they can stay together, for people willing to give teenagers a chance — especially some who may have got themselves into trouble, and for people who would like to care for children with disabilities — either full time or on a 'respite break' basis.

Many different people can apply to become foster carers. Married, single or living with a partner; retired, parents, grandparents or people without children. You do not need a big house — although

you do need a spare room and you don't have to have worked with children before — although some experience definitely helps.

As well as great training and support for carers, we are committed to providing rates of pay and allowances that fully reflect the costs of caring for children and giving them all the best chances in life. We also provide holiday pay and other benefits to make sure our carers know how much we value them.

We are aiming to recruit a group of carers who can look after children or young people from the Darlington, Durham, Teesside and North Yorkshire areas and who share our passion for meeting their needs in the best way for each individual.

If you've been thinking about fostering or would like to know more, contact us on [fostering@acornscare.org.uk](mailto:fostering@acornscare.org.uk) phone 01325 485143 or check out our Facebook Page TheAcornsFostering.

## COMEDY MAGICIAN AT NEVILLE PARADE

Neville Parade Methodist Church, Newton Aycliffe DL5 5DH is looking forward to an evening with John Archer, Comedy Magician on Saturday 22nd March @ 7.00pm.

An evening with guaranteed laughter and John will amaze you. When Derren Brown was looking for a magician to perform at his Dad's birthday party, he booked John Archer. John is a Christian and at some point during the evening he will share something of his faith with those present. Tickets, £5 each, are available from Rev Graham Morgan on 01388 772898.

## Falcons in Fine Form

Under 10 Falcons hosted Ferryhill on a cold but sunny Sunday morning. The lads were hoping to continue with their recent fine form. Ferryhill started well and put us under pressure, going close with a couple of long range efforts.

Midway through the half, Tom Jasper picked up the ball and drove at the heart of the Ferryhill defence, his low shot was saved by the Ferryhill keeper but Liam Horner was on hand to slot home.

On the stroke of HT we went 2 up when a cross from Tom Jasper was deflected into the net. Second half we made some changes and Joseph Birchall came on to make his

debut. The boys had their tails up and Tom Jasper grabbed himself 4 goals and Joseph sealed his debut with a goal. Some good football in spells today.

MOM Tom Jasper, who was credited with the second goal. 5 goals today and he was instrumental in all the good work. Well played. FT 7-0 with 3 clean sheets in a row, 7 wins on the spin and 8 out of 8 at home. A great bunch of lads who are enjoying their football.

Credit to Ferryhill who battled for everything today and were a credit to their manager. Good to see kids enjoying football no matter the result. Next week away to Seaton Carew, weather permitting

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