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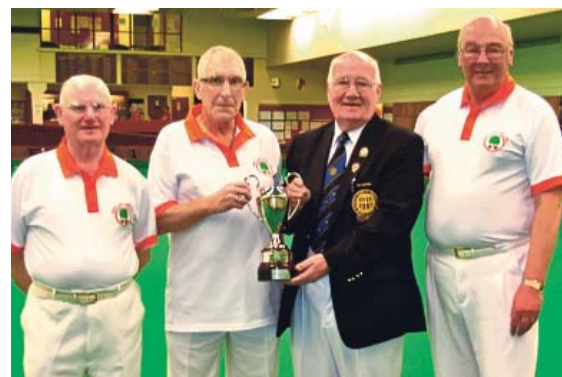
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Aycliffe Bowlers Take the Honours



This year's Durham County Indoor Bowling Association Champion of Champions

Over 60 competition proved successful for Great Aycliffe IBC with both the Senior Men's 'Fours' and 'Triples' teams winning at Morrisons IBC Darlington on Thursday 13th March 2014.

Dave Roberts, President of Durham County IBA and a member at Great Aycliffe, is pictured presenting the trophies to 'Fours' winners Keith Dunning, Bill Duffy, Phil Payne and Barrie Nicholson. The 'Triples' winners are Ken Hutchinson, Dave Barron and Fred Edwards.

Another victory is possible for the Club when the final stages of the National Championships Men's Over 60 'Fours' competition will take place over the weekend of 22nd March 2014. Phil Payne, Keith Dunning, Brian Hutchinson and Bill Duffy will travel to Northampton for the final stages and will play Leicester in the quarter final. The Club wishes to thank Great Aycliffe Town Council for their kind donation to the National finalists.

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Rumour on Sale of Woodham Golf Course

Rumours abound that there are three sealed bids for the purchase of Woodham Golf Course. It is said two developers and a former golf club owner have expressed interest. We contacted KPMG the administrators for confirmation, but at the time of going to press we had no reply. Hopefully no news is good news. We are told the new owner will be revealed soon and the course could reopen in time for the new season if a deal is reached with one of the bidders.

Parish Service

St Clare's Church will be closed on Sunday 23rd March with no Morning Worship. A Parish Service will take place at St Elizabeth's Church, St Elizabeth's Close, Woodham Village starting at 10am.

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Mothering Sunday at St. Clare's

There will be a very special Mothering Sunday Service at St. Clare's Church on Sunday 30th March. The Service will be led by the young people of the parish alongside the Mothers Union.

It will be an all-age Service and we encourage brownies and guides to attend in their uniforms and parade their flags.

The Service will include the traditional giving of daffodils and cards to those very special ladies who are, have been or would love to be 'mums'. The service begins at 10am and will end with bacon sandwiches, tea and coffee served by the young people and their families with proceeds going to the church roof appeal.

Aycliffe Music Scene



I was at the annual talent show, Woodham's Got Talent this week. It had a great turnout of participants as well as a full house. There was a great mix of singers, musicians and dancers as well as a young gymnast Daniel Wilkinson.

There was a female band headed by Meghan Cumming, with Sam Gittins on piano, bassist Callum Smith, Jonathan Jarvis & Lewis Walker playing guitar super entertainer Dylan Lumley on drums.

Anyone who has read my articles know I love live music, so to see Fran Porritt playing the piano as well as singing was a great treat. Other great musicians on the night were a solo performance by Sam Gittins on the piano, a cornet solo by Amy Taylor and a violin solo by the runner-up Zoe Efthymiadou.

A couple of solo singers were performing to live music which gets the big thumbs up off me, including an exceptional performance from Hannah Bussey. I am

not a lover of backing tracks, as you can always find a musician willing to back you. Other singers included Millie Robson, the lovely Beth Clarkson, a good song by Eva Efsthathiou, the third place Charlotte McAdam, Keira Durham with a lovely song and last but not least Jade Cutler.

Some talented dancing from duo Amy Corking & Katie Leadbitter, solo dancer Charlotte Lough, dance duo Joanne Cunliffe & Kira Watson as well as Maddie Ford & Elissa Collins and the solo dancer and competition winner Lauren Towell.

While waiting for the judges to decide we were entertained by a lovely rendition of 'On My Own' by Stacey Cant and a Staff act that made the whole place laugh. I am sure we will be seeing lots more of all these act in the coming years, maybe as part of the Aycliffe Young Talent Project or other Woodham shows.

If you would like me to come along to your show and write about it, contact Aycliffe Music-Man on facebook.

Wind Farm Bid to be Submitted

Dear Sir,

After a number of years, Eon are finally about to submit their proposal to build the largest wind farm in County Durham on the Isles. As we go to press, the intention is to build 24 huge turbines either side of the A1 between junctions 59 and 60.

This industrial development will dominate the area and will be seen for miles. The visual impact is the very least of our concerns. For example, many of the turbines are to be built on flood plains.

Others are on land that is meant to be protected by planning restrictions because of its sensitivity. We also have real worries about the amount of construction traffic that will fill some of our key roads for at least 12 months. The Isles Communities Turbine Action Campaign are holding a meeting on the 23rd April at 8pm in Mordon village hall to discuss Eons proposals and all are welcome.

If anyone is uncertain as to how this will affect them, they should come to the meeting to discuss any concerns or issues they have. Whilst no one can dispute the need for the development of renewable energy in this Country, building huge wind turbines in totally unsuitable locations, is not the answer.

Susan Fox on behalf of TICTAC

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Saturday 22nd March - "Thyn Lizzy"

"Just got back from the THYN LIZZY gig at the Sandy Outdoor Tent. All I can say, is Phil Lynott dead? I don't think so... Jeezus H Christ, the dual guitars were incredible and the drummer was outstanding and I was totally humbled by Glenn on bass. 'Don't Believe a Word' was brilliant with a blues intro (5 minutes) and then the usual version to finish it off, was such a contrast and skillfully done. 'Boys' was great and 'Dancing in the Moonlight' with Kenny Sax guesting was sublime as was the 'Kayleigh' inspired 'Emerald'. Awesome guys, made my hellbent weekend!" Gig Pit Review

Saturday 29th March - "Understudies"

"One of the all time greatest debut shows, seasoned great players were telling me how good these boys were, but I knew it already. Cannot recommend this band highly enough, Gary at The Turbinia, etc etc, go get, honestly"

Recent review by Top musician 'Ronnie Semple: "Went along to see The Understudies at Flat Tops. First saw them just over a year ago at their debut gig in Trimmers Arms. I thought they were very good then. They are all top musicians and ooze talent. I then saw them again about 6 months ago. I can't remember the venue, but thought they were tighter than the first gig and had a better set list (not that the first set list was bad). So I was absolutely blown away by how good they have become now. Sundays gig was possibly the best gig I've ever attended, picked some really classic tunes and made them their own. One of my favourites they did was Prince's "Purple Rain" - It was just awesome! Another has never been a favourite of mine... Wings tune "Jet". Not many bands would tackle that one, but The Understudies nailed it. They are now, in my opinion, a great covers band. All absolutely outstanding players who play because they love playing the music. Not to feed their egos. So my rating for the gig is 5 stars out of 5."

Saturday 5th April - "Gatecrashers"

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Greengrocery in Thames Centre



The loss of a Greengrocer in the Town Centre and the closure of another at Neville Parade led to the opening of a stall in the Thames Centre. Owners Julie and Gary, closed the shop at Neville Parade, but was then asked by the landlord of the Thames Centre to provide the service in the Arcade.

Gary was happy to comply and is enjoying a good trade from Newtonians who are very satisfied with the quality fresh produce the business provides.

WEEKLY OPEN-MIC & BUSKERS SHOW AT LOCAL PUB

Live at The Turbinia every Friday at 8pm a Band/Artist Showcase Night. The Turbinia have forged a partnership with The Mac-Set Media Project to bring a fantastic platform for Bands/Artists to perform their music in a fantastic venue.

Not only will they be able to perform live on the night but every week the performances will be filmed and released across the world via the web. We aim to offer something different and we don't just want fantastic talent to be exclusively enjoyed by the audience in the venue! We want the world to be your audience!

The "Open Mic Night" is a forward thinking, modern approach which we believe can create something special and also some success stories in the future!

If you would like to perform on the night - contact Graham McCann on the link below, or just turn up on the night: Facebook Turbinia - Band/Artist Showcase Night. Top Quality Band P.A. System and Full Drum Kit provided. We have received interest from a range of artistes from solo acoustic acts to full bands! This is exactly what we want!

Don't be put off that Saturday nights are Rock Nights! Friday Nights are all about "Music" Slow, Fast, Acoustic, Folk, Rock, Jazz, Soul etc whatever style just as long as you're live and enjoying it!

Looking Forward to what should be a great night of "MUSIC" Looking forward to the future of The Open Mic Night at The Turbinia. The Bands/Artistes who attend every week in March to play and perform will be judged!

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Wind Farm Information

TIC TAC (The Isles Communities Turbine Action Campaign) are holding IMPORTANT updates on the NEW application by EON for a Wind farm in our area.. Your presence and support are vital at the Open meeting on Wednesday 23rd April at 8pm or at the Drop In Session on Saturday 26th April, 10 - 12 noon - refreshments available. Both at Mordon and Bradbury Village Hall, Mordon.

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TV STAR AT LEGENDS DINNER

TV comic Terry Joyce will star at a footy fundraising event in Newton Aycliffe next week.

The hilarious 60-year-old, who won a role in the second series of North-East comedy series Hebburn last year, will join the Three Legends at a Pie & Peas Supper in Aycliffe on Friday 28th March.

Football heroes Malcolm Macdonald, Richard Ord and Bernie Slaven are set to come to Aycliffe Big Club for the event, which is being jointly organised by the town's Northern League football club and Aycliffe Juniors FC.

Joyce, a well-known stand-up comic and after dinner speaker, has won the North-East Club's Top Comedy

performer award on several occasions during a colourful 30-year career.

His TV credits also include Spender, Byker Grove and Supergran, before returning to the screen in December, playing a solicitor in the popular BBC2 sitcom Hebburn alongside Vic Reaves and Chris Ramsey. With tickets priced just £15, Joyce's appearance at the fundraising do promise to round off a cracking night of entertainment and humour.

"Terry's a very funny, talented comic and we're thrilled to add him to the bill," said Aycliffe FC general manager Dan Lewis. "The Three Legends will bring some fun to the evening as well as interesting stories from three very different eras of football, while Terry will provide the belly laughs, so all-in-all it should be a really good night and fantastic value for money."

• To buy tickets from Aycliffe FC, call or text Dan Lewis on 07581 784726, or email djl@thesoccerfactoryltd.co.uk

• To buy tickets from Aycliffe Juniors FC, call Vicky Carr 07717 752594 or email vickycarr2507@gmail.com



100% Exam Pass Rate at Aycliffe Dance Academy



On the 8th February 2014, Aycliffe Dance Academy entered some of their students for Dance and Musical Theatre exams with the IDTA (International Dance Teachers Association). Once again they had a 100% pass rate with many students receiving incredible results and feedback. An impressive 38% of students passed with Merit receiving between 78-84/100 and 62% of students passed with Distinction receiving over 85/100. Many students even received 86, 87, 88 and 89 with one of the Musical Theatre groups receiving 90/100!

Emma Cox, the Dance Principal, said: 'A massive well done to everyone who took their dance exams at ADA this year! Words cannot express how proud I am of you all! You all do me proud every single day but to be examined by Mrs Skinner (one of the Theatre Craft and Musical Theatre faculty members who helped create the exam syllabus) and receive such amazing results is such an achievement. Well done guys!'

Students at ADA are now working extremely hard on their next dance show taking place at The Xcel Centre on the 11th and 12th of July this year. Fundraising events will be taking place over the next few months to raise money for the student's costumes such as a Family Fun Day on Saturday 26th April (11am to 3pm) at The Bethany Centre in Woodham. Everyone is welcome to come along to this family friendly event with free entry! Any local businesses or individuals interested in donating tombola or raffle prizes for the show are asked to call Emma on 07908 162 868.



The next PACT meeting for SHAFTO/ST. MARY'S ward of NEWTON AYCLIFFE is to be held on THURSDAY 27th MARCH 2014 at 6pm at NEWTON AYCLIFFE LIBRARY on CENTRAL AVENUE.

Everyone is welcome to attend and speak with their local police officers.



Mums & Toddlers Exercise Sessions

Little Gems Toddlers Group based at Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre are once again following feedback from service users. Bearing in mind the North East is one of the highest areas for child obesity and on the back of the continued interest in sport legacy from the Olympics they are offering introductory activity sessions for Mums and toddlers for £1 per session including a drink of juice.

Sessions start shortly so get in touch with Jayne at the Centre on 307522 and book in you and your child for Thursday afternoon from 1pm to 2.30 pm.

Jayne who runs the Little Gems Toddlers sessions on Thursday and Friday at 10 am till 11.30, said: "This exciting new project is great as it will give mums and toddlers the chance to exercise together. It will hopefully get toddlers interested in sport too. We are looking at hula hoops, skipping ropes, tarpaulin, football and an obstacle course.

Our Friday morning sessions are really successful but we thought it would be a good

idea to look at something different so we spoke to some of the mums and grandmas and they thought the activity classes would be fun and at £1 for mum and toddler - it's a bargain"

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You could even join in our monthly dog walk at Hardwick Park this Sunday 23rd March. We meet at 2pm in the car park, where we have some of the dogs with us and you are very welcome to walk one.

MESSY CHURCH ON MOTHERS DAY

Come and help celebrate Mothers Day at Messy Church on Saturday 29th March at 4pm. There will be a range of activities, prayers, songs and tea! Everyone is very welcome as we have take home gifts and craft we ask for a minimum donations of £1 per child. Registration opens from 3:30pm for a 4pm start in St. Clare's Church.

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AWARD FOR NEWTON AYCLIFFE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

"The Youthy" have been awarded the Investing in Children Award. (IiC) and are to be congratulated on the work that has been done in this area. Investing in Children (IiC) is a UK initiative that promotes the human rights of children and young people. Over the last 17 years, IiC has developed a range of different ways in which children and young people are supported to say what they want to say, to help improve services used by them, by discussing ideas with the adults who run the services. The Investing in Children Membership Scheme recognises and celebrates examples of imaginative and inclusive practice with children and young people. Organisations applying for the award have to demonstrate dialogue with young people which lead to change. However, child and young people have to

provide the evidence for the organisation and endorse the membership report because it is a children's and young people's award. Investing in Children was established in 1995 by senior managers from Durham County Council and the NHS. Vince Crosby Chairman of the Management Committee said: "This is excellent news for the Centre but this is not the end of the story, it is an award that we seek to work with. Our first came in 2012 with the Organisation of the Year award given by CAVOS. We now want to work towards the Hallmark award for the Voluntary organisations and Investors in People Award (IiP)".

Charity Night

A Charity event will be held at Newton Aycliffe Big Club on Saturday 5th July 2014 from 7pm onwards, Tickets £5. The 3 charities we are raising money for are - Macmillan, Breast Cancer Care and the Kieran Maxwell fund. Sean Mac and Samantha Mac provide the entertainment and there is a disco, raffle and tombola with other various fundraising during the evening. The evening incorporates a "Class of 95" Reunion for those who wish to attend.

Making Use of Our Local Library



Tracy Byers knows about libraries - she should as an assistant librarian with over seventeen years' experience at Newton Aycliffe library. That she still loves her job is obvious - it is written all over her face - in her broad smile, eager enthusiasm, and sparkle in her eyes; The workplace she proudly refers to as a 'community hub', was taken over by an excited gaggle of Year 7 students from Woodham Academy. The library resounded to the animated chatter of young voices as they poured over the latest Manga offering, perused the hottest fashion tips and delved into the murky world of Young James Bond. This, says Tracy, is just how a library should be - and the youngsters themselves seem

happy to agree.

Nathan has never been to a library and says it is 'mint' because you can get loads of stuff for free. Nathan's friend Callum admits to having been a bit dubious on the walk over, but now he too finds himself in a long line of classmates queuing to join or renew long forgotten library cards.

The effect of these visits by Woodham Academy children has, says Tracy, been entirely positive, and library staff have been delighted to see some individuals popping back to use the facilities after school.

7KL are the sixth class of Woodham Academy learners to visit the library over the past two weeks as part of the school's initiative to raise achievement by promoting reading for pleasure. Over the past year the school has been busy refurbishing a new library, is in the process of initiating an electronic-book project called Nook Club, and has enrolled Year 7 on an Accelerated Reading programme to boost their reading and comprehension skills.

The scheme seems popular with students and parents and hopes to improve levels of literacy and give access to appropriate reading materials. Tracy is hopeful such initiatives will also begin to address some issues within the library service - particularly the fact that facilities where she works are predominantly used by either young children, accompanied by their mums and dads, or by those who are retired. The response from Y7 would suggest that library services need not be facing such a bleak future, but that depends on the public continuing to support, and use, their excellent local services.

Helping BHF

In remembrance of losing her Nana a year ago Katy Owens decided that for one week every penny earned through her freelance beauty therapy she would donate to the British Heart Foundation. She has raised £286 to date and donations are still being made through www.justgiving.com/alma-bellabeauty. "I would be grateful for any future donations as it is for an amazing charity and one very close to mine and many other people's hearts". said Katy.

KILLHOPE OPEN FOR EASTER

A County Durham museum is promising an egg-citing time this Easter as it reopens to visitors with a packed programme of events and activities.

Killhope: the North of England Lead Mining Museum closes over the winter but has had to delay its reopening this year due to storm damage.

The museum will now reopen on Good Friday (18 April), when a range of new displays will also be unveiled and visitors will be able to take part in special Easter activities.

Manager, Mike Boase said: "The winter weather hit hard this year and it has taken longer than anticipated to make the site safe again.

"However, we are really looking forward to opening our doors again next month with lots of new displays for visitors to enjoy."

One Saturday 19 and Sunday, 20 April, there will be craft sessions as well as egg jarping and egg and spoon races at 1pm and 3pm. There is a £3 charge person, which covers all activities.

Children are invited to bring along a decorated boiled egg for Easter with the chance to win a chocolate one! Judging will take place each day

On Saturday, there will be the chance to find out more about wildlife in the North Pennines

during a talk on Weardale's two-hour session starts at natural environment. The 7pm and costs £6.50.

Police Visit to Sugar Hill School



Children from Sugar Hill Nursery had a special visit last week from a police officer called Claire who brought along Jet and Ben. We had a lovely time learning about the role of the police and how to keep safe. We tried on the police uniform and even got to stroke Ben. Lots of fun was had by all.



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Inspiring Concerts from Music Society

Bishop Auckland Music Society's inspiring new season of concerts ranges from Jane Lindsay and Jennifer Hughes – cello and piano – to Cuillin Sound, performing an inspiring classical concert programme alongside traditional folk melodies from Scotland; acclaimed Romanian pianist, Alexandra Dariescu, to The Dante String Quartet.

The season begins on Friday 4th April when The Primrose Piano Quartet – violin, viola, cello and piano – perform works by Mahler, Schubert and Brahms.

Membership subscriptions (5 concerts for the price of 4) £50 Single concert ticket £12.50 (young people aged 18 and under free)

Tickets available from Brian Varley (01388 606075)

Cameo Fine Art (01388) 450499

There is parking for cars in the grounds of Auckland Castle and wine and soft drinks are available at the interval.

FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW



The next Film shown at St. Clare's is "SOUTH PACIFIC" with fabulous music: "Some enchanted evening", "Bali Ha'i" "There is nothing like a dame", "Younger than springtime" and more.

Wednesday 26th March. Admission £2 inc tea/coffee at 1pm, film at 1-15pm. Bring a bite to eat, relax at a table & enjoy the film and friendly company.

Young Engineers Build Bridges at Bishop College



Teacher Andrew Black of King James Academy, Bishop Auckland, (back far left) with Year 10 students, Rebecca Meale of Mears (front middle left) and Pamela Petty of Ebac (front middle right) at the engineering event at Bishop Auckland College.

Budding engineers have built bridges at Bishop Auckland College as part of a nationwide celebration of science and technology.

Nearly 300 Year 9 and 10 students from 11 schools across the county have been enjoying the appliance of science in hands-on workshops with local employers at the College. The activities included the erection of a 55 foot long suspension bridge - complete with a timber walkway and metal struts, building brick walls and a Q&A with local employers taking part who have included Ebac, Thorn Lighting, NEPIC, Balfour Beatty, Livin and Mears as well as South Durham Engineering and Manufacturing Forum. Ebac Managing Director

Pamela Petty said: "I'm passionate about engineering and Ebac is pleased to support the College's Engineering and Construction Week. I'm here to showcase what's fantastic about our industry and hopefully it will offer the kids an alternative career choice."

Rebecca Meale, employed by Mears managing maintenance work on its client Livin's social housing, has been leading some of the group activities. The 30-year-old mother-of-two is a former student who qualified in childcare but moved into property maintenance by

chance when her landlord spotted the quality of her own DIY.

Rebecca said: "We have been trying to show the students what to expect from a construction or engineering apprenticeship. They have shown quite a lot of enthusiasm and have been eager to work together - it has really brought them out of their shells. I would recommend giving young people the chance to experience a taste of apprenticeships as early as possible. Once you have sparked that interest it drives them to succeed."

Saturday Nursery Pick Up Service



Aycliffe Day Nursery is a pack-away facility located in the Agnew Community Centre, Morrison Close. They now offer a pick up and drop off service to your home for the morning pre-school sessions and if there is enough demand will extend it to afternoon sessions. For more details call Jane on 07761 818514.

If there is enough demand they are also looking to open on a Saturday to offer childcare for those parents and carers who have to work on a weekend or for those parents who would like to do their shopping stress free. The nursery can offer free 15 hours funded childcare for eligible 2, 3 and 4 year olds. For those who are required to pay for their childcare, fees are very reasonable. They work on a £3 per hour rate, Pre-school 9.15am-12.15pm or 1pm-4pm £8.50 (from birth to 5yrs).

Half day 8am-1pm or 1pm-6pm £15.00. £1.50 lunch or your child can bring a packed lunch at no extra charge. Full day 8am-6pm: £30.00. Holiday Club for school holiday dates for over 5yrs, 8am-1pm or 1pm-6pm £9.00 or full day £18.00. Before and after school service is charged by the hour at a rate of £3 per hour. They accept various childcare vouchers, or you may be entitled to help with childcare costs depending on household income - please ask for details.

For those working a variety of shift patterns, drop and shop sessions may be available subject to spaces being available. The nursery can open earlier if required, please ask. If you require any further information or would like to pop in and have a look around please call Jane on 07761 818514.

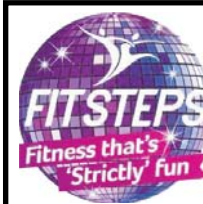
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For further information please call in and see us

Tel: 07761 818514

If you are interested in: Saturday Child Care or having your child picked up and dropped off at their home, please let us know



ROTARY CLUB
OF
NEWTON AYCLIFFE



MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

In Aid of Heel and Toe Charity helping children with cerebral palsy and other disabilities

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10am -5pm

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Email: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk • Website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk



NEW GOLF MANAGER FOR THE OAK LEAF GOLF COMPLEX

The Council would like to welcome Julie Welch as the new Golf Manager/Head Professional at the Oak Leaf Golf Complex. Recently at Ramside Golf Club as a teaching professional, Julie has also worked at Sharpley and Ingleby Barwick golf clubs. Julie has a number of aims she would like to achieve at the Oak Leaf Complex:



'Golf development is high on my agenda with particular emphasis on attracting new people to the game such as Children, Ladies, Disabled and all other beginners. A Ladies' Section has recently been established at the Oak Leaf Golf Club and a ladies-only 'get into golf' session commences in March, with a number of ladies already signed up to take part.

Junior coaching sessions are also being held, which are proving popular and attracting young people new to golf. In addition, I have secured £1,000 funding to teach golf in schools and a new disabled project is also in progress, with more details to follow.

I aim to make the Oak Leaf Golf Complex a family-friendly environment which will attract members of the local community – whether experienced golfers or those new to the game.

In the golf shop, we stock a wide range of brands in both clothing and clubs - even if the brand you want is not on display do not be afraid to ask or haggle for a bargain! New stock is arriving weekly and demonstration evenings will be organised in the near future if you want to try before you buy – details to be announced soon.

Joining my team is Phil Maitland, Assistant Professional from the Hobson Golf Club, Sean Hardy, an apprentice looking to study for his PGA qualification along with Ryan Coles and Stewart Franks who have been retained from the previous professional.'



Oak Leaf Golf Complex

Teaching ADULT COACHING

Julie Welch - Head Professional

Individual 30 minute lesson: £20

Special Offer: 6 Lessons for the price of 5

"Get into Golf" for beginners:
£25 for 5 one hour group lessons



Phil Maitland -

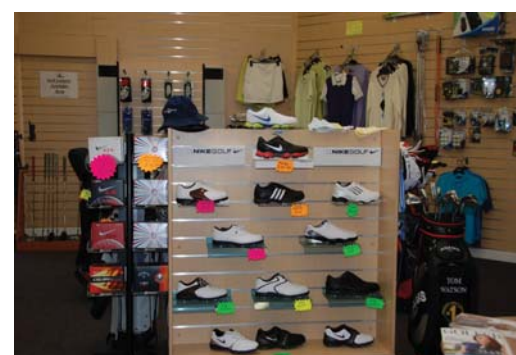
Assistant Professional

Individual 30 minute lesson: £15

Special Offer: 6 for the price of 5

JUNIOR COACHING

£5 per hour group coaching



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JUNIOR SEASON TICKETS

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10 - 14	£55
Under 10	£35

Season ticket prices include Membership of the Oak Leaf Golf Club



Tel: 01325 310 820 or see www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk for further details

2014/15 Council Budget

“New Government legislation leaves the Town Council with no choice but to increase the Council Tax for the first time since 2009”

The Town Council has recently agreed its Revenue and Capital Budget for 2014/15. The budget has been prepared on the principle of protecting and maintaining all services at existing levels next year.

Unfortunately, however, the Council is setting its budget at a challenging time for local government and the town and parish council sector.

The Council is facing a cut to the government funding on which it is now reliant as well as a number of unavoidable increases in costs, and has been left with no choice but to increase the Town Council proportion of the Council Tax next year. The Council has been managing its finances prudently for a number of years and this is reflected in the fact that it has not increased the Council Tax for five years. Further savings have been delivered in the current financial year and these have been utilised in restricting the amount by which the Council needs to increase the Council Tax.

However over the last two years the Council has seen its income cut by more than £100,000 as a result of changes in Government legislation regarding the Council Tax Benefits System and the subsequent reductions to the Council Tax Support Grant. It also faces a number of other budget pressures next year including pay awards, inflation and pension reforms such as the requirement to implement automatic enrolment.

This situation is unlikely to improve in the coming years with further cuts expected to funding and on-going pressure on spending budgets.

As a result the Council has taken the difficult decision to offset the budget pressures faced via a combination of savings and budget reductions and an increase in the Council Tax.

The Council does not take this decision lightly, and in keeping the increase broadly in line with the current rate of inflation at 2.49%, the impact on the Council Tax Bill at Valuation Band A will be limited to around £3 per year or 7p per week.

This increase will ensure that all of the important services currently provided by the Town Council to the community of Great Aycliffe can be protected and maintained.

The Council is shortly due to commence the process of updating its Medium Term Financial Plan which will look ahead over the next five years at how the Council's budget may need to change to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

I will keep local tax payers updated on the future financial outlook for the Council in subsequent newsletters.

Councillor Bob Fleming

Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee

Seven Hills Improvements

Great Aycliffe Town Council took over the ownership of small woodland known locally as Seven Hills at the end of 2013. The site is located to the rear of Palmer Road and since taking over the area from Livin Housing Association the Council has been busy tidying up and improving the site.

Initially the main task was to remove the build up of litter and fly tipped household waste. Local schools and nurseries assisted in planting spring woodland bulbs such as snowdrops and bluebells which are now either in flower or starting to emerge.

There has been an ongoing tree maintenance programme to make safe any potentially dangerous trees as highlighted from a professional tree survey. Gates have also been installed at the two entrances at Clarence Corner and Cosin Close to restrict access to motorised vehicles and reduce other anti social behaviour. Further ongoing improvements are planned for the site in the future such as installation of nest boxes.

Great Aycliffe Town Council would recommend that local residents visit the site to have a look at the improvements and enjoy the peace and quiet of this little wildlife haven.



Getting Creative

Recently a series of public events have been held at Moore Lane Eco Centre to create a stunning felt wildlife banner which was designed by local artist Susan Warlock. The banner took almost 6 hours to create and was built up using thousands of tiny sticky bits of coloured felt. Participants came from across the town and beyond



to assist in the creation of the banner which depicts a countryside view with many of the animals which, if lucky enough, can be found around the town.

Visitors to Moore Lane Eco Centre will be able to view the banner which will take pride of place in the centre's main classroom during public events over the Easter holidays. Susan will also be coming back to the centre over Easter for a further public event to help create some stunning Easter artwork.



Easter Countryside Activities

We have again provided a selection of popular countryside activities to keep all the family entertained over the holidays. All activities are free, booking may be essential if stated. To book your place or find out more information please contact Great Aycliffe Town Council on 01325 300700.

EASTER NATURE CRAFTS WORKSHOP

Monday 7th April 9.30am- 12.30pm

Professional Artist Susan Warlock will be visiting Moore Lane Eco Centre to help participants to create an assortment of Easter creations which are inspired by nature. Places will be limited and booking essential by contacting Great Aycliffe Town Council.

KRAFTY KRITTERS

Wednesday 9th April 5.30pm – 6.30pm

Krafty Kritters are coming along to Moore Lane Eco Centre with some of their exotic animals to explain how their British cousins make this area their home. Booking is essential as places are limited, reserve your places by contacting the Council on the above phone number.

NATURE PARK POND DIPPING

Monday 14th April 10.30am- 12 noon

Here is your opportunity to join the Council's Environment Officer to discover what life has returned to the Nature Parks' pond this spring. Please bring along your wellies, nets and buckets if you have them. Meet at the ponds, off Travellers Green.



AYCLIFFE'S DUCK RACE

Wednesday 16th April 10.30 – 12 noon

This is a great fun event for all the family; we'll be meeting at the bridge over the burn near Humphrey Close and race rubber ducks down the burn to the next bridge at Burn Lane. The natural obstacles such as rocks and stones does make this event very exciting

and it can become quite competitive.

Due to safety reasons this event may be weather dependent, please contact the Town Council closer to the date or visit facebook- Aycliffe Moore Lane Eco Centre to keep up to date about what is happening over the holidays.



SENIOR CITIZENS' EXCURSIONS

The Senior Citizens' Excursions are one of the most popular events organised by the Council. Each year, we organise a series of free excursions for the senior citizens (60 years or over) who live in our Parish. This year the Excursions will start on Monday 2nd June and finish on Friday 4th July.

The application forms and information booklets will be available on April 29th from the Council Offices, Golf and Sports Complexes, Recreation Centre (Beveridge Way) and the Library in the Town centre.

This year, residents have the choice of visiting Whitby, Northumberland, Skipton, Scarborough or South Shields for the day with a three course meal and tea or coffee provided in a good quality hotel with disabled facilities.

Some of the excursions have comfort breaks where tea or coffee with biscuits is provided by the Council.

The coaches provided are 49-53 seater executive coaches with toilet facilities. There is also a 53 seater executive coach with a wheelchair hoist to each destination. This ensures that even people with severe mobility problems can enjoy a day out. The hoist can be used to assist passengers who need to travel in their wheelchair, or may be used by people who cannot manage the steps on the coach.

Each person who qualifies is entitled to one 'trip'. To qualify you must be aged 60 or over and must have lived in the electoral parish by 1st April 2014.

In 2013, we received 1364 applications so please make sure you apply in time to get the excursion date you would like. The closing date for applications is Friday 16th May 2014.



MAYOR'S CHARITY CIVIC DINNER

The Annual Mayor's Charity Civic Dinner was hosted by the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Barbara Clare, on Friday, 21st February 2014 at The Aston Hotel, Newton Aycliffe. Entertainment was provided by Samantha Mac with dancing to Boogie Box.

The fund raising at the event was in aid of the Mayor's nominated Charities during her Year in Office and this year the Mayor has chosen the St. Clare's Food Bank (Durham Christian Partnership) and the Cardiothoracic Unit at James Cook Hospital.



A special thanks must go to Barclays Bank who match funded the evening's fund raising when a total amount of £1,408 was made for the charities.

Mr. Geoff Batchelor, President of the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe gave an excellent response to the Mayor on behalf of the guests.

Councillor Mrs. Clare would like to take this opportunity to thank The Aston Hotel, Heineken Breweries, Nedco, Whitehouse Funeral Services and fellow Councillors and friends who have supported her during the year by donating gifts for the fund raising.



MAYOR'S CHARITY CABARET NIGHT

The Mayor of Great Aycliffe will be holding a Cabaret Night at the Royal British Legion Club on Thursday, 1st May 2014 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

The event will be in aid of her nominated charities:- St. Clare's Food Bank and the Cardiothoracic Unit at James Cook Hospital.

Tickets are £5 and will be on sale from the Council Offices and the Royal British Legion. Entertainment for the evening will be from 'Stan Fuller' together with a supporting artiste. Pie and peas are included in the cost of the ticket. A fund raising raffle will also take place along with a game of Bingo.

Tickets are limited and will be on sale on a first come first served basis.



GREAT AYCLIFFE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Town Council are hoping to appoint a Community Neighbourhood Engagement Officer in the near future to assist with the preparation of the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan. The Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan (GANP) will become a planning document for the future of Great Aycliffe

We will be seeking to gather your view on a wide range of issues over the coming months. A range of events and activities will be planned to give you the opportunity to have your say and shape Great Aycliffe for future generations. Events will be publicised in our newsletter, the Newton News and on the Town Council website. If you have any ideas you want to share please let us know at info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk.

FUNDING AVAILABLE FROM AYCLIFFE YOUTH COUNCIL

Aycliffe Youth Council has small grant funding available for voluntary and charitable groups or organisations which are based in the Great Aycliffe parish area. The grant should bring direct benefit to the young people of Great Aycliffe and individuals may apply but each case will be considered on its merits.

Applying is easy. For more information go to www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/info/council-and-democracy/community-engagement/aycliffe-youth-council.html you can apply in writing to Great Aycliffe Town Council, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6QF or telephone Chrissy Walton 01325 300700 who will be able to provide you with more information.





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9.30am - 11.00am

Ages 8 to 15 years - Only £2.00

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BALLS OF FUN

Monday 7th April • 11am - 12pm

8-15 years

ARCHERY

Tuesday 10th April • 9.30am - 11.30am

Tuesday 15th April • 9.30am - 11am

8-15 years

MINI ACTIVITY SESSION

Wednesday 9th April

9.30am - 11am • 4-7 years

CRAFTY KIDS

Thursday 10th April • 9.30am - 11am

8-15 years

GOLF

Friday 11th April

10am - 11am • 4-7 years

11am - 12pm • 8-15 years

FREE TASTER SESSION

Places are limited, booking essential

RACKETS AND BATS

Monday 14th April • 11am - 12pm

8-15 years

You can enter our draw to win a Bike!

JUNIOR ARCHERY COACHING



6 WEEK COURSE

Only £25.00

With Stephen Waddingham

Starting Tuesday 3rd June

4.30pm - 5.30pm

8 - 15 year olds

Booking is essential as places are limited

ACTIVITIES

Body Fit

for the over 50's

Wednesday

4.30pm - 5.30pm

£2.00 per session

Improve your movement, flexibility, muscular strength and endurance.

Meet new friends while you improve your health and tone your body.

Suitable for all ages.

Oaklife

Over 50's Club

Thursday

10am - 12noon

£3.00 per session

includes a hot drink

Activities include Bowls, Table Tennis, Archery, Badminton and much more.

Ideal for people with time on their hands who would like to feel a little fitter but the gym isn't for them.

Adult Squash

Drop In for beginners

Thursday

6.15pm - 7pm

& 7pm - 7.45pm

£1.00 per session

All over 16's welcome and all equipment will be provided.

Squash player's will be on hand to give any advice or guidance that is needed.

PILATES at Oak Leaf

Pilates is an exercise method that emphasises the balanced development of the body to improve strength, flexibility and mobility and helps to create a sense of wellbeing.

Regardless of age, ability or fitness level, Pilates can help everyone move and feel better.

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Aycliffe Girls Start Open Art Exhibition

Two Newton Aycliffe girls, Natalie Bradshaw and Daryl McGarrigle, have started a new craze 'Freshanominate Challenge' which is gaining momentum.

The simple idea is based on the hype the 'Neckomoninate drinking game' caused, but instead of the alcohol, they want all ladies to remove their make-up, take a picture of themselves and post it onto facebook.

They are asked to donate £1 or more to the "just giving" page for Cancer Research and nominate friends to do the same. Many men have now joined, but doing the opposite by putting make-up on, helping to raise money for the cause.

This is all for a fantastic cause and a little bit of fun. Their goal is to raise £10,000, and both girls would like to say Thank you to those who have already joined and those that are going to. They also ask you to please tick the box for gift aid as this is free to you, but will generate more money for Cancer Research. <http://www.justgiving.com/NatalieandDarylsFreshfacedSelfies>.



On Wednesday 12th March Greenfield Arts was filled with artists, creatives, crafters and their friends and family for our

annual Open Art Preview and Craft Fair.

The event was a great success, with many of the 60 artists involved in the exhibition bringing family and friends to celebrate with us and see the work on display. The Craft Fair saw some great new creatives showing their work here at Greenfield, selling handmade items that everyone enjoyed.

The exhibition includes 140 artworks from more than 60 artists across the region and will be on display at Greenfield Arts until Wednesday 30th April. Work from each of the Craft Fair stalls is now on display in the cabinets at Greenfield as well, giving those who missed the event the opportunity to support these fantastic creative people!

Greenfield Arts would like to thank all those who attended on Wednesday, and all of the artists involved in the exhibition, as well as Adrian Moule and Ron Michie, the two fantastic volunteers who helped us install the exhibition! For more information about the gallery, courses and activities at Greenfield Arts visit our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

Autism Centre Staff Zipwire Over Wear

The North East Autism Society have a "Short Breaks Centre" located on Cedar Road (part of the old youth offenders' site) at Aycliffe. The site is huge with lots of facilities such as Sports hall, Gym, Dance studio, Play Park, Swimming pool and much more.

The Centre offers short breaks and day care for children with Autism and Learning Disabilities, in a comfortable and safe environment adapted to their individual needs

As a charity we rely heavily on the generosity of the

surrounding communities and we are seeking sponsorship for an event on 5th of April 2014.

Two members of staff, Donna Williams and Michael Presch will be taking part in the "Zip Wire Challenge". They will be zip lining from the roof of The Stadium of Light over the River Wear to land safely (we hope) on the other side.

To donate, however large of small, please do so via PayPal at Michael.Presch@ne-as.org.uk or contact the center on 01325 328080 to arrange a donation.

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(£6.5561 - £6.69236 per hour)

Applications are invited for the above post which forms part of the team within the Oak Leaf Sports Complex.

The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 4 GCSE's, or equivalent, including English and Mathematics, together with previous experience of working within a catering environment.

The post holders will work on a shift rota.

For further details or an informal discussion about the post, please contact the Leisure Manager Judith Thexton on 01325 300600 or by email at judith.thexton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Closing Date for Applications:
Noon on Friday 4th April 2014

Application packs can be obtained by telephoning 01325 300700, e-mailing: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk - or from the Council website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Easter Egg Collection

Dear Sir,
The Co-operative Funeralcare in Macmillan Road, Newton Aycliffe is appealing to the community for help with collecting Easter Eggs again this year. Staff are hoping to collect eggs to share between local groups for children and adults with learning disabilities and children staying with their mums in women's aid refuges. Jenette Sisson, Divisional Manager of The Co-operative Funeralcare said, "As a business at the heart of the community we want to put a smile on as many faces as possible again this year" Eggs and Easter gifts will be gratefully received at the Newton Aycliffe funeral home until Friday April 11th (opening hours 9am - 5pm weekdays) For more information please call 01325 300510 Thank you very much Barbara Bates

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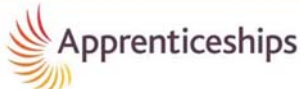
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Lucky Bike Winner

Young Polo Players Show Their Mettle



The February Super Sports Skills bike draw winner was Matthew Jones, aged 8 from School Aycliffe. The Mayor Cllr Barbara Clare presented Matthew with his new bike on Monday 17th March 2014.

For your chance to win a new bike get involved in the Easter 2014 Super Sports Skills programme. For further information visit our website www.great-aycliffe.gov.co.uk ,to book your place please contact our Reception on 01325 300600.

Sedgefield hosted an Under 15 tournament at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre and fielded a young team. In their first game they played local team Durham City and were 8-0 up at half time and the final score was 10-4. In their second game Sedgefield ran out comfortable winners over York 8-1. In their third game they were up against North West team Lancaster and were easy 10-2 winners.

In their final game they were up against the other unbeaten team Yorkshire Champions Rotherham. Rotherham were older and much bigger and led Sedgefield 3-1 at half time. The Sedgefield coaches at half time asked the team to up the tempo significantly and they responded magnificently by destroying Rotherham in the second half 7-1 with the tremendous pace of their counter attacks to win 8-4.

Niall Coulthard 10 was the player of the tournament for Sedgefield competing tigerishly with much bigger and older opponents. Ben Stephenson and Michael

Hampshire 11 were the leading scorers for Sedgefield. Connor Keeble 13 marked Rotherham's big danger man out of the game in the final. Michael Cousins 13 and Kris Egginton 13 both scored important goals and were instrumental in the creation of others.

Richard Murray continues to show his potential in goal with some fine saves. The other members of the Sedgefield team were Jessica Webb 10, Poppy Stephenson 10, Haydn Craggs 11, Hollie Turnbull 11, Jake Mendelson 11, Daniel Millington 11 and Kate Harrison 12.

AYCLIFFE TEAMS FIGHT FOR LEAGUE SUPREMACY

Last weekend saw Newton Aycliffe Sports Club F.C. gain promotion from Division 2 at their very first attempt with the knowledge that the league championship was still up for grabs with 5 games to go. This weekend saw them travel to The Education Village in Darlington again, this time to play league strugglers Blackwell Meadows.

Club Captain David Hall returned to the heart of the defence to replace Mark Craggs who is carrying a slight hamstring strain with Matty Alder returning from suspension to cover the left back spot – with the rest of the starting line-up remaining the same as last week.

The Sports Club started the brighter of the two teams, with a lot of possession and with the wind in their favour they looked the more comfortable on the ball. The deadlock was broken on 12 minutes, when leading scorer Chris Jones broke clear of the defence and slotted home past the keeper to make it one nil to the visitors. Ryan Stonehouse then hit the crossbar a few minutes later with a driving effort after storming through the home sides defence. Jones then turned provider for strike partner Glenn Hendrix after battling through the defence to pull the ball back for the forward to slot into an empty net.

The away side were looking very comfortable at this stage and extended the lead to 3-0 when Chris Jones was brought

down in the box and slotted home the resulting penalty. Not satisfied with just the two goals, Jones rounded off his hatrick five minutes before the half time whistle.

The leading scorer was then subbed at half time to allow Damien Jose his comeback after a long stretch on the sidelines to partner the ever threatening Hendrix up front. With the wind now against them, the away side struggled to reproduce the impressive display from the first half. On the 60 minute mark, Connor Hughes had to be substituted due to injury and Carl Little returned to the team, slotting into the Centre Half position and moving Gareth Boyes into the centre of midfield. The home side took advantage of the changes and grabbed a goal within seconds of the change being made to make it 1-4.

The Sports Club hit back quickly though when Jonathan Cleggs deep corner found Hendrix at the far post to steal his brace and basically finish off the game. With the

win all but secured, the final change was made with Craig Clark slotting into the left back position for Matty Alder, who struggled most of the game with a suspected broken toe after an early challenge in the first half. However, the highlight of the game had to be veteran David Hall crossing over the half way line for the first time this season and beating three men on a mazy run but once the goal was in sight, the legs gave in and the cross come shot failed to cause the damage it had promised when the run started in what seemed like an age ago.

NASC FC still sit 3rd in the league, but now just 2 points behind the Huntsman and 5 pts behind Leaders Spraire Lads (but with a game in hand on the top side) and with both to play in the next few weeks. The end of season is really hotting up with both Aycliffe sides aiming to try and pip their Darlington rivals to the Championship.

Next Up is Tomkins at Home at Moore Lane on Sunday 23rd March. Come down and cheer us on, kick off at 10:30am

World Record for Aycliffe Swimmer

Hannah Featherstone of Sedgefield 75 Swimming Club competed In the GB Pentathlon Youth International at Solihull against 87 athletes from nine nations; this was the largest number of competitors in the history of the event

She took the Gold Medal setting a new World Record. This is of course subject to ratification. Her swim time of 2:04:20 may also be a new record for the event.

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Cheerleader in Teen Star Regional Finals



A member of Newton Aycliffe Nemesis All Star Cheerleaders, Sophie-Jean Richardson aged 15 has made it through to Teen Stars Regional Finals. This takes place on Saturday 22nd March at Mill Volvo Theatre, Newcastle.

Nemesis Cheerleaders are supporting her every step of the way.




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Centre Manager Lesley Tindale said: "With spring just around the corner it is a chance to start a new season with a new get-fit campaign by using the wide range of facilities we have available. We look forward to welcoming new and old members who may take advantage of this offer."

"The benefits of a healthy lifestyle are clear to see with keeping fit a good way to lose weight, increase energy and reduce the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and other ailments."

For further information – call Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on 03000 266 446 or go to either www.lifestylefitness.co.uk or www.durham.gov.uk/fitness

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or contact Lee Killip on 07500 044532

Northumberland Run



Northumberland Half Marathon is part of the Run Nation series which take in historic and scenic venues. The race on Sunday 16th March started and finished at Kirkley Hall near Ponteland and was an undulating course on local roads and unclassified lanes.

Weather was bright and sunny but the strong blustery wind was very challenging for the runners. Four ladies from Aycliffe Running Club completed the race. First to finish for Aycliffe was Wendy Bake in 1:46:27 closely followed by Shelley McCormack in 1:46:41, then Trish Kay in 1:51:17 and Susan Clark in 2:16:47.

Nap Hand for Falcons

Under 10 Falcons travelled to Darlington TSC 'B' knowing nothing less than a win would keep them in the promotion hunt. The boys started well and were quickly into their stride, creating some good early chances.

We took the lead midway through the first half through Tom Jasper as his whipped in corner was deflected in the net. We added a 2nd on the stroke of HT when good

pressure from Liam Horner created a mistake and his shot from outside the area found the bottom corner.

A couple of changes as TSC tired and some good work from Dylan on the wing found Liam lurking at the back stick for his 2nd and our 3rd.

The boys were strong and soon added a 4th with a great strike from Declan Scott finding the top corner. Clayton Edwards added a 5th to complete the rout and a good team performance. MOM captain Will Mawston who ran the show in midfield. Final game of the season is next week away to All Stars, so let's finish on a high

Bronze Medal for Jake



Congratulations to Jake Mendelsohn, age 11, from Byerley Park Primary School who competed in the District Cross Country Finals last week and won a bronze medal.

This was a fantastic achievement against a very strong field of runners. Jake, who runs for Sedgefield Harriers, had qualified for this final by winning a gold medal at the Sedgefield Schools Partnership cross country event in a field of over 100 runners. Well done Jake.

Huntsman F.C. Three Points From the Leaders

Huntsman travelled to Darlington to face Three Crowns looking for their first victory of 2014 and to close the gap on top of the table. After windy conditions put an end to their 100% record in their last league game there was a sense of déjà vu with the wind blowing down the pitch again.

The manager was forced to make one change from cup defeat at Witton Park with influential winger Michael Sproates ruled out with a lung infection. Andrew Richardson came into the team, also a positional switch with Mark Percival moving into centre of defence and Steven Williams to right back.

Skipper Redpath won the toss and decided to defend the wind first, so Huntsman were under the cosh from the off. Three Crowns started brightly but never really tested Dodds in goal. Huntsman started to get to grips with the conditions and tried to get the ball down without any clear cut chances. The first chance of the game came in the 20 minute when Shaun Sproates raced clear of the defence and with only the keeper to beat he blazed the ball over the trees and onto Whessoe Road narrowly missing oncoming vehicles.

Luckily for Sproates the defender mauled him down late and the young referee gave a penalty. Sproates wanted to make amends for his horrible miss and was desperate for the penalty but the duty went to the normal penalty taker Herd who saw his effort saved from the keeper in his gardening gloves!

The miss didn't stop the Huntsman and 5 minutes later took the lead, Herd delivered a driven corner to the near post which Musgrave bundled goalwards before being poked home by Andrew Richardson for his 2nd goal

of the season.

The rest of the half was Three Crowns whose best efforts came from corners. Firstly Dodds saved with his face via the crossbar from close range and secondly Bry Durr cleared off the line as the half time whistle went. The second half almost saw the Huntsman score after 10 seconds when Jamie Herd fired just wide from a tight position. Next skipper Lee Redpath went close firing high from close range.

On 55 minutes Dave Neale smashed home an absolute stonker from 25 yards which the goalkeeper just waved at. Things got even better 5 minutes later when they went 3-0 up, Bry Durr delivered a delightful left wing free kick into the box which was met by Lee Redpath who directed his header into the top corner, his first Huntsman goal which rounded off his man of the match performance.

The game petered out with the Huntsman manager seeing the opportunity to give other squad members a game. The opportunities continued to come though with Jamie Herd missing three very good chances and Carl Bates firing wide. The final goal of the game came in the 85th minute and what a goal it was, possibly goal of the season. The ball was delivered into the box which was cleared to the edge of the box which Dave Neale acrobatically met as he bicycle kicked into the top corner!

The game finished 4-0 and Huntsman are now 3 points off the leaders with a game in hand and a far better goal difference. Next the Huntsman are on their travels again against Yates in the quarter final of the League Cup the beginning of a big 4 weeks which will shape the destiny of the Huntsman season.

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This project forms part of PCP's aim to develop a socially inclusive community garden set in the grounds of the Centre that all can enjoy. If you are interested in enrolling for the free workshops book your place today or for further information contact: 01325 321234 email: project.admin@pcp.uk.net. Pioneering Care Centre, Carers Way, www.pcp.uk.net or on Twitter: @PioneeringCare - Facebook: /PCPandCentre



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Fostering a Wish to Make a Difference



Reach Out Care, Newton Aycliffe's Ofsted "outstanding" fostering agency, is holding Skills to Foster sessions for people who are interested in fostering.

The agency, which also holds Investors in People Gold and Investing in Children accreditations, is based in Burnhope.

"Several families from the town already foster with us," said fostering manager Lynne Brown. "Some have been with us many years and others are new to the agency. They come from all walks of life - some are married, some are single, some rent their own home while others own theirs. The two things you really need are a spare bedroom and a desire to make a difference in the life of a child or young person."

"People tend to come to us through personal recommendation or because they have read articles like this. We're really passionate about helping children and young people achieve their potential and we are really good at training and supporting our foster carers."

"We treat our foster carers as professionals in their own right. We hold an annual

awards afternoon tea in a local hotel where we recognise the achievements of everyone in the fostering family household - not just the foster children but birth children and carers as well.

"The ongoing support and training means that our carers receive really positive feedback from the local authority social workers throughout the region. "There is a real need for people who can look after teenagers, groups of brothers and sisters, children with disabilities and parents and babies. Every month week we receive dozens of referrals from local authorities who need to find placements for children and young people."

Skills to Foster consist of three Saturday sessions where people are given a real understanding of what fostering entails. They hear from social workers, agency foster carers and a young person who can share experiences of being in foster care.

The first session is Saturday March 29th. If you are interested in attending, please call the team on 01325 310009 option 2 so we can take your details and give you details of time, venue etc.

Vive La Greenfield

For the past 6 weeks, Greenfield's subject leader for Performing Arts, Alison Dixon has been working in France as part of professional development opportunity following her work on a Comenius project last year. The placement which was grant funded by the British Council took place in the Picardie town of Méru, which is around 40 km north of Paris.

Mrs Dixon, who speaks good French, wanted to develop her language skills further and experience teaching in Europe. She has an idea to teach French through dance and is eager to start developing language learning in our local primary schools after the Easter break.

Mrs Dixon, who found her time in France to be extremely valuable and inspiring, said 'It was a real challenge planning all my lessons in French, but I learned an awful lot and was very well supported by my French colleagues. If I made mistakes, the pupils helped me and for many of them it was their first experience of dance in education.' Alison also led professional development sessions for the teachers whom she believes will continue their practise. 'The teaching day is much longer in France with classes beginning at 8.30am and ending at 5.30pm but they do take 2 hours for lunch which is very different to the 35 minutes I'm used to. I also picked up some other interesting approaches to reporting and assessment and I will be sharing these with my colleagues and members of our leadership team' Greenfield has for some time prided itself on the success of its International dimension; last year the school was involved in as many as 16 initiatives including the Comenius project which saw 25 young people working in partnership with a French school developing language, culture and dance skills. In addition we hosted a French teacher who worked within the PE and Performing Arts departments and this year we were successful once again in hosting a Jules Verne teacher, this time working in our Science department. This provides our young people with a number of opportunities including the chance to learn languages through other subjects and be inspired to get involved in global learning.

Obituary

PETTIT, Peacefully on Tuesday 18th March following illness. Freda Margaret (formerley of Eldon Lane), aged 74 years. Much loved and missed by all family and friends. Service 11.00am on Tuesday 25th March at St. Mary's Church, followed by a Service at Durham Crematorium. Donations, in lieu of flowers, may be made to Cancer Research via Whitehouse Funeral Services.

Young Entrepreneur Starts Own Business

The business started when Scott Dawson was looking for a part time job during the summer holidays. One that he could do as well as attending college. After handing out CV's everywhere and applying for countless jobs without any luck, he decided he would start his own business.

At first he sold locally sourced eggs to family and friends. After advertising on Facebook Scott acquired a few new customers and would now like to offer his egg delivery service across the town to all residents. Scott sources his eggs from a farm in the area where the hens are able to roam free. This ensures the eggs are as fresh as possible and are high quality.

Scott runs the business himself, taking orders and then delivering on his bike, hoping that soon his business will be able to take on a delivery person so he can concentrate on the business promotion side.

EggsInAycliffe charge £3.00 for a dozen eggs including local delivery to the customer's home.

At the minute all Scott sells is eggs; however if the business continues to grow he would like to add more products to his range - but they must be locally sourced fresh goods.

Customers can order via phone/text on: 07926 054842

Website: www.eggsinaycliffe.webs.com

Or on Facebook: www.facebook.com/eggsinaycliffe

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Order by visiting our website:

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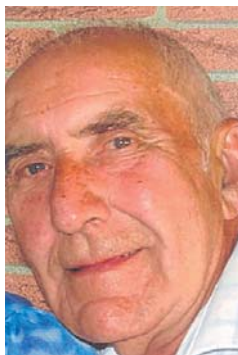
In Memoriam

Margaret Kelly

24th March 2009

Forever in my thoughts.
Love you always.
Paddy xxxx

Stan Everidge



23rd March 2013

One year has come and gone and the pain still hasn't gone away. I will never forget the laughs we shared and the memories we made. Love you forever and always Dad.

Lynn, Jeff and Karl xxx

23rd March 2013

One year today you were taken from us Grandad. Love and miss you always. Love, Bradley, Katie and Sean xxx

23rd March 2013

Not a day goes by without you in my thoughts. You were one in a million. Love you always. Your Wife Ann xxxx

TINA-LOUISE ALLAN 21st March. Where the blue of the night meets the gold of the day, wait for me. Jacquie xxx

ELLIOTT, George Hilton. 23rd March 2013. A loving Dad and Grandad. We lost you one year today. But it feels like yesterday. We love and miss you more than words can say. Love always, Pauline, Bruce, Michael and Stephen xxx

ELLIOT, George. 23rd March 2013. We think about you always and talk about you still. You have never been forgotten and you never will. Love and miss you Dad. Barbara and Rob xxx

FRANK SWINBURNE 24th March 2013. Can't believe a whole year has passed. You are in our thoughts and hearts always. You were and still are simply the best Dad and Grandad. Love, Diane, Kevin, Luke and Hannah xxxxx

FRANK SWINBURNE Died 24th March 2013. A year today since you passed away from this world and went to a better one, but left us broken hearted, you were simply the best. You were in great pain you did not deserve, so you had to go. God saw you getting weary and he came and took you to his home. We grieve for you every single day, but know you are in a better place, so that helps us carry on. I will celebrate our forty ninth wedding anniversary on 26th March with the family and have a drink for you. Love always, your forever Wife, Pauline and beloved Son Frank Junior xxxxx

For all Party Invitations call
Newton Press 300212

Congratulations

Greg Lyons & Emma Smith

Congratulations on your recent Engagement. Best wishes for your future together. Love from both families xxxx

Diane Newton



50 Years Young

My Brown eyed girl. Can't always be with you, but always in my heart. Love, Rich

Happy 50th Birthday Oldie

Lots of love, Aimee and Sophie

Happy 50th Birthday

I can't believe my little Sister is 50! Have a lovely birthday. Love, Julie, Bill and Daniel

Happy 50th Birthday

Hope you have a great day. Love, John, Carole and Toni

Anne



Happy 70th Birthday

Congratulations on your 70th birthday. From your Bingo Friends.

Colin Kipling



Happy 50th Birthday Col
Nice to see you haven't lost your good looks. Lots of love, Val, Claire, Wayne, Nicola and Michael xxxxx

Happy Birthday Grandad
from your three Treasures, Holly, Emily and Morgan xxx

Happy 50th Birthday

From your faithful friend, Tommy x

Patrick and Jennifer Degnan



Golden Wedding Anniversary - 21st March 1064
Congratulations and lots of love on your Golden Wedding Anniversary. From all the family

John Melvin



60 !!

23rd March

Happy birthday. Lots of love on your special day from Lynn, Shaun, Gary, Nycola, Emily and all your family xxxxx

Birthday Remembrance

Brooke Louise Dawson



16th March 1980 to 14th April 2001

You will never be forgotten and are always in our thoughts. We miss you always, but especially today on your 34th birthday. "We will meet again baby". All our love, Mum, Geoff, Lewis and all your family xxxxx

PATRICIA FISK (Pat). 24th March 1936 to 7th July 2000. Birthday memories of our dear Pat. Never forgotten on this your birthday. Love always, Tony, Susan, Michael and family xxxxx

Alexander Everson



Happy 2nd Birthday to our special little man. Lots of love Mummy, Daddy and Gracie xxx

Adorable Alex, have a wonderful Barney Party! Love Nana and Grandad xx

Have a Super-dee-duper birthday Alex! Love Andrew, Beci, Daniel and Louisa xxxxx

Have a lovely birthday Alex, Love Grandma, Lee, Yasmin and Sophie xxxxx

Two today, hip hip hooray! Love Grandad Jim and Nan Linda xxx

Special birthday hugs and kisses from all of your extended family and friends xxxxx

Thank You

HILDA MILLION 1st March 2014. The family of the late Hilda would like to thank most sincerely all who sympathised with them on the sad loss of a wonderful Mum. We thank all who attended the funeral and sent cards of sympathy for their kindness and support. Sincere thanks to Doctors at Pease Way, Carers and Aycliffe Care Home for the great dignity and respect shown to our Mum. Gill and Chris at the Co-op Funeral Service for help and support. Our Mum a lady gone from our lives, but forever in our hearts. Marilyn, Carol and Colleen

OLIVE APPLEBY wishes to thank all her friends and family who attended her 90th birthday party. Also for the lovely cards and gifts she received. I would like to say a special thank you to the British Legion for the decoration of the room and the beautiful buffet. From Olive and family

Aycliffe F.C. Blown Away at Whitley Bay

Newton Aycliffe FC's travel woes continued on Saturday, as they returned home empty handed from an away game. The conditions on Tyneside on Saturday were, in truth, awful but as the old adage goes, it was the same for both sides. The strong wind was blowing straight down the pitch, meaning each team were required to play directly into it for a half of the game. Keeper Andrew Spence returned from injury in goal, while James Oliver was brought into a central midfield position. With leading scorer Jamie Owens injured, Dan Mellanby was brought back in alongside Tom Atkinson up front. The hosts started well. Spence was forced to prove his fitness twice early on, getting down well to save as Aycliffe found themselves somewhat penned in against the wind. As the mid-way point in the first half arrived, so too did the opening goal. The Whitley Bay right winger was afforded far too much room as he cut into the area and got to the by-line before cutting the ball back to Stephenson who finished from close range. However, straight from the re-start, Aycliffe went up the other end. As Atkinson made his way into the box he was upended, with the referee pointing to the spot. Given the deadly form Stuart Owen has been in from 12 yards, Aycliffe were sure they had a route back into the game. On this occasion though, Mark Cook guessed

right, and saved well to his left. Just another minute on the clock though, and Aycliffe were level. As they pressed forward again, the ball was cleared for a corner. The returning Paul Broom whipped a teasing ball in that Dan Mellanby managed to glance in at the near post. Corners were proving a problem for Bay. On 24, Mellanby almost got his second, with the ball cleared off the line, whilst just 3 minutes later from another corner Oliver too saw an effort cleared off the line. With the wind and bobbly pitch making it difficult for either team to take control of the game, it looked as though Aycliffe were going to get to the break at 1-1. Unfortunately though on 42 minutes a fortunate ricochet fell to Reid on the edge of the box, and his rasping drive gave Spence no chance. Straight from the re-start was arguably the most controversial moment of the afternoon. A long wind assisted through ball saw Atkinson running away from the Bay defence and seemingly clear on goal. As he was brought down, everyone in the ground looked to the referee to see the inevitable red card pulled out. Inexplicably, he chose to take no further action! Cook was responsible for keeping the lead for the home side as the half progressed. On 55 minutes and again on 57 he denied Mellanby with top class saves.

36 Girls Get Muddy! Magificent 7th Win for Aycliffe Rugby



A team of 36 from Aspire Fitness Studios Newton Aycliffe are competing in a seriously tough obstacle-filled Mud Run where they will come up against cargo nets, climbing walls, tunnels, freezing open water, muddy ditches and lots of filthy surprises along the way at the event which takes place at 2pm on Sunday 23rd March at Hardwick Park. The fundraiser was organised by Kelsey Coulter, who "was inspired to raise funds after experiencing such a personal and traumatic time in their lives with their youngest son, it made them stop and realise how precious life is and to

make every second count with our loved ones and help support other families which is why we chose Butterwick Children's Hospice." said Kelsey Sharon Whitehead, at Aspire said "The response from our members to participate was truly overwhelming. The majority are stepping out of our comfort zones to take part. The nerves and excitement are kicking in but I know that together, we will all make it such a great team event whilst raising essential funds for our chosen charity The Butterwick Childrens Hospice in Stockton." Last year the Aspire team

raised over £800 for the Butterwick Adult Hospice participating in the Midnight Walk and would love to exceed that amount. If anyone would like to show their support they can sponsor the team online at <http://www.justgiving.com/aspiremuddymayhem> or text ASPI73 followed by the donation amount e.g. £2 to 70070 alternatively contact Sharon 07879 996728, contact us on Facebook: Aspire Fitness Studios Newton Aycliffe or call in to the studios: Durham Way North, Aycliffe Business Park, www.aspirefitnessclasses.co.uk

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club continued their winning streak in Durham and Northumberland Division 3 with a 72-0 win that was not as comfortable as the scoreline suggested. Aycliffe were without a number of players through injury, but were still able to field a strong squad. The game was seriously affected by a strong wind blowing diagonally across the field. The game began well for Aycliffe as David Judge broke away and gave Adam Gascoigne the chance to score a try in the first minute. When Darryl Pettit turned over the ball from a scrumage and fed Andrew Littlefair for a try that Luke Tinkler converted, a cricket score seemed on the cards, and Ronnie Gilyeat scored his first try of the season to give Aycliffe a 17-0 lead. Then though, the game became rather scrappy and the scoreboard dried up for a while as Jarrovians tried to disrupt the Aycliffe forwards. Eventually, Luke Crossen, Littlefair and Warren Parsonage scored a further three tries before the break and the half-time score was 34-0. Soon after the start of the second half, Crossen added his second score, but then the game degenerated again, with the physicality of Jarrovians putting Aycliffe off their stride. There was no further score for 20 minutes. Aycliffe rang the changes by putting on their replacements for the final minutes and the fresh legs seemed to be the straw that

broke the camel's back. Within three minutes of coming onto the pitch, Chris Wilson had scored two tries and a further score followed through Darrell McLaren whilst Littlefair and Crossen both completed their hat tricks as Aycliffe managed to produce some flowing moves involving both backs and forwards. Tinkler finished with 6 conversions as Aycliffe scored 33 points in the last 16 minutes against their tiring opponents and triumphed 72-0. The result cemented third place in the league whilst keeping up their slim hopes of promotion. On 22 March, Aycliffe visit local rivals Sedgefield, kicking off at 3pm. Newton Aycliffe are sponsored by Boola Clothing Aycliffe and Hayward Home Appliances trading as Serviceforce. Visit the website at www.pitchero.com/clubs/newtonaycliffe.

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Aycliffe Badminton

Another month draws to a close for Aycliffe Badminton Club with the Mixed Team sat 6th in Division A with the struggles for the season continuing, the Ladies team having not played in March are 4th in their league. Away from League matters it was a much better month for the club in the Darlington & District League Tournaments with Claire Tumelty & Ian Boyd winning the Oddellows Shield beating 2 pairs from

St Teresas in the Semi Final and Final to win the competition for the first time since the 2010/11 season. Following that in the Handicap Tournaments Maggie Winfield & Phil Marriott were runners up in the Vets Tournament for the second season in succession giving Aycliffe something to cheer in what has been a poor season overall.

Anyone looking to play badminton either socially or competitively in one of our league teams is more than welcome to attend club nights on Friday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30, if you would like more information you can visit our website at <http://aycliffbadminton.webs.com/> or contact us through Twitter at @AycliffeBC

Planet Leisure Ten Pin Bowling League

The top of the league has tightened this week, but the Pinheads still lead as they beat the M & M's by 8-0 which puts them at 110 points in first place. The M & M's have dropped from fifth to seventh place. In second place are the Strike Force but they lost 6-2 to the Late Starter who stay in ninth place. Joint third are the Wenwees only by pin fall as they drew 4-4 with the Bowl Movements who stay sixth. Also joint third are the Clangers who won 8-0 over the Shildon Strikers who remain in eighth place. The Optimists had a 4-4 draw with the Misfits and stay tenth with the Misfits fifth.

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