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GARA OPPOSE WINDFARM



The Great Aycliffe Residents Association at its recent AGM, unanimously re-affirmed its opposition to the proposal by Eon to build a huge windfarm on the Isles. County Durham has done more than its fair share of provision for windfarms, in the UK. GARA believe the 24 Turbines proposed are a massive and unwelcome intrusion into the countryside of County Durham, a landscape protected under the Sedgefield Borough Council local plan. This development cannot be justified and GARA pledge full support to Durham County Council (Planning

Officers and Councillors) as well as Great Aycliffe Town Council in their opposition. There is no objection to renewable energy in itself, but only to this proposed industrialisation of our local landscape. The Government recently acknowledged the massive profits made by Utilities like Eon from subsidies paid for out of everyone's Gas and electricity bills including the lowest paid, cannot be justified. The fact that over 90% of Wind capacity (not wind power actually generated) also has to be backed up by Gas fired power stations on "spinning reserve" means that the amount of CO2 emissions saved by wind farms is negligible. GARA say no to despoiling one of the loveliest corners of rural England with a noisy, ugly, taxpayer-subsidised, bat-chomping, bird-slicing wind farm turbines.

Honest John Donations

Honest John recently donated £450 to the Newton Aycliffe Sports Club Junior Cricket Academy to help with the purchase of training equipment for the youngsters. Newton Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club also received £750 to help towards their running costs. John made a donation to the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group of £600 and the Cubby was presented with £1240. As from 31st March John will be raising funds for the Newton Aycliffe Spartans Baseball Team. Honest John is also running a raffle for £100 voucher to spend in a local supermarket, tickets on sale from John at the Cubby.

Spring forward!

Don't Forget to put your clocks forward one hour on the morning of Sunday 30th March

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Drop In for Funding Aycliffe Artist's Work Depicts First World War Obscenity

County Durham Community Foundation is organising a series of drop-in Funding Sessions across County Durham and Darlington to promote funding of up to £5,000 for voluntary and community groups. Funding is also available for individuals. Staff from the Foundation will be on hand to talk about all available funding and the application process at Greenfield Community and Arts Centre, Newton Aycliffe between 10am and 11.30 am on Wednesday 30th April. Anyone interested in attending is asked to register by email volunteer@cdf.org.uk or ring 0191 378 6340



A third of the large oil painting being completed by John Palliser

Aycliffe Artist John Palliser is painting a picture in secret ready for unveiling at a charity event celebrating Armed Forces Day in

Sunderland. It will then be exhibited in Bede's World before starting a four year UK tour to include several war museum galleries.

The extra large oil painting commemorates the 100th year since the start of World War I. It respectfully portrays acts of extreme bravery, and the obscene consequences of the Great War.

Said John: "A generation of innocent young men, their heads full of honour, glory and England, went off to war to make the world safe for democracy." "They were slaughtered in often ill-conceived battles

planned by incompetent and misguided generals. Those who survived were shocked, disillusioned and embittered by their war experiences, and saw their real enemies were not the Germans, but the old men at home who had lied to them."

"They rejected the values of the society that sent them to war, and in doing so separated their own generation from the past and from their cultural inheritance. The painting had to be historically accurate, symbolic in its approach and most of all bringing justice to the millions of lost souls on all sides."

Keeping Loved Pets with their Owners

The Cinnamon Trust is the only specialist national charity for the terminally ill and people in their later years and their much loved, much needed companion animals. We urgently need dog walking volunteers in Newton Aycliffe who are able to offer some much needed walks for a lovely 5 year old Labrador.

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is to rehome them, this is where our national network of dedicated volunteers step in to offer support enabling them to stay together. We'll walk the dog for a housebound owner, we'll foster pets when owners need hospital care, we'll fetch the cat food, even clean out the bird cage or litter trays. We are always seeking new volunteers even if you can only spare an hour a week we would love to hear from you. If anyone can help please call during office hours 01736 758707 or via email volunteer@cinnamon.org.uk Please also check out our website for more details www.cinnamon.org.uk



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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"

A performance by the Gatecrashers on 12 March 2011 prompted this review in a local North East 'rag'. "The Brandling Villa in Gosforth, Newcastle, buzzed with excitement. The place was packed to the rafters with fans as well as musicians from other local bands - all here to spend an evening with the fabulous "Gatecrashers". It was the first time I'd seen them with their vibrant new lead vocalist. And I was impressed - so very impressed. Nick (Saints of Arcadia) Jennison has more than enough charisma to set a stage alight - and then some. And he can sing - oh, can he sing! Sharing lead guitar with Ant Wright (who provides great backing vocals) they had a ball while entertaining their discerning Geordie audience add the brilliant bass guitarist, Dave Hildreth and talented drummer, Doug Hayes to the flavoursome mix - and the "Gatecrashers" were a big green GO!"

Saturday 12th April - "Feed the Bear"

For more information on bands go to www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

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St Elizabeth's Church Presents their Bi-Annual: "Pie, Peas and Pud Lunch" on Wednesday 2nd April at 12.30 pm. Pie and peas, followed by a choice of two homemade puddings plus tea or coffee all for just £3.00. All ages welcome, no booking required just turn up hungry!



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PCP Send Waste to Aycliffe's New Biogas Plant

The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) found a local waste collection thanks to the power of social media. Emerald Biogas, which operates the north east's first commercial food waste anaerobic digestion (AD) plant, promoted its food waste service through the social media micro community 'AycliffeHour' on Twitter, which is how PCP first found the waste disposal services on offer. After meeting with the renewable energy company to discuss its requirements, which includes disposal of food waste from the Centre coffee shop, staff kitchen and nursery, Emerald Biogas is now working with the charity and collecting all of its food waste to process at its AD plant on the Business Park. The PCP is delighted their food isn't being sent to landfill. Carol Gaskarth, Chief Executive, PCP, said: "After hearing what Emerald Biogas could do with our food waste



and the processes involved we were immediately interested. The idea of turning our food waste into energy was extremely useful, as we are always looking for ways to reduce waste going to landfill. In line with this we want to reduce our impact on the environment, as well as helping any local economy through the energy produced from the waste generated. "We are currently accredited with the environmental quality standard ISO 14001 and through this system; we have set ourselves ambitious objectives and targets to meet, with reducing waste to landfill being one of those objectives. Adam Warren, Director, said:

"We regularly engage with online business communities such as 'CoDurhamHour', 'AycliffeHour' and 'North East Hour', as they are a great way of making new contacts and potential customers while raising general awareness of the business. In this instance, being able to help a local community organisation to dispose of its food waste in a greener way is meaningful to both PCP and to Emerald Biogas and we were more than happy to help." Emerald Biogas currently employs seven staff at its £8m state-of-the-art AD facility based at Newton Aycliffe Industrial Estate, generating enough energy to power 2,000 homes through its food waste processing. For more information about Emerald Biogas at www.emeraldbiogas.com



WEST WARD
A PACT Meeting will be held at the Parsons Centre Methodist Church, Burnhill Way on Thursday 3rd April from 6.00pm. Please come along to hear updates and have your say on local issues. PC Mike Welch & PCSOs Nicola Shaw & Chris Noble are your Community Police Officers. Local Ward Councillors in Attendance. For more information on what's going on in your area visit www.durham.police.uk

SHAFTO WARD
A PACT Meeting will be held at Neville Parade Methodist Church on Thursday 3rd April 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

HORNDALE WARD
WEDNESDAY 2nd APRIL at 6.30pm Evangelical Church Ladybower covering Greenfield, Byerley Park and Horndale areas. PC Mike Welch PCSO Mike Hutchinson, Park Wardens, Neighbourhood Wardens and County Councillors will be in attendance.

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Really Eggciting



Sugar Hill Primary School were very excited by their new arrivals this week. A special delivery arrived on Monday morning - nine little eggs! The eggs needed to be kept warm in the incubator and the children enjoyed watching them hatch and grow throughout the week.

Reception boys and girls kept a daily diary and were very excited by their new furry friends. Some of the names included: Charlie, Daisy, Fluffy, Chirpy, Fred.

Aycliffe Schools Learn the Waste Food Recycling Lesson

Waste Warriors at Woodham Burn School



A commercial food waste facility has visited more schools in County Durham as part of its Waste Warriors campaign to talk about food waste and help pupils understand the growing impact of disposing of unwanted food.

Emerald Biogas, based at Aycliffe recently launched the campaign to schools across the north east in response to the national food waste problem. Woodham Burn Community Primary School was delighted to take up the offer and was joined by pupils from Woodham Academy.

Esther Brown, Commercial Manager at Emerald Biogas talked with 112 Years 2, 3, 4 and 6 pupils about how big a problem food waste is, both locally and nationally, where the food waste comes from and why it should be recycled

and not sent to landfill. The young recyclers learned about the process of anaerobic digestion, with the benefits of green energy and fertiliser produced at the other end, as well as what they can do to help by becoming a Waste Warrior.

Kiera Edwards, aged 7, said: "It is amazing that you can make energy out of horrible waste food. I definitely want to help with this."

Max Turner, aged 11, said: "It fits in really well with our school resolutions. We are really trying to be greener this year."

Pupils were given workbooks with activities such as designing a team logo, filling in the gaps for the anaerobic digestion process and recording food miles for school's lunch, to develop their creative design, problem solving and mathematics skills.

The youngsters also have the chance to win a £250 voucher for their school by designing a series of colourful and creative posters that get the food waste message across, as part of a north east schools competition. The winning school will purchase an environmentally friendly resource, to be used for the school's green initiatives.

Over the next two weeks Emerald Biogas will collect the school's food waste to process through the plant. The pupils will also be able to visit the anaerobic digestion plant to experience the food waste-processing journey in action. Riannon Rowe, head teacher, said: "This is a really practical way of being involved in an green initiative. The 'hands-on' experience of seeing our own food waste turned into something of value will be a genuine learning experience for all our pupils."

Esther Brown, Commercial Manager at Emerald Biogas, said: "We are now well into our food waste campaign with schools and I have found the

Aycliffe Apprentice in National Finals

A Newton Aycliffe apprentice was among the finalists in a national competition organised by Business Impact UK.

Lauren Brown, who works as a receptionist and administrator at Reach Out Care Fostering Services in Burnhope, was delighted to be among the final few in the 19 to 23 age category.

"I was really pleased to make it into the finals," said Lauren, aged 20. "I was 18 when I joined Reach Out Care and



I was really shy. I hadn't enjoyed school and kept missing lessons."

Lauren has now developed an appetite for learning. "The company arranged for me to study for my NVQ Level 3 in business administration, which I passed, and I'm now doing my Level 3 in customer service. I actually enjoy learning now that I'm not at school!"

Reach Out Care Fostering Services is rated as "outstanding" by Ofsted and holds Investors in People Gold and Investing in Children accreditations.

"Lauren is a real asset to our organisation," said director Dot Butler. "We've watched her grow in self confidence and skills over the past year or so. She's great at thinking outside of the box and really makes a positive contribution to the team. She's also a great advert for the benefits of apprenticeships."

FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW



The next "Feel Good Film Show" at St Clare's Church, on TUESDAY 1ST APRIL, features "THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS" A timeless story of innocence lost and humanity gained. "It is one of the most remarkable films about childhood I've ever seen" - The Times.

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

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Coffee Morning Fundraiser

A Coffee Morning in aid of Heighington Scout Group. is on Saturday 5th April at Heighington Village Hall from 10.00am til 2.00pm. 50p entry to include a cup of tea/coffee. Lots going on including tombola, raffle, table top items, craft stalls, cake stall and delicious bacon sandwiches. All welcome. Look forward to seeing you there.

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Music Festival at Youthy



The Broken Hearts Festival in aid of British Heart Foundation in conjunction with Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre was a great success.

The nine bands came from all areas of the North East giving up their time and paying gigs to entertain a crowd of rock and metal enthusiasts. There was a friendly atmosphere, with a range of ages all enjoying the various styles and mixture of cover and original music.

All the bands who supported this event said they are willing to do the same again as they really enjoyed the venue, competitive bar prices and delicious food.

Newtonian, Brian Lockey, one of the organisers, said "The night went amazingly, and due to the positive feedback, we have decided The Broken Heart Festival will return on March 21st 2015 bigger and better". The organisers are keen to express their thanks to all the fans and bands that

supported the event, and to providing the venue for free and putting on the food and bar

USEFUL CONSULTATION WITH COUNCIL CUSTOMER RELATIONS MANAGER



On Thursday last week Durham County Council held the consultation sessions at the Youth & Community Centre inviting representatives from

the town to comment on the proposed changes to the council's new strategy in dealing with customers.

Mary Readman Customer Relations Manager met small groups of residents to outline new policies designed to put customers first in moves to improve the service and efficiency at County Hall.

Budget cuts have forced the council to become more efficient and save on the high costs involved in serving the needs of customers.

A new interactive website goes live soon and it is going to be much easier to make contact with the right people. There is to be an element of self service and working in partnership to deliver a better service.

One policy change which cost less, and improved the service was moving school admissions to on-line application. The new approach is aimed at "access for all" and making it easier for everyone to contact the service they require.

Each group were allowed to make suggestions based on their own experiences in the past on contacting the Council which were noted to be analysed before the final strategy is implemented. Mary said she had over 300 responses and she thanked all who took part, stating the feedback was much appreciated.

Coffee Morning

An Egg-cellent Easter Coffee Morning is to be held at St Elizabeth's Church, Woodham on April 5th at 10am.

Lots of Easter treats including cakes, bakes and preserves plus an Easter themed tombola, raffle and lots more!

Scones and refreshments also available - look forward to seeing you there!

Knight to Remember



Anna with Dave Eliot Cooper as the knight Sir Walkalot and Rob Temple as his squire, both from Histrionics drama company.

St Joseph's Primary School pupils travelled back in time as they walked to school with a knight in shining armour and his faithful squire.

It was all thanks to nine-year-old Anna Shorten who chose the theme as part of the MEGA Motion campaign to promote healthy lifestyles.

As well as themed walks, pupils earn points every time they use sustainable travel to get to school, aiming to collect enough points to become MEGA heroes by the end of the year.

MEGA Motion comes under the wider Local Motion campaign promoting sustainable transport throughout South Durham. The campaign aims to encourage children to walk, scoot or ride to school to make them aware of the health and

environmental benefits from an early age.

CLr Neil Foster, Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "MEGA Motion is a brilliant scheme, helping our children to stay healthy and teaching them all about environmentally friendly ways of travel from a young age. It's great to see the kids enjoy such a memorable day and we'd like to wish them all good luck in their quest to become MEGA Heroes!"

Games TableTop Day

Games and Gums invite you to come to TableTop Day in Newton Aycliffe which is an event inspired from YouTube's popular TableTop games series, hosted by Will Wheaton ex-actor from the TV Series Star Trek.

It will be held on the 5th April internationally and an event to bring friends, family, keen gamers and any wishing to learn how to play new and exciting games in a relaxed, informative atmosphere.

Games and Gums invite everyone from Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding areas to attend this event at the Scout Centre, Bluebell Way, from 9am to 4pm. For further information please visit www.tabletopday.com or www.gamesandgums.co.uk/events There will be an entrance fee of £1, hot and cold food available to buy and stalls where you can purchase your favourite games. Throughout the day there will be demonstrations of various popular games for you to discover and play.

Launch of Aycliffe Welfare Project

A local project aimed at supporting people hit by benefit cuts under the Government's Welfare Reform agenda will officially launch in Newton Aycliffe next week.

The 'Welfare Champions' project has recruited a small army of local volunteers who will provide advice and guidance to people in their own neighbourhoods to anyone who has been affected by the Welfare Reforms.

Six local champions have received initial training in potential courses of action for residents who have been affected by issues such as 'Bedroom Tax' and the suspension of Benefits.

As well as providing initial guidance the volunteers will also signpost individuals to supportive services such as advice agencies, local housing providers and welfare rights teams.

The project is run by Charity East Durham Trust and funded by the Greater Aycliffe and Middridge Area Action Partnership (GAMP) and local housing provider livin, and is based on a belief that local people will often turn to people they know rather than the established routes, as Chief Executive of East Durham Trust Malcolm Fallow explained

"A significant number of people would rather seek the advice of a friendly, known local face rather than the often complicated and faceless public sector mechanisms such as 'helplines' or websites."

The project will replicate a highly successful version which has operated in the Easington area for over a year and has assisted 1500 people in that time.

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Back Row Date in the Cinema Led to 60 year Marriage



Town Mayor Barbara Clare called to congratulate Ken and Val Chester on their Diamond Wedding anniversary on Thursday 20th March.

The couple, who live at St. Oswalds Walk, moved to Newton Aycliffe from Birmingham where they lived in the same street. There was a gang of young people who mixed and eventually Ken and Val paired off and had their first date at the local Cinema, seated on the back

row!

Ken a keen Birmingham City fan played football himself in an amateur league. He was trained as a Sheet Metal Worker and Val worked in a bakery supplying local factory canteens. They were 20 years old when they became engaged and were married a year later at St. Andrew's Church in the city centre.

A Job as foreman at Bakelite brought the couple to Aycliffe; Ken worked for

them for 16 years while Val was a cook at Woodham Comprehensive for 19 years. Ken is a member of the Big Club and the Navy Club where he plays darts and dominoes. Val likes gardening and enjoys the art of decoupage.

They have a son Terry and a daughter Gail, The family all live in the town and there are two grandchildren. They all got together to celebrate this special occasion for Dinner at the Bay Horse, Middridge.

Pat Spends a Lot of Time in the Doghouse



Well known local footballer Pat Degan and his wife Jennifer celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Friday 21st March at their home in Henderson Road. The Mayor Barbara Clare called with a bouquet and congratulations from the Town Council.

Pat played as a Junior for Middlesbrough and Darlington Football clubs and then for local teams ENV Rovers and Bakelite when they had teams in the Amateur League. He is a Sunderland season ticket holder as a result of supporting his nephew, well known Aycliffe professional Brian Atkinson when he played for the Black Cats.. They both come from Darlington and first met at a Dance at the Majestic where they went to jive to 60's rock n' roll music. Pat served an apprenticeship as a Fitter and Turner at Darlington Railway Shops and Jennifer was a wages clerk at Paton and Baldwins.

A job at Newton Aycliffe for Pat qualified the couple for a new rented house in Walcher Road. Like many young wives in the new town, Jennifer took a part time job working for GEC, Union Carbide and latterly as a Nurse at Aycliffe Hospital.

Pat and Jennifer have four daughters, but he did not suffer as the only man in the house until recently where as a football fanatic he is sent into the back kitchen to watch matches on TV. He shares this room with the family pet so he is literally "in the dog house" when the match is televised! Pat used to tell people: I have a wife, four daughters and even the dog's a bitch!

The couple have 11 Grandchildren and two Great Grandchildren. Jennifer's mother Irene Thompson (90 years old)

lives with them and is a former "Aycliffe Angel".

Pat told Newton News they have enjoyed a good life in the town and it is a great place to live. Jennifer and he love the Newton News and are pleased to have their 60th Anniversary featured in its columns. They have booked the Big Club for a Family Disco Party where 160 people will join in the celebrations.

Diamond Wedding



Diamond couple with the card from the Queen. Town Mayor Barbara Clare shown with daughter Ann and her husband.

Ken and June Stewart of Bluebell Meadows celebrated their 60 year marriage on Thursday 20th March and received a visit from the Mayor Barbara Clare complete with bouquet and greetings on behalf of the Town Council.

The couple were born in the Hartlepool area where Ken served his apprenticeship as a Marine Engineer. June and he met through a friend of Ken's who invited them to his home to meet each other. Ken literally swept her off her feet with their first date as a passenger in a light aircraft. It must have thrilled June as they

were married 2 years later! Ken served in the Merchant Navy visiting exotic ports in India, Sri Lanka, USA and Egypt passing through the Suez Canal. He left after his daughter failed to recognise him when he came home on leave, deciding he would be happier with his family, Ken moved with them to start a new life in Newton Aycliffe in 1962 when Ken came to work as a Production Engineer for GEC, followed as Development Engineer for Ozalid and a Training Officer for Abex.

June enjoys knitting and crossword puzzles while Ken continues his lifetime hobby of painting and astronomy. In his earlier days he liked to sail at Ullswater, but gave that up when there was no family around to help him get the boat into the water.

The couple have two daughters six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. They all met for a family celebration with a party at daughter Ann's home in West Auckland.

Town Groups Urged to Affiliate with GARA

The A.G.M. of G.A.R.A. took place last Thursday, and members of the Management Committee are:

Chairman Syd Howarth, Vice Chairman Ken Robson (ACORN Residents' Association) Treasurer Barry Hutchinson, Secretary Arun Chandran, Derek Atkinson, Bill Curtis, Bob Fleming, Paul Kjenstad Fr Michael Whalen, Chris Wheeler, plus affiliated members: Margaret Robson Friends of Senior Citizens (Neville Community Centre), and Friends of West Park, The Lakes & Dales Residents Association, Horndale Residents Association, plus 2 Representatives of Great Aycliffe Town Council's Youth Council. We always welcome more people to join the Committee. All Organisations, Charities, Interest Groups are invited to be affiliated to Great Aycliffe Residents' Association.

You will be entitled to one representative to serve on the Management Committee. The Association seeks to work with Councillors and other public representatives for the good of the whole community. If there is something we can help you with, Come along have your say or contact:

Secretary: Tel 313224 arunmchandran@aol.com
Chairman: Tel 300212 syd@newtonpress.net



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CHILTON JUNIORS EXPLORE NEW BOOKS AT GREENFIELD



It's been a busy few weeks in Room 13 at Greenfield Arts, as we start to use this fantastic new space! There has been a programme of SOLEs sessions led by staff at the College for students on subjects including diary entries, Fair trade and more.

Alongside this activity we have also welcomed a group of colleagues from the Netherlands who are interested in the enquiry based learning we have become known for.

A highlight of the activity are weekly sessions where students from Chilton Primary School have been researching new books to add to their school's library. After they have completed researching they will present their findings to the Head Teachers at Chilton to inform what new books they will purchase. The pupils have been helped in their research by staff

from Greenfield Community College and Greenfield Arts as well as students from Greenfield who have a passion for reading. This has been a fantastic opportunity to introduce the younger pupils to the space and SOLEs.

At the end of this month staff from Greenfield Arts will be leading a continued professional development session to staff at Chilton Primary School, discussing this fantastic new space and how they can use Professor Sugata Mitra's SOLEs methods in their school.

We are pleased to be able to continue to share the success of the space and the enquiry based learning we champion here at Greenfield, and have plans to expand this to include further young people and the community in the coming months. For more information please visit our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk.

Horndale News

Horndale Residents Association meet on Wednesday 2nd April at 6pm in the Evangelical Church. Refreshments available from 5.45pm.

We are holding a Free Easter Fun Afternoon in partnership with Aycliffe Evangelical Church on Saturday 19th April 2pm-4pm. The activities include egg decorating competitions, egg and spoon and bean bag races. The Police will be offering free bike marking and free crime prevention advice and equipment. It is important that we all think about crime prevention.

The vast majority of thefts from homes, garages and vehicles are made easy for the thief's because of items left on show or doors left unlocked.

The afternoon is open to everyone of all ages to bring the whole community together, even if your family have grown up or you are on your own please come along and join in. There will be refreshments and hot cross buns etc available. Our new mascot will be attending his

first event so we hope he will have a large and friendly welcome. He has heard how nice you all are and wants to join us to make the afternoon fun. Other events planned are bus trips to museums, the seaside and a summer fun day. These are open to everyone and will be either free or at a small cost.

Little Acorns the junior side of Acorn Residents Association are holding a Petting Zoo on the 11th April at the Leisure Centre 11.am - 3pm. Little Acorns run and organise themselves with a little bit of help from the adults, however they decide on what events they want and research costs etc. We are really lucky to have these young members of our society who are taking part in creating a better town for us all to live in - well done!

Hope to see you all at your next meeting or at the Easter Fun Day

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Philip Clark, Chairman.

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Fairtrade Fortnight Continues at Greenfield!



During the second week of Fairtrade Fortnight, students at Greenfield College have been continuing to support Foncho's vision to sell bananas fairly in a variety of ways. After the great success of Jade's coffee morning during the first week, students have been very creative in designing their own Fairtrade recipes. Many students have been creating their own Fairtrade snacks to be entered into the Snack Attack Challenge competition with great prizes to be won.

The winner of the competition to guess how many Fairtrade Malters were in the jar, which has raised £25 for further Fairtrade activities, was Jack Hobbs from Cherry Time4Success group who guessed correctly with 112. Jack said, 'It's nice to win and make a donation for a good cause'. Well done Jack!

Students have been wearing Foncho's stickers to raise more awareness of Foncho's vision outside of school. As recognition for Greenfield's continuous support for Fairtrade we have been able to achieve the Fairaware award and are continuing to work towards the Fairactive and Fairachiever awards, offered by the Fairtrade Foundation to recognise awareness of Fairtrade in a school.

The activity over the past fortnight is a great example of the global learning taking place at Greenfield, with dedicated teachers working hard to ensure that students are equipped with knowledge and awareness of the world they live in. Thank you to everyone who has been supporting and continues to support Fairtrade at Greenfield!

Roman Launch Mobile "Roam at Home"

Online homewares retailer, Roman at Home (www.romanathome.com) has launched a mobile version of their website to provide users with the convenience and flexibility of being able to browse and purchase products on any mobile device on the move.

Roman at Home is a luxury homewares company, offering an inspired collection of everyday luxuries and essential products for use all over the home. Their products range from essential and indulgent items for the bathroom, from storage and shelving products, to your kitchen and dining room essentials, and from vintage style garden furniture to picnic hampers, so you can indulge in alfresco dining.

Roman undertook extensive research into their website activity, the findings showed that a substantial 45% of visitors to the homewares website use a mobile device, with 15% of visitors specifically from a mobile phone and the other 30% using a tablet.

To correspond with these figures, according to the Office for National Statistics, access to the internet using a mobile phone more than doubled between 2010 and 2013, from 24% to 53%. In 2013, 72% of all adults bought



goods or services online, up from 53% in 2008. Using this research and their own analytical data, Roman saw this as the perfect opportunity to optimise their website to cater for the popular use of mobile devices.

The responsive designed website is designed to adapt to the screen size of the user's device, so it will deliver the mobile version of the website when visiting from a mobile phone, but for larger devices, such as tablets, users will still enjoy the full desktop version.

The homepage of the mobile website presents the most popular and necessary links that people are most likely to access, such as the main product ranges, the check-out, offers and the simple search bar to easily find products. The full product details are still clearly visible to the customer with the option of viewing larger images of the product; the larger image opens a new browser window, which also gives you the ability to zoom in to view the product, so the user can make their purchasing decision as easily as they can when viewing the full screen size.

Roman at home wants to create a website for the user which is adaptable to their lifestyle and offers them the opportunity to browse and purchase from the site using any mobile device. The website is easy to navigate with simple one finger buttons and it is presented in a straightforward way to view on a smaller screen.

Tekmar Energy Take Over Former Tetley Warehouse

Tekmar Energy who have taken a lease on a 90,000 sq ft warehouse in Newton Aycliffe. Silverstone and Bradley Hall were acting on behalf of the landlord, Ormiston Trust, to refurbish and let the property, which was formerly occupied by Tetley Tea. Silverstone prepared a



LONGER HOURS AT WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE

Household waste recycling centres in County Durham are extending their opening hours for the summer months. The longer opening times will start from 1 April and open every day between 9am and 6pm: Heighington, Heighington Lane, Newton Aycliffe; Residents using the sites are requested to separate their waste before arriving in order to make their visit quicker and reduce the risk of different types of materials becoming mixed, resulting in contamination.

The types of materials accepted at each site may vary and people can check what items can be taken to each site online at www.durham.gov.uk/hwrc

Household waste recycling centres cannot accept trade or commercial waste and certain types of vehicles will need to have a permit. To find out how to get a permit people can log onto www.durham.gov.uk/householdpermit

People can also get information on household waste recycling centres by contacting Durham County Council on 03000 26 1000.

specification of works and project managed the refurbishment to bring the property up to an acceptable standard for the incoming tenant.

The property has been significantly improved including fully refurbished offices and the creation of a new site entrance and is now ready for the tenant's own fit-out.

Tekmar Energy is a marine engineering firm specialising in subsea protective cabling for the oil and gas & renewable energy industry. They already have a base at the nearby Park 2000 in Newton Aycliffe, however due to significant growth the firm now needs to expand its production capacity and have subsequently taken a lease on the additional 90,000 sq ft facility.

Neil Hart, director at Bradley Hall commented: 'Bringing in Silverstone as a trusted advisor on this project has ensured we have secured the tenant in what is a significant deal in the improving market. As demand for large industrial space grows in the region it is important we are able to fulfil the needs of expanding businesses. This project is a good example of how we can work together to offer complimentary services to achieve a successful outcome for all parties.'

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Jumble Sale

St. Mary's School Council, made up of several pupils, are working with the PTA to raise funds for playground equipment of their choice. They will be contacting many companies to negotiate the best deal for the equipment. Their next fundraiser is a Jumble Sale on Thursday 3rd April 6-7.30pm. It will be a great community event with jumble, raffle, tombola and refreshments. Please come along to support the children in this wonderful learning experience.

NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Nordic Walking sessions have begun on Mondays from 10am-11am ending with tea and coffee. Cost £2 per walker. Please ring 313924 to register.

The Neville Art Club commences Wednesday 2nd April 10am - 12 noon. £2 per session including tea and coffee.

Place a date in your diary for Darlington Orchestra Tuesday 17th June.

Will Raymond Robinson of Elwick Place please ring 313924 regarding Veterans Badge.

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Open Art Workshop Temp Team Award Baltic Trainees Graduate



After the successful opening for this year's "Open Art" exhibition we have continued to have lots of visitors to the Gallery here at Greenfield Arts! Years 2, 3 and 4 from Aycliffe Village Primary School visited us recently, working with our Gallery Assistant to explore painting and drawing, including painting with palette knives, a puffy paint experiment and drawing with a rubber! Next week Year 1 from St Joseph's Primary school will visit the Gallery to see the fantastic exhibition and

spend some time painting with us! We are pleased to be able to offer local schools the opportunity to visit the gallery and use it to inspire their creativity! As part of the workshops with these local young people we created self-portraits, inspired by the many portraits in this year's exhibition. We are also offering this creative opportunity to young people and families as part of our Easter Holiday programme. For more information about our holiday programme or the gallery visit our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk.

A North East recruitment agency has marked 35 years in business with its silver Investors In People (IIP) accreditation. Temp-Team, with offices in Gateshead and Newton Aycliffe, has been praised for regularly developing its team, playing to its people's strengths and encouraging new ideas in the work place. The IIP report suggests strong evidence that the pioneering agency, which has ten branches in total, is in good stead for the Gold accreditation which they are able to put themselves forward for in three years' time. Paul Devoy, head of Investors in People Silver standard is something that any organisation should be truly proud of. It is the sign of a company which is very committed to good people management practice and we'd like to congratulate Temp Team on their achievement."

Julie Cummings, managing director of Temp-Team, said: "This accreditation means so much to us all as IIP is all about the development of people, which we at Temp-Team are too. "The recruitment industry has always been cutthroat and the market place is naturally competitive. Our people are our greatest asset and advantage and we can't thank them enough for all of their hard work!" One team member praised the company for listening to its employees, he said: "They have always got time to listen to people. If I have any ideas I can shout up. It's fantastic to hear this feedback as treating people well is one of our core values!" Julie added. Temp-Team, which was accredited Bronze IIP in 2010 and has also received the Health and Wellbeing Good Practice Award, has exciting plans to expand into the rail sector within the year. For more information, visit: <http://www.temp-team.co.uk/>

Newton Aycliffe based training provider Baltic Training Services is celebrating the graduation of their second cohort of trainees. The five trainees graduated with flying colours after completing their initial two week induction programme, followed up with an eight week work experience placement supported by local business and employers in Newton Aycliffe. These include Almit Metal Finishings, Thorn Lighting, Love Thy Cupcake, Costa Coffee and EOS. The trainees, aged between 16-18, took part in the two week intensive induction programme which saw them develop their skills required to undertake a work placement - including behaviour, attitude, confidence, communication and presentation skills which are vital to having successful career. The end result of the course saw the young trainees graduating with an accredited qualification and presenting their new skills to staff and employers participating in the programme. Additional skills such as developing customer services techniques, basic first aid, time and money management and preparing for interviews were also covered and gave the young trainees the chance to further grow in confidence. Recent course graduate Matthew Tate, 17, is thrilled he has made such progress within the two weeks of programme and is eager to complete the remaining eight weeks work experience at



Left to right; Claire Welsh (Employability Manager) Matthew Tate, Joe Barlow, Chelsea Yorke, Keiran Jones, Robert Threlfall, Steve Watson (Tutor).

his placement at Thorn Lighting in Spennymoor and said: "The traineeship programme has really built up my confidence and prepared me for beginning work. I am really grateful for the start it has given me; I am ready for my work experience and am really excited about it." Group coach and mentor Steven Watson, who spent 27 years in the Marines and is still a reserve, is very proud of all of the trainees on the programme. He said: "It's been great to work with these young people because you see them change dramatically in such a short space of time." "Their commitment and enthusiasm was fantastic and they really have grown in confidence and gained the skills needed for adult life and the working world." Jeff Thompson, Director for Baltic Training Services

commented: "We have been delighted with how well our traineeship induction courses are going and feel so much pride for these youngsters who have tried so hard whilst they have been with us." At the end of their traineeship programme the learners will have completed and achieved Function Skills qualifications in Maths & English, gained valuable work experience and developed their employability skills with a view to obtaining permanent employment or an apprenticeship. The traineeship programmes are on-going and Baltic Training has a new group of trainees ready to start. Baltic are keen to hear from any potential trainees wishing to join the next traineeship programme. Please contact traineeship@baltictraining.com for more information.

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<h3>BALTIC</h3> <p>Sailing from Southampton - 30 May 2015 14nts - Full Board - Britannia Sailing from Southampton > Kristiansand > Oslo > Copenhagen > Stockholm > Tallinn > St Petersburg (overnight) > Helsinki > Bruges > Southampton</p> <p>+ £140 PER CABIN ONBOARD SPEND OR FREE PARKING OR COACH TRANSFER</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>INSIDE FROM £1499 PER PERSON</td> <td>BALCONY FROM £1899 PER PERSON</td> <td>SUITE FROM £3599 PER PERSON</td> </tr> </table>	INSIDE FROM £1499 PER PERSON	BALCONY FROM £1899 PER PERSON	SUITE FROM £3599 PER PERSON	<h3>FRANCE & SPAIN</h3> <p>Sailing from Southampton - 08 August 2015 7nts - Full Board - Britannia Sailing from Southampton > La Rochelle > Bilbao > La Coruna > St Peter Port > Southampton</p> <p>+ £90 PER CABIN ONBOARD SPEND OR FREE PARKING OR COACH TRANSFER</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>INSIDE FROM £649 PER PERSON</td> <td>BALCONY FROM £849 PER PERSON</td> <td>SUITE FROM £1599 PER PERSON</td> </tr> </table>	INSIDE FROM £649 PER PERSON	BALCONY FROM £849 PER PERSON	SUITE FROM £1599 PER PERSON	<h3>WESTERN CARIBBEAN</h3> <p>Flying direct from Newcastle - 06 November 2015 15nts - Full Board - Britannia Fly direct from Newcastle. Sail from Barbados > Aruba > Cayman Islands > Jamaica > Tortola > St Maarten > Antigua > Dominica > Grenada > Barbados</p> <p>+ £140 PER CABIN ONBOARD SPEND OR FREE AIRPORT PARKING</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>INSIDE FROM £1549 PER PERSON</td> <td>BALCONY FROM £1949 PER PERSON</td> <td>SUITE FROM £3549 PER PERSON</td> </tr> </table>	INSIDE FROM £1549 PER PERSON	BALCONY FROM £1949 PER PERSON	SUITE FROM £3549 PER PERSON
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FALCONS HOPING TO GAIN PROMOTION

Under 10 Falcons travelled to Darlington 21st All Stars B for their final game of the season with a couple of players missing, and another player was injured in the warm up.

I asked players to go out and enjoy their football win, lose or draw. All Stars came racing out the traps and played some good passing football. We struggled to cope with the pressure and found ourselves undone late in the first half. HT 1-0. Second half we picked our game up, but All Stars stood firm. We were caught out by a high punt in the air, which was fumbled into the net. The boys didn't give up and the last 5 minutes was all Falcons pressure, but today wasn't going to be our day.

It's now a waiting game to see whether we clinch promotion. A Top 3 finish is guaranteed, and we should all be proud of the effort we have put in this season. Myself and David cannot express the pleasure we have in coaching the boys and the commitment they have shown. A big thank you to all players and parents for your support this season.

I would also wish Jack Gray all the best who is leaving us. Jack has been with the team since development and will be a big miss, all the best in whatever you do. Thank also to Michael Hay for giving his time to help train the boys.

NEW SEASON FOR AYCLIFFE TRI CLUB

Sunday 23rd of March saw the start of a new racing season for the multi-sport athletes of Aycliffe Tri Club. Four of the clubs Triathletes travelled to Stokesley to compete in the 5k run 35k cycle 5k run Duathlon. Weather conditions were kind to the team with bright sunshine and just a few head winds along the bike route.

First home was Graham Aitkins in an excellent time of 1hr 44min followed closely by Gareth Elkin in 1hr 56 In the same category Martin Sedgwick came home in 2hr 04min fantastic times for the 3 men.

Wendy Bake the club's only lady racing was next home with a time of 2hrs 10mins. This was the first time Wendy had competed at Stokesley and she thoroughly enjoyed the well organised event.

All in all a very successful start to the clubs racing calendar. Aycliffe Tri Club are going from strength to strength and have many races planned for 2014, which we will keep you updated with here. The club currently have vacancies for new members and are keen to invite everyone from novices too hardened athletes from any sporting background to take up this ever growing sport of Triathlon.

The clubs team of experienced



Martin Sedgwick, Gareth Elkin and Wendy Bake

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Aycliffe Running Club

Members of Aycliffe Running Club had a busy time last weekend attending many races. 23rd March 2014 - The Dalton Dash, a challenging 10K race set in the picturesque Yorkshire Wolds starting and finishing Dalton Estate, home of Lord and Lady Hotham. Dave Mackenzie was the only member of the club to compete in this race and although conditions were cool and windy Dave finished in 54:41

23rd March 2014 - Dez Fielden from Aycliffe finished in 5th position and 2nd M40 in the Blakey Blitz 17.5K. The race had 855 metres of climb and started near the Lion Inn on the North York Moors. Dez started steadily, went knee deep in a bog in some places and went strong uphill for the last mile passing 2 of his biggest rivals. He was about 5 minutes quicker than last year and finished in 1:30:42

23rd March 2014 - 5 members of the Running Club travelled to Thirsk for the 10 mile road race which is a fast and flat course. Although bright and sunny the runners had to contend with a heavy hailstone shower part way round the course but this did not deter Richard Campbell

and qualified coaches deliver Running, Cycling and Swimming Sessions every week and are there to give advice and support to club members. When you join Aycliffe Tri Club as well as becoming part of a friendly supportive club you will also receive your first session free. If you would like more information then come along to Woodham Academy Pool in Newton Aycliffe on a Wednesday night 7 - 8pm, contact us through the club website www.aycliffetriclub.onsport.com by email aycliffetriclub@gmail.com or you can call Club Coach Andrew Sedgwick on 07887 817960.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 9th April 2014

Environment Committee
Recreation Committee
7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

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

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from achieving a personal best by finishing in 65:30. Tom Porter followed in 1:13:18, then Judith Porter 1:28:10, Julie Nisbet 1:35:48 and Craig Robinson 1:34:45.

23rd March 2014 - The final race in the Stockton 5K Winter Trail Series was held at Cowpen Bewley. First to finish for the club was John Burnside in 22:09 then Peter Smith in 22:35 who also won the series M50-59 category. Sue Milburn finished in 26:20 and was Stockton Winter Trail Series F50-59 category winner

23rd March 2014 - Clare Rose from Aycliffe chose to get muddy at the Muddy Mayhem 10K assault course at Hardwick Park. The course consisted of a number of challenging obstacles including cargo nets, hay bales, slimy tunnels, muddy trenches, climbing walls and large stretches of freezing open water.

22nd March 2014 - At the North East Harrier League at Wrekenton Colin Gibson from Aycliffe had a magnificent run which saw him finish in 399th position in a storming run of 47 mins only bettered by Martyn Knox from Aycliffe who finished in 186th place with an excellent 38 mins. Total runners on the day 437 and Aycliffe finished 19th Team overall.

The annual Aycliffe 10K road race and fun run is to be held on Sunday 15th June. For entry forms see http://www.ayclifferrunningclub.org.uk/raceform_14.html

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Flower Demo

The next meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club takes place on Monday 7th April at 7.30pm at Shildon Civic Centre when Area Demonstrator, Lynda Fraser from Brampton, will present an evening of flower arranging entitled 'Spellbound'

Free to members. Guests £5 - pay on the door

Belford Way Newton Aycliffe

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Colling Walk Newton Aycliffe

Modernised & extended 2 bedroom semi-detached house, recently refurbished & in excellent condition. Entrance hall, lounge with feature fireplace and French doors leading to fitted kitchen/diner with French doors to conservatory, downstairs WC, 2 double bedrooms, en suite shower/WC, family bathroom/WC. Unfurnished with carpets, curtains/blinds, integral oven & hob. Gas CH, garden, garage & parking. EPC rating 'C'. Rent £475 pcm

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Aycliffe Sports Club 2nd in League Championship

With everything still to play for in the DSIL Division 2 title race, Newton Aycliffe Sports Club FC hosted Tomkins from Darlington at Moore Lane this weekend. Both sides met just a fortnight ago, with the Aycliffe side triumphing 3-2 in a game played in tough conditions. The home side opted for a 4-4-2 formation which saw the return of both Jon Hughes and Anth Campbell on the wings, with Paul Cook and Ryan Stonehouse chosen in the centre. Adam Gittins also returned into his familiar left back role and Chris Jones, playing his last game for the club before his impending suspension, was partnered up front with David Teder. Aycliffe Sports Club started well, with a lot of possession and some neat crisp passing football. It was on the quarter of an hour mark that the home side made the most of their advantage as Anth Campbell went on one of his customary mazy runs which finished with a power drive past the keeper to make it 1-0. Ryan Stonehouse then contributed with his first goal

of the campaign when the ball fell to him inside the box and he slotted home to make it 2-0 on the half hour mark. The home side were looking comfortable at this point, but switched off for a poor 10 minute spell which saw some sloppy passing and lapses in concentration leading to the visitors sneaking a goal with their first shot of the half to make it 2-1 on the 40 minute mark. NASC FC regained the two goal advantage just before the break however, with David Teder feeding off Chris Jones and slotting home the third. The second half was a much tighter affair as Tomkins looked to close down the home side a lot quicker than they had in 1st half and making it difficult for Aycliffe side to gain too much of an advantage. It wasn't until the 60th minute that home side killed the game off with Anth Campbell grabbing his second of the match, his seventh league goal of the season, 9 in total for the campaign. This allowed substitutions to be made, with Captain David Hall being replaced by James Miller and Paul Cook replaced

by Craig Barrigan to tighten up the centre of the park. Miller, playing only his second game of the season due to injury, slotted into the back four well and helped ensure no more goals were leaked. The Sports Club move up to Second in the league, leapfrogging The Huntsman, who they play next week in what is proving what may be the most important game of the season to date. Both sides also have top side Spraire Lads to play over the next few weeks to battle it out for the DSIL Division 2 Championship. Next Up: The Huntsman (away - Simpasture Park) Sunday 30th March 2014. NASC FC is holding a Promotion Party on Friday 4th April. Local Band Live Lounge will be playing hits from Oasis, Kasabian, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Arctic Monkeys, Kings of Leon and many more. Tickets on sale now either from Paul Eales (07535 591614) or from behind the bar at The Sports Club at just £5 each - it's going to be a great night - so why not buy a ticket and pop along to support the team.

Village School Bikers Raise £150 for Sport Relief



On Friday 21st March Year 6 at Aycliffe Village Primary School took part in a marvellous eight mile bike ride for Sports Relief. The children left Aycliffe Village and headed to Newton Aycliffe, led by Tony Gairy volunteer bike leader. On the way the children stopped at West Park and Tesco Park. After that the children went back to school having had an amazing bike ride.

All the children in Year 6 had a very good time and would like to thank, Mr Hughes, Mr Mitchell, Mr Gairy, Mr Gargan and Mrs Vest for accompanying the children on the bike ride. While the children in Year 6 were cycling the rest of the school did a 1 mile walk around the village. Altogether the school raised around £150 for Sport Relief. By Alana Riddell and Elsa Self, Year 6

Evening of Clairvoyance

Durham County Carers Support are holding a Fundraiser on Wednesday 30th April at The RAFA Club in Newton Aycliffe. Three mediums, John Pattinson and Michael Jones of the Ferryhill Spiritualist Awareness group and Irene Wilson of the Horden Friendship Centre have offered their services for our evening of clairvoyance. The evening in aid of informal carers in County Durham will include a Pie and Pea supper and a free raffle all included in the ticket price of £10. Tickets are available by calling Joanne Jones on 01325 524605.



Eighth Win Puts Rugby Club in 2nd Place

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club won comfortably in the second local derby of the season against rivals Sedgfield in Durham and Northumberland Division 3. Injuries and unavailability meant that Aycliffe's side was not the strongest, but a feature of this season's campaign has been the way the squad players have slotted into the team with little problem and so it was to prove again. Aycliffe began the game in furious style and for the opening minutes, Sedgfield were unable to get any significant possession. A Luke Tinkler penalty gave Aycliffe an early lead and they added a try, with some good handling seeing Adam Gascoigne over in the corner after a break by Keith Dodds, on his first appearance of the season. Some sloppy Aycliffe play saw Sedgfield reduce the deficit with a penalty goal of their own, but the visitors were still

well on top. A penetrating run by Sam Daltry put the defence on the back foot and when the ball was released out wide, Craig Holmes was able to score under the posts. The conversion by Tinkler and a further penalty saw Aycliffe 18 - 3 ahead at half time. It was the forwards and the quality of the rucking which gave Aycliffe the advantage and Sedgfield were unable to play their usual game in the face of the onslaught. Jeff Hodgson kept battering away to weaken the opposing defence, but it was out wide where the next score came. A speculative kick by Aycliffe was badly dealt with by the defenders and Tinkler was just able to score in the corner. Sedgfield finally were able to put together a concerted attack; good Aycliffe tackling saw them stopped just short a number of times, but eventually the line was crossed. The conversion was missed to leave

Aycliffe three scores in front. The visitors soon forced their way upfield and secured the bonus point when Andy Littlefair was able to reach out and just get the ball down after a dart from close range. Tinkler rounded of the scoring by converting the try. A series of cards saw the game finish with Aycliffe down to 12 men and Sedgfield with 14, but Aycliffe's team spirit saw them able to withstand the pressure without too many scares. This eighth successive win for Aycliffe sees them up to 2nd place in the league with two games to go, although Winton Vulcans have a game in hand. On 29th March, Aycliffe visit league leaders South Tyneside College, 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 FC FACE UPHILL CLIMB

In a season that can be best described as 'up and down', Newton Aycliffe FC are gearing themselves up for the biggest climb of the season. However, rather than the players who will be facing the next challenge, those gearing up for this one are the committee members. And it's not an on-field battle they are facing, as they are seeking to scale Scafell Pike, the largest mountain in England. It is the latest in a series of innovative fundraising challenges devised by the resourceful committee. "we've done sponsored walks before" explained organiser and Secretary Stephen Cunliffe, "so we thought we wanted something to be a real challenge. And what bigger challenge than the highest peak in England". Stephen is being joined on the walk by Chairman Gary Farley, as well as fellow committee members Dan Lewis, Paul McGeary, Barry Waters and John Gaskarth.

"We're looking forward to it", explained Cunliffe. "We've a range of experience, Barry and I are experienced climbers, Dan and Paul are reasonably active, and even Gary has done some training. We will wait and see how John gets on!!" The walk is due to take place on Saturday 5th April, the day after the team host Spennymoor Town. As the Towns only semi professional team, the dedicated committee are always

looking for ways to generate income into the Club. And they are keen to hear from any local companies or individuals who may wish to sponsor the event. No amount will be too small, and will help spur the lads on to complete what will be a very tough challenge. For more details of the event, or to arrange sponsorships, Stephen can be contacted on stecunliffe@aol.com or on 07872 985501.



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A wellbeing information event is being held in Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre. If you are aged 50 or more, live in County Durham and are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, this event is for you. Age UK County Durham is hosting this event and aims to provide general information about health and wellbeing, local activities and about LGBT issues for older people. Free refreshments and a quiz will give you opportunities to socialise. Our group meets every month throughout the County. This event takes place on Wednesday 9th April 2014 between 10:30am and 12:30pm. For further information please call Clare Midgley on 0191 374 6567, or email engage@ageukcountydurham.org.uk

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VOLUNTEER PLANTERS AT WEST PARK



Planting took place in West Park today led by Steve Cooper the Town Council's Environment Officer & Chrissie Walton Corporate Officer. Considering it was very windy over a dozen people turned up at 5.50pm to plant a thousand bulbs of Snowdrops and Bleubells, no doubt just the start of a massive planting programme to make the West Park more visually attractive.

Photo by Cllr Arun Chandran

Trashion Show Promotes Recycling

On Friday 7th March a 'Trashion Show' was held at Barnard Castle Hub. Newton Aycliffe Young People's Voices from Silverdale Community House took part to create items of clothing, jewellery, accessories, which were modelled on the catwalk.



The items were all recycled; rubbish, rags, bottle tops and sweet wrappers etc, things that people didn't want any more but could be put to good use. The idea came about when we had Youth Workers over to stay from Turkey, Denmark and Bulgaria and we were coaching each other on how Youth Work is delivered in different countries. As Groundwork North East is an environmental charity with the mission statement "Changing Places, Changing Lives" we were happy to help with this event to help people of all ages realise the advantages of recycling and how it could be made fun! 1.7 billion Items of clothes (30% of clothes) are left unworn at home. Gypsy Hudgson from the Young Peoples Voices who walked the catwalk in our recycled dress said "The Trashion Show is all I've been thinking about and I would definitely do it again - it was great fun!"

Photography

EYE DREAM Photography for weddings, portrait and event photography. Telephone: 07595 023823 or email paul@eyedreamphotography.co.uk or visit www.eyedreamphotography.co.uk

In Memoriam

Mick Bonas

21st March 1992

Although we are not together, we will never be apart. Because you have that special place, right here within our hearts.

Love you Dad

Lee, Julie, Sarah xxxxxxxx

John Robert Farmer

2nd April

He left me quietly, his thoughts unknown. But he left me a memory I am proud to own. I've lost my sole companion, a life linked with my own, how I miss him as I travel my life alone. I hear his voice in silent hours when the house is very still and the touch of his unseen hand guiding me and helping me still. So treasure him Lord in your garden of rest, for when on Earth he was one of the best. Love you John. Your loving Wife Mary xxx

DAD

We wish we could see you for just a little while, we wish we could hug you and see your loving smile. But wishing gets us nowhere and longing is in vain. So we will hold you in our hearts until we meet again. Love you forever Dad. Paula, Brett, David and Christine xxx

GRANDAD

Sweet are the memories silently kept, of a Grandad we loved and will never forget. Love and miss you Grandad. Jack, Jayden, Harry and Oliver xxx

MARGARET CRISP

(Peggy). 2nd April 2013. Sadly missed today and every day. Always in our thoughts. Love, Dot, Charlie, Julie, Tony, Michael, Sophie and Ralph xxxxxxx

JUDY COLLEY 27/03/2004.

Ten years have passed but not a day goes by that we don't think of you. Our love always Paul, Helen, Christopher and Michelle xxx

JUDY COLLEY 27/03/2004.

Thinking of you always, with love from Mam x

JEAN COOK 30th March 2009.

Treasured memories of a very special Wife, Mam and Grandma. Loved and remembered every day. Love from all the family xxx

JEAN COOK Fondest

memories of a very dear friend. Love, Pat, John and family

ROBERT REDHEAD Died 1st April 2012.

Treasured memories of my Son (Bob). Your smile is in a photo I look at every day. Your memory is in my heart and there it will always stay. Missed and loved. Loving Mother Laura xxx

Congratulations

Thomas Ward



1st April 1993

Happy 21st Birthday

Hope you have a great day. To the best Son in the world. Lots of love, Mam and Dad

Happy 21st Birthday

Lots of love, Louise

Happy 21st Birthday

Nana and Grandad Champion, Grandma and Grandad Ward

HANNAH BAIN 31st March 2014. Wishing you a happy 14th birthday. Hope you have a lovely day. Love from Mam, Dad, Nathan and Minnie xxx
MARK WADE IS 30!! Happy birthday to a brilliant partner and the best Daddy our girls could ask for. Lots of love, Michelle, Evie and Emily xxx
GARNETT Jack and Gladys, congratulations on your Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 27th March 2014. All our love, Stephen, Anthony, Denise, Deborah and Laura

McCULLAGH Ann and Peter. Congratulations on your Golden Wedding Anniversary. Lots of love, Lesley, Andrew, Craig, Rachel, Lynsey, Andy, Miles, Jake, Joel and Ellis xx
McCULLAGH Ann and Peter. Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary. Love and best wishes, Joanne, Andrew, Matthew and Jamie xx

Laura Cruddace



Happy 18th Birthday

Happy 18th birthday to our wonderful Daughter! You have grown into a wonderful young woman and we are so proud of all you have achieved.

Lots of love from Mam, Scott, Grandma, Grandad, all your Aunties, Uncles and Cousins on both sides of our families. Have a fab day! xxx

Birthday Remembrance

Tina Allan

30th March 1992

Your birthday falls on Mother's Day this year, I remember with love the first time you were laid in my arms making me your Mum. Many birthdays and Mother's Days we have spent apart, but my precious Daughter I carry you with me always in my heart. Much Love, Mum xxx

DES WALKER 29th March.

Our birthday wish must be a prayer, this special day we cannot share. But in our hearts you are always there. Love always, Wife Julia and family xxxxx

RONNY MAYOH 28th

March, 1935. Another birthday we can't celebrate with you. Miss you so much. Rose and Family

RONNY MAYOH Happy

birthday on 28th March. You will always be missed and always be in my heart. Your loving Wife Rose xxx

RONNY MAYOH Happy

birthday on 28th March. Love from Maria, Christine, Ian and Anita

RONNY MAYOH Grandad.

Now your birthday is here again, I miss you so much, you will never be forgotten. Happy 79th birthday Grandad. Lots of love Kimberley xxx

GRANT EDGAR Happy

birthday on 27th March. An eternal memory of a dearly loved one. These few words don't seem adequate. It's difficult to say how much you meant and how much you are missed every day. For you were really wonderful and all the world could see that you were loved so very much. Lots of love, Mam, Paul, Lee, Andy and all the family xxxxx

Charlotte Owen

30th March 2014

A Mam is a special person, and your 80th birthday is a special day. So here's hoping that your special day is wonderful in every way. Happy 80th birthday Mam. Have a great day. Love, Dave and Lesley xxx

Happy 80th birthday

Grandma. You seem so young that I can honestly believe you are turning twenty for the fourth time! Lots of love and hugs, Samantha and Ryan xxx

Happy 80th birthday

Grandma. You are the best example of 80, being the new 60. Love, Stuart and Joanne xxx

Tyler Cooke

Happy 16th Birthday from Mam and Lee

Have a Nice Day big Brother. Love, Olivia

Many Happy Returns, Grandma and Grandad

Happy 16th Birthday From Joanne and Rob

Mother's Day 2014

Mothers Day Remembrance

Mothers Day Greetings

Nicola Peacock

To my special Mummy. Happy Mothers Day. Lots and lots of love, hugs and kisses from Lilia-May Goodwin xxxxx

BEVERLEY HOWARTH

Happy Mother's Day to the bestest Mammy ever!! Lots of love, Carrie and Matthew xxx
SPENSLEY Happy Mothers Day Mam. Growing up as a child I always thought it was normal for all Mams to be like you, but I now know that wasn't so. I know how special and lucky I was and am to have the perfect Mam. Love always, Julie and Den xxx

MADGE CROMPTON

Happy Mothers Day to the best Mam and Nan. Love you to the moon and back. Rob, Lisa and Jessica xxx

DELIA STOUT

Happy Mothers day to our wonderful Mam, Gran and Great Gran. All our love, Kay, George, Mark, Debs, Lyndsay, John, Michael, Paige and family xxxxx

JULIE HOWEY

Happy Mothers Day Mam, you are the best Mam in the world. We love you so much. Love from Stephen, Michael and Paul xxx

MELANIE PALLISER

Happy Mother's Day. Lots of love, John and our Boys. Have a lovely day
BEV SIMMONS Happy Mother's Day. Thank you for being the best Mum - EVER! Love you forever. Your Son Dan xxx

LIVERMORE, Debbie.

Happy Mother's Day to our special Mam. Love, Curt and Cloé xxx

MICHELLE TURNER

Happy Mother's Day to the most amazing Mum ever. Love always, Cameron and Amelia xxx

Obituary

JACKSON, March 21st,

peacefully in Bethany House. Hannah (Ann), aged 91 years of Clarence Chare, Newton Aycliffe. Dearly loved Mum of Alan, Brian and Peter; also dear Sister of Elizabeth (Betty) and Jimmy. Funeral on Friday 4th April. Would family and friends please meet at 11.00am for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon. No flowers by request, donations if desired, may be made after the Service for Bethany House.

SWINBURNE, Nella, of

Newton Aycliffe. Peacefully at Rose Lodge Care Home on 18th March, aged 98 years. Dearly beloved Wife of the late G.W.F. Swinburne; much loved Mam to Carol, Ray and Derrick; Grandma to Martin, Paul and David; also a much loved Great Grandmother. Will family and friends please meet for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Tuesday 1st April at 11.00am

JACKSON, 20th March,

suddenly. John (Bunny), aged 75 years of Newton Aycliffe. Loving Husband of the late Lena, much loved Dad of Debra and Linda, also a dear Father-in-Law, Grandad and Brother.

Thank You

JOHN BRIERLEY

The Family of the late John Brierley wish to thank everyone concerned with his care. Thanks also to friends and family for their support and good wishes. £244.52 was donated for the Butterwick Hospice, Bishop Auckland.

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Huntsman Out of League Cup Aycliffe's Fourth Consecutive Defeat

The Huntsman travelled to Darlington on Sunday to face Yates in the quarter final of the league cup. Having beaten Yates twice already this season Huntsman were favourites for the clash, but this game was to be a whole lot different from previous encounters due to a completely different team turning up!

The manager made one change from the 4-0 victory over Three Crowns with Michael Sproates replacing Callum Musgrave whose season is over after a shoulder operation. The game started brightly for the Huntsman causing mistakes in the Yates defence. Bates and Sproates both had chances before the deadlock was broken through a trademark Neale strike from the edge of the area which he simply passed into the corner of the net.

Huntsman fans thought the floodgates would soon open but they were to be mistaken as Yates began to grow into the game with some good football. The equalising goal came in the 35 minute when

a long throw in wasn't dealt with leaving the Yates centre forward with a simple header from 2 yards out. Things got worse when Yates took the lead just before half time from a Huntsman free kick. Bryan Durr curled an effort off the bar but the referee for some reason blew for offside despite there not being a Huntsman player anywhere near the ball.

Yates reacted quickly taking a quick free kick which wasn't dealt with and the winger advanced one on one with the Huntsman keeper and slotted down the side to make it 2-1 at half time.

The Huntsman manager gave his team some strong words and they reacted in a positive manner and again started the half on top. They got a deserved equaliser in the 55th minute when Jamie Herd raced clear before slotting home off the post.

Huntsman were now favourites for the game but they shot themselves in the foot when they conceded a penalty a minute later which was slotted

home despite Dodds getting a hand to it. Yates began taking a physical approach to the game with some tasty tackles flying in and the referee not stamping it out.

They pushed for an equaliser though and were awarded a penalty in the 75 minute which Jamie Herd finished with aplomb after last week penalty miss. The game went end to end from there on but neither side created any clear cut chances.

The game went into extra time with a few bodies tiring and a few injuries beginning to show. Yates came out the traps quickly and got the all important goal from a long throw in which was poked home at the back post. Huntsman threw everything at the Yates defence, but just couldn't get the goal they deserved. The Yates keeper made fine save from an Anth Cox effort, before Lee Redpath fired over from close range. The ref blew for full time bringing an end to the Huntsman's league cup dream but the season is still far from over with another three trophies up for grabs. Dave Neale was awarded man of the match for another great display in the Huntsman midfield.

Next up for the Huntsman they return to Simpasture Park for the first time since December to take on local rivals and title challenger, Aycliffe Sports Club, with the winners taking a massive step towards the title. With injuries and work commitments biting the Huntsman will be looking for a resolute performance to get themselves back on track in the league.



On the day that Newton Aycliffe FC remembered Club legend Frank Swinburne, the team were unable to produce the win they so wanted to dedicate to his memory. It is a year since the Club lost one of their greatest supporters, and they had hoped to mark the occasion by securing their first division survival.

However, they were second best for large parts of the match, and deservedly came away with no points and a nervous end to the season ahead. Given the huge importance on the game for both Aycliffe and Team Northumbria, it was no surprise that the start to the game was edgy. Quality was lacking on both sides,

with the players appearing nervous and not wanting to make mistakes. The first real chance came in the 19th minute, when Dan Mellanby lifted the ball over when through on goal. As the half progressed, the visitors grew in confidence. On 31 minutes Spence did well in the Aycliffe goal to deny Seyer, before Anthony whistled an effort just over 5 minutes later.

As halftime approached, the referee made a major decision, and one that incensed the home side. When the ball bounced up and struck Martin Young's arm from close range, the ref had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Watling slotted

home from 12 yards. Into the second half, and boss Allan Oliver made a change to try and get his side back into the game, with Atkinson replacing Hedley.

And just three minutes later, the game did have its second goal. Unfortunately for Oliver though, it was the visitors who doubled their lead, the goal coming from the left back Aird.

On 64, Oliver made another change, taking off Martin Young and bringing on James Oliver.

With 20 minutes remaining on the clock Jamie Owens was presented a great chance to reduce the arrears, but his header lacked conviction and went wide.

Four minutes later another chance came and went. Good interplay from Owen and Atkinson saw Owens played in, but his shot went over the bar.

With it looking like being 'one of those days' Aycliffe did finally grab a lifeline. 86 were on the clock when leading scorer Owen bent a beautiful shot into the bottom corner to give Aycliffe hope. And there was still time for Aycliffe. In the last minute the bouncing ball fell to Mark Wood on the edge of the area, but he was unable to control the shot and it sailed harmlessly over.

And with that went Aycliffe's chances. They fall to 16th in the table, and with 13 days before their next game they will be watching other results anxiously. The next on field action sees them host Spennymoor on Friday April 4th, with a 7.30pm kick off. Off the field, the Three Legends will be performing at the Big Club on Friday (28th). Tickets remain available and are priced at just £15.

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School Helps Sport Relief



Stephenson Way entered the Sports Relief spirit last Friday with every child taking part in sporting activities throughout the school day. Children were invited to attend school in sportswear in exchange for a small donation, to ensure they were ready for action at all times, maximising the amount of time they spent involved in playing sport.

During the morning session, it was the infant and Year 3 classes who took to the field to first enjoy either football or rounders game before beginning a carousel of sporting activities, including a penalty shootout, basketball shooting and throwing games amongst others. The event ran smoothly thanks to the student organisers and the younger children enjoyed near-constant physical

activity throughout the morning. Sport Relief was the first school event which the new School Sports Organising Committee (SSOC) helped to organise and run. The committee is a new initiative aimed to involve children in planning and organising sports events for the school. The SSOC forms part of wider new provisions put in place in school to promote and improve the levels of physical activity and general healthy living amongst the students.

The afternoon allowed the upper school to undertake a team sports carousel, comprised of: football, handball, bench ball and rounders. Once again, these events were overseen by

members of the SSOC. Throughout the day, all of the events maintained a fun atmosphere, with the focus not being on competition but simply taking part in sport and enjoying it. The children really embraced the event and the school's growing ethos of sportsmanship and teamwork really shone through.

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