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Homes and communities business Livin has signed up to a new scheme to provide tenants with a more affordable solution to expensive weekly payment stores.

The Smarterbuys Store offers an affordable and ethical new way of buying household goods including TVs, white goods and furniture with payments up to 40% cheaper than other weekly payment stores.

Philip Pollard, head of financial wellbeing for livin, said: "Times are hard for our tenants and the risk of them buying goods or borrowing from less affordable sources could see personal debts become unmanageable. The Smarterbuys Store aims to protect our tenants by giving them access to the same quality products but at much more affordable rates and from a source they can trust. The Smarterbuys Store has been developed in partnership with Northern Housing Consortium, Derwentside Homes and Prince Bishops Community Bank and was set up to provide tenants an alternative to doorstep lenders, loan sharks and expensive weekly payment stores.

The site also encourages tenants to save, by transferring a minimum of 25p per week into a savings account set up as part of the 'save as you buy' scheme - which gives the customer the option of either taking the cash back at the end of the payment term, or continuing to save.

"By encouraging them to save we are also helping them plan for the future, as well as helping them build a healthy credit history."

Tenants can browse and purchase items by visiting www.livin.sbstore.org and apply for the weekly payment option. The payments are lower than other high street payment stores and the 25p minimum 'save as you buy' payment is automatically added, allowing the customer to save without having to think about it - they can even choose to save more if they want.

P.A.C.T. Meeting
Police And Community Together



Simpasture Court Coffee Lounge on Tuesday 8th April from 6-30pm to 7-30pm. PC Alan Thompson and PCSO Richard Scott are your Community Police Officers. Representatives from partners will attend when available. For more information visit www.durham.police.uk

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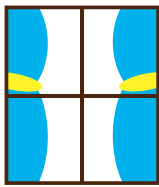
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Aycliffe Music Scene



Last Saturday I was invited to the Oak Tree to watch a new group "After Eden" fronted by Aycliffe's own great musician/singer songwriter Vicky Brewster and another great local musician/singer songwriter Gemma Abley.

They were backed by Ben Whitaker on drums and Harry Scarr on bass. They covered a variety of popular songs with gusto. The double female fronted band with Gemma & Vicky singing in harmony were a great combination. This was After Eden's debut gig and I am sure we will be hearing more from them in the future, - they were well worth going to see.

Aycliffe Young Talent Project (AYTP) has teamed up with Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre (NAYC) for the next few months. AYTP will be organising regular disco's (under 14's and under 18s), an open to all Battle of the Bands competition with a prize worth £500 and also instrument tuition and demonstrations.

FAMILY DISCO & KARAOKE AT SCOUT CENTRE

Newton Aycliffe Scout Supporters Association invite everyone to their Family Disco and Karaoke night on Saturday May 3rd from 7pm - 10pm at the Scout Centre, Bluebell Way. Tickets are just £2 per person (children under 3 free) and can be purchased at the bar. There will be a professional disco/karaoke DJ to keep everyone entertained. As well as the usual alcoholic and soft drinks we also sell 'Mocktails' - non-alcoholic at only £1 each - a real treat. The 1st Newton Aycliffe Scouts are making their well-stocked tuck shop available for the evening. We hope to make this a

regular event so please give us your support.

As many of you will know our family New Year 's Eve party was a sell out so get those tickets NOW and don't miss out.

We are now on Facebook -you can visit us under - GUESS WHAT? Newton Aycliffe Scout Supporters Association. We look forward to hearing from you and hope to see you all at this event and would like to see you in our centre throughout the year- helping to support those who use the facilities. Membership is only £2. We have a well stocked bar and children are welcome with a responsible adult.

SHERIFF'S AWARD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Nominated by Dorothy Bowman, two young people Tamarin Mellor and Bradley Deluce attended a ceremony in Durham Castle to receive a Shrievalty Award.

The award presented by the High Sheriff of County Durham is a testimony to the way they have turned their lives round and made a difference to other young people in their community.

They have both shown by example that although in residential care at the Young People's Centre at Newton Aycliffe, with guidance and help have both gained high standards in education and are a credit to the care system. Dorothy Bowman takes a very keen interest in all the young people in care since she was a County Councillor. "Young people deserve recognition for their hard work to become the best that they can" said Dorothy. Mr Michael Banks the Deputy Chief Constable of Durham presented gift vouchers at the event which was organised by Durham Agency against Crime funded by The James Knott Trust.

Garden Waste Collection Charge Held Until Next Year

Kerbside collections for garden waste in County Durham will remain free this year and then set to continue from 2015 as an opt in service with a small annual fee.

Following public consultation it is clear there is enough interest across the county to enable the service to continue with an annual fee of just £20. If Durham County Council's Cabinet agree a report next week, a further 35,000 households will become eligible to opt into the scheme, taking the total number to 186,000.

The consultation also revealed that the majority of people willing to opt into the scheme wished to pay the £20 annual fee online via the council's website. The council's Cabinet will now be asked to agree the introduction of the fee from spring 2015, with the service remaining free for this year.

Each home taking up the annual subscription will receive 16 collections. Moving to a small annual fee will also allow the council to make the necessary saving of £933,000 for this service.

Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, Cllr Brian Stephens, said: "I am very pleased we will be able to continue to offer this service in 2015 to those households wishing to opt in. There is

clearly enough support to make kerbside collections with a small annual opt in fee viable and the fact that an additional 35,000 people will now have the choice to take it up if they would like to is excellent.

"I would like to thank all those people who took the time to give us their views and I hope that many more homes will now decide to take up this offer."

Durham County Council faces required budget reductions of more than £224m (2011 - 2017) due to large reductions in Government grants.

While local authorities are not obliged to provide garden waste collections, of those which do, more than 35 per cent already charge separately for the service.

The £20 annual fee is considerably lower than the national average. Locally, it is the same as that already

charged by Newcastle City Council and a little less than that in Northumberland.

All households eligible to join the scheme will receive a letter later in the year outlining how the service will operate and how the public can pay their subscription.

Anyone opting to take up a three year subscription will be eligible for a discounted rate of £50.

Households opting in will receive a unique number and sticker for their bin which will be cross referenced with a computerised system identifying those houses which are part of the scheme. Neighbours who want to share a bin can also make an arrangement between themselves to do that.

Cabinet members will be asked to approve the introduction of the new scheme when they meet at County Hall on March 19.

Pharmacy Opening Times



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the opening times of
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www.nhs.uk

or ring the NHS direct on **111**

LIGHTING COMPLAINT

Dear Sir,
The new LED lighting is just not acceptable to people like me who cannot see the lock on my front door to place the key and enter my home. I also know of an elderly lady who fell on the pavement due to poor lighting conditions. They should be replaced with more effective lights before more accidents occur. I am now too nervous to go out when it is dark and it is time something was done. S. Thompson Bluebell Close

MOTHER'S DAY AT DEFOE COURT NURSING HOME



Residents and relatives celebrated Mother's Day at Defoe Court with flowers, balloons, cards and chocolates. Everyone enjoyed a lovely lunch and a memorable day was had by all.

THE TURBINIA * Saturday Night Live *

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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"

GIG PIT REVIEW: From a previous gig at the TURBINIA, well, what can I say? Awesome! What a brilliant band this lot are! Very friendly and full of banter to a rather small audience. Steve was, as Marky had predicted, all over the shop, outside within 30 seconds of the first track kickin in! On the tables, on the floor, snogging the dog, the works! Mansell was extremely accommodating with Steve singing to him on the floor, Animal on drums was great to watch, bare chested and hair all over and the tattoo on his back is MEGGGGAAA! Love it! Some fab renditions of some of my favourite tracks, including Alice Cooper, Faces, Bowie, Nazareth and a couple of AC/DC tracks in the first set. Have to say I thought 'Highway to Hell' and 'Whole Lotta Rosie' was feckin' fabulous! Proper loud and ear-splitting, just how we like it. Second set gave us 'California Man' (Mott the Hoople?), 'Bad Bad Boy', 'Sin City', 'Don't Believe a Word', and a track I've not heard in yonks - 'Black Knight'! A couple of Zep tracks and 'Cat Scratch Fever' for an encore rounded off an absolutely brilliant gig at the Tub. I for one thoroughly enjoyed Feed The Bear, and look forward to their (guaranteed) return soon! Nice one lads, some happy punters here.

Saturday 19th April - "This Machine"

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PETTING ZOO AT AYCLIFFE

ACORN residents group are having their Easter petting zoo On Friday 11th April 11am until 2pm. We have Animals, Face Painting, Bouncy Castle and loads of animal charities are coming along to this year's event including the Dogs Trust who are doing FREE DOG MICRO-CHIPPING in the foyer of the Leisure Centre (please bring your dog along to be chipped but remember they can't come into the main hall). All this is happening in the sports hall in the leisure centre. Entrance is £1 payable on the door - we look forward to seeing you all there.

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Celebration with Home-made Broth and Dumplings!



John (Jack) and Gladys Garnett, formerly of Moule Close and now Oakfield, reached a special day in their life together with the arrival of their 60th Wedding Anniversary on Thursday 27th March 2014. Jack from Coundon and Gladys from Ferryhill met at a Dance at Mainsforth and their first date was at one of the three cinemas in Ferryhill. At that time Gladys worked in the office of Howards Drapers Store in Bishop Auckland. Jack was an apprentice Profile Burner at Shildon Railway Shops. They moved to Newton Aycliffe when Jack took a job with UMM where he worked until he retired. Gladys took a part time cleaning job at the same plant.

John played football for local teams in his earlier years and then became a golf fanatic playing at the Ineos course. Three years ago he had a stroke which left him without speech, but he is well cared for by Gladys and Dale Care who call daily to assist. Gladys praises the service she receives and appreciates the support she gets from the care workers. Gladys is a faithful member of St. Mary's Church, but cannot attend now as she has to stay at her husband's side. However she looks forward to Father Michael Whalen's

weekly visits to her home to administer Holy Communion. "Fr. Michael is such a down to earth priest and we love him dearly - when he heard of our diamond anniversary he called it a life sentence" said Gladys. "We have enjoyed our life together in Newton Aycliffe and always had good friends and neighbours" added Gladys. The couple have two sons who live locally and there is one grandchild. The family came together at home to celebrate and enjoy the meal Gladys is famous for: Home-made broth and dumplings! Our Town Mayor Barabara Clare called to congratulate John and Gladys, and when she heard this her mouth watered and she asked to be invited.

Amputee Inspires Students



Year 11 students from Woodham Academy were very fortunate to have a motivational session with inspirational speaker Andy Reid during the recent specialist day. Andy is a triple amputee having lost his right leg below the knee, the left leg above the knee and his full right arm. Andy was the victim of an IED whilst on patrol in Afghanistan in 2009, and since then he has gone on to use a variety of prostheses for walking, running and cycling. He has participated in a variety of challenges and in doing so has raised vast sums of money for various army charities. These have included motorbike riding from Lands-end to John O'Groats, a tandem skydive and an abseil down 'The Big One' at Blackpool.

He is now a motivational speaker and author of the book "Standing Tall", which was released in February 2013. The focus of the talk was to inspire students to believe in themselves and encourage them to raise their game, especially at this time coming up to their GCSE examinations. Andy certainly delivered a strong message that if you want to achieve something you need to be dedicated, motivated and when working towards a goal it is important to break it down into small manageable tasks. Woodham Academy Deputy Headteacher, Jonathan Lumb, says, "As the hectic examination period approaches we wish all of our students sitting external examinations all the best. It

is important we all continue to support them so that they are suitably equipped to give themselves the best preparation possible."

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New Church Celebrates 1st Birthday



Life Church celebrated their first anniversary last Thursday, and after the Service a massive buffet and cake was shared which was simply wonderful. A year ago a few people planted a church and 90 people celebrated their first year together as a church family. 45 lives have been changed for the better since committing their lives to Christ and many more are still on this incredible journey. If you'd like to know more about Life Church on Thursdays, please join us in the main hall, at Greenfield School, Newton Aycliffe at 6.30pm.

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ACORN Hold AGM

Popular residents association ACORN hold their second AGM at the Royal British Legion Club on April 10th 2014. The meeting begins with a meeting of Little ACORNS the enthusiastic junior section of the organisation who will be making final arrangements for their second annual Petting Zoo held in the Leisure Centre on April 11th from 11am to 2pm. Little ACORNS welcome new members so come along and join in the fun and meet the furry friends. Our friends at the Leisure Centre have offered to supply a bouncy castle. We have asked local police to bring along Jet and Ben. The dogs trust will be carrying out free micro chipping for dogs in the foyer. Harry Potty will be available for face painting. At 6pm ACORN hold their

AGM and elect officers so if you are interested please get in touch with Ken Robson on 01325 321471 prior to the meeting.

What do you know about Cybercrime? Do you know how to protect yourself and your loved ones on the web, Facebook, Twitter etc.? These forms of communication are here to stay and along with great benefits they bring new dangers into your home.

ACORN have invited Durham Constabulary to come along and give a presentation on Cybercrime to inform young people and adults alike. The subject matter promises to be informative and thought provoking.

Events and excursions are frequently being planned and announced at ACORN meetings, so attend meetings to get advance notice of what we are up to.

ACORN have just ended another successful year and have a full schedule of events for 2014, so come along, get involved and help keep our area and Newton Aycliffe a fantastic place to live where we care for our neighbours and our environment.

ACORN meetings are open to all and we welcome Councillors, Police and representatives from Livin to give help, support and advice to all who attend. Ken Robson (Chair) ACORN Residents Assoc.

Zurbaran Talk

On Wednesday 9th April at 7pm in Aycliffe Village Hall Robert McManners will speak about the Zurbarans of Auckland Castle.

All welcome: members £1, non members £3, to include tea, coffee and biscuits. Further details from 01325 301093.

Village School Installs Bike and Scooter Racks



Earlier this term Aycliffe Village Primary School officially opened their first bike rack. Rio Floreza, Bike-It officer performed the opening ceremony.

Since Rio has been working with the children there has been an increase in scooters and bikes brought to school by children, so the racks were installed to store the children's bikes and scooters.

A number of organisations helped to fund the racks including Sustrans, Durham County

Council and Handcrafted.

Before Rio cut the ribbon he gave a speech thanking those who helped with funding and encouraging the children to keep up the good work they were doing on rising to the challenge of coming to school in a healthy manner!

The school also hopes that this initiative will cut down on pollution and congestion outside the school.

By Thomas Hodgson and Kian White

FRIENDS OF WEST PARK MEETING - ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLUB

The new community organisation "Friends of West Park" will be holding a meeting at the Royal British Legion Club on April 15th at 7pm. Whether a keen user of the park,

dog walker, or merely interested in improving this jewel in Newton Aycliffe, we would love to see you.

Officers of Great Aycliffe Town Council are expected to attend the meeting and give a presentation on the park including improvements which they would like to make, and to listen to members of the public making their suggestions.

Friends of West Park wish to work with our Town Council attracting where possible funding from other sources than the public purse, to enhance our fantastic piece of the country in the centre of town.

Wednesday 20th of March saw a group of friends supporting council officers Steve Cooper

and Chrissie Walton planting bluebells and snowdrops in the park. Although a windy evening a good sized group of enthusiasts turned out to support the work including children.

Wonderful to see parents and youngsters using the lakes for sailing boats as captured by Councillor Chandran in his picture published in last week's Newton News. Whatever became of the club that used the lakes in yesteryear? Wouldn't it be great to revive it, innocent pastimes which encourage magical family time?

I look forward to meeting and hearing the views of all residents of Great Aycliffe who attend the get-together. Ken Robson (Chair)

Night of Fun with Football Legends

Supporters of Newton Aycliffe FC and Newton Aycliffe Juniors FC were entertained to a night of comedy and football chat at Newton Aycliffe WMC on Friday evening.

'The Legends' of the three Big North East Clubs Malcom Macdonald, Bernie Slavin and Richard Ord were typically forthright in their views on their respective clubs, as well as plenty of opinions on other current football matters as they fielded a range of questions from the audience. And they were joined on stage by hilarious North East comedian Terry Joyce, recent star of tv show Hebburn who had the crowd in fits of laughter with his many impressions and stories.

Aycliffe FC General Manager Dan Lewis said "we hope everyone who came along had a good night, it certainly appeared that they did. We would like to thank everyone who helped out with the organisation of the night, as well as those who came along to support the two Clubs". With Aycliffe again being

without a game this weekend due to West Auckland's involvement in the FA Vase, the team have dropped another place in the Northern League First Division. They sit a nervous 8 points clear of the drop zone with a very tough run-in to the season.

The first of these games is Spennymoor on Friday evening (4th April). Aycliffe went close to causing an upset earlier in the season when they were pegged back by Spennymoor in a 3-3 FA Cup draw. A similar scoreline would be very welcome at Moore Lane on Friday! The game kicks off at 7.30pm with admission costing £6 adults, £4 concessions with u12s going FREE.

And following the game on Friday, the committee men are attempting to climb the highest mountain in England to raise funds for the Club on Saturday. They are still seeking pledges of sponsorship for the event, for details please contact Secretary Steve Cunliffe (stecunliffe@aol.com).

EDITORIAL

Power to the People

Giving the Chairman's Report to Great Aycliffe Residents Association Syd Howarth (Editor of Newton News) said he had noticed over recent times the number of new groups being formed in the town, referring to resident associations such as Horndale, Acorn, Silverdale and others like Shafto and Simpature in the pipeline.

Said Syd: "I would like to think the formation of Great Aycliffe Residents Association sparked this movement off which is to be encouraged as it gives the people ownership of their own destiny rather than leaving it to the authorities to tell us what we can and can't do"

"Another new initiative is the group working to reduce danger to children from those who park illegally outside schools, and then in the last few months the formation of Great Aycliffe Community aid Partnership, bringing all the statutory and voluntary welfare groups in the area together to tackle and co-ordinate help for people in crisis."

"Recently a group decided to do something about West Park as they wanted to be involved in what was being provided and planned, with aims to use volunteers and attract funds to make improvements. All this is very encouraging and shows people want to be engaged,

voicing their aspirations to influence decision making."

"The Firework Display was cancelled last November to the dismay of many who didn't just sit and accept the decision. They complained loudly using social media as well as the press to voice objections. The result is a review of the event with the distinct possibility of its re-introduction."

"The power of the people is enormous if it is used. A recent good example was the proposal to change the name of the Youth Centre to Youth and Community Centre to reflect what it really does. The community use is necessary to finance youth activities, but the change of name was challenged by officers at County Hall who were adamant it could not be changed."

However the volunteers who run the centre decided to fight for the right to change the name and a public meeting was called. The Council Officer attended and attempted to overrule, but he was opposed and on a simple unanimous vote the people carried the day."

"This indicates that things have changed and the people have the confidence to object. Everyone should realise they have this right - this power, and to unite and use it to good effect."

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WELFARE PROJECT LAUNCHED IN AYCLIFFE



An Aycliffe project aimed at supporting people hit by benefit cuts under the Government's Welfare Reform agenda was officially launched this week.. The Welfare Champions project has a fully trained team of 6 Champions who have already within a week

of launching collectively signposted and supported local people experiencing difficulties or confusion due to changes to the Welfare system. Your local Welfare Champions are Dorothy Bowman, Philip Clark, Peter Burgess, Billy Walker, David Sutton-Lloyd and Jen Bewley. You can

see a Champion at Agnew Community every Thursday from 10am-1pm, Woodham Community Centre every Wednesday from 11am-1pm and there are many other sessions to be confirmed including Western Area Community Centre Silverdale Place and St Clare's Church. As well as providing initial support the Champions have signposted individuals to other services such as advice agencies, living, housing solutions and welfare rights teams as well as interpreting complex 'official' letters. 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 living. Chief Executive of East Durham Trust Malcolm Fallow said "I'm delighted to hear that the Champions are getting off to a great start, the community spirit shown by the Champions is already having a really positive impact on their neighbourhoods" To receive support from a Champion contact East Durham Trust on 0191 569 3511.

GREENFIELD SPECIALIST ARTS OPPORTUNITIES

Last week saw the first of many upcoming specialist arts workshops at Greenfield Arts. We started with a night of Safe Etching with artist Jilly Greenwood, and have more exciting workshops planned. On Thursday a group of artists, creative and interested members of the community learnt the processes and techniques involved in etching, from cutting and cleaning an aluminium plate, to coating it, drawing an image and etching. It's a lengthy and messy process but well worth it in the end!

The participants created some fantastic etchings, which would be at home on any gallery wall. All those who attended last week's workshop had a great evening experimenting with the technique, and we are looking forward to the other sessions in the future! A Course guide for the Summer term is released, and includes a number of specialist arts opportunities as well as long standing and popular language, fitness and wellbeing courses. For more information visit our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk.

COUNTY COUNCIL USE OF 0845 NUMBERS MUST BE STOPPED

Newton News has expressed amazement that certain important County Council telephone contacts for vulnerable residents to call are high premium 0845 numbers. County Council Social Care Direct and Childrens Services are both 0845 numbers when the people who need to make contact may not have the money or even a phone! We have spoken to County Councillors and officers and whilst they agree it should change nothing has yet happened to make it easier and less stressful for people in crisis to get help. How long does it take to change these numbers? These contacts should be FREE 0800 numbers!

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Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre AFC - Under 14s

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Nordic Walking sessions began on Mondays from 10am-11am ending with tea and coffee. Cost £2 per walker. Please ring 313924 to register. Poles provided for walking which enhance the natural walking experience giving whole body exercise, improving mobility and releasing tension. Burns 40% more calories than normal walking.
The Neville Art Club commenced 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.
Knit & Natter every Thursday 10am - 12 noon. just turn up with your knitting.
New Age Kurling Tuesday and Thursday 10am-12 noon. £2 including tea or coffee.
Bingo every Monday and Friday at 7pm. Open to everyone.
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Book our hall for your own activity - ring 313924 for charges.

Greenfield Dance Performs at Sage Gateshead



Greenfield College's Youth Dance Group 'Grounded' were invited to perform in the Gateshead Schools Dance Festival on Tuesday 18th March, at Sage Gateshead. This was a fantastic opportunity for the talented Greenfield dancers to showcase their hard work to

other schools and people from across the region. The students: Charlotte Huggill, David Huggill, Ami Henderson, Tira Sperring, Isabelle Street, Samantha Clark and Sophie Hayes, have been rehearsing once a week with Performing Arts teacher Mrs Etherington

and have worked really hard perfecting the piece ready for touring. The dance piece is about searching for inner happiness and uses props to emphasize meaning and add interest. The piece is called 'Gaudium' which is the Latin word for joy and happiness. This is just one of many opportunities students have the chance to be a part of through the Performing Arts department at Greenfield, alongside fantastic drama and music opportunities made available to students both in school and as extra-curricular activities. Opportunities to perform in regional and national venues like the Sage gives real value to the hard work of the students and staff. The pupils involved in "Grounded" thoroughly enjoyed performing at the Sage and are looking forward to their next performances including the Gala Theatre in Durham, Newton Aycliffe Dance Festival and Slide - Greenfield wishes them the best of luck!

"High Noon" Instead of a Honeymoon



On the 31st March 2014, Alan and Marjorie Snowball received a visit from the Mayor Barbara Clare on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married at the Registry Office and it wasn't possible to go away so they spent their honeymoon watching the film "High Noon"! Marjorie was born in Bishop Auckland, but her family moved to Benwell when she was two and it was there, when she was 16, she met Alan while strolling through the local park. Alan served his apprenticeship with Vickers Armstrong before being conscripted into the RAF for National Service where he served in Hong Kong. He was demobed in 1963 and after taking over the Masons Arms in Etherley Dene for 2½ years moved to Newton Aycliffe to work for Woodhead Springs. He was a draughtsman and was employed by a few local engineering companies until

he retired from Black & Decker in 1997. Marjorie also worked at Aycliffe for Eatons and Toothills. In partnership with friends they once ran the "Hop & Grape" in Darlington. Alan, a lifelong fan of Newcastle F.C. enjoys swimming and a game of pool at the British Legion Club. At home he paints and makes objects in wood and metal with his lathe, Marjorie is a typical housewife and mother, but does find time to tend the garden. The couple have two sons, four grandchildren and three great granddaughters and the family all met up for a celebration party at the Village Inn at Kirk Merrington.

Wor Jackie Comes to Hallgarth Hotel

The Hall Garth Hotel, Golf and Country Club are pleased to announce the opening of two new social and dining destinations officially launched by Jack Charlton last week. Oswald's Restaurant, a tasteful dining experience in a stunning Country Park setting with beautiful views over the golf course and historical Deer hut, will offer a wonderful choice of expertly prepared cuisine, open for Breakfast, lounge service, afternoon teas and dinner. In contrast to the more formal dining experience, The Stables Sports Pub is being re-introduced as the favourite local haunt that it once was, and that many in Darlington will remember fondly. Since being purchased by

North of England Estates in September last year, the hotel has already seen a great many changes, both structurally and aesthetically and have plans to improve the car park and enhance the public areas. During this time, the Stables has been lovingly refurbished and now operates it's own kitchen which is producing some fantastic local dishes with regionally sourced ingredients. The new chef is bringing back your old favourite meals which can be enjoyed in a relaxing and friendly environment. Sky sports has been installed, as well as a darts and pool room. A charming lounge and dining area, is full of character and you can be assured of a warm welcome and a value for money meal.



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Nature Topic

Anyone who has taken the time to take a walk in the local countryside may well have noticed a startling low growing glossy yellow flower with deep green glossy leaves, often found in damp and shady areas. This plant is called Lesser celandine and is often known as the 'Spring Messenger' as its one of the first plants to flower locally. The plant has long influenced literacy greats such as Wordsworth who wrote: *I have seen thee, high and low, Thirty years or more, and yet T'was a face I did not know.* The writer was thought to have requested that this flower be carved on his headstone which is located in Grassmere; unfortunately the Greater Celandine was used by mistake.

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Film Show

WOODHAM'S GOT TALENT

The next "Feel Good Film Show" at St Clare's Church, on WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL, features "THE BUCKET LIST" Starring Jack Nicholson & Morgan Freeman, in a hilarious and heart-warming tale of two men with nothing in common, except the desire to taste life while they can. 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 01325 316755

Good Service

Dear Sir,
I write in praise of a local tradesman who we had to do a large job on our home. A complete rewire was needed after we moved into our property and after ringing around for quotes we found JR ELECTRICAL SERVICES and thank goodness we did. They were friendly, honest, reliable and always on time. We were kept well informed of what was expected and they kept the mess down to a minimum and cleaned up every day! Both myself and my husband thank Justin and say well done! We will certainly be using you in the future.
Mrs. L. Allen

Woodham Academy students showed just how much talent there is in the school in their recent show, 'Woodham's Got Talent!' which took place on March 12th. Thirty five acts auditioned earlier in February for the chance to win one of twenty places in the grand final. With acts ranging from singers and dancers to martial arts displays, there was a difficult choice to be made. The final twenty acts represented all year groups within the school and showed the diversity of talent available.

The night itself proved to be a spectacular show. Opening the concert in her first public performance at Woodham was Year 7's Millie Robson, showing great confidence for such a young performer. Another confident Year 7 performance came from Eva Efstathiou, demonstrating a mature vocal ability. Other vocal performances came from Year 11's Bethany Clarkson and Francesca Porritt and Year 8's Hannah Bussey, all of whom are now seasoned performers in both school and community shows. Instrumental performances were also strong, with a cornet solo from Year 9's Amy Taylor, and from Year 10, Sam Gittins' moving performance of 'Comptine d'un autre été'. Dance acts completed the programme,



with a fantastic gymnastic display from Daniel Wilkinson in Year 7, an energetic and compelling dance routine from Year 8's Charlotte Lough, and group performances from Amy Corking and Katie Leadbitter, Kira Watson and Joanne Cunliffe, and Maddie Ford and Elissa Collin. The competitive part of the show was closed by a group of Year 10 students led by vocalist Meghan Cumming, with their version of Imagine Dragons' 'Hear Me'. The judges retired to make their decision, which was no mean feat having seen the amount of talent on display. While they were absent, the audience were entertained



by former Woodham student Stacey Cant, now studying Performing Arts, with a beautiful performance of 'On My Own'. This was followed by a rousing staff performance which saw the Spice Girls reborn, and had the audience cheering in the aisles. Notable mention must of course go to Shay Whelan of Year 11, who skilfully played compère throughout the evening, adding more than a touch of comedy to the proceedings! Finally the judges returned, and delivered their verdicts. Outside the top three ranked positions, they awarded special commendations to Charlotte Lough's dance performance, Keira Durham's vocal performance of 'Ain't Nobody' and Jade Cutler for her rendition of 'Valerie'. Third place overall was awarded to Year 9 student Charlotte McAdam, with her performance of 'Love Story'. Second place went to talented violinist Zöe Efthymiadou in Year 10, while the winning act was Year 8's Lauren Towell's spectacular dance performance. A final performance by Lauren rounded off the show. Many of the participants will now be looking forward to their next chance to perform, Woodham Summer Concert,

on Thursday 3rd July at 7pm. For more information on this or any other Woodham Academy event, please contact the school directly on 01325 300328.



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Aycliffe Village News

BABY SENSORY CLASSES: For parents and carers with babies up to 13 months, there is a sensory class at Aycliffe Village Hall on Tuesdays at 10.30am. For details, call Carly on 07881-922076.

CRAFT CLUB: For anyone interested in learning skills in basic knitting, sewing, quilting, card-making or baking, there is a craft club on Tuesday, April 8th and 22nd, at the village hall from 1-3pm. Entry is £2 and includes refreshments. For details, call Kathy Round on 01325-315732.

COMMITTEE MEETING: The committee meeting of Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association takes place on Tuesday, April 8th, at the village hall at 7pm.

BREAKFAST CLUB: The next breakfast club is on Saturday, April 12th, at the village hall from 9am-noon. There will be bacon, egg or sausage buns on offer, as well as cups of tea or coffee. Plus, there will be activities for children and a book stall. All proceeds go to the village hall.

WI MEETING: Aycliffe Village WI meets on Wednesday, April 23rd, at the village hall at 7.30pm when the speaker will be Steve Cooper, environment officer for Great Aycliffe Town Council, talking about local nature reserves. The challenge this month is for animal bakes. For details, call Sue Hindle on 07775-680804.

JUNIOR DISCO: It's disco time for children aged five to 12 years at the village hall on Friday, April 25th, from 6.30-8pm. Hot dogs and a range of snacks and drinks will be available. Children can also have a glitter tattoo for £1. Entry is £1.

SCOUT SUPPER: Acl Scout Group is holding a fundraising night at Al Fornos on Sunday, April 27, at 7pm. Tickets cost £20 and are available on 07809-708709.

Residents Association for Simpasture Area



Town Councillors Derek Atkinson and John Clark who wish to form a new Residents Association in their ward.

Are you a resident of the Simpasture ward of Newton Aycliffe? Do you want a say in issues that affect where you live?

At the last Simpasture PACT meeting the question of forming a local residents association was raised. If you would like to be involved an initial meeting will be held directly before the next Simpasture PACT meeting. This will be held at 5.30pm

in the community lounge at Simpasture Court on Tuesday the 8th of May. If you want to be involved but cannot make the meeting please contact us on the details below. We look forward to seeing you on the night.

Simpasture Town Councillors John Clark johnclark.labour@gmail.com 0797 2170190. Derek Atkinson derekatkinson@gmail.com 01325 301395

W.I. NEWS

Our March meeting was again a very enjoyable interesting evening, we welcomed new members and our speaker for the evening was David Gibson from Great North Air Ambulance.

We were shown 3 short films which gave an insight into the great work that is carried out by this charity and we were all amazed that they rely on public giving either by donations or by taking any unwanted clothes/goods to the warehouse in Newton Aycliffe.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday April 8th at 7.15 at St Clare's Church Hall, we welcome current and new members, for further information please contact Lyn, Tel: 314805



Honest John Donates £600 to New Cancer Group



A big thank you to Honest John for all his hard work raising £600 for the new Cancer Support Group in the town.

They are planning activities to help cancer sufferers gain more confidence as most people lose it when diagnosed. Allison White shown in the photo with John, is trying to make sure cancer patients or carers are not alone and that there is help out there for them. Some people feel low going to hospital and returning to just their four walls.

By taking them on day trips or lunch etc Allison hopes to stop that happening. "We have such a friendly group and if you don't want to come alone then bring someone with you. We are seeking companies or individuals who would like to donate or even fundraise for these activities" said Allison.. For more information ring her on 07762 258696

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Newly qualified drivers who get on the road with a safer driving course could be in line for a £500 cash prize.

The EXCElerate Durham Young Driver Programme includes three-hours of practical in-car coaching and those who complete this will be entered into a prize draw.

Figures released by Road Safety GB North East show that one-in-four 17-year-olds who hold a driving licence will be involved in a collision.

Ros Pluck, Vice Chair of County Durham and Darlington Partnership said: "It is difficult to persuade newly qualified drivers that there is more to driving than simply passing the driving test. By introducing this prize we hope that more young drivers will be encouraged to take part in the EXCElerate practical driver coaching session.

"The three most common types of collisions young drivers and their passengers are involved in are overtaking, leaving the road and rear end collisions. This three hour session seeks to develop strategies which help the younger driver to cope with the situations leading to these types of collisions." The programme is supported by New College, Durham.

John Widdowson, Principal and Chief Executive of New College Durham commented, "We are delighted to support EXCElerate and hope that other schools and colleges get involved and benefit as we have".

The EXCElerate Young Driver Programme has been developed and is co-ordinated by Durham County Council's Road Safety Team on behalf of the County Durham and Darlington Road Safety Partnership and is delivered using funding from the National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme.

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GRADING RESULTS



Zanshin-Kai Karate, based in Woodham Community centre, recently held its first grading of 2013. The afternoons were well attended & the instructors were very pleased with the standard and enthusiasm show by the students, all of whom successfully earned their new belts. Well done to the beginners who recently joined us. The results were: 9th Kyu - Harvey Yale, Jack Dobie, Jacob Humble, Darlene Greaves & Tyler Gibbon, 8th Kyu - Ethan Wright, Leanne, Wright, Kristina Yale, Chloe Collins, Kelly Freeman & Helen Milligan, 7th Kyu - Kris Wall, Gavin Tones, Matthew Butterworth & Darcy Greaves, 6th Kyu - Aaron Busby, 3rd Kyu - Jessica Butterworth. If you're interested in taking up Karate and would like more information call into Woodham Community centre any Sunday or Thursday, call 07917203421/07988709604 or email zanshin-kai-karate@hotmail.co.uk. Beginners always welcome & if you join in April all newcomers get two weeks (four classes) free!

Roman First to Use New UK Marque



Leading UK shower manufacturer and designer, Roman, are one of the first companies in the industry to support the newer updated Made in Britain campaign. Roman of Aycliffe has proudly flown the flag for British design and manufacture since they were founded in 1985. The new Made in Britain marque was launched in January 2014 and Roman were

one of the first companies to join the campaign and use the marque to draw attention to their products. The new marque is designed to supersede the previous 'Tick' version, which Roman strongly supported. The new Made in Britain marque organisation has been created with the remit of actively campaigning to raise the general awareness of British manufacturing both domestically and across the globe. In order to use the Made in Britain marque, membership is needed and the scheme requires all companies to submit written evidence that they manufacture their products in the UK. Roman holds all the necessary requirements as they are a reputable and well established UK Brand. Roman are promoting the new Made in Britain marque on all their product packaging, websites and social media platforms along with marketing materials and point of sale merchandising. A prime example is on their newly updated Showroom Guide brochure, the Made in Britain marque appears proudly on the front cover to represent all of Roman's product ranges. Roman have also recently created new brand badges for their Sculptures and Decem product ranges, which incorporate the Roman Logo on one side and "Made in Britain" text on the other. Joining the Made in Britain marque was extremely important to Roman as British manufactured products are increasing in popularity due to their trusted quality, specific sizes and tailored products to the UK market and the excellence of after sales and customer service. People are keen to buy products they know are made in the UK to support the design, skills and craftsmanship which strongly exist here. Roman has capitalised on the fact that the Made in Britain logo not only appeals to the UK market but it is also seen as a major selling point in Asia and Commonwealth countries. David Osborne, Managing Director of Roman, commented: We see it as a big advantage to support the Made in Britain campaign and use the marque to proudly market our products as a UK brand, as it is a key differential of ours as people see it as a mark of quality."

Science Network Accounts For More Success

Business is burgeoning for an accountancy company after joining one of the UK's most established innovation networks providing support for science, technology and engineering companies. As a professional service provider, County Durham based Harlands Accountants were one of the first to become an Affinity member for NETPark Net two years ago. It is now looking to double income it has received via this programme to £100,000 in 2014. Philip Murray, commercial director for Harlands, said: "It was clear from our first interaction with NETPark Net that it is a unique community where world class science and technology companies and individuals come together and the NETPark Net Affinity package allows Harlands to contribute to this exciting community. "We have brought our specialist expertise to help companies at all stages of development from those looking to start a new business or helping business owners to understand the financial requirements of their business to ensure it is successful and plays the right part in their life." NETPark Net is a virtual innovation network, providing a wealth of expertise and advice to support the region's growing cluster of science and technology businesses and is delivered by Business



Durham, the economic development company for Durham County Council. It already has over 350 active member companies and organisations operating in the science, technology and engineering fields. John Hildreth, Innovation Development Executive, Business Durham, said: "The Affinity programme offers the additional benefit of bringing in professional services expertise which is vital for companies looking to develop and take new products to market. "Affinity provides the ideal platform for professional service companies such as Harlands to interact with the North East's science and technology community providing members with access to expertise and

knowledge on demand through regular seminars, clinics, online discussions and blogs." For more information on the Affinity programme, visit <http://www.uknetpark.net/Partners.aspx>

Loco Event Helps to STEM Career in Engineering

A LEADING training provider in Newton Aycliffe has strengthened its relationship with young people eager to pursue a career in engineering at an event hosted by RTC North. Representatives from South West Durham Training (SWDT) attended the Engineering Past Present and Future event held at the Railway Museum in Shildon last week and carried out a range of activities with students from across the region to help explore the future of engineering. RTC North holds the STEMNET contract for Durham and Tees Valley, which creates opportunities

to inspire young people in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. During the all-day event, the representatives from SWDT - a 46-year old company that delivers engineering and manufacturing training support, used a combination of attraction methods, including Balloon Locomotives, an interactive construction game in which students were asked to build an air powered vehicle which was judged by the distance and speed it travels. Neil Mawson, vocational trainer and assessor at SWDT and STEM ambassador, said: "The event saw schools from across the North East

invited to bring groups of pre and post 16 students to explore the future of STEM with the hopes of increasing young people's choice and chances through science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. "As a STEM ambassador, I was thrilled to offer students a taster of a future career in engineering by allowing them to explore engineering design and the problems associated with the design and manufacture process of air powered vehicles. "I was really impressed by the entries and many students showcased a promising career in the engineering sector." Organisations holding contracts coordinate the STEM Ambassadors programme on a local level, ensuring all schools and colleges have knowledge of, and access to, STEM Ambassadors in their area. They help to identify professionals with STEM skills to become STEM Ambassadors link STEM ambassadors with local schools and colleges to act as role models and help inspire and engage young people about the value of STEM in their daily lives help local STEM employers engage with schools and colleges in their communities. Trevor Alley, chief executive at SWDT, said: "The role of STEM ambassadors in promoting careers in the engineering sector is extremely important, especially at a time when the North East generally, and Newton Aycliffe region specifically are experiencing really exciting growth opportunities in the sector provided by the Hitachi project and supply chain industries that will support them."

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World Champion Visits Aycliffe



King Cobra Muay Thai Boxing Club who train in the Viper M.M.A. Gym had a welcome visitor on Sunday. The (3 times) British Champion, European and World Champion Joe McGovan gave a masterclass in technique, skill and a sparring display. Joe lives and trains in the Sheffield area and

was very impressed by the skill level and enthusiasm shown by all members both, young and old of the King Cobra Club. Hopefully this visit by a world champion will lead to more frequent inter-club meetings with the many Muay Thai clubs in the Midlands to further grow the popularity of the sport.

Hartlepool Marina 5 Mile Road Race

There was a good turnout from Aycliffe Running Club at the Hartlepool Marina 5 mile road race on Sunday 30th March. Although it was a bit misty, grey and damp at the coast, conditions were good for running. The race started at Jacksons Landing and headed across the Historic Quay down Maritime Avenue, along to the end of the pier and back, and then along the promenade towards Seaton Carew. The race then turned back along the promenade to finish near the Wingfield Castle paddle steamer at Hartlepool Museum.

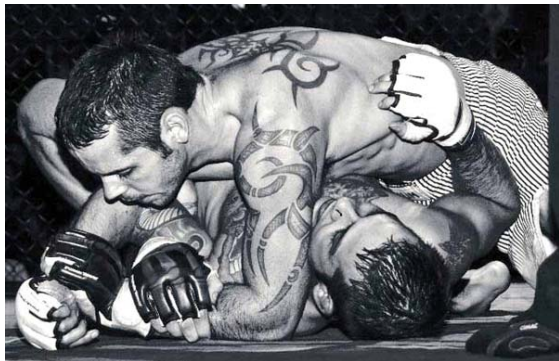


Richard Campbell was first to finish for Aycliffe in 30:34 PB followed by newcomer Mark

Wade in 30:58, Graham Atkins 32:48, Nigel Holmes 32:58, Peter Smith 33:25, Ste Smith 33:58 PB, John Burnside 34:07 and Marc Smith 35:48. Kelly Smith was first lady to finish for Aycliffe and she was very happy to have knocked 2 minutes off last year's time to get a new PB of 36:04. Sandra Collins is continuing to run well and finished in 36:16. New member Paul Stretton made his debut for Aycliffe and had a good run to finish in 37:36. He was followed by Jason Dixon who was pleased to have knocked 4 minutes off last year's result to finish in 38:14 PB.

New member Claire Rose was next to complete the course in 38:31 and she was closely followed by Rob Nicholson who also had a good run finishing in 38:35. Unfortunately, Gary Minns picked up an injury but still managed to finish in 38:46. Despite constant injury problems, Trish Kay finished in 39:07 and was followed by Dave Mackenzie 43:36 and Judith Porter 41:41. Michelle Dixon was also pleased to have knocked nearly 4 mins off last year's time by completing the course in 42:48 PB and she was followed by Julie Nisbet 43:38, Micheal Smith 44:37 PB and Ross Garland 47:06 who ran this distance for the very first time. Yvonne Williams completed the 5 mile course in 47:18 and Elaine Morgan crossed the finish line in 49:00. Most of the Aycliffe runners were very pleased with their times and are now looking forward to the next race in their Club Championship at The Mermaid 10K at Marske on Friday 18th April. The annual Aycliffe 10K and Fun Run is to be held on Sunday 15th June and details are available on their website www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk - Entry is by postal form or online entry and all race numbers, this year, are to be collected on the day.

MMA Sessions at Aycliffe Crossfit Gym



CrossFit All Out is only in its 10th week since opening and already extending services to include Mixed Martial Arts sessions three times a week. Mikey Hogarth, who holds 2 British title belts, is bringing his skills and experience in training, competing, coaching and cornering in MMA to the new gym. "Terry and I have been friends for years and I'm honoured to be part of the All Out Team." Terry and his wife Vikki are overwhelmed with the support their new business has received so far. "The local and CrossFit community is amazing and we've had

support and made links with a lot of other CrossFit boxers, as far away as Australia! We achieved a membership of over 100 in our first month and have maintained this membership base, of which we are really proud. Mikey is a good friend and an excellent MMA fighter, with a lot of experience and knowledge to share. We are excited to have him as part of the Team and will continue to make new members welcome." Sessions start 1st April 8pm - 9.30pm. See www.crossfitallout.co.uk/mma-all-out - Tel 07791 675070

Great Aycliffe Indoor Bowling Competition



The 7th Mixed Triples Open Competition was held over the weekend of 29th and 30th March, 2014 with 9 teams participating. Four teams finished on 11 points and the Champions (pictured) were Esther Helm, Keith Dunning and Phil Payne with 58 shots,

second place Haley Gill, Julie Robinson, Barry Attwood, Rob Jones and Dave Barron with 35 shots. Third place Sue Young, Barrie Nicholson, Ian Robinson and Paul Whittaker with 16 shots. The trophies were presented by Durham County Councillor Mike Dixon who also unveiled a commemorative Open Tournament Board in memory of Lynne Towler, Club Chairman and Ladies Secretary for many years. The club made a donation to Cancer Research in memory of Lynne. Councillor Mike Dixon is also pictured with Esther Helm Ladies Secretary, Kath Dixon Assistant Secretary and John Palmer Treasurer, receiving the new Honours Board.

Memorial of the Death of Jesus

Once each year in thousands of locations worldwide, Jehovah's Witnesses commemorate the death of Jesus. The next observance locally will be on **Monday 14th April, 2014 at 7.45pm**. We invite you to join us for this special occasion to examine what makes Jesus - and his sacrifice - so vitally important. The meeting, like all our meetings, is open to the public. Seats are free and no collections are ever taken.

The address for this special occasion is: **Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses** Rear of Allington Road, DL5 4LS

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 16th April 2014

Policy and Resources Committee
7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

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".

Aycliffe Lose Narrowly to League Leaders

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club played their last away game in Durham and Northumberland Division 3 at the leaders South Tyneside College. The hosts had only lost one game all season: at Aycliffe on the opening day of the season, and were looking for revenge. Injuries meant that Aycliffe had a makeshift look to them, but all the players knew what their responsibilities were. Aycliffe played down the slope in the first half, hoping to build up a lead. Aycliffe had the chance to go ahead, but Luke Tinkler was just wide with the penalty and it was the College who scored first though, with a penalty goal of their own. Aycliffe fought back and their backs were looking sharp. It was good handling that saw Aycliffe take the lead, as Adam Gascoigne was given enough space to outprint the defence. Tinkler added the conversion and kicked a penalty soon after to give Aycliffe a 10 - 3 lead at the interval. The College forwards were always looking strong and with the slope in their advantage in the second half, it was going to be a tough fight for Aycliffe. The defence held firm though, as Jeff Hodgson put in a stout performance as did Cymon Lee with a number of little kicks, not what is expected from a prop! The College edged closer with a drop goal and finally took a one point lead from a tap penalty with the Aycliffe defence out of position. Tinkler had an attempt at a penalty from close to the 10m line, but with the slope against him, the range was just too great. With time running down, the College managed to get an interception, which they ran in for the score. The conversion was left untaken as the referee judged that the kicker had taken too long with it. Aycliffe fought hard to get back into the game, but the home defence was too strong and they finished up 16 - 10 winners.

Aycliffe hold their presentation evening at Redworth Hall on 12th April, tickets are available from members of the committee.

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'GO Run for Fun' Starts in Newton Aycliffe



Around 400 children took part in the 'INEOS GO Run For Fun™' event today, hosted by Great Aycliffe Town Council at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex, Newton Aycliffe, cheered on by London 2012 Team GB athlete Chris Tomlinson. Backed by former world champion and world record holder Colin Jackson, the UK's newest mass participation running campaign for children aims to encourage kids to get off the couch, give the TV a rest, get active and have fun, regardless of ability. The GO Run For Fun series is the idea of Jim Ratcliffe, owner of INEOS, one of the UK's largest manufacturing companies, who recently announced a £1.5m donation spread over three years to establish a new charitable foundation to encourage children to run for fun. Go Run For Fun will work with parents, children and

communities to encourage children to have fun running. The charity is already supported by three leading British Olympians, Lord Coe, Brendan Foster and Colin Jackson, with more celebrity and sporting ambassadors expected to be announced shortly. Put on your trainers and your GO Run For Fun T-shirt, then run 1 mile however you like and have fun with your friends as you go. Jim said: "I'm passionate about getting as many children running as possible as early as possible. The idea is simple – to get children out of the house having fun. It is not rocket science. "Running is the basis of so many great sports. If our children can catch the running bug early, they're more likely to stick to it, and this can only lead to them having more active and healthier lifestyles in the future."

Research shows that over 50% of primary school children are not getting enough exercise and 30% of 2 – 15 year olds are overweight or obese according to Public Health England. The INEOS GO Run For Fun will deliver a series of large and small running events to encourage grass roots participation and inspire children to be more active. The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Barbara Clare, said: "We are delighted to support the GO Run For Fun campaign. It is great to have local athletics clubs and national campaigns working together to encourage our younger generations to start running and keep running." It has already established itself as a leading advocate of children's running with more than 10,000 children taking part in its runs since August last year. It expects to organise 250 events over the next three years involving more than 100,000

across the UK. Chris Tomlinson said: "It's brilliant to have almost 400 children here today, all participating in GO Run For Fun. These fun events are a great way for your kids to get out of the house and have fun with their mates - running. "We really must make sure that kids are given the opportunity to get active from an early age, and GO Run For Fun provides the chance to do just that. If they enjoy it you never know where it might end up, we might find Britain's best talent for the future." In its first year, the aim is that more than 30,000 children aged 5-10 will have taken part in one of the GO Run For Fun events across all corners of the UK. For more information and to enter your child for INEOS GO Run For Fun events happening near you, or to register your local club or school's interest in joining our campaign, please visit: www.gorunforfun.com.

Planet Leisure Bowling League

The Pinheads with 116 points are still top of the league but went down 2-6 to the Misfits, who are in fifth place on 87 points. Second place team the Strike Force won 6-2 and now have 107 points with Shildon Strikers who they played are ninth on 64 points. The Wenwees are in third place on 103 point but lost 5-3 to the M & M's who are down to sixth place on 77 points. The Clangers are fourth after winning 8-0 over the Bowl Movements now in seventh place with 71 pts. The Late Starters won 7-1 over The Optimists and are on 71 points in eighth, leaving Optimists in tenth place on 64 points.

Primary Schools Water Polo Tournament



Primary School Children experienced the wonders of water polo recently at a special tournament. Sedgefield Water Polo Club staged the contest at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre to encourage more youngsters in the town to take up the sport. Children from Byerley Park, Sugar Hill, Woodham Burn, Stephenson Way, Aycliffe Village and Vane Road primary schools took part in the friendly competition, which saw teams compete in a series of matches. In the end, Byerley Park proved victorious. Mel Stephenson, of Sedgefield Water Polo Club, said: "It was a wonderful event. The children really enjoyed themselves. We want to raise the profile of water polo as it is a fantastic sport. Not only does it improve swimming ability and fitness – it is great fun too." The Great Aycliffe and Middlesbrough Partnership

funded the tournament and its co-ordinator, Brian Riley, presented the prizes on the day. The club would like to thank GAMP for their support, which made the day a great success. Sedgefield Water Polo Club is one of the country's leading clubs, with training sessions taking place at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre and Woodham Sports Academy in Newton Aycliffe up to six times a week. The club won the national championships in 2002, 2004 and 2006 and two members played for Team GB in the London Olympics in 2012. Sedgefield Water Polo Club is always looking for new members. Anyone who is interested should call 07818 554449 or email sedgefieldpolo@hotmail.com - alternatively pop a long for a free session any Saturday night 5pm until 6.30pm at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre.

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LAUNCH OF FIRST CONTACT SERVICE

A new service for families will make it easier for parents to make contact with Durham County Council.

The First Contact Service will launch next month and is designed to help anyone who has a concern about a child and those who:

Feel their family needs support or advice

Are under 18 and need help

Are worried about the welfare or safety of a child or young person

It is hoped that by simplifying

the current system, more children will be helped at an earlier stage.

The introduction of a single number means concerns can be addressed through a single point of contact, so help can be offered at an early stage and information can be better shared.

Carole Payne, head of children's services with Durham County Council, said: "We want to offer help earlier; before families get to the point they need specialist services."

"We have worked to reduce the amount of paperwork and simplify our systems so we only have one assessment process with all agencies working together to provide effective early help."

"We also want to make sure we deal with underlying issues."

CLr Ossie Johnson, Cabinet

member for Children and Young People, said: "This is a fantastic development which puts the needs of children and young people first."

"Having just the one number will make it easier to get in contact with us and enable us to offer help at the very earliest stage."

The changes have been made in partnership with Durham Constabulary and County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust.

The telephone number for the new service, which will be launched on April 7, is: 0845 850 50 10. (See story on 0845 numbers on Page 5)

Residents Association Meeting

The Lakes and Dales Residents Association are holding a meeting on Wednesday 9th April from 6pm at The Western Area Community Centre, Silverdale Place. We will be discussing how to make the area a better place to live; Bus Trips and activities for the young people to keep them occupied during the holidays.

We have trips to Whitby, South Shields and are open to suggestions for other places. We also are hoping to set up a Luncheon Club for our elderly residents. Your attendance to this meeting is very welcome, the Police and Livin will be in attendance. Ring 01325 308094

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GREENFIELD ENTERPRISE

Greenfield Community College has gone enterprise mad through the month of March. Students from all year groups had the chance to take



part in the Tenner Challenge, a national campaign encouraging young people to be enterprising.

The Tenner Challenge is for young people who want to get a taste of what it's like to be an entrepreneur. It gives them a chance to think of a new business idea and make it happen, using real money to take risks in the business field, make a profit – and make a difference. Students at Greenfield were asked to work together to come up with a great business idea, across a wide range of areas of the world of work, and create a business plan to pitch. The most enterprising ideas were given £10 as start-up capital to use throughout March in order to make a profit and benefit the local community.

At the end of the month, after making and selling products including cakes, personalised jewellery, art, and even personalised Easter eggs, the finances were tallied and each group returned

their £10 initial investment to the Tenner Bank, plus a £1 donation to continue the legacy of the project.

The students at Greenfield made amazing profit and some are now deciding to contribute some of their earnings to local charities. This is a great opportunity for our business minded Greenfield students to learn more about the world of business and raise their future aspirations. Mrs Robson, who worked with the students in school said: "Watch this space...the next Alan Sugar is at Greenfield!" Well done to all!

From the Town Centre Chaplain

Dear Readers

Some time ago I placed a notice in Newton News. To tell you that due to ill health, I would not be able to make my usual weekly calls on shops, banks and other units in our town centre. Unfortunately the operation I had last month was unsuccessful and I am still unable to carry out my commitments to you. I am really sorry for this as I loved coming around hearing of your news and problems. I just want to reassure you all that I can still be contacted if anyone needs help or reassurance of any kind. You can find me at St. Clare's Church, immediately over the road from the Thames Centre shops.

I will be there every Thursday morning from 9am until 10-45am. On the second and fourth Thursdays of each month I will be there until 1-30 pm. Most of you should still have my calling card with telephone numbers on it so please do not hesitate to call me at any time. There is the possibility that I will need surgery in the future, so I do not know when I will be back among you. Please know that you are always in my thoughts and prayers, and I send my good wishes to each and every one of you. I also call on our towns people to continue to use shops in our town, as your support is very much needed. God bless you all. Pam Lovelass

Through the Looking Glass Tea Party at Hardwick



On Monday 31st March 2014 girls from Greenfield Community College and Woodham Academy joined guests and staff from both schools to celebrate the work of the "Through the Looking Glass" project.

The project, funded by GAMP AAP, supported by Hardwick Hall Hotel and developed by Greenfield Arts, has been encouraging positive self-esteem in girls at both schools. The girls have worked with Youth Worker Laura Agar Wilson of Uniquely Healthy since January 2014 through activities and sessions designed to increase confidence and inform them about healthy lifestyles.

The Tea Party, held at Hardwick included a menu of healthy treats designed in consultation with the girls, party favours put together by the group, and activity supported by artist Theresa Easton, who has spent time with the girls making "Feel Good Journals."

Katy Milne, Director of Arts and Creativity at Greenfield said: "The project has been a great opportunity for the

girls to realise their own confidence to feel good and believe that anything is possible. The activities have included discussions about healthy eating, body image, self-confidence and positive thinking. It's clear that the girls have gained a lot and you can visibly see the difference. Thanks to Laura Agar Wilson for facilitating this."

The Tea Party follows a series of successful sessions for the girls, including a "Fabulous Me" day alongside their peers to spread the positive effects

of the project to other young people. Greenfield Arts and all the girls involved would like to thank Laura Agar-Wilson, all the artists and staff from both schools who helped along the way and Hardwick Hall Hotel for making the project such a success.

For more information about the project please contact Greenfield Arts via their website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

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Greenfield Visits "Big Bang" Fair



Last week students from club (Science, Technology, Greenfield College's STEAM Engineering, Arts and

DISAPPOINTMENT WITH COUNTY COUNCIL POOR RESPONSE



Delivery van leaves verge in bad state

Dear Sir,
On January 3rd 2014 - along with photos and details of the Tesco vehicle involved - even the driver's manager's telephone number, I emailed the Highways Action Line, Durham County Council, to report damage to the grass verge caused by this van, near the Vet's surgery, in Shafto Way.
A photograph showing the damage, under the heading: 'Caught in the Act' was in the Newton News. It showed the deep damage. Tesco's depot, in Durham City, told me that their insurance would cover the damage, once DCC had contacted them.
All of this I left in the hands of Durham County Council who promised to respond within two days. I waited and nothing happened, so I wrote again - and then again. I did not receive a reply, save an automatically generated response. I informed all those that needed to be informed, from January 3rd onwards. What really disappointed me was that I had furnished the County Council with everything needed to get the damage repaired - and Tesco would pay!

About ten days ago, with a heavy heart, I contacted our Labour Party MP, Phil Wilson's Office. They immediately wrote to DCC and the response was electric! Nearly three months after my initial request for action, workmen arrived hotfoot at my door asking me where the damage was.
They had been looking on the wrong side of the road so I showed them and they have now repaired it (leaving other damage caused by other vehicles, unrestored).
DCC have now contacted Tesco and are in negotiation as to paying for the repair to the verge. What sort of signal does this send out to the Public, about the sheer futility of reporting damage to our environment?
I know that Mrs Jewell wrote to the Newton News, at her wit's end about similar damage in her street. A Councillor's polite requests are ignored for twelve weeks. This is about customer service, courtesy and a failure to connect with the public. Thank you,
Derek Atkinson
Town Councillor for Simpashire Ward.



Repair to damaged verge completed after 3 months

Maths) visited this year's Big Bang Young Scientists and Engineers Fair at the NEC in Birmingham.

They wonderful time trying out a range of fascinating and impressive science and engineering activities. This included the chance to programme with Raspberry Pi computers, to challenge Usain Bolt's world record in an "accelerator" tunnel, testing their engineering skills with their own KNEX constructions in a wind tunnel and trying out a flight simulator!
Whilst taking advantage of the opportunity to see what other STEM clubs from across the country have been working on, including those in the finals of a Robot construction project, Greenfield had their own success with student Joel winning a time trial in a virtual F1 car - Joel was extremely pleased with his achievement and had been practising hard in anticipation of the event!
The STEAM club here at Greenfield, is supported by multiple departments with a team of staff supporting these enthusiastic students to achieve their aspirations in these areas. The day was a great experience for those

students involved, leaving them all inspired to continue their own STEAM club projects!

Birthday Remembrance

Tina Allan

30th March

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

Dennis Archer

4th April 1950

Birthday wishes sent above to you dear Dennis, with all our love. How we wish you were here today to celebrate in the same old way. Too dearly loved to ever be forgotten by your loving Mam, Dad, Brothers, Daughter Sharon, Neil, Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren, family and friends. Till we meet again, God bless you xxxxxx

4th April 1950 - Dad

Those we love don't go away they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear. For death leaves a heartache, no one can heal. And love leaves a memory no one can steal. From your loving Daughter Helen, Steven and Natasha xxxxx

BELLE HIGGINS & ETTA WALLER. 5th April. Remembering you both on your birthday (and Mother's Day). You came into the world together. You are now at peace together. Always in my heart. Love you both always. Julie xox

LIAM HANNON 4th April. We cannot send a birthday card, your hand we cannot touch, but God will take our greetings to you, the one we love so much. Love and miss you, Dorothy, Family and Stuart

ADA & DICK HUTSON 4th April and 19th April. A bouquet of roses we send to you. Sprinkled with teardrops instead of dew. A forget-me-not to let you know, we haven't forgot. Love and kisses from all your family to our wonderful Mam, Dad and Grandparents on your birthdays xxx

THOMPSON 4th April. Happy birthday Tony. No cards, but lots of memories, now and always. Grace

In Memoriam

JENNIE TARVIT Many people walk in and out of your life. But only true friends leave footprints in your heart. Remembered always. Sylvia and Vic

JENNIE TARVIT No amount of time will heal this pain in my heart, or fill the void in my life, since you were taken. Nana, this year without you has been the hardest year of my life. The only comfort I get is to think of you and Grandad reunited again. Sleep tight, till we meet again. Lots of love from your "Zo-Zo" and John xx

JENNIE TARVIT A big kiss and hug from me to my "Nana 2". Love always, from Robbie Jay xxx

JENNIE TARVIT It's been a year now since you left us and the hurt is as bad now as it was then. At least now we know you are in no more pain and that you and Dad are back together again with our Sister Jan. We love and miss you dearly and you are always in our thoughts. To the best Mam ever. Also my dear Dad, gone but never forgotten. Love always, Jenny and Bob xx

JENNIE TARVIT little did we know that morning that God was going to call your name. In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose you, you did not go alone for part of us went with you the day God called you home. It's been a year now but not a day goes by that we don't think of you. All my love, Abi and Family xxxxx

JENNIE & BILL TARVIT It's been a year Nana, not a day goes by without us thinking of you. Grandad, love and miss you always. Adam, Laura and Jesse xxx

MIRIAM ROSSITER 8th April 2004. Ten years have passed since that sad day you left us Mam. In our hearts you will always live. Lesley and Tony xxx

WENDY GRAHAM 5th April 2009. Remembering my beautiful Wife Wendy. Thinking of you every day, miss you always. Your loving Husband Charles xxx

WENDY GRAHAM 5th April 2009. Missing a special Sister and Aunt. Always in our thoughts. Love, Kay and Mandy xxx

BRIAN FIRTH 3rd April 1999. Years may pass, but memories stay. I love and miss you Brian every day. Forever in my heart. Loving Wife Hazel xx

KARMEN Your special day we cannot share, but in our hearts you are always there. Love, Mam, Owen, Ronnie, Karen and families

THOMPSON 11th June. Another year without you. But I feel your love around me every day. Grace xxx

JOHN SMALLMAN 13th April 2009. Your memory is precious and never grows old, it stays in our hearts in letters of gold. Always loved. Loving Wife Pat and family

SUSAN ELLEN MARCUS 5th April 2010. My heart still aches with the pain of losing you. I know it always will, I love and miss you so much Susan. God bless, till we meet again darling. With love from Mam and all the family

ALF SAXBY 4-4-2002. Thinking of you on this sad day. Loving you always. Loving Wife Eileen and family xxx

ARNIE LINDLEY 7th April 2012. Sadly missed along life's way, quietly remembered every day. No longer in our lives to share, but in our hearts he is always there. Loving Wife Pat and family xxx

Congratulations

Vera Stobbs



Celebrating 90 Amazing Years

You are someone very special and loved by all. Have a wonderful birthday weekend celebrating with your family xxxxxxx

Lisa Meale



Happy 40th Birthday Aligar

Have a brill day. Love, Travey, Davie, Tyler and Millie

Thank You

LYNNE TOWLER 13th August 1944 - 9th March 2014. The family of the late Lynne Towler would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes and a big thank you to Rev. Dr. M. D. Gray. Mam had many friends and had a great send off. A collection at the Service raised just over £180 for Cancer Research. Love you always Mam. Dave, Steve, Rob, Angie, Tracey and Kath

THANK YOU to the person who handed in my keys to the Bewick Surgery, thank you.

RAYMOND, BENNETT (Ben). 16th March 2014. The family of the late Ben would like to express their thanks to all relatives and friends for their kindness, sympathy and support shown to them during this sad time. Many thanks for all the cards and flowers as well as donations made to Help for Heroes. Also special thanks for the care and respect Ben received from Sedgfield Community Hospital

FLACK John and Betty would like to thank family and friends for gifts and money received on their 50th Anniversary on 28th March xxx

GLADYS DAVIES 12/7/1928 - 17/3/2014. Sue and Jan would like to thank all those involved in Mum's care. With special thanks to our families and friends for all the beautiful cards, flowers, love and support we have received xxx

"Fit for Foster Mrs Fifty"



All the best on your 50th Pete, have a great time in Newcastle and Yarmouth. Love from Kev, Julie and Jake

RICHMOND Alan and Chris. On our Golden Wedding on 28th March. A little card, a little thought, a call to say congratulations on your day. Thank you to all who shared our 50th Wedding Anniversary. A special thanks to Viv for remembering what are great memories. Love from your Chief Bridesmaid, Chris and Best Man Alan xxx

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NAJFC Under 9's Walk Out with Senior Team



Despite it snowing on the morning of Saturday 22nd March, Newton Aycliffe Junior Football Club Under 9's enjoyed a match day experience courtesy of Newton Aycliffe F.C.

A number of players from Newton Aycliffe Juniors under 9's wrapped up warm and went along to watch Newton Aycliffe FC v Team Northumbria. The under 9's had the privilege to be club mascots for the day, firstly they walked out at the start of the match with the Newton Aycliffe team and took part in the FA Respect handshake and were then taken to the centre circle where everyone in the ground took part in a minutes applause in memory of Frankie Swinburne who sadly passed away on 24th March 2013.

At half time the Under 9's had penalty shoot out and we saw some very impressive goals and goal keeping. Well done to the Under 9's goal keeper Charlie Cayless. The boys had their names read out over the tannoy as they

walked up to take their shot on goal.

The Under 9's would like to thank Newton Aycliffe FC for their Match Day Experience, everyone had a great afternoon. Newton Aycliffe Junior Football Club would also like to wish

NAFC every success for the rest of the Season.

In attendance (and pictured) for NAJFC under 9's, Robert Hillman, Matthew Greaves, Edward Dunn, Matthew Turnbull, Charlie Cayless, Sammy Clark and Ryan-Jay Griffiths.

Gymnasts in the Medals



March has been a very successful month for Athena Gymnastics Academy, jointly based in Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre and Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre. After the success of the Northern NDP's Acro Regional finals where Athena's Joseph Dunn and Evie Tombling got through to the National Finals in Stoke, and also the success of Daniel Wilkinson who got the Silver Medal in the NDP Tumbling Semi-Final and go through to the second semi final to be held in Coventry, over 50 of the clubs Gymnasts went to Durham for the local Deerness Floor Championships. The day was split into 3 sessions with over 500 gymnasts entering from 12 Clubs across the region with an age range from 4 years to 17 years. The group had Gymnasts in many of the levels from Disabilities, Novices, and Intermediate at both individual and pair categories.

Some of the categories on the day had over 40 gymnasts competing so the gymnasts had to be at their best to win the medals on offer. The coaches at the club were very proud of ALL the gymnasts that competed and gained 20 Gold, 8 Silver and 9 Bronze medals in a very tough competition. For many of the Athena gymnasts this was their first time in a competition so to come away with a medal was a huge achievement. Athena is a very young club and the progress shown by the gymnasts was superb. Athena Gymnastics Academy run classes during the week and at the weekend. If anyone is interested in any of the classes please contact Sam on 07800 847527 or 01388 605946 for further information.

TITLE RACE HEATS UP AS SPORTS CLUB GO TOP

Simpasture Park was the host of the most eagerly awaited league game of the DSIL 2nd Division, with the winners knowing that the title would be within grasping distance. Having played each other just a few weeks ago, and losing their 100% record in the league, The Huntsman were hoping for a reverse result to keep the title race wide open in what has become a 3 horse race with the Spraire Lads of Darlington still knocking on the door.

The Home team started the brighter of the two and grabbed the first goal on 8 minutes when Dave Neale picked up the ball on the edge of the box and drove it into

the bottom corner with Chris Palmer slow to get down for the shot. Just moments later, with the Sports Club on the back foot, Goalkeeper Palmer redeemed himself by tipping over a powerful volley from Carl Bates.

That was the wakeup call the away side needed as they managed to take a hold of the game from the midfield with Ryan Stonehouse again proving a valuable asset to the Aycliffe side winning the important challenges and driving his team onwards. An injury to David Teder saw an early substitution with Damien Jose slotting in to partner Glenn Hendrix up front. The change had an immediate impact with Jose winning a penalty in the 20th Minute and converting it with ease past Neil Dodds.

Two minutes later, Sports Club doubled their tally with in form striker Hendrix getting his first of the game after holding off the defenders and slotting home into the bottom corner. The home side were now on the back foot and were finding it difficult to cope with the pressure they were being put under and were second to every ball as the Sports Club midfield closed them down quickly to gain possession and kept the ball well with good passing and link up play.

However, the hosts had a stroke of luck when a penalty was awarded when it was deemed that Lee Redpath was fouled when the ball was crossed into the box. Anth Cox stepped up to take it and although Palmer got his body to it, he couldn't stop the ball crossing the line to make it 2-2 just before the break.

The second half started as brightly as it had finished with both sides desperate for the upper hand and it came on the 55 minute mark when Glenn Hendrix was played through and managed to beat the



oncoming goalkeeper to slot home his second and the Sports Club 3rd. This forced the Home side to make a couple of quick changes in personnel and formation, but they were caught off guard with another set piece that Ryan Stonehouse managed to swing his leg at and find the net to make it 2-4 with 20 minutes to go.

The Huntsman rallied and went 3 up top to try and grab something from the game and they did with just 8 minutes left, Adam McDonalds through ball found Jamie Herd who slotted the ball past Chris Palmer to make it 3-4. The final few minutes was end to end, and in the search for the equaliser

The Huntsman threw keeper Neil Dodds forward for a corner, which was cleared and Jonathan Clegg ran the length of the pitch, crossed the ball into the middle which was slotted home but disallowed off the referee for offside. One final attack from the Huntsman

saw the last shot of the game fly over the bar to the relief of the visitors, who held on to complete the double over their local rivals.

Both Teams have 3rd placed Spraire lads to play and NASC FC know that winning both of their remaining games will win them the league title in their first season together as a club – but the Huntsman, with a game in hand will no doubt push them to the very end and hope for a slip up along the way.

A reminder also that NASC FC is holding a Promotion Party on Friday 4th April. Local Band Live Lounge will be playing hits from bands such as Oasis, Kasabian, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Arctic Monkeys, Kings of Leon and many more. Tickets are 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.

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