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£10k Lottery Award for St. Clare's Roof Appeal

St Clare's Church is pleased to announce that the Big Lottery has awarded them £10,000 to help towards the cost of replacing the roof on its premises. The new roof on the church and halls will cost a total of £65,000 and will be repaired in phases as money becomes available. St. Clare's, in the town centre acts as a focal point in the community and is home to

uniformed organisations, slimming clubs, Helping Hands, Durham Foodbank as well as Kidsflicks, Messy Church and so much more. The halls are used for one off events, Exhibitions, coffee mornings, Theatre productions etc. The church hope to raise enough money to ensure all those who use the facilities at St Clare's can continue their use of the

premises and operate whilst work is carried out. The Big Lottery funding will ensure phase one can start and if any local companies would like to help in raising the money for the other phases please contact Mr Ron Davison on 320203.

New Disco's for Young People

AYTP has teamed up with the Youth Centre to organise two disco's to take place on Saturday 12th April in the safe and secure place at the Youthy, opposite Tesco. The under 14's Disco is from 2pm till 4:30pm entry is £3 and this comes with lots of fun music and a hotdog in a bun. Open to all under 14's

so bring your kids down and let us wear them out for a couple of hours. The under 18's get their chance at 5:30 till 8:30, with all the banging up-to-date tunes being played by the AYTP disco team. Spaces are limited so get your tickets from the Youthy now and be part of these discos. Food and non-alcoholic drinks will be available for both events from the snack bar. Other food will be available and soft drinks on sale. This is a trial and needs the young people of the town to get behind what NAYCC and AYPT are offering.

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Call Ian or Lesley on 01325 300203
to arrange your Meals On Wheels
www.FeastLand.co.uk

Exam Success for Singer

A pupil of Terence Lawson, School Aycliffe, Sarah Bedwell has been highly successful in the recent Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Examinations by passing Grade 7 with Merit for Singing.

Little Acorns Nursery
Clarence House, Durham Way North, Aycliffe Business Park
Newton Aycliffe DL5 6HP - Telephone: 01325 309100

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Sponsored Climb to Help Needy People in Aycliffe



On Saturday 5th April 30 friends and family from Life Church were involved in an event sponsored by Rock Antics in the Leisure Centre. At Life Church we assume everyone opts into things like this unless they say otherwise. It really is hands on deck and everyone does something to make a difference to those who need help in our community. £1,500 was raised by the event and will be used by "Helping Hands" to source £15,000 worth of aid! Alwyn White said: "It was



a fantastic team challenge, people cheered others on whilst they climbed the equivalent to Ben Nevis! An array of cakes and drinks were donated and sold and every person got involved in one way or another - it certainly was a dream team. One astonishing thing was that some people conquered their fear of heights so they could do something to tackle poverty in our town. The church has set a target to support 2500 people this year and with this kind of effort are sure to achieve it! Please contact Linzi Nichols 07936431262 if you want to help tackle poverty in our area with sponsorship. If you are in difficulty, "Helping Hands" now offer a service where people can text their details - name, address, telephone number, D.O.B and reasons they need help. After receiving the text there will be a friendly call back to explain how you can get help. Alternatively just phone the Helping Hands team 07936 431262, or e-mail lifeline.action@googlemail.com

Weight Loss Challenge

Arriba Weight Loss Challenge at the Agnew Community Centre. New course of 12 weeks commences on Thursday 24th April from 6-15pm, to book ring Jules on 07966 968388 to secure a place on this highly popular course.

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Battle of the Bands at the Youthy

Do you think you are good enough to take part in 'Battle of the Bands', with a prize of a recording of a 4 track EP worth £500 and your first 50 copies to sell to fans? Then this is for you! AYTTP and Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre have got together to organise this great event, 3 heats of 5 bands with 2 bands from each heat going through to the final. The crowd at the event all get their chance to vote for the best bands on the night and

the winner being the band with the most votes. Tickets for each heat can be obtained from AYTTP or NAYC. Each of the 4 nights will be £3 per in advance or £4 on the door. Alternatively you can get a ticket for all the 4 nights for £10, that's right you can see 21 live acts for £10. If you like live music then this is the event for you. Any bands wanting to enter, need to do that straight away as there is only 15 spots. To enter contact Aycliffe Music-Man on Facebook

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THE TURBINIA

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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 MEGGGGAAAA! 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"

"Well, I don't know what to say, apart from... THIS MACHINE were absolutely amazing last night, one of the best, especially when the guitarists were on the tables and bar, hahah! Every song was awesome, perfect sound and just all round excellence. Also it was the best atmosphere I've ever experienced, everyone was having fun." - GIG PIT REVIEW. One of the most entertaining bands on the circuit, music by Motorhead, Van Halen, Metallica, Pearl Jam, Bon Jovi, Guns 'n' Roses, Deep Purple, AC/DC, Billy Idol, Thin Lizzy...
www.alanbweb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk

Saturday 26th April - "Bessie and the Zinc Buckets"

For more information on bands go to
www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034
Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke

Hospice Seeks Teams for "It's a Knockout"

Butterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland is hosting an "It's a Knockout" event to be held on Saturday 5th July 2014 at Wotton Castle. We are looking for teams of 10 people to take up the challenge of a series of fun, foamy and inflatable games, which are reminiscent of the 1970's

television show. Teamwork is the key to winning the most points and we are encouraging teams to take part in fancy dress. This could be anything from an 80's theme, the Wild West or characters from TV and Film. So theme your team and as an extra incentive the best dressed team will win a prize!

It's a Knockout is an extremely popular event (to see It's a Knockout in action visit www.itsaknockout.co.uk) and it is also a great day out for families too! There will be fairground rides and children's entertainment (weather permitting for extra entertainment; event goes ahead regardless of weather conditions. Team registration fee of £100.00 (£10 per person) and we ask all team members to try to raise £50 in sponsorship.



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Rotary Club Railway Event Raised £1600 for Charity

The annual Rotary Club Model Railway Exhibition held last Saturday was a good event with a 10% increase on numbers through the door.

The organisers received many complimentary comments from visitors on the standard of layouts and the location of the event held at the Youth & Community Centre which was ideal for the purpose. In addition to numerous stalls and exhibitions there was a raffle, tombola and refreshments available, served from a busy kitchen who did a roaring trade on Bacon Buns.

Exhibitors travelled to Aycliffe from all over the north, but the local Model Railway Club from Shildon won the prize for the best model layout.

"We anticipate being able to hand over £1600 to the Heel and Toe Cerebral Palsy Charity thanks to matched funding from Barclays Bank whose staff supported the fundraising", said Rotarian John Burrows.



LIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL FOR AYCLIFFE IN MAY

Newton Aycliffe is to host a live music Festival this Spring. Party in the Park, has been announced as a joint venture between the town's Northern League football Club, and Newton Aycliffe Sports Club. Taking place on Sunday May 4th, the organisers have promised a live music extravaganza starting at 2pm, and lasting through until 10.30pm. There are a range of bands already lined up, featuring indie, rock, ska, punk, blues and hip-hop so it really will appeal to all tastes. Tickets, which went on sale this week, are priced at just £10 and available from the bar at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club. There will be a number of can bars located around the football pitch as well as food stalls, ensuring the full feel of a music festival will be available.

Secretary of the Sports Club Shaun Saunders said "we can't wait for the event. We have a long and successful track record of bringing live music to the Club, and utilising our grounds in this way is an excellent way of increasing revenues, while giving our members and the wider population of Aycliffe an event they can be proud of. This is to be the first year of an event we hope will become a fixture in the music calendar for the Town".

Dan Lewis, NAFC General Manager said "we are delighted to be working closely with the Sports Club to host what will be a great day. The Football Ground is an ideal venue for the event, and we hope supporters of the Club as well as music lovers will come down and make the most of the day".

Saunders is also offering the chance for any upcoming local acts who want to take part in an open mic slot on the day to contact him either

via email on kps5656@gmail.com or via the event facebook

page www.facebook.com/events/281216575369742

NEWTON NEWS **Newton Press**
Easter Deadline
Thursday 17th April - Easter Issue
Deadline: 5pm Tuesday 15th April
Friday 24th April - Back to Normal
Deadline: 5pm Wednesday 22nd April
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Office Opening Times
Open until Thursday 17th April at 5.30pm
Reopening on Tuesday 22nd April at 8.30am

Could You be a Welfare Champion?

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

The project recognises that many people will often turn to people they know in the local community rather than contact official support services. As the Trust's Chief Executive Malcolm Fallow explained "We are looking for people who are already well placed in the local community who will provide these vital first pieces of information to get people on the right track."

The project, which is supported by Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) and Livin, is not looking to replicate that of the already well established such as the Citizens Advice Bureau service, but instead will complement this by providing signposting information to the right agencies for assisting with specific issues and cases. Recruitment of Welfare Champions is currently taking place, within Newton Aycliffe. Volunteers will all receive full training and will be fully reimbursed with any out of pocket expenses. To become involved in the project contact East Durham Trust on 0191 5693511 or email info@eastdurhamtrust.org.uk

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Development at Cobblers Hall

Dear Sir,

I have been contacted by a number of people concerned about the work going on at the Moor, Cobblers Hall.

As you are aware, houses are being built on the area labelled O on the plan – but the Moor is being developed as a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) scheme and a local nature reserve.

Due to recent problems with flooding throughout the country, legislation is in the pipeline for this year which will significantly change the rules about drainage for new build developments. Developers will no longer be able automatically to connect to the main drainage system. And they will have to ensure that, in cloudburst conditions, the run-off from their houses will not overwhelm the drains and cause flooding to other properties. For most developments, that will mean including some form of SUDS scheme.

That is what is being developed at the Moor, which is a development ahead-of-its-time. Instead of discharging directly into the main drains, surface water from the new housing at Site O will run down drains at points B into



the pond that is currently being dug out on the site. Normally, the water will then run out down drain C into the drainage system. In flood conditions, however – because drain C is of a small diameter – the rainwater will build up in the main pond and discharge at a steady rate down drain C.

At the same time, the County Council has taken the opportunity to turn this functional feature into a local nature reserve. It will be surrounded by a 1.2m paling fence (D), encompassed by an upgraded carboniferous stone footpath (E) and with viewing platforms at points F. The permanent pond (G) will be planted with common water-crowfoot and broadleaf pondweed, with ‘marginal’ and ‘emergent wildflowers’ (BFS5) planted at the water’s edge, and a mix of wildflowers and grasses (BFW4) in the rest of the catchment basin.

If you are interested, you can read full details on the council website at <http://bit.ly/DCCMoor>

John D Clare

For Babies & Toddlers

A new baby and toddler group is starting up in Woodham later this month. ‘Little Treasures’, run by Harvest Christian Centre, will open its doors for the first time on Tuesday April 29th, welcoming all babies and children under school age, along with their parents and carers.

Little Treasures will run at Woodham Community Centre from April 29th on Tuesday mornings from 10.15 to 11.45, costing £1.50 per child and 50p for each additional sibling. As well as play equipment and toys there will be crafts, singing and of course refreshments for children and their carers.

Helen Forster from HCC says ‘As a mum of 2 young children I know how important it is to have places to go where children can play in a safe environment whilst mums and other carers can meet up, chat and make new friends’.

Any queries please contact Helen on 07761 832715 or see the church website on www.harvestchristiancentre.org

Sleeping Rough in Darlington

The weather on the night I must admit was awful, howling wind, rain and freezing cold with frost on the windows of the cars in the morning, but I’ve got to say it was worth every penny sponsored.

We have handed over a cheque from our Newton Aycliffe shop staff and volunteers for £1435.01 to Tees Valley YMCA Hostel in Darlington. The total raised was £2500.

A grateful mention for our brave volunteers: Denise McWilliam, Stacy Burke, Karen Hodgeson, Belinda Smith and Sue Glossop-Freebody, who worked so hard raising the money and awareness for youth homelessness.

A massive thank you to the public for their sponsorship on behalf of the young people who access the 31 rooms the hostel provides.

Emma, YMCA Shop Newton Aycliffe.



WHY?

Dear Sir,

WHY does the Council always seem to cut the grass when it’s raining, making a right mess in the process?

WHY do dog walkers allow their pets to poo wherever they like? The owners never worry as they are usually walking ahead of the dog in ignorance of what’s happening!

WHY do we have dog bins when the council man removes the contents and puts it in a blue bin bag for roadside collection?

WHY not get rid of dog bins and replace them with normal bins?

WHY do people nowadays not give a damn and throw their rubbish wherever they like?

WHY doesn’t Newton News make this a feature each week for other people’s “why’s”?

Questioner
Name & address supplied
ED: Send your “WHY’s” to syd@newtonnews.co.uk



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MAYOR'S CHARITY CABARET EVENING

The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Barbara Clare, will be holding a Charity Evening with artistes ‘Stan Fuller’ and ‘Tanya Malone’ in the Royal British Legion Club on Thursday 1st May at 7.30pm. The ticket price will include Pie and Peas. A Bingo session and Raffle will take place with the proceeds being donated to the Mayor’s nominated charities:- St. Clare’s Foodbank and the Cardiothoracic Unit at James Cook Hospital. Tickets are on sale £5 each and can be purchased from the Council Offices, (01325 300700) or the Royal British Legion Club.

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PCP Volunteer Recognised at Regional Awards



In July 2013 Sharon Stokoe celebrated 2 years free from her alcohol addiction by starting work with Pioneering Care Partnership's (PCP's) Senior Health Trainer programme. She wanted to volunteer in her local community to help people who had faced similar problems to her own. Now a qualified Alcohol Health Trainer Champion Sharon has just won the Life Changing Learning Award as the North East Region of OCN celebrated their 20th anniversary at an event at the Sage, in Gateshead. Sharon's learning achievements include Brief Interventions Level 3 and Helping People make Healthier Choices Level 3, both delivered by PCP. Sharon, from Shildon had previously suffered mental and physical health problems. As well as recovering from her alcohol addiction she was also recovering from an eating disorder. Sharon wanted to support people in a similar position to her own so she met with Marie Robson, Senior Alcohol Health Trainer for PCP and started training to become a Health Trainer Champion, providing peer support to clients who are accessing Community Alcohol Service (CAS). Sharon says: "Winning this award is nothing short of a miracle. I was a chronic alcoholic for around 9 years,

this cost me my family and friends. I had so many hospital admissions even suffering a brain haemorrhage requiring surgery. I now have just over 2½ years sobriety and I wanted to help other people still suffering from Alcoholism. I do this through the volunteering opportunities PCP has given me. I have done many different courses since getting sober and enjoyed each and every one. To be nominated for this Life-Changing Learners Award means so much to me it really is more than I could ever have imagined." Marie says: "Sharon was a willing and enthusiastic learner who supported her peers in the group by sharing her experiences and offering help and advice. Her life has changed through her learning to give her a positive attitude, better mental and physical health as well as increased confidence and self-esteem. All of which are now contributing to the help and support she gives to others. She has overcome so many barriers with her health and addiction. Her relationship with her family is mending and she has achieved learning success with no prior qualifications or adult learning experience. She is an inspiration to many, well done Sharon!" Sharon's next destination is to train to become a Cancer Champion for PCP –

volunteering to support those affected by cancer. For further information on volunteering and learning opportunities or projects available through PCP, contact 01325 321234, enquiries@pcp.uk.net, www.pcp.uk.net

Free Easter Fun Day

Horndale Residents Association and Newton Aycliffe Evangelical Church are holding a free Easter Fun Day on Saturday 19th, 2pm-4pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and join in the fun, there will be games, Egg decorating competition, egg hunt, face painting and refreshments. The Police will be attending offering free bike marking and crime prevention equipment and advice. Our new mascot will be coming along to his first Horndale Residents event to look out for him he may need some doggy biscuits to keep him happy. This event is free and we want as many people to attend to make it a fun and successful day bringing the community together. We are also in the process of organising other events for the coming year bus trips etc and again these will either be free or at an affordable cost. Philip Clark, Chairman

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Popular Priest to Leave Aycliffe

Much loved Priest at St. Clare's, Rev. Julie Wing, will be leaving the parish in June to become Rector at Usworth, Washington. Julie has been in Newton Aycliffe for 5 years and has been very active and has served the community well. All who know her will be sorry to see her leave - her down to earth approach and good humour brought a breath of fresh air to the parish of Great Aycliffe. On behalf of the community we wish her well and thank her for the valuable contribution she made to life in Newton Aycliffe.



Rev. Julie Wing



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Aycliffe Music Scene

Aycliffe have attracted bands from all over the country for the "Battle of the Bands" competition taking place at the Youth Centre. There are enquiries and entries from London, Kent and Hull as well as local groups and artists from all over the region.

The "Battle of the Bands" is open for anyone to enter, bands and solo artists. To enter contact "Aycliffe Music-Man" on facebook. The prize of a recording of a 4 track EP and 50 copies of the EP is well worth winning and is the big attraction as well as playing in Newton Aycliffe

which is getting a reputation on the music scene.

This Saturday sees the start of the Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre's regular monthly discos for 14's and under at 2pm, 18's and under at 5:30pm. Great idea by the Youthy to provide some secure fun for the youngsters of Aycliffe.

If you would like "Aycliffe Music Scene" to come to your event and comment on it in the Newton News contact "Aycliffe Music-Man" on facebook. Next week I will have some news about a dedicated music venue for Aycliffe.

Pharmacy Bank Holiday Opening Hours



Friday 18th April 2014

BOOTS PHARMACY

Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe 10am-4pm

TESCO PHARMACY

Greenwell Road, Newton Aycliffe 11am-4pm

Sunday 20th April 2014

HANCOCK & AINSLEY

Main Street, Shildon 1.30pm-3.30pm

Monday 21st April 2014

BOOTS PHARMACY

Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe 10am-4pm

TESCO PHARMACY

Greenwell Road, Newton Aycliffe 11am-4pm

Aston Changes to Holiday Inn

On Friday 4th of April 2014, London based Asset Management firm, Dominvs Group, held their grand opening event for the Holiday Inn Open Lobby Darlington North Hotel formerly known as The Aston.

Phil Wilson, MP cut the ribbon and welcomed the 100 + guests to the moving sounds of locally renowned Jazz Singer, Alison Hildreth and locally fashioned canapés and drinks, ensuring the guests received a full Holiday Inn Darlington North welcome.

"It was so inspiring to see the level of community support and involvement" says Preet Ahluwalia, Director of Dominvs Group. "From the Mayor right down to local Newtonian Bus driver, every person involved or attending the event was as enthused and passionate about the development and advancement of Darlington area as we are".

The event was set in the recently renovated hotel lobby and restaurant area, the area of the hotel that underwent the greatest transformation, the focal point of the Holiday Inn Open Lobby design.

Guest were welcomed by Angela Brav, Chief Executive Office Europe at IHG, promptly followed by a heartfelt speech by Pat MacInnes, General Manager of the Holiday Inn Darlington North.

The conversion of their 80-bedroom hotel near Aycliffe involved the transformation of the traditional hotel lobby by



combining the front desk, restaurant, bar, lounge area and business centre into one open, cohesive space, while refreshing the design to give it a more contemporary feel. Pat MacInnes, General Manager at Holiday Inn said: "It is a casual, unpretentious

space designed to make everyone feel welcome whether travelling alone or with a group, with kids or with colleagues.

The aim is for our guests to relax and have fun, it was evident to see this resonating with our guests on the day."

Award for Greenfield



Greenfield Community College, A Specialist Arts and Science School has received national recognition for achieving some of the fastest improving GCSE results in the country.

A recent in-depth analysis of official Department for Education data on all state-funded schools in England by SSAT, the national schools' membership organisation for improvement and collaboration, identified Greenfield a Specialist Arts and Science School's success.

The school has qualified for an SSAT Educational Outcomes Award by being in the top 20% of schools nationally for improved results year-on-year from 2010 to 2013.

The school has been invited to receive their award at a regional celebration ceremony hosted by SSAT at Emmanuel College in Gateshead on 06 June.

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT said:

"Greenfield Community College, should be congratulated for their exceptional achievement. They have proved themselves to be leading the field in improving GCSE outcomes for their students.

There is so much good practice that this school could share, and I hope many schools will join us at the celebration ceremony for the chance to network and share strategies with award-winning schools.

"These results are testament to the commitment and hard work of the students, teachers and leadership team at Greenfield Community College. A Specialist Arts and Science School, and show what can be achieved when skilled teachers have high expectations and ambition for every young person. I am proud that this school is a member of the SSAT network."

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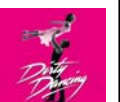
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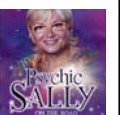
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Club Committee Climbs the Heights to Raise Funds



The keen, ever-resourceful committee of Newton Aycliffe FC took on 'mother nature' as they scaled the highest peak in England on Saturday. In weather that could best be described as 'wet' the group of walkers took on all the challenges that were put in front of them in a bid to raise funds for the future of the Towns only semi-professional football club. The group of walkers included Stephen Cunliffe, Gary Farley, Dan Lewis, Paul McGeary, Barry Waters and John Gaskarth. The ability and experience of the group could certainly be described as 'mixed' as they set off on the challenge.

As they made their way up the mountain, the forecasted rain was falling heavily. However as they got higher, their biggest challenge was the visibility. Once the walkers got above approx. 700m visibility reduced considerably, down to only 10m as they approached the 978m summit. They were told the top of the mountain resembled a lunar scene but it was a shock to the group just how tough it was, scrambling over huge boulder fields to make the summit. They were fortunate to be able to seek the advice of experienced mountain guides towards the top of the mountain, helping them to plot the route to the top.

Unfortunately once they got there, the views weren't so much of the Blackpool Tower (which can be seen from there on a clear day) but more of thick fog and rain! And so with that they set off back down, through the boulders, the gale force wind and driving rain! By now the paths resembled streams and the earlier streams were more like raging torrents! However the group remained committed to the task, and made their way to the bottom some six rain soaked hours after they set off!

Chairman Gary Farley said "the effort the lads have put in has been unbelievable. None of us probably realised how tough it was going to be, with the weather being so bad. It literally poured with rain from start to finish, and at the top you could barely see the person in front of you!" If anyone would like to offer donations in support of the challenge, cheques can be made payable to NAFC and sent to Stephen Cunliffe at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club, Moore Lane, DL5 5AG.

REME Farewell for Major Prince



The South West Durham REME Association said 'farewell' to Major Chris Prince OC of 124 Recovery Coy REME at Newton Aycliffe on 25 March after being in the 'chair' for 5 years. The Association has a close relationship with 124 Recovery Company as the majority had some very happy years there, even though it was 'quite a while ago' according to John Short, secretary of the association. Presenting Chris with an Association plaque was the President Capt. Philip Rolfe, who has known Chris since they were both vehicle mechanics in the 80's. Chris has always lead by

example and has been respected by his peers and soldiers throughout his TA career. He had an active time in the TA, serving at a number of locations in the UK as well as Belgium, Holland, Canada, Germany and an Iraq tour with 6 Bn REME on Telic. He has now taken up an appointment with 15 Bde BRT in York. If you would like to join the TA why not come along on a Tuesday evening to Northfield way (DL56UR), or if you enjoyed your Regular of TA career in the REME and live in the Newton Aycliffe/Durham area contact Mr. Keith Sams at the Scout Centre (DL57PW) on the last Wednesday of the month.

£100,000 New Science Facility at Woodham



Woodham Academy has invested £100,000 in brand new, state of the art science facilities. The initial phase of the

development has involved the complete refurbishment of the first classroom in the programme. Work involved stripping out the old wooden

benching and replacing it with bespoke units and superior student work stations. Also included in the renovations are a futuristic "teaching wall" housing an interactive whiteboard, along with brand new flooring and ceiling to complete the transformation. This first phase of the project has provided up-to-the minute learning facilities and is cementing Woodham Academy's commitment to providing the best learning environment possible for its students. These new facilities are complemented by other innovations, including an outdoor classroom. Further plans include the refurbishment of a further two science classrooms as part of an ongoing project to enhance student learning.

Eggstatic Contest



Children and parents have had lots of fun using their imagination to design and decorate eggcellent eggs for the Easter Egg Competition at Vane Road School. Designs ranged from Eggie Stobart to an amazing fire eater. Well done to the Clough, Kavanagh and Pugh family who eggcelled in the competition.

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Easter Bonnet Parade



The staff, parents and children of Heighington Pre-school are very grateful to DMA Law, Darlington for providing a gorgeous hamper to raffle at their annual Easter Bonnet Parade.

The children had lots of fun creating their bonnets and showing them off to their family and friends on the stage whilst singing some Easter songs.

The Pre-school committee also organised various other stalls along with tea and coffee for the parents, which helped raise £253.32 for much needed funds.

Heighington Pre-school is located in the Village Hall and provides Early Years Care and Education for children aged 3-4. If you would like further information please contact Helen Lyon or Ruth Ashlee 07845 980151

Wedding Night Repeated 50 Years Later at Hotel for the Same Price - £3.85p



Peter and Ann with the Mayor Barbara Clare who called with congratulations from the Town Council

Peter and Ann McCullagh of Dykes Walk celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on the 28th March and returned to the Kings Head Hotel in Darlington where they spent their first night together as man and wife.

This was organised by their Grandson Craig who also made sure the couple paid the same rate as 50 years ago - £3.85p with the same view from their bedroom.

Peter and Ann lived in the next street to each other in Darlington and attended the same youth club and local dance hall. It was at the Majestic that Peter asked to walk Ann home after the dance and it was from that point the relationship grew and they were married two years later.

Peter was a Fitter at North Road Railway shops, moving to Tallents in 1962 when they produced washing machines. Married in 1964 to Ann the couple moved to a new house in Shafto Way, now demolished.

Ann worked as a shop assistant, Paton & Baldwins. Leveys and Hector Grabhams. Peter ended his working life at Eatons retiring in 1992. In his early days he enjoyed basketball and football and then became a keen golfer reaching a handicap of 9. Even with a hip replacement he continues to play golf and is a member at the Ineos club. Ann is a keen gardener and Peter is a talented artist producing work in oils and watercolour.

The couple have two daughters, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren all living in Newton Aycliffe. The family held a party at Burtree Inn and the celebrations carried on through the weekend to Mothering Sunday with everyone having a fabulous time.

Aycliffe Walkers Falling in South Eastern Fells

Aycliffe Fell Walkers had a stark reminder recently that winter hadn't quite released its grip on the countryside, not just yet! Those travelling across the Pennines on the coach were given a clear indication of what was to come when skies darkened and heavy snow fell as they passed through Kirby Stephen, on route to the Lake District.

The south eastern fells, north of Kendal and Windermere, were covered in a heavy blanket of snow and this made for difficult, sometimes treacherous conditions underfoot! One group of walkers alighted from the coach at Troutbeck and headed up towards Wansfell Pike, which had escaped much of the snowfall due to its lower elevation; but wet and muddy conditions meant that the going was still slippery underfoot, especially on higher ground!

The main group alighted at Kirkstone Pass and proceeded to climb over steep snow-covered ground towards Stony Cove Pike; the fittest and strongest of these 'pioneers', charging onward and upward, headed for Thornthwaite Beacon and the hills beyond. The snow hereabouts was some three to four inches deep and several members took the opportunity to enjoy a welcome break from the cold southerly breeze, in the meagre shelter of a substantial stone-built cairn above Threshwaite Crag.

The MET office forecast had predicted an improving situation, but shortly after noon more clouds appeared along with swirling snow and this had a detrimental effect on ambition. Whilst stronger walkers continued onto the high ridges, the majority elected to lose height and look for easier routes below the snow line.

The weather did eventually improve however and in late afternoon the sun shone on gleaming white snow-covered hills. Walkers were rewarded with views of Morecambe Bay in the far distance; whilst the Conistone Fells stood out in grand style in the near distance. Many lingered for some time, looking down towards Lake Windermere, before heading down to Troutbeck and the walk's end! It had been a challenging but rewarding day! So many had slipped or fallen during the walk however that when all had reached the warmth of the hostelry in Troutbeck, it was quickly established that only 5 out of the total of 47 members had managed to stay upright all day. One cheeky chap asked "Is that why they call these hills, Fells?" Of course, we all fell about - laughing! If you would like to "Fall in with the Fell Walkers" and join us on our well-organised monthly outings, simply visit our website: afwc.org.uk - You too could become a member of "the friendliest fell walking club in the world!"



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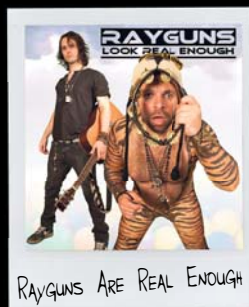
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routes to market, increasing leads and conversions and funding your growth. Upon completion of the programme a National Certificate of Further Education (NCFE) qualification in Enterprising Skills will be awarded. The course is fully funded for small business owners and/or employees who have not previously attended a Going for Growth course. The Going for Growth programme has operated across the North East receiving excellent feedback from delegates. Places are limited and as this is the first time the programme has been delivered in the South Durham area demand for places is expected to be high. Business Adviser Jonathan Armitage comments how "this is an ideal opportunity for local businesses to receive professional training and guidance on how best they can take their own individual business to the next level. All too often small businesses owners are unable to find the time to take a step back and reflect on how their business is progressing and what needs to be done to ensure the business doesn't miss out on opportunities for improvement. This programme allows such focus whilst also providing opportunity for networking with other businesses". Starting at 9.30am and finishing at 3pm each day refreshments and lunch are provided. For any further information or to reserve your place please contact Jonathan Armitage of Enterprise Revolution on 07931 601 801 or 0800 45 88 508. You can also reserve your place via jonathan@enterpriserevolution.co.uk

SWDT Apprentices in Germany

EIGHT North East apprentices have returned from Germany after putting their skills to the test at a global manufacturing facility. The students, who are signed up to manufacturing and engineering courses with leading training provider S. W. Durham Training (SWDT) Ltd, undertook a 17-day exchange programme, working with Siemens in Mülheim an der Ruhr, Germany, to learn first-hand how the world-leading producer of turbo sets, steam turbines and generators works. The learners, who are employed by businesses across the North East including Mitre Plastics, vegetarian food producer Quorn and ADMR Electric Motor Rewinds, visited Germany on March 3 to partake in the exchange, where they learned more about advanced manufacturing and undertook computer aided design (CAD) training programmes. Nigel Davison, centre coordinator at SWDT, who organised the exchange, the Lifelong Learning Programme, Leonardo Mobility programme – now in its eleventh year – said that it represented a unique opportunity for the young apprentices to gain the technical and life skills needed to succeed in their career. He said: "SWDT prides



itself in building quality partnerships with overseas institutes and has achieved an excellent reputation throughout the regions in which it operates. "Siemens is renowned as one of the world's most innovative and successful businesses, so the fact that our young apprentices have the chance to travel over to Germany and find out more about the cutting edge techniques they put in place is fantastic. "The project is doing a remarkable job in transforming students who take part in it, however it is about much more than improving their technical skills and is a chance for each of them to gain invaluable life skills, including learning the foundations of a new language, that will set them apart when they embark upon their respective careers." As part of the Erasmus+ Project, 25 second year

apprentices from Germany will visit the North East to learn more about UK manufacturing in August. The group, made up of 25 second year apprentices from Siemens, will visit SWDT's multi-million-pound Newton Aycliffe CORE Centre from August 8 until August 29 to learn about the North East's growing engineering sector. The exchange programme is designed to get their apprentices thinking about the opportunities that exist in manufacturing on a global scale. Trevor Alley, chief executive of the 46 year old training company, said: "The Leonardo Project has been invaluable and provided the apprentices with an excellent opportunity to discover first-hand how their skills can be transferred to businesses right around the globe. "The North East really is a hotbed for manufacturing and engineering, but we want

to broaden the horizons of our young people and show them that their learning can be applied to businesses around the world, not just in the UK. Many of our former apprentices have gone on to have a career that takes them right around the world, so it really is an eye-opening experience for our young people." He added: "The quality of the engineering and manufacturing apprenticeships we provide from our CORE facility are absolutely at the cutting-edge, and the young people who undertake the exchange will see very quickly that they will be well equipped to work with national and international firms once they have completed their training." For more information about courses at South West Durham Training Ltd, visit www.southwestdurham.co.uk or call 01325 313 194.

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Council Review Use of 0845 Phone Numbers

Our criticism of Durham County Council for using 0845 contact numbers met with the following response:

Peter Appleton, head of planning and service strategy for children and adults services at Durham County Council, said: "The phone number used by the First Contact Service is an existing one, which people already ring to get information about support for both children and adults. We began using this 0845 number several years ago when these numbers represented the best value for money for residents as they were charged at a local rate. As charging for these numbers has changed we are now moving away from using 0845 numbers and are currently reviewing those which are still in operation."

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Beware of Thieves



Dear Sir
On Tuesday night this week, thieves were casing my home near the Huntsman in Woodham.
The YouTube link is:- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnKt3mySU-Q&feature=youtu.be>
People need to be made aware that thieves are prowling around houses in the area and should secure valuables and take additional security measures.
This information (video and pictures) have been forwarded to Newton Aycliffe Police Office via the Neighbourhood Watch link email.
Name & address supplied

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

Motor Torque with Ramseys Garage

Easter Motoring Tips

The Easter bank holiday period is always a hectic time on our roads as people head for airports, the coast and countryside. So it's always a good idea to check your vehicle before any journey to ensure a hassle-free break, especially long trips. Ensure you check, brakes, windscreen wash, lights, oil, water levels and tyres.

A vehicle with even one tyre deflated by 20 per cent, increases fuel consumption by five per cent. Check they are inflated to the correct pressure. Breaking down on a motorway is a nightmare most of us dread. If you're vehicle has a puncture or mechanical problem and you're unable to pull into a service area and forced onto the hard shoulder, we have a few tips to help keep you and your family safe. Stop on the hard shoulder as far to the left as possible, with your wheels turned left, stopping near an emergency telephone if possible. These are usually placed at one-mile intervals. You and your passengers should always exit the vehicle by the left. Ensure everyone is stood away from the carriageway and

hard shoulder, and that children and pets are kept under control. With caution, head to an emergency telephone on your side of the carriageway following arrows on the posts at the back of the hard shoulder. The call is free of charge connecting direct to the Highways Agency or the police. Remember, this is the quickest way for assistance to reach you.

Give your details to the Highways Agency or the police and inform them if you are a vulnerable motorist such as disabled, older or travelling alone. Walk back and wait near your vehicle, away from the carriageway and hard shoulder. If you feel at risk from another person, return to your vehicle by a left-hand door and lock all doors. Leave your vehicle again as soon as you feel this danger has passed. Build up speed and look for a safe gap in the traffic before re-joining the carriageway. Be aware other vehicles may be stationary on the hard shoulder. Safe motoring and enjoy your Easter.
Elliott Ramsey
Aftersales Manager

New A167 Roundabout

Work to remove trees ahead of the construction of a new roundabout at a busy junction on the way into Durham has started. The £1.8m scheme

will see a new roundabout at the junction of the A167 and B6300, next to the Honest Lawyer Hotel.

The first step is removing trees and vegetation ahead of the bird nesting season before the main construction work starts in June. The main phase of the work is scheduled for the quieter summer months in order to reduce disruption to motorists and because the drier weather should mean the earth-moving operation is more straight forward. Adrian White, Durham County Council's head of transport, said: "We are aware that some motorists avoid the junction due to a difficulty in pulling out into the traffic, while others are tempted to perform a u-turn onto the busy A167, which has obvious safety implications. "The junction improvement, which is due to be completed by January 2015, is the latest in a programme of works to improve the efficiency and safety of our road network targeted at areas which will assist the economic regeneration of the county." The improved access to Meadowfield will assist existing businesses and help to convince others this remains an attractive area for investment. Motorists are being assured that the council will be making every effort to keep delays to minimum. However, some disruption should be expected due to the scale of the works.

Pounding the Road Barefoot for Charity



Running enthusiast Steve Wood is leaving the trainers at home and taking part in the world's greatest half marathon barefoot! Steve, 46 from Newton Aycliffe, will join thousands others on the start line for the 2014 Great North Run on 7th September. Steve completed the same feat last year in aid of Cancer Research, but has decided to support a local charity for this year's event.

Steve Robson, Event Fundraiser for Butterwick Hospice said "this is an unbelievable challenge that Steve is taking on and we are so proud that he is running for Butterwick Hospice Care. He is no doubt hoping the weather is a bit kinder this year and aims to beat a previous half marathon best of 1.48. I'm sure he will make full use of our complementary massages at the finish line." Although ballots for this year's run have now closed, Butterwick Hospice still has guaranteed places available. To book your place and help support your local Hospice, log on to www.butterwick.org.uk/gnr2014 or ring 01642 628 930.

Manager Wanted for New Junior Football Team

NAJFC are a charter standards club who were established in 1997 and now boast 150 junior members. We are a progressive and family friendly junior football club who run teams from the age of 4 years to 21 years old as well as working in partnership with the town's Northern League division one side Newton Aycliffe FC. The club wish to enter an U15's team into the TJFA league for the 2014/15 season which will start in September 2014 and wish to appoint a manager and coach to run the team. If you are an out-going and friendly person looking for a voluntary and rewarding past-time please contact the club chairman Nige Slatcher on 01325 311573 for further information. FA coaching qualifications and CRB checks are desirable but not essential as the club would be prepared to fund these for the right candidate. The club are also looking to recruit new players for this age group to start training in the summer with a view to entering the team into a pre-season tournament. If you are currently in school Year 9 and will be moving into Year 10 in September this year and want to join a new team, please contact the club via the club website and leave your contact details. You can develop your football skills and make new friends, in a safe and friendly environment with a club that has a proven track record of producing young talent. All NAJFC managers and coaches are FA qualified and CRB checked. For more information about our club and details for any of our age groups please log onto our website www.najuniorfc.co.uk

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 23rd April 2014

COUNCIL MEETING
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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Saturday 5th April 2014 - Closed

EASTER 2014

Good Friday - Closed
Easter Saturday - Closed
Easter Sunday - Closed
Easter Monday - Closed

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Narrow Defeat for Aycliffe F.C.

Aycliffe were defeated on Friday evening, in the local derby with near neighbours Spennymoor. However, Allan Oliver and his men will take heart from the performance, and the fact that for large parts of the match they frustrated the current FA Vase holders, and in the end were undone by a freak goal to lose 0-1. Oliver made a number of changes, both to personnel and also team shape following the disappointing result against Team Northumbria last time out, opting for a 3-5-2 formation to try and gain the upper hand in the midfield areas. Spennymoor started much the brighter, with significant danger coming from their right hand side. However Aycliffe displayed grit and determination to keep things level. Butterworth and Broom both collected early yellow cards, which if nothing else was a sign of determination from the Royal Blues to be competitive. The first clear opening came in the 34th minute, with Spence doing brilliantly to deny Liddle from Walton's cross. As half time approached, Spence was once again Aycliffe's saviour, as he somehow kept out the left footed shot from Henderson. Finally, as added time approached Aycliffe were able to register their first attempt at goal, but Broom's left foot shot went just the

wrong side of the post. In the 53rd minute the deadlock was broken. The ref awarded Spennymoor a free kick and with a number of players to cross towards, Graydon instead shot at goal, and his effort sailed into the top corner. On 65 Jamie Owens almost got Aycliffe level. He manufactured a chance for himself, and shot left footed but unfortunately the goalkeeper somehow clawed it away. As Oliver searched for the equaliser for his team, he brought new signing Craig Mickle on to replace Atkinson up front. And it was an encouraging display from the powerful front man although ultimately it still didn't produce the goal Aycliffe were desperate for. Indeed, the visitors almost doubled their lead on 73 as Liam Henderson headed narrowly wide from anther Graydon free kick. Fortunately for Aycliffe, both Team Northumbria and Bedlington were again beaten, meaning the chances of relegation are now remote. However, they will be looking to pick up the three points either at West Auckland on Wednesday or next week at already relegated Hebburn to make certain of their first division status, before looking forward to the Easter weekend and two home games.

DANCE & FITNESS SESSIONS AT NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

As dance and fitness specialists Nouveau are committed to promoting healthy lifestyles and positive well-being to all ages and abilities. They collaborate with partner organisations to deliver classes and events that celebrate individuality and promote community wellness." If you are interested in joining us we have a Zumba Gold class at Neville Parade Church Hall on a Friday afternoon, 1:00pm-2:00pm. The class is priced at £1.50 and anyone is more than welcome to come along for a fun way of keeping fit and also meeting new (or old) friends. Zumba Gold is an invigorating, community-oriented dance-fitness class that feels fresh, and exhilarating! The class provides low-impact moves for active older adults in which you can go at your own pace. If you have any questions regarding the class please contact a member of our staff on 01915878154 or e-mail Rachel at : Rachel@nouveaufitness.co.uk . Alternatively if you want to join us at any of our other sessions please take a look at our website : www.nouveaufitness.co.uk

KDANZ AV-A-TAR TIME OF THEIR LIFE!



After another amazing set of exam results KDANZ are preparing for another trip of a lifetime! As it nears to their performance date they haven't taken a foot off the gas! With finals for Wildcats performances GOT TO DANCE auditions and charity events this month, the dancers and parents will then make their way down to London on Saturday 3rd May when KDANZ will perform at the ROYAL ALBERT HALL ! This prestigious invitation is only given to the most professional and hard working dance schools and Principal Kay Thompson commented "our dance school has an ethos of everyone is welcome and this opportunity was no different. The only requirement is enthusiasm and they've got it. Everyone has worked so hard and it's so exciting to share another major life experience with such inspiring children. The dedication from both children and parents alike is excellent and I am so proud of every single one." If anyone would like to support the trip KDANZ are fundraising for refreshments. If anyone is interested in joining KDANZ or would like more info please contact Kay on 07900 365892.

COMPETITION FOR FREE ENTRY TO WRESTLING MATCH

American Wrestling comes to Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Saturday 26th April and there are three lots of four tickets to be won by answering the simple question of *How many men will there be in the Royal Rumble*. See Advert on page 16 for more details.

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POLICE COMMISSIONER OFFERS GRANTS FROM SAFETY FUND

Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Hogg has launched a Community Safety Fund available to partners and organisations in the voluntary and community sector. Applications of up to £20,000 will be considered that support the PCC's policing priorities, including: *Tackling anti-social behaviour* *Tackling the harm caused to communities by alcohol and drugs* *Reducing the impact of domestic abuse* *Reducing the impact of hate crime* *Improving road safety* The Community Safety Fund will be considered twice a year, in April and September. The deadline for receiving the first round of applications is strictly Monday 14th April 2014. For further details about the Fund and to download a copy of the application form, please visit the PCC's website: www.durham-pcc.gov.uk. For those without access to the internet, please call 03000 264629.

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Newton Press Easter Deadline

Thursday 17th April - Easter Issue
Deadline: 5pm Tuesday 15th April
Friday 24th April - Back to Normal
Deadline: 5pm Wednesday 22nd April

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Successful Week for Dancers



Last week was another great week for Greenfield Community College's dancers, with multiple performances at Sedgefield School Sport Dance Festival held at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. The three groups are based at Greenfield. These are called ICEL8 break dance, Grounded Dance Group and Emma Cox's after school club. The ICEL8 group, who are a boy's only break dance club, did fantastically well in their first public performance - Mrs Etherington, who works with the boys said: "They smashed it!" The Emma Cox after school club, based at Greenfield, opened the afternoon event with a fabulous 70's inspired piece. The Grounded Dance Group from Greenfield performed their happiness themed routine which they have been working on with Mrs Etherington and won the exceptional quality award. They are looking forward to performing at the Gala Theatre next week. This is a fantastic representation of the talent and hard work that takes place in Greenfield's Dance studio, part of the Performing Arts department - well done to all!

HEALTHWATCHERS NEED YOU

IS THIS YOU?

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Help us to gather the views and comments from the public on health and social care services. Help us to carry out research with the public using questionnaires.

HOW WE WILL SUPPORT YOU?

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UPCOMING EVENTS WHERE YOU COULD HELP OUT:

Thursday 24th April - Sainsburys Supermarket,

Sedgefield, County Durham.

Wednesday 14th May -

Learning Disabilities Event, Durham.

Thursday 15th May - Bishop Auckland Town Centre.

For all of the above events, you will be working and supported by the staff at Healthwatch County Durham. If you would like to talk to someone in more depth about these opportunities please contact.

Julia Catherall

Community Participation and Engagement Worker

Healthwatch County Durham

The Work Place

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Aycliffe Business Park

Newton Aycliffe

Co Durham

DL5 6AH

Tel 01325 375960

or Mobile 07738 994067

j.catherall@healthwatchcountydurham.co.uk

www.healthwatchcountydurham.co.uk

Missing Cat



Ginger and white 2 year old neutered male cat from Lockyer Close area. Missing since Sunday 30th March. Microchipped and wearing a blue collar with silver fish on. Much loved family pet, children absolutely devastated! has a medical condition, so I am extremely worried. Please check all sheds and garages in case he is trapped. Please contact Louise on 07792 186593 or Wilson Veterinary Group on 01325 321871



Funding of up to £5,000

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If you would like to talk to us about the funding we have available for groups and individuals and how to apply, we have arranged a drop-in funding session at

GREENFIELD COMMUNITY AND ARTS CENTRE

on

WEDNESDAY 30th APRIL 2014

between 10:00am - 11:30am

To register your interest and for more details please e-mail volunteer@cdcf.org.uk or ring 0191 378 6340

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Local Children To Perform In Professional Panto



Production Company Enchanted Entertainment is currently touring the UK with their production of Peter Pan and is bringing this well-loved family pantomime to the Darlington Civic Theatre this Easter! They have been searching the North East to find one dance school that could provide 12 Lost Boys and Tinkerbell for their production and have selected local dance school Aycliffe Dance Academy.

Local Children; Megan Austin, Sophie Bush, Grace Catterick, Amy Chatt, Milly Duggan, Darcy Kent, Emily

Langsley-Melvin, Lucy Murray, Bridget Proctor, Chloe Shaw, Anna Shorten, Ellie Sistreron and Tilly Walker were selected out of over 200 students from the Academy to represent the dance school and the North East area. They have been working extremely hard rehearsing scenes, songs and dance routines ready for their big performance later this month. The children have an excellent role in this production and will be performing alongside some well-known celebrities such as Dani Harmer (Tracy

Beaker/Strictly Come Dancing), comedy legend Bobby Davro & Disney's Art Attack, Lloyd Warbey! Academy teachers, students and parents are delighted to be given this once in a lifetime opportunity. Emma Cox, the Dance Principal, said; 'I couldn't believe it when I received the phone call from the show's producer to say that we had been chosen! I was so excited and over the moon to be able to present this amazing opportunity to some of my students. The Academy is just about to celebrate its 4th Birthday. I can't believe how far we have come, I could burst with pride! ' If you would like to come along and support your local dance school you can purchase tickets from the Darlington Civic Theatre Box Office. The performances will be taking place on Saturday 19th April at 3pm and 7pm and Sunday 20th April at 1pm and 4.30pm.

Sponsored Slim to Help Town Charity



Mandie Ward from Life Church in Newton Aycliffe has completed a sponsored slim to help raise vital funds for Helping Hands. She has managed lose a stone in a just one month and gained £125.00 to help people in need.

Helping Hands Manager Alwyn White says 'In total Mandie has lost 39 pounds and she is a big inspiration to many people. Its not easy, but with her determination she will reach her target

of losing a staggering four stone. Because of Mandie's support, we will be able to get up to £1250.00 worth of aid with the £125.00 she raised. We are looking for other people to do sponsored events. This year we'd like help another 2500 people and we can only do it with your help. Please contact us now by e-mailing lifeline.action@googlemail.com if you'd like to get involved.

Mandie is pictured with her proud daughter Shannon.

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MEETING TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS ON IMPROVING WEST PARK & LAKES

"Friends of West Park" want to keep you informed of developments within the Park and as such we are holding a meeting at 7pm on the 15th April at the Royal British Legion club in the upstairs lounge. We would appreciate your views, ideas and involvement in revitalising this beautiful facility Present at the meeting will be local councillors and officers of the Great Aycliffe Town Council who will give a small presentation on what can be done to improve the park and its facilities for public use. This wonderful park has been a boating lake area, but has recently taken centre stage in the collective thoughts of Great Aycliffe Town Council and Friends of West Park, the new community organisation. Various people and organisations are now coming forward with offers of help advice and support for the ongoing project and ideas will be welcomed either at the meeting or just drop a

note to myself or any member so that we can consider your views. From my involvement with various local groups I am aware of many projects and ideas being suggested to rejuvenate this fantastic and beautiful park from flowerbeds, benches and restoration of the boating facility, which many of us loved as youngsters; to the provision of an enhanced and expanded play area. Of course, we live in a very different world post government cuts; where our councils are under immense pressure to keep a lid on spending. Nevertheless our community have many skills which can be harnessed for the benefit of Newton Aycliffe and there is a lot of funding out there for voluntary groups to improve the environment where they live. I believe with the support of our Town and County Councillors we could create something that we could

all be proud of and leave as a legacy to following generations.
Ken Robson, Chairman,
Tel 321471, e-mail: Ken_robson@lineone.net

In Memoriam

Chappell

Treasured memories of our dearly loved Dad, Roy, who left us suddenly on 9th April 1974, aged 43. It is hard to comprehend that 40 years have passed since we last saw you; we were all so young when you left and there is so much of our lives that you never had the chance to be a part of. You never got to walk your only Daughter down the aisle or see your three sons become men, but we know you would be proud of us all Dad. Also remembering our Mum Phyllis, reunited with Dad on 27th June 2006. You are both missed so very much, all our love, Susan, Steven, Peter, Richard and families

Town Photographer's Work In Gallery Collection

James Robinson of Bewick Crescent, is a retired photographer with membership of the Royal Photographic Society, and The National Portrait Gallery. The latter recently accepted one of his photo portraits for their permanent collection. The subject is the author, historian and television presenter Dr Lucy Worsley, the Chief Curator of the UK's Historic Royal Palaces. The photo was taken in the Green Room of Durham Town Hall, whilst Dr Worsley was visiting Durham as a guest speaker at the city's annual book festival. Another photo of Dr Worsley, which James took is to be found on the cover of his forthcoming book: "Photoworks - A Multiverse of Images",



which is due to be released this month. Examples of his work can be found on the Royal Photographic Society's Website - amongst the member's webpages, also on mhis own website at: jamesrobinsonarena.com The photo accepted by the National Portrait Gallery is shown above.

Thank You

CHESTER, Ken and Val wish to thank family and friends for all their good wishes on their Anniversary.
PHYLLIS BLENKINSOPP 27th March 1937 to 9th March 2014. The family of the late Phyllis Blenkinsopp would like to express their thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind wishes at this sad time. Special thanks to Delphine and Karen at the MARA Unit; Doctors and staff at the Pease Way Medical Centre; David at Seaton & Leng Funeral Directors and last but not least the Rev. Julie Wing for the lovely Service. Thanks also to the Royal Telegraph for their support. A collection at the Service raised £523 for the Bishop Auckland Lung Cancer Trust Fund. Mam, you will always be in our thoughts. Love, Ian, Jackie and family

Obituary

JOHN PRIESTLEY, of Newton Aycliffe, passed away suddenly in hospital, 25th March, aged 63 years. Youngest Son of the late Arthur and Ella. Much loved Brother of David and Lynn; Brother-in-Law, Uncle and Great Uncle. Family and friends please meet for Service at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe on Monday, 14th April at 1.15pm, followed by a private interment.
PHILLIPS, Margaret of Newton Aycliffe. Peacefully on April 7th. Beloved Wife of Trevor; Mother of Charles and Mariam; Mother-in-Law, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Family and friends please meet for Service at St. Clare's Church on Wednesday 16th April for 11.00am. Family flowers only by request.

Congratulations

Charlie Ladbury



Happy 21st Birthday 10th April 1993

We wish you lots of love, luck and happiness in all that you do. We love you loads. Mam, Dad, Chloe, Jamie and all the family xoxoxox

Ann Frazer



Happy 70th Birthday Mam 12th April

Love from Marie, Tony, Andrew, Sandra, Julie and Peter. Hope you have a lovely day Nana. Love from Tony, Amy, Mark, Becky, Jessica, Ross, Luke and James

SCOTT, Declan Thomas. Happy 10th birthday to our brilliant Grandson. You've done really well with your football this year. We are always so proud of you. Love you all the way to the moon and back again. All our love always, From Grandma and Grandad xxx

Birthday Remembrance

Karmen

Your special day we cannot share, but in our hearts you are always there. Love, Mam, Nadine, David, Daniel, Owen, Ronnie, Karen and Families xxx

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Running Club News

The Harewood House 10K trail race was held on Sunday 6th the April. It is one in a series of Age Uk's Wrap Up and Run which helps to raise money for the Spread the Warmth campaign which was launched to help support older people to stay healthy throughout the winter. Although the race was wet, muddy and hilly, Mark Wade from

Aycliffe Running club was delighted to finish in 18th position in 41:09. Manchester Marathon.

On Sunday 6th April three members of the Club joined 7000 runners for the Manchester Marathon which is advertised as being the flattest and potentially, fastest marathon course in the UK. Starting and finishing at Old Trafford, Rob Nicholson completed the course in 4:16. Although Julie Nisbet and Craig Robinson did very little marathon training, Julie crossed the finish line in 4:48 and Craig in 5:03

Preparations are now underway for the annual Aycliffe 10K and Fun Run which is to be held on Sunday 15th June. Online and postal entry forms are available at www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk

HONEST JOHN DONATES AS THE SPARTANS PREPARE TO 'PLAY BALL'



Mike Holton accepting a donation of £400 from Honest John

Local fundraiser, Honest John has provided Newton Aycliffe Spartans Baseball Club with a huge boost on the eve of the 2014 season with a donation of £400.

Pictured accepting the cheque from John is Spartans General Manager and Head Coach, Mike Holton who commented "We cannot thank John enough for this generous donation and we continue to admire and appreciate that work he undertakes to help support local community groups like The Spartans. The money will help the development of both the senior and junior sections of the club."

Boosted by the donation the Spartans start their British Baseball Federation AA

Northern Division 2014 this coming Sunday with two home games against Harrogate Cubs and Mike Holton is optimistic about the season ahead.

"We are excited for the new season thanks to a great off season in which those players returning from 2013 and those new players who have joined in the off season have all gelled well" "We are expecting the division will be tough but we also feel that collectively we can make a push to be one of the impact teams"

Over the next five months, The Spartans will face teams from Sheffield, Manchester, Bolton, Oldham, Liverpool and this weekend's opponents, Harrogate.

All home matches are played at Sunnysdale Leisure Centre in Shildon and this Sunday's first pitch will be at 12pm, with the second game starting at 2.30pm and a full fixture list and more information on the Spartans can be found at www.newtonaycliffespartans.co.uk

PLANET LEISURE BOWLS LEAGUE

Well it's congratulation to Steve Goth this week as he bowled a 201-185-230 to give him a total off 616 series. His team The Clangers won 8-0 over The Late Starters, which takes them to second in the league on 110 points.

Top of the league, The Pinheads, drew 4-4 with The Bowl Movements, Pinheads on 120 points. Bowl Movements are on 76 points. Strike Force lost 2-6 to The Misfits, who are on 93 points in fifth, Strike Force on 109 points in third. Wenvees only drew their game 4-4 against The Shildon Strikers, Wenvees stay fourth on 107 points, two behind third place Shildon Strikers who stay in ninth place on 68 points. The M&M's won 6-2 over the bottom team The Optimists, M&M's are on 83 points and are sixth, The Optimists have 66pts.

Huntsman Gain Place in Final

Huntsman entertained Blackwell Meadows in the DSIL Division 2 cup semi final on Sunday looking to halt a terrible dip in form. Having lost 4 out of 5 since the turn of the year, confidence was low in the Huntsman camp but they managed to come out on top to bag a place in the final with a 2-0 victory.

The manager decided to get rid of the new strips and go back to the old red and black colours as well as a change in shape to try and get more men forward into attacking areas in an attempt to find the winning formula. He made 4 changes from the side which was bullied in the derby against Sports Club.

Huntsman started brightly and almost went ahead from a free kick which delivered to the back post and headed back across goal but skipper Lee Redpath headed over from close range. Huntsman dictated play for long periods with Simon Ord impressing in the middle of the park alongside Dave Neale. While Carl Bates and Bryan Durr offered good width. For all of the possession they failed to create clear cut chances and the best chance of the first half fell to Blackwell 5

minutes before half time when the right winger got to the byline and cut the ball across the 6 yard box to the centre forward who thought he had a tap in but for a superb sliding tackle from Carl Bates. Half time 0-0 and the Huntsman half time message was to keep going and improve in the final third.

Blackwell started the second half brightly but never tested the Huntsman keeper and after around 10 minutes Huntsman began to turn the screw forcing errors in the Blackwell backline, Herd and Sproates both fired wide, before a string of corners led to good chances, Sproates headed against the bar and Neale put the rebound over and Redpath again put over from close range. Next Bry Durr saw an effort parried wide and it appeared to be only a matter of time before the Huntsman dominance was rewarded.

The deadlock was finally broken on 75 minutes when a Jamie Herd corner was bundled over the line from close range by Simon Ord for his first goal

for the club. Blackwell heads immediately dropped and Huntsman sensed the game was won. Ollie Gell worked a short corner with Carl Bates and the ball ricocheted around the box before Jamie Herd forced a great close range save by the keeper. With 5 minutes remaining the Huntsman added their second goal when Simon Ord stroked the ball into the bottom corner from the left hand side of the box to round off a 'man of the match' performance. They managed to see the game out and have been rewarded with a tie against Yates in the final of the cup in May. While this cup game was going on, the league top two were in action and the result went in the Huntsman's favour meaning that if they win all of their remaining league game they are likely to win the league on goal difference.

They are massive outsiders but belief in the Huntsman camp is back, hopefully meaning they can kick on, starting next week when they travel to Darlington to take on Highland Laddie in the Munden Cup first round.

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Comedy Night at Cricket Club

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club will be holding their second annual pre-season comedy night on Maundy Thursday 17 April at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club.

Steffen Peddie, 'Big Keith' from BBC show Hebburn will again be the star attraction and is supported by local comedian Gary Avery.

Steffen had the sell out audience in stitches last year with his hilarious routine of jokes and observational comedy and has promised more of the same this year, while Gary will also bring his own brand of humour to the proceedings.

Tickets priced at £6 are available by phoning 07976 392173 and are sure to be in large demand so early purchase is advised.

Two days later Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club first team travel to Middlesbrough for the opening day of their North Yorkshire and South Durham League Division 2 campaign, while the second team who have moved from NYSD Sunday Division 2 to the NYSD Saturday Division 3, welcome Bedale to the Sports Club for their opening game. All games this year will start at the earlier time of 1pm and spectators are always welcome to come along and support the team, free of charge.

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