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"Helping Hands" Team Receive Chairman's Medal



Alwyn White of Helping Hands receives the award from Counc. John Robinson

The rise of the Lifeline Community Action Group (Helping Hands) in the space of just five years has been nothing short of phenomenal. And it is a success story that has not gone unnoticed. The group has received the highest award bestowed by Durham County Council, the Chairman's Medal, presented

by Cllr John Robinson. Derek and Margaret Rose Southerland, nominated the group to the Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAP for a Chairman's Medal. The action group started in 2009 as a house group with around 30 people, which has now grown to over 2,000. Margaret says it is impossible

continued on Page 3

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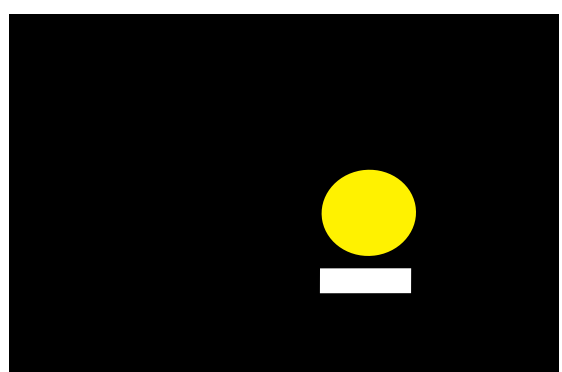
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Easter at Xcel Church

We would like to invite you to join us this Easter Sunday at Xcel Church. We are holding services at the Xcel Centre, as well as our other nearby venues - Spennymoor Leisure Centre & The Forum Music Centre, Darlington. Details of the services are below:

10.30AM EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE @ all our locations

We are especially excited for our GOSPEL CONCERT which is being held at the Xcel Centre on Sunday 20th April. This event is FREE and open to people of all ages. A kids programme will also run alongside the concert for children aged 4-10yrs. These events have become increasingly popular so why not come a little earlier and enjoy a coffee from Jacksons. Doors open at 5.30pm with the event starting at 6pm. We look forward to seeing you there. For more information about these events or anything else to do with Xcel Church please visit www.xcelchurch.com



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AYCLIFFE SINGING DUO'S AWARD CEREMONY

£500 Prize for Rose Lodge Care Home

'Gladys and Bev' the resident and staff duo from Rose Lodge Care Home in Aycliffe won first place in the UK's Care Home Idol 2013.

The online competition, designed to showcase the talent and the fun that exists in care homes, came to a close earlier this month with Rose Lodge top in their 'Care Home Residents and/or Staff' category.

Rose Lodge hosted an official presentation ceremony on Wednesday 9th April at 11:30am to present Gladys and Bev with their prizes. They were joined by friends, family and well-wishers including the Mayor of Newton Aycliffe Barbara Clare, and the Mayor of Shildon Peter Quinn.

There was even a special guest appearance from Elvis Presley impersonator Mike Memphis, who performed for residents and guests before reprising the famous duet with Gladys.

After the speech and presentation, guests enjoyed a glass of bucks fizz to toast the talented duo, before



tucking into a buffet spread. For winning the contest, competition organiser carehome.co.uk sent an engraved trophy and a cheque for £500. The money will be donated to the home's residents' fund and used to purchase special treats for the residents.

Care Manager Karen Frew-McGill, said: "We are all delighted that Gladys and Bev have won the competition. I am so proud of both of them. It has been

really touching to see the support and backing that their entry has had from the whole community. Gladys and Bev are very good friends and I believe that the reason that the video was so popular is because it really came across that these are two people who genuinely care deeply for each other."

Their duet of 'Are You Lonesome Tonight' received over an amazing 16,000 views, with fans from as far afield as Canada.

CALL NHS 111 WHEN YOUR GP SURGERY IS CLOSED

'Keep calm and call NHS 111' when your GP surgery is closed and you need urgent health care this Easter.

That's the message from the NHS in the North East as health care services prepare for the busy bank holiday weekend.

People can play their part in ensuring services are used appropriately by 'Keeping Calm' and thinking about the right service for them this Easter.

Dr James Gossow, Regional Clinical Lead for NHS 111 said: "By 'Keeping Calm and calling NHS 111' North Easterners can ensure that our busy A&E departments are able to focus their resources on those people who are most seriously ill.

"The North East is one of the highest performing areas in the country for the NHS 111 service and was one of the first pilot areas when the service was introduced in 2010.

"When you call NHS 111, you will speak to the same highly

trained call handlers who deal with 999 emergencies and be directed to the most appropriate service to meet your needs, first time."

NHS 111 is the new number to call when you need medical help fast, but it's not a 999 emergency.

Using the NHS 111 service will free up valuable resources in the North East's A&E departments for those people who are most seriously ill.

The NHS 111 service has successfully been running in the North East since August 2010, when it was piloted in the County Durham and Darlington area. It went live across the North East in April 2013 and is now available across the country.

The service is run by the North East Ambulance Service and is staffed by the same highly trained call handlers who deal with 999 emergencies.

NHS 111 will signpost you to the most appropriate service, first time and is available

24/7, 365 days a year and is free to call from landlines and mobile phones.

Don't forget to follow the 'Keep Calm' campaign on Twitter: @keepcalmne And use the hashtag #keepcalmne when you Tweet. Or visit www.nhskeepcalm.org.uk.

POOR TURNOUT FOR YOUTHY'S NEW DICSO'S

Come on Newton Aycliffe young people, what is it you want on a Saturday night at Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre?

We asked some of you in a survey what it is you wanted and disco was high on the list. Last Saturday the Centre in conjunction with AYTP held two discos for different age range and the turnout was poor for both under 14 and under 18.

We will be holding another event on 10th May because we want to put on what you have been asking for. Tell us is £3 too much to pay? We need your feedback. Contact me on treasurer.nayc@live.co.uk

DANCE & FITNESS SESSIONS AT NEVILLE METHODIST CHURCH

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



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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"

Rockermouth Review 'Stormin' 2011: "Saw the Buckets show in the Iris Tent and they RULED IT! If ever a band were more suited to a venue, I could not think of another as much as the Buckets playing in the Iris Tent at Stormin'. Their third time now, yet this time they are becoming legendary amongst the bikers, hence the reason why the tent was rammed full from the very first number. A brilliant marathon performance from these guys (an hour and three quarters without a break), awesome reaction from the crowd, What a show!

A big enthusiastic crowd lapped them up as Kev Bucket and the lads proved once again that they're one of the north east's top all time bands. The best gig I've been to, nothing comes close, mayhem of the highest order."

Fresh from their sell out gig at Newcastle City Hall on Saturday 19th April 2014. This could be the biggest gig ever in Newton Aycliffe - you have got to be there.
PS: It's the gaffa's birthday!!!

Saturday 3rd May - "Avatar"

For more information on bands go to
www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034
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"Helping Hands" Award

continued from Front Page

to express in words just how much the organisation has impacted on the lives of people in the Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAP area. Many have said the practical help the group offers has helped turn around their lives, and provided a 'lifeline' of support to those in crisis. Encouragement goes to those seeking help and support for themselves and families by

teaching practical life-skills such as problem solving and budgeting. The group also organises local events, including a Christmas Day meal for the disadvantaged. Alwyn White says "The evening was special in that some of our service users were able to be celebrated as each have gone on to volunteer for the Helping Hands project run by Lifeline Community Action. We had a delicious meal and then the awards were presented by the Deputy Chairman of the County Council as the lady Chairman was ill. It was an extremely humbling occasion too as so many people had been doing voluntary work over a very long period of time. We were given time to talk with other volunteers who were each from their local AAPs. It was an amazing evening as it gave true recognition to the work which is being done throughout the whole of Durham County."

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Memorial Service for the Departed at St. Clare's

The Parish of Great Aycliffe will be holding a Memorial Service on Sunday April 27th at 4-00pm. This will take place in St. Clare's Church in the town centre. Anyone is welcome to come along to this Service which is very informal with prayers and hymns. During the Service you are welcome to light a candle in any of the church windows, in memory of your loved ones. You can also view our memorial book in the library, and there is the opportunity of having your loved one's name placed in it if you wish. The Service lasts around 40 minutes, and you are warmly invited to have some light refreshments in the church hall before you go home. If you would like any more information please telephone Pam Lovelass on 316841.

New Rector Appointed to St. Clare's Church

The new Rector at St. Clare's Church is Reverend Chris Pearson and he will be inducted on Sunday at 3:00pm on Sunday 11th May. He grew up in Billingham and after school went on to Oxford where he received a degree in Experimental Psychology. Chris went into a commercial career eventually becoming the Managing Director of Tees Storage Company, a major port facility for handling bulk chemicals. In 1999 he went work in the charity sector becoming the Finance Director for World Vision UK, based in Milton Keynes. He travelled the world visiting some of the poorest and most challenging communities in Europe, Africa and South America. This was a range of life-changing encounters from meeting children orphaned by AIDS in Zambia and having to fend for themselves, to being in war-ravaged Kosovo in the aftermath of the NATO bombings. Chris later worked for an organisation clearing mines and the debris of war from the south of Lebanon. Returning to the North East he resumed a commercial career back in the chemical industry as Finance Director of the Centre for Process Innovation at Wilton. However, Chris knew he was being called into ministry in the church and offered himself for the Church of England priesthood. He studied for a Masters degree in Theology from the University of Nottingham and served a curacy in Norton and North Stockton. For the last three years been Priest in Charge of Easington and Easington Colliery and now to be Team Rector of the parish of Great Aycliffe. He has been happily married



to Karin for the last 35 years and they have two sons, Andrew and Thomas, both of whom live in London.

Jessica-Marie Has Hair Cut to Make Wig for Cancer Victim

Nine year old Jessica-Marie Lambert of Cheviot Place was touched by the plight of boys and girl who lost their hair while receiving treatment for cancer. She has a Grandmother in Derby and a friend both suffering from Cancer and wanted to show support. She decided to help by having her long hair cut to make a wig for one of the victims having read about the Little Princess Trust charity that provides real hair wigs for children with hair loss. She asked her local Hairdressers "Creations" in the Thames Centre if they would do the job and owner Lynn Hodgson readily agreed at no charge, also helping with sponsorship from staff and customers which has raised £150. Jessica-Marie, a student at St. Francis School, turned up for the cutting and her hairdresser Leanne from Chilton, took off 7 inches to be sent off to the charity. Grandma Anne looked on as her beautiful long blonde hair was cropped and said how proud she was of her granddaughter for being so kind and thoughtful. Anyone interested in helping the charity by sending hair or by donations should e-mail: info@littleprincesses.org.uk



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Cubby News

The Cubby and Honest John are open as usual on Good Friday and Easter Monday. To the person who complained about cars outside the Cubby, special permission has been granted by Durham County Council for Disabled Drivers to park there. The Police and Traffic Wardens must be aware of this as those with the badges as disabled drivers, continue to use the space unhindered.

Family Fun Day

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Durham - Council of the Year

Durham County Council has won Council of the Year at the 2014 Local Government Chronicle Awards, the biggest celebration of innovation and talent across British councils. A record breaking 640 entries were submitted for this year's awards, which publicise best practice and the highest quality service provision across local government and encourage councils to take on new ideas.

In addition to winning the overall council of the year award, the council was also highly commended in the Efficiency category for its approach to waste management, recycling and refuse collection.

Local Government Chronicle editor Nick Golding said: "Durham County Council demonstrates the level of innovation in British local government today."

"Our judges were extremely impressed by the quality of the entries. At a time when resources are scarce councils are innovating to ensure they provide residents with the best quality services."

The judges praised Durham's overall service performance, its relations with local businesses, support for SMEs, progress in community asset transfer, community and staff engagement and the contribution made to the wider area.

Cllr Simon Henig, Leader said: "We are flattered that our peers in the local government sector nationally have judged us to be council

of the year, acknowledging the constructive working relationships we have with local businesses, communities and our own employees.

"The award is also a positive reflection on the wider partnerships which see the business, community and voluntary sectors working with the public sector to make County Durham better."

"I want to thank everyone involved because we wouldn't have won this award

without all our partners' help and support and willingness to work with us to improve quality of life in the county." George Garlick, chief executive of Durham County Council, added: "This is wonderful news for all the people who work hard in the council, day in, day out, delivering the best services we can for local people."

"On behalf of the council, I want to say a massive thank you and well done for all their efforts."

Students Run Charity Readathon



Left to right - Rebecca Donkin, Jessica McKenzie, Aaliyah Smallwood-Foster and Eva Efstathiou

Woodham student Eva Efstathiou knows all about books: she should she wants to write and illustrate them when she leaves school. Should the ambitious Aycliffe girl achieve her dream, she could join the illustrious ranks of Pat Barker, Terry Deary, David Almond, Ann Fine and many others who live and work in the North East whilst exporting their titles around the world.

Like any budding author, Eva knows that a good reader has to be a good reader first, so it is not surprising that she and her friends Rebecca Donkin, Jessica McKenzie and Aaliyah Smallwood-Foster have been busy signing their schoolmates up to a marathon

reading event that seeks to improve young lives through sponsored reading.

Readathon is an annual reading event which encourages youngsters to read for pleasure, while raising money for seriously ill children. Readathon supports three children's charities: Readwell, which provides books and storytelling equipment for children in hospital; CLIC Sargent, which helps youngsters with cancer; and Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity, which supports seriously ill and disabled children and their families.

All pupils have to do is read at home and get their family and friends to sponsor them. Eva, Rebecca, Jessica and Aaliyah have been doing exactly that, as have many more of their friends and colleagues – many of them signed up by the intrepid quartet.

When asked why reading is important the young fund-raisers were emphatic: "Reading, is not only fun (providing you look for the 'right books') it is also good for learning grammar and punctuation and other literary skills" said Jessica. It also help with socialisation too – as readers learn to understand people through reading about their lives and experiences.

Another of the group, Rebecca Donkin (who wants to be a fashion designer), points out that many young people aren't as fortunate as she and her friends are, and clearly sees it as their job to help them out.

In an era when many young people are negatively portrayed it is refreshing to see young people putting themselves at the service of their community. It also shows that being 'bookish' isn't, perhaps, as bad as it might sound.

House Twister Contest



Woodham Academy's successful House Competitions continued last week with an educational game of Twister. To make the game more competitive, Twister was multiplied in order to fit the Main Hall of the school! The circles which are usually the primary colours were changed to represent the colours of the three houses: blue-Lambton, orange - Brancepeth and purple - Raby.

As the game began, the students were informed of the rules, consisting of Maths and English questions in order to progress across the spots allocated by House with the ultimate goal being to reach the other side.

In round one Lambton took the victory answering all the Maths questions correctly and were only incorrect once in the Spelling Bee section. However, in Round Two Brancepeth romped to victory answering all of the English questions without hesitation. Educational Twister who would have thought – I'm sure there's a new business idea in there somewhere!

The next House Competitions are a combination of Science and Technology –once again, Woodham Academy students look forward to competing against one another. The ultimate question is always who will emerge victorious? Brancepeth, Lambton or Raby?

Easter Fayre

Lindisfarne Care Home, Silverdale Place are holding an Easter Fayre on Easter Monday 21st April from 2 - 4pm.

There will be tombola, soft toy tombola, bottle tombola, cakes & pastries, handicrafts, face painting and Easter Egg Raffle. Everyone is welcome, please come along and support us.

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St John's School Art Show

St John's School and Sixth Form College are staging the first major exhibition of their students art and photography work. The exhibition will be displayed at Bishop Auckland Town Hall's Tom McGuinness Gallery. The gallery provides the ideal atmosphere to display a wide range of works of art from students in Year 11 and 6th Form students. Overall the exhibition will contain over 150 pieces of work. The first, opening to the public on March 10th will contain the work of Year 11 students and the following exhibition opening on the 24th March will profile the work of the Sixth Form students. The exhibits reflect the breadth of approach taken within the department with work that explores both traditional and contemporary practice. The nature of the work is also very personal and clearly displays a philosophy that places the student, their feelings, their experiences and their love of art at the centre of the creative processes. This open ended and exploratory approach has resulted in a highly diverse range of outcomes that demonstrate skill, creativity and contextual understanding. In addition to the exhibition being a celebration of students' excellence, it also offers an opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous work and enthusiasm of Mark Rossi, the current Head of Art. Mark has worked in the Art department for 40 years and will retire this year. As an acknowledgement of Mark's great contribution an award entitled "The Rossi Prize"



will be given to the exhibit voted to be the public's favourite work of Art. Please feel free to come

along and experience some wonderful art and cast your vote in the " Rossi Prize 2014!



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A Different View on Isles Wind Farm

Dear Sir,
In response to the Great Aycliffe Residents Association letter about the proposed Isles wind farm. The first point they make is "County Durham has done more than its fair share of provision for wind farms, in the UK". I would like to ask. Is there a limit on doing good work? Is there a problem with doing more than your fair share?

Their second point is that "wind farms are a massive and unwelcome intrusion into the countryside of County Durham, a landscape protected under the Sedgfield Borough Council local plan". If the SBC was doing its job, this area would be forest. Agriculture already radically changed this landscape. Wind energy is just another crop like wheat or beef. The next point they make is "This development cannot be justified". Well, how about the possible sinking of Bangladesh. Not to mention the recent flooding of Somerset and the coastal erosion of East Yorkshire. The GARA's next point is "There is no objection to renewable energy in itself, but only to this proposed industrialisation of our local landscape." I would like to ask, what is agriculture other than industrial scale food production? They then go on to say "The Government recently acknowledged the massive profits made by Utilities like Eon from subsidies paid for out of everyone's Gas and electricity bills including the lowest paid, cannot be justified".

What is wrong with profit? Profit is essential in order to improve infra-structure etc. We all benefit from profit in the form of wages, benefits etc. Since the second world war, farming has been heavily subsidised, resulting in profit for farmers and cheap food for the rest of us. All we need to do is tighten up on large company's tax avoidance. Their next point is "The fact that over 90% of Wind capacity (not wind power actually generated) also has to be backed up by Gas fired power stations on spinning reserve means that the amount of CO2 emissions saved by wind farms is negligible". This is misleading because spinning reserve is not producing nothing while spinning, it's just on part load and thus on reduced fuel consumption, also there are at least three kinds of gas fired power stations, steam turbine, gas turbine and piston engine, the steam turbines take a long time to stop and start but the gas turbines and piston engines will do so in minutes. I recently visited a hydro power station which could be turned on or off as required. Large scale renewable energy is relatively new, and our infra-structure is not designed to accommodate it but it will adapt in time. GARA say "No to the despoiling of one of the

loveliest corners of rural England with, noisy, ugly, taxpayer-subsidised, bat-chomping, bird-slicing, wind farm turbines."

I, as a vegan can't argue against "bat-chomping, bird-slicing" but agriculture also kills wildlife and as far as "loveliest" is concerned, that's a matter of opinion, like I said before "It used to be forest". And agriculture is also tax payer subsidised. As for noise, get double glazing, it will also reduce your need for wind farms.

I might just join GARA, if they'll have me, and maybe their votes won't be so unanimous in future.

John Parlour.

Editor: It has been pointed out to this correspondent that he does not have to join GARA. As a resident he had the right to attend the Public AGM and vote. It was advertised in Newton News as are all Public Meetings of GARA.

Readers Asked to Donate Unwanted DVD's & CD's to Charity

The "Helping Hands" team have set a massive challenge ahead and they need the help of Newton News readers to complete it.

They would like 1000's of your unwanted DVD's, CD's and Blu-Rays to sell. For every £1 they get for these items, they are able to get £10 worth of household items to give to needy people in our local community.

Alwyn White says "There has to be hundreds of people in our local area who have got these items sitting on their shelves that will never be used again. Can you help by donating these items? By maximising the money raised by ten surely this has to be a win/win situation for needy people! The drop off point is at the Helping Hands office at St Clare's, St Cuthbert's Way, or we can collect. Either way, please phone 07936 431262 for us to arrange collection.

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Finally Married After 11 Years Together



Dean Tinkler and Maria Tilley of Markham Place were married at Wynyard Golf Club on the 29th March 2014 after being together for 11 years. The Bridesmaids were Eden Tinkler the couple's Daughter, Sarah Tilley the bride's Sister, and Paige Williams the Groom's Sister. The Ring Bearer was the couple's oldest Son Joel Tinkler and Page Boys were Quinn Tinkler their other Son and Oliver Martin the couple's Nephew. The Best Men were the Groom's friends Steven Russell and Paul Lodge.

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Bad and Good Development



Dear Sir,
A good article in last week's "Newton News" about 'Developments at Cobblers Hall' is addressing concerns of local residents about what's happening to the Moor.
The 'Area of Scientific Interest', which had shrunk with the development of new housing, has been decimated as your article says, but what happened to the Natterjack Toads that I believe were the subject of the 'Area of Scientific Interest' being designated? All

the excavation work (see photo) must surely mean the Natterjacks are no more ...
I don't recall residents of the area being consulted about 'developing' the Area of Scientific Interest into a pond when developing part of the Moor for new housing was mooted.
The bad developments of the Moor certainly contrast with the good developments with the Hitachi site (photo attached).
Name and address supplied



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Students Work with Local History Society



Over the past few months students at Greenfield Community College have been learning more about World War 1, as part of a project with the Aycliffe Village Local History society co-ordinated by Greenfield Arts.
After a great presentation from the history society earlier this year, Year 8 have been creating some boxes in their art lessons filled with memories and ideas, inspired by assemblage artists, and following research into the time.
The next step is for the students to spend time in English lessons looking into the time period, using their art creations as a starting point for some creative writing. The history department will continue the study with an enquiry bringing the project back to the local context.
The work of the students is to be included in a publication the history society are producing to commemorate the anniversary of the war. Greenfield Arts are pleased to be able to co-ordinate the project between the history society and the school, giving the young people the opportunity to learn more about that period in time and share their findings with the community.
Please see our website for further details of the project as it progresses: www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

Commissioner Refreshes Police and Crime Plan

Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Hogg has reviewed his Police and Crime Plan, which he made available to the public and partners from 1st April 2014. Talking about his role and the review of his plan, Ron said: "I take enormous pride in my role in representing the people of County Durham and Darlington. My first plan set out the commitments I made in my manifesto. "I have now been in office for over a year and feel that it is time to refresh the Plan and build upon those original commitments. This refreshed plan sets out my vision and commitments and the objectives which I believe will help achieve this.



Ron Hogg

"My plan provides strategic direction for the Chief Constable, who has responsibility for day to day operational policing. A key responsibility of my role is to hold the Chief Constable to account for delivery of this plan on behalf of local people." The Police and Crime Plan 2014-17 is available to view on Ron Hogg's website: www.durham-pcc.gov.uk. It is also available in large print, as a leaflet for residents and as a video on YouTube. Printed copies can be made available on request by calling 03000 264633.
"During my time in office good progress has been made towards the achievement of my priorities and I do not propose to change these for this refreshed plan" said Ron. "I am thankful for the ongoing commitment of officers, staff and PCSOs alike. However, the police alone cannot fight crime. Therefore I am grateful to our partners and communities across County Durham and Darlington for working together in partnership to achieve our priorities and improve our communities. Together we can make a difference." Follow PCC Ron Hogg on Twitter: @RonaldHogg1 and @DurhamPCC

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Spring Craft & Gifts Fayre

On Saturday 10th May we are holding a Spring Craft & Gifts Fayre at Neville Parade Methodist Church. There will be a variety of stalls attending hoping to attract you with their various displays of crafts & gifts. Items on sale will include cards, jewellery, woodturning, photography, needlework, toys, cakes etc. You can try your hand at one of the fastest growing hobbies by taking part in card making workshops being held throughout the day. And don't forget to sample our bacon butties & great value Methodist lunches & refreshments. We look forward to seeing you from 10am - 2pm. A warm welcome awaits you. If you would like to book a table tel 07733210845

Deputy Mayor at Aycliffe Autism Centre Spring Fete

The new North East Centre for Autism School held an Easter Fete on 2nd April 2014 as part of the National Autism Awareness Day. Students from each class group manned a stall with a variety of games, craft items, cakes, biscuits and handmade bird feeders. Clare Steed, Textiles teacher said, "Visitors complimented the students on the quality of the work produced in such a short amount of time. I am very proud of them all". Learners from Thornbeck College which provides Further Education for learners aged 16-25, and Service Users from New Warlands Farm who provide Supported Employment opportunities sold a range of handmade products including cards, floral arrangements, textile products and garden furniture. The Easter Fete raised over £400, which will be used to help social enterprises and develop links with the local community. Karen Ferguson, Head Teacher was grateful to all who came and enjoyed the afternoon, "It was a great privilege to be able to show Wendy Hillary, the Deputy Mayor of Great Aycliffe, around our school and let her see the students work and the facilities provided by North



Georgia Sells the Mayor a Cushion



Danica's attractive Stall



Andrew Displays his Painting of a Fox

East Autism Society. Director of Education Christine Dempster said "North East Autism Society is committed to increasing community engagement and building positive relationships with the local community. The centre is the Society's latest development and we are keen for the local community to use this provision. The students are now looking forward to planning and organising their Summer Fete. Georgia Hutchinson (13) has a passion for Textiles and Crafts. In December her teacher taught her how to use the sewing machine and in a short time she made considerable progress in her textile skills. Textiles is one of the subjects that helps her self-regulate as Georgia has ASD. She said herself that having autism helps her to be talented. She has also learnt the world of business and has set up an enterprise within school. Staff and students have bought her final pieces, and Georgia made around £140 at the Easter Fete and plans to buy more materials as part of her business. The next step is for her to sell her final products at the

NEAS shop in Sunderland. Georgia also attended a printing workshop at the town hall in Bishop Auckland and one of her prints is now exhibited there. Danica is 18 years old and has ASD but is very creative and worked very hard to produce work for the school Easter Fete. She also enjoys cooking and brought those talents to the Fete. She completed her food hygiene certificate so that she was able to sell her cakes and made over £40. The projects have helped Danica to become more confident and in the past three months has progressed so much. She seems happier, smiling, and beginning to communicate more confidently. Everyone is very proud of Danica. Andrew is 18 with ASD and he is a talented Artist. He is inspired by animals and people and this helped him to produce two paintings. One, a self-portrait, where he learnt about tone and colour and the proportions of the face and the other, a painting of a wolf shown in the photo. His confidence has increased greatly and he looks forward to his next project, based on natural forms.

Who Pays for Blocked Drains?

Householders mistakenly believe a water company picks up the bill should a drain on their premises become blocked. So said 63% of adults in Newton Aycliffe targeted in a recent YouGov poll. If the drain is blocked within the boundary of their house, it's the homeowner who ends up footing the bill. Yet 27% of consumers admit to disposing of their waste cooking oil down the sink – an action recognised by 45% as the main cause of costly drain blockages. The average household throws away a tea cup of waste cooking oil every month when this valuable resource could be recycled into clean electricity. Encouragingly, 57% of people would be likely to take their waste cooking oil to their local household waste recycling centre (HWRC) if only they knew where it was. Ian Collins, managing director of Living Fuels, operates 500 waste cooking oil collection tanks – the biggest national network – located at recycling centres throughout the UK. "Around 80% of the UK population is within a 15-minute drive of a waste cooking oil recycling site," says Ian, "among the best coverage in world. The good news is some habits have changed since the last poll in 2011. For instance, more waste cooking oil is going into the food waste and black bins – neither ideal but better than pouring it down the drain. "We will not rest until every British householder appreciates their old cooking oil is a precious resource, knows where to recycle it and

adopts the 'stop and think, not down the sink' habit. "Not only will they avoid costly drain blockage repairs but they'll also be doing their bit to build a sustainable source of energy. "The waste cooking oil we collect goes into combined heat and power (CHP) which, according to the Department

for Energy & Climate Change (DECC), is the most carbon-efficient way to extract its energy. The process uses neither harmful chemicals nor intensive heat processes to produce this green electricity," says Ian. Find your nearest waste cooking oil recycling facility at: www.livingfuels.co.uk

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WIND FARM OPERATORS RECEIVE MILLIONS TO TURN OFF TURBINES

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Energy customers will keep paying millions of pounds a year to wind farm operators to turn their machines off unless the UK urgently invests in developing energy storage, according to a new report just released. Public concerns are raised again about the millions of pounds that are being spent in constraint payments from National Grid to wind farm operators – effectively paying them to turn off their generators as the electricity is deemed to be ‘wrong time’.

Recent figures from the Renewable Energy Foundation (REF) claim

that £8.7m in constraint payments were made to wind farms in March, part of the £13,749,814 already paid out this year. In 2013, wind farms received £32,707,351.

Under existing market arrangements, if an energy company generating electricity is unable to supply its power to the grid because it is not required it is entitled to constraint payments.

Dr Tim Fox, Head of Energy and Environment at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, said:

“We know that energy bills are going to rise in future,

but unless we invest in energy storage technology these constraint payments are set to become an unnecessary additional cost for the consumer.

Virtually any form of energy storage could help alleviate this problem, by allowing surplus generation from intermittent renewable sources to be stored by power providers until needed for use at a different time when demand exists.

“The intermittency challenge of renewable sources arises from the fact that the wind does not always blow, the sun does not always shine and the waves are not always in motion at times when consumers demand electricity. Equally, the converse is also true, in that consumer demand for power can be low when renewable energy sources are highly active.”

On just one day in August 2013, £1.84m was paid to operators of 28 wind-farms in Scotland to turn off their turbines and not generate electricity.

Between 2011 and 2012, constraint payments from National Grid to wind farm operators totalled more than £34 million. This represented just over 10% of the total paid to all electricity generators in UK, despite wind power accounting for less than 5% of our energy production.

In the same period, more than £340 million was paid in constraint payments to all UK electricity generators – approximately £13 for every household.

PCP VOLUNTEERS RECOGNISED FOR 10 YEARS SERVICE

Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) surprised two of its long serving volunteers with a celebratory gathering in the Mall Coffee Shop conservatory at the Pioneering Care Centre recently.

John Lindley and Molly Faux have been volunteering for PCP for 10 years and give over 300 hours each year as volunteer Walk Leaders on PCP's Health Walk.

Staff, fellow volunteers and walking group participants greeted the two after they returned from their weekly health walk on Thursday.

John started to come to PCP when he took early retirement following a back injury. He said “I was at a point in my life when I had time on my hands. I was determined to stay positive and not let my health problems get the better of me. I decided I wanted to do more of what I enjoy; walking, gardening, learning and most importantly spending time with my wife Ann.

We attended an open day at PCP and never looked back. First my wife and I started as participants, we joined the walking group, met some great people and it grew from there. I wanted to take things easier and live a quieter life but it wasn't long before I was taking courses in first aid and walk leader training. I also have a plot in PCP's community garden. Volunteering for PCP gives me a purpose, if I hadn't been involved for the past 10 years my health problems would have gotten worse; I would have become bored, depressed and unfit. I now



feel like a young lad, my health has improved through being physically, socially and mentally active.”

Molly started attending the walking group to meet new people from the local area. Moving from Northumberland she didn't know anyone in Newton Aycliffe. Also retired, she wanted to become more socially active.

Molly was overwhelmed by the recognition of her volunteering for PCP, she said “I'm just giving back what PCP has given me, I wanted to meet new people and now I have made some lovely friends. The walking group is full of people of all ages and walks of life, some are widowed, some have health problems and others just like the chatter! Plus the

fresh air and exercise makes people feel better.

Through volunteering we get to keep the group going, helping more people. I would recommend volunteering to everyone, it's one of the best ways to meet new people and help out in your community; which also makes you feel good.”

Chief Executive Carol Gaskarth presented them with a gift and said “A huge thank you to Molly and John for all their support over the last 10 years. PCP volunteers are invaluable in supporting the organisation to achieve its mission to improve health, wellbeing and learning for all. I wish to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of all of PCP's volunteers, without whom we could not achieve so much.”

The Health Walk takes place every Thursday 10.30-11.30am from the Pioneering Care Centre and is free of charge. For further information on volunteering for PCP or activities on offer contact 01325 321234, enquiries@pcp.uk.net or visit www.pcp.uk.net

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FACEBOOK

Theft of Food and Phone

Dear Sir,
On Friday the 11th of April I was carrying too much shopping and stupidly/trustingly left a bag of kitty litter and an Aldi bag of shopping for 2 minutes in the bus shelter at Stag Lane Woodham, whilst I ran round the corner to my home in Bamburgh Crescent with the rest.

I had forgot that I had placed my iPhone (in Union Jack cover) in the carrier whilst on the bus due to struggling with the amount of shopping I had. Returning to get the rest of the shopping it was gone! It could not have been anyone on foot because they would have still been walking. Someone with a vehicle must have seen me and taken the bag with my phone which I have now cancelled.

I appeal to the person to return the phone - leave it at Newton Press Offices on St. Cuthberts Way. Cherokee Shepherd

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Three Top Awards for Livin Consultancy Firm Moves to Aycliffe

Homes and communities business livin is celebrating after achieving a trio of top awards for its apprenticeships and employability programmes.

Helen Johnson, livin futures manager for livin was named coach/mentor of the year at the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) North East awards this month capping a remarkable year for the livin futures programme.

Over the past 12 months livin has been listed in the prestigious Top 100 Apprentice Employers list and had one of its apprentices honoured as Business Apprentices of the Year as part of the South Durham Business Awards.

Helen Johnson, livin futures manager, said: "Over the past four years livin futures has grown into a comprehensive employability programme supporting hundreds of local people of all ages and backgrounds.

"I am delighted to have won coach/mentor of the year but it really would not have been possible without the help and support from all of our partners and of



Winner Helen Johnson with livin futures business apprentice of the year John Greenwood picking up the award presented by host Steve Walls and award sponsor Keith Loraine Group Chief Executive at Isos

course the enthusiasm and determination of the people that we help through our various programmes."

CIH judges praised Helen's ability to deliver intensive support to help hundreds of people overcome the many barriers to employment.

Jill Haley, chair, Chartered Institute of Housing North East said: "With such a diverse client group, Helen's submission demonstrated her ability to call on not just her extensive skills and

experience as a qualified coach but also on her natural empathy to connect with people. The impact the programme has made in a short period of time is testament to Helen and it is clear she goes above and beyond, to make positive life changing results for individuals and their families. livin futures apprenticeship vacancies will be advertised soon to find out more visit livin.co.uk/futures

Nicholson Consultancy, the business improvement specialist, has relocated its operations to the heart of County Durham's growing industrial landscape.

The firm's new office is based at Evans Business Centre on the Aycliffe Business Park, which is already the location of choice for major manufacturing and engineering companies such as Ebac, Gestamp, and 3M.

The Aycliffe site will become home for the company's Managing Director Andrew Nicholson and non-executive directors Ian Batchelor and Angela Robson, previously based in Birtley, and will provide a hub for the company's network of associate consultants and trainers.

Established in 2000, Nicholson Consultancy is an independent management consultancy and training organisation. It specialises in major company-wide improvement programmes and delivers tailored training, practical consultancy and hands on support for manufacturers.

The company has consulted

for blue-chip multinationals like BPChemicals, Husqvarna and Gestamp, but also works with small owner-managed and family businesses, from industrial giants like Sheffield Forgemasters to independent jam-makers York Speciality Foods. Nicholson Consultancy is accredited to deliver the Lean Consortium programme and works closely with the Manufacturing Advisory Service.

Andrew Nicholson said: "This is a very exciting time for Nicholson Consultancy. To be based in an area that will soon be home to Hitachi and already boasts ambitious companies such as Ebac makes it an incredibly vibrant and industry-led location.

"Relocating has proved to be a very good strategic decision, being at the centre of County Durham's industrial operations has allowed us to form closer relationships with key players in the industry.

"Our new site on Aycliffe industrial park has given us a real opportunity to continue the growth of our business within the area. We have some excellent purpose-built



training facilities on-site and modular training programmes will be offering our own and "drop-in" sessions for unique range of short courses, local manufacturers"

Refresh Your Wardrobe!

A Jumble and Newly New Sale will be held at St Elizabeth's Church Saturday 26th of April at 10 am. Ladies, Gents and children's clothes, Shoes, Accessories, Handbags and Scarves.

Light refreshments will be served.

For more information please ring Nora at 01325 789344 office hours.

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A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO DEVELOPING YOURSELF AND YOUR BUSINESS

A new Training and Development company operating from the Xcel Centre is offering something quite new to small and large businesses including sole proprietorships.

Gary Hosey, a former Mechanical Engineer, brings a new approach to individual development using "Emotional Intelligence" which recognises and enhances the inbuilt skills and qualities in everyone to benefit themselves and their employers or own business.

Gary has developed his programme over 20 years with specialist workshops aimed at Trainers, Consultants, Coaches, HR personnel, and individual business owners. Gary is highly qualified as a Master Coach and in his spare time is a mountaineer and cave leader, SPA trained and approved. Other interests include swimming, camping, fly fishing and Sunday School teaching.

Gary's workshops have a great reputation and over the 2 years at Xcel he has built a long list of satisfied clients throughout the UK and abroad including Airbus UK, BAE Systems Regional Railways, Colleges, Banks, Petrochemical companies, Retail giants such as Asda, Telecommunication Services and community organisations.

He wants to encourage Aycliffe people to take advantage of his unique service and is offering free taster sessions to any business interested in experiencing what his



workshops offer.

Testimonial:

At a personal level, although I was under the impression that I understood many aspects of the relational side of business, I gained - through Emotional Intelligence - insight into my own potential stress and flash-points, enabling me to participate more supportively as a team player.

Turbocam Europe

Gary is offering 1 day Master Classes with lunch and refreshments introducing the latest understanding for leveraging high performance. The next one to be held at the Xcel Centre is on Wednesday 30th April from 9am till 5pm. If you wish to learn more contact Gary on 07540 135965, e-mail: gary@highimpactdevelopment.co.uk



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Saturday 26th April & Sunday 27th April, 2014

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NATIONAL BOXING CHAMPION

Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club would like to thank Honest John for his generous donation to help the club with running cost, it is greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank the many people that turned out to watch the Aycliffe ABC lads box in the Newton Aycliffe WMC on the 4th April your support was very welcome.

A good time was had by all with 12 competitive bouts, on the bill was Jack Gray, Lewis Craggs, Liam Naish, Billy Wade, Harry Condren, Max Oughton, Andrew Chopin, Lee Stevens and Kane Samms, x 3 supuporting bouts.

On Saturday 5th April, James Lepoidevin became the England Boxing, National Schoolboy Champion by out pointing Arjan Basi from London, at Huddersfield. His next Challenge is to Box in a Box Off for the opportunity to box for England in the 3 Nations Championships, his opponent is Henry Turner from the Repton Boxing Club London at Sherburn Leisure Centre on Saturday 19th April and we all wish him luck. (pictured) James with proud father Stuart and Head coach Les Gibson. Aycliffe ABC train at Acorn



House, Durham Way North, Aycliffe Business Park. Training Mon, Tues, Thurs, evening and Saturday morning. For more information ring Les Gibson (01325) 313855.

COST OF GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION

Dear Sir,

Your article regarding garden waste collections quotes figures for the amount of people involved in the scheme and potential savings for DCC. The current cost to provide the service is not quoted so it's not possible to work out the cost per household.

If there are now 151,000 households in the scheme and the projected saving is £933,000, that equates to a cost for each household of just over £6 per year!

If 186,000 take up the offer of £50 for 3 years year that would amount to £3.1million per year being received by DCC, rising after 3 years to £3.72 million.

I am struggling to believe that either of the above amounts represents the true cost. Can DCC clarify the above figures?

Is £20 or £6 the cost of providing the service? If it is £20 DCC look set to make a healthy profit from the new scheme!

Alan Dixon



Spartans off to Winning Start



Newton Aycliffe Spartans started the 2014 baseball season in spectacular fashion with a pair of blowout wins over Harrogate Cubs last weekend, at a cold and windy Shildon Leisure Centre. In the first of the 2 games, Spartans made light work of the first three Harrogate batters before getting their own offensive going scoring 6 runs in the 1st inning with catcher Jason Hill and third baseman Estil Peniche both hitting home runs.

Spartans then increased their lead inning by inning whilst keeping the Harrogate bats silent on the back of impressive pitching from Mike Holton who racked up 8 strikeouts from 5 innings of work. Spartans running out 14 – 1 winners

In game 2, Spartans changed some personnel and continued where they left off in game 1. Again, steady run production backed by some equally as impressive pitching from Bryan Dunkel meant the North Yorkshire side were never in the game and the Spartans ran out easy 15-1 winners.

Head Coach Mike Holton was naturally delighted with his side's opening weekend performance 'We started with a positive frame of mind and we knew that we had the players that could generate plenty of runs, but we also played fantastic defence too, which is always a key to winning games. We know that stiffer tests will follow in the weeks to come but we certainly have laid a great foundation for the rest of the season.'

The Spartans would like to thank Match Sponsor, David Bean and also the management and staff at Cobblers Hall for providing refreshments to the players post match. Spartans are next in action on Sunday 27th April when Liverpool Trojans are the visiting team.

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

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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E.ON's Final Public Session on Wind Farm Application

E.ON has announced it is to hold two final public information sessions for The Isles Wind Farm proposals and is inviting local community members to attend.

Following previous public consultations, E.ON has made amendments to its original plans which were to feature up to 45 turbines. The final proposal is for a 24 turbine wind farm, located about 1.5km to the east of Newton Aycliffe in County Durham, that would have a generation capacity of up to 48 MW and could generate enough electricity for approximately 27,000 homes.

E.ON is now taking the opportunity to inform the community of the proposed development and is encouraging local people to attend the next public information sessions to view

the plans in more detail and share their opinions with the project team.

The public information sessions will be held at: Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Wednesday 23 April from 5pm-8pm.

Paul Hunt, Consents Manager at E.ON, said: "We've been working hard to ensure that the local community have had their views considered throughout the development process. We have worked to address concerns over the initial plans and, subsequently, have reduced the size of the project and refined the layout for the turbines.

"The upcoming public information sessions provide local people with the opportunity to view the final plans in more detail and share their opinions with us before we submit final planning proposals."

Anyone unable to attend an event, but interested in discussing the site should call 0800 096 1199 or email theisles@eon-uk.com. Updates on the proposals are also available on the E.ON website at eonenergy.com/theisles

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 above for more details.

ANSWER

NAME

ADDRESS

TEL:

CUT OUT and Hand in your answer to Youngs Newsagents, Town Centre; Walkers Butchers, Simpasturegate or at Newton Press offices on St. Cuthberts Way, Aycliffe Business Park. You can also email your answer to paul@newtonnews.co.uk or reply via our website: www.newtonnews.co.uk

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Tuesday 10.00am—12.00pm

PETER BURGESS - Agnew Centre
Thursday 10am—1.00pm

DAVID SUTTON LLOYD - Woodham Community Centre
Wednesday 11.00am-1.00pm

One of the Welfare Champion offers support on an adhoc basis in and around local communities: Philip Clark, Middridge area. For information on any of the Welfare Champion bases or for us to contact a Champion on your behalf contact us on: 0191 5693511 e-mail: julie.devon@eastdurhamtrust.org.uk

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Aycliffe F.C.'s Poor Run Continues

Newton Aycliffe FC were beaten for the 8th consecutive game since the new year, this time 5-2 at already relegated Hebburn. The one glimmer of light for Allan Oliver and his men this week came with the news their First Division status had officially been preserved, due to Team Northumbria being beaten at Ashington. On paper this was a game Aycliffe would have looked at as a chance to end that poor run of form. Hebburn have been second bottom of the table for most of the season, and were relegated some weeks ago. Aycliffe started brightly, Martin Young had an early chance for Aycliffe, but his shot went over the bar. However after 13 minutes, Hebburn took the lead from their first attack. Spence did well to save to his left. But from the corner slack defending allowed Scott to head home. It took Aycliffe just 6 minutes to equalise. Atkinson, drove down the wing and crossed into the middle. Before the ball got to Mickie, the Hebburn defender put it into his own net. Midway through the half, both keepers made good saves to keep the score 1-1, before Aycliffe saw a second goal ruled out for offside. Hebburn regained the lead though, as former Aycliffe player Reay turned home the loose ball after a corner. They were almost 3-1 in front, but this time the linesman's flag came to Aycliffes rescue!

There were just 47 minutes on the clock when Gary Wood played a delightful ball through for Mickie to run on and finish left footed. Parity didn't remain for long though. On 55 minutes, McMahon's cross rebounded off the post to North, who had the easiest of chances to make it 3-2. In an open and entertaining game, Aycliffe were gifted a penalty after seeing a foul on Mickie. Jamie Owens stepped up and promptly saw his kick saved by Rogers in the Hebburn goal. Oliver looked to change things, with a triple substitution seeing Raitt, Atkinson and Owens replaced by Mellanby, Broom and Hedley, and a chance to try 4-4-2 formation. Powerful striker North, rose above Mitton in the Aycliffe defence to head past Spence, and effectively finish the contest. With just 5 minutes remaining, Aycliffe's misery was compounded. Oliver conceded a foul on the edge of the box and was shown a yellow card. McMahon stepped up to the free kick, which Spence could only parry. The loose ball fell straight to North who nodded in for his hat-trick. In truth, a very poor day for Aycliffe. The players will feel they owe the manager and supporters a performance this weekend, as they host Bedlington Terriers on Saturday, before the home game with Shildon on Monday evening.

Planet Leisure Bowling League

There were just three changes in the league this week, the Pinheads stay at the top on 128 points due to them only having one player in the Clangers team where the Pinheads won 8-0. The Clangers drop down to fourth place on 110 points. The Strike Force went back to second place on 114 points, after winning 5-3 over the Wenwees who are now in third place on 110 points, only by total pinfall over the Clangers. The rest of the six teams stay the same position as last week. Late Starters, Paul Wilkinson and his son Chris took the high team game, with handicap, off the Wenwees taking it from 464 and pushing up to 482. They also took the high team series with handicap from the Bowl Movements which stood at 1214 pinfall. It is now 1239.

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AN OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN AYCLIFFE'S SOCCER FACTORY

Growthfunders, the North of England's first online equity crowdfunding platform, is helping the team behind an indoor soccer-led mixed leisure facility to raise investment funds. The Soccer Factory is aiming to raise £500,000 to develop top class facilities in currently under-served areas. A first site, to include seven 3G astroturf courts on Aycliffe Business Park is already secured, with planning permission. The Aycliffe facility will also have a health and fitness suite, two multi-purpose studios, a café/bar, sports injury clinic and conferencing facilities. The Soccer Factory was founded by Dan Lewis who, for ten years, was Deputy Director of Sport at Durham University, a role which included management of sports facilities across 15 locations. Dan and his team are advised by David Pope, who spent 12 years with Brewin Dolphin's corporate broking department, during which time he specialised in leisure and media and worked closely with another successful chain of football facilities. The investment being sought will add £20,000 of personal funds. Growthfunders has been launched to match



Dan Lewis (left) with Craig Peterson

ambitious entrepreneurs with great business ideas to a range of investors to create and grow exciting businesses. Growthfunders also opens up access to this exciting asset class to a wider audience of suitably-qualified online angels, or the eponymous "crowd", who can experience investing alongside more experienced investors. Craig Peterson, Director of Growth Capital Ventures, the firm behind GrowthFunders, said: "The Soccer Factory team are making great progress towards launching their first facility and their

listing on GrowthFunders is an opportunity to open their business to a wide range of investors. Crowdfunding is a great way to get behind businesses with growth potential at an early stage and to drive growth and jobs in the economy." Co-director, Norman Peterson added: We want to help entrepreneurs attract capital to grow from a range of investors and create the next wave of Great British Businesses." Dan Lewis said: "We turned to GrowthFunders for three intricately linked reasons. The first is because

crowdfunding opens us up to a much broader cross section of investors. Second, we are aiming to open a range of facilities for use by the general public, so why not give them a chance to invest in The Soccer Factory, which will not only make them stronger advocates for the business, but give them a chance to get something back as we grow. Finally, because of the support that the GrowthFunders team have provided to help me get The Soccer Factory ready to attract investment to grow. The support and introductions I've received have been invaluable." Launched by North East and Yorkshire-based entrepreneurs, Craig and Norman Peterson, GrowthFunders has a wealth of experience. They have supported entrepreneurs, helping to raise capital, acting as mentors and providing strategic advice to a range of high growth businesses. The co-founders have recently completed qualifications with the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investments as part of their continuous professional development. For more information, or to register, visit www.growthfunders.com.

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Aycliffe Tri Racing Club

On Sunday 6th April four Triathletes made the short journey to Meadowfield Leisure Centre to take part in the Durham Duathlon. The 5k run - 25k bike - 5k run is a tough course that incorporates the dreaded Buttons Bank at Esh Winning. Weather conditions were good and showed in the race times with Graham Atkins coming in 1hr and 36 mins, Andrew Sedgwick also coming in 1hr 36mins (including a 2 min penalty) next was Gareth Elkin in 1hr 45 followed by Wendy Bake in 1hr 54mins. All four athletes performed well in this warm up event for the triathlon season.

Then on Sunday 13th Gareth Elkin was out racing again this time in a 10k run - 42k bike - 5k run at Newby Hall. Gareth did a fantastic time of 2hr 34 with a particular impressive first run where he managed a new personal best for his 10k time.

Next event is on Sunday 27th April when a number of the club including some first timers to multi-sport will be taking part in the Stockton Duathlon Festival at both sprint and standard distances.

If you would like more information then come along to Woodham School Pool in Newton Aycliffe on a Wednesday night 7 - 8pm, contact us through the club website: www.aycliffetriclub.onsport.com - by email aycliffetriclub@gmail.com or you can call Club Coach Andrew Sedgwick on 07887 817960.

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RUGBY CLUB ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Despite having a cup match and a league game outstanding in the clubs fixture list, Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club held their 55th annual awards dinner at Redworth Hall

Last Saturday evening. Following a great season where the squad has enjoyed a 76% win ratio in the league. Unfortunately it was tight between the top 3 and Aycliffe finished 3rd overall. Credit was given throughout the proceedings to the new coaching trio, head coach Pete Ryans and forwards coach Steve Turnbull, who were admirably assisted by fitness coach and physio Geoff Hymas. All of which put the lads through their paces from pre-season to date. Their efforts were rewarded by a high league position and a place in the Durham County Plate final against Washington which took place on Wednesday evening 16th April at Houghton Le



Spring. Result to follow. The proceedings were kicked off by old boy and huge fan of the club, Mr Peter Maddison, who performed an open mike comic stand up routine for the first time ever that was received well by the big audience who were in fits of laughter. The awards were presented by club President Rod Shepherd and club chairman Bryan Parsonage.

The President's award went to club stalwart Bob Malvern for his long term commitment and hard work behind the scenes. The chairman's award went to old boy Steve Turnbull who returned to the club to offer his services as forwards coach and helped make a massive difference to the squad's performances throughout the season.

Most improved player award went to second row forward Ashley Elliott who has maintained a high standard of training and playing commitment all season. The new Coaches award went to back row player Drew Gibson, again for showing a brilliant

attitude to training encouraging others and playing a good standard of rugby to enhance the squads performance. Finally the most prestigious award of the evening as voted by the player's themselves went to back row player Andrew Littlefair (pictured).

Andrew has played his first full senior season for Aycliffe since signing from Mowden Park. He has had an outstanding season for the squad and his encouraging runs with the ball in hand has certainly boosted the packs performance all season. Well done to all the award winners, well done to the squad for fantastic season. The target next season is to win the league. The evening was rounded off by excellent entertainment from the 5 piece band Another Crisis.

The club wish to thank this seasons sponsor's, Hayward Home Appliance Services trading as Serviceforce, Boola Clothing Aycliffe, Honest Johns Aycliffe Community Kitty and the Mortgage Advice Centre.

AYCLIFFE MUSIC VENUE SECURES A MASSIVE GIG

The legendary 'BESSIE AND THE ZINC BUCKETS' are to play THE TURBINIA on Saturday 26th April, for Gary, the Landlord's birthday. This is a major coup, getting a band who are currently celebrating 30 years as the north-east's best ever band by playing a sell-out gig at Newcastle City Hall in front of 2000 fans recently.

Gary said "It is fantastic that Kev has agreed to bring the 'BUCKETS' to The Turbinia, this band are huge, it is hard for chart bands to sell out at the 'City Hall' for a local band to do it, is unheard of, that's how big a following these guys have, and the week after they grace the Turbinia stage, I'm really excited about this one. This shows how far we have come as a venue, that we can pull big names like this down to Newton Aycliffe. This is only two weeks after Anna, an amazing guitar vocalist, came to our weekly **FRIDAY OPEN-MIC**, to warm up for her gig at The Sage, Gateshead, a couple of days later". **FRIDAYS** - Open-Mic / Buskers **SATURDAY** - The very best live Rock Bands around www.turbiniapub.co.uk

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Death of Former Journalist and Newton News Supporter

A well-known former contributor and supporter to the Newton News, has died at the age of 81. Brian Edwards, of Newton Aycliffe, contributed articles for our paper in his spare time in the late 1960's. He was a journalist by profession, working on The Northern Echo and Evening Gazette as a sub-editor before his retirement in 1995. Brian was a member at St. Mary's Church, and a much liked and respected regular at the RAFA Club. His son, Cliff, said: "Dad was a passionate, campaigning journalist in his day and a good, loyal friend to many both at work and in the community. If he could possibly help anyone, he would. "He chose the North East for the family to settle in because he felt it had a sense of community. And he chose Newton Aycliffe



because he felt it was a great place to bring up children. He contributed articles for the Newton News because he admired the people here and he got on well with Newton News founder, Syd Howarth." Syd Howarth said: "Brian encouraged the work of Newton News and at one point helped in the design and editing of the newspaper. He was talented, quiet and unassuming man - a perfect gentleman who will be missed by all who knew him." Brian died peacefully, surrounded by his family in Darlington Memorial Hospital on Saturday. He had contracted a chest complaint associated with his Parkinson's Disease, from which he had suffered without complaint for many years. He leaves a wife Heather, daughter Tania, sons Chris, Cliff and David and nine grandchildren. His funeral will be held next Friday, April 25th at St Mary's before interment at West Cemetery.

Partnership Agreed to Benefit Town's Youth & Community



David Judge with Vince Crosby

The idea came from David Judge from Newton Aycliffe who left his home town to follow a passion working with both young people and communities. As well as achieving a Youth and Community Work degree from De Montfort University in 2011, he has worked with many different organisations across the midlands as an advocate for change and stability for today's youth. David was also part of a group that saw an area within local communities he was working in who were not being catered for. As a result David and four other people in 2012 set up a company in Leicester - Global Hands This is a Community Interest Company set up as a social enterprise to do something about global inequality and the need

to raise consciousness about issues that affect communities across the world. They are also interested in supporting people build their capacities and concentrate on four specific areas where they can deliver an exceptional service by creating a platform to give any person, no matter who they are or where they come from, a voice. These areas are: Public Engagement and Education Global Hands Chapters International Development Global Hands Publishing Within these four areas they see the possibility of provoking people's consciousness supporting them to build their capacity to address issues that affect them. Over the past few months both leaders at the Youth Centre and Global Hands have been working closely to see if they can come together for the good of the young people of the town and surrounding area. As a result a partnership has been agreed and both organisations see that by working together they can create stronger links within the local community and move towards a better future for all concerned.

A Host of Golden Daffodils!

It was set to be another fine day as Aycliffe Fell Walkers headed for Blakey Ridge in the North Yorkshire Moors. The focus of the trip was the Daffodil Walk in Farndale, 1.5 miles alongside the river Dove between Low Mill and Church Houses. For our club members there were several optional starting points for the day's outing including Hutton-le-Hole, the Saddle Stones on Blakey Ridge and for some walkers, the Lion Inn itself. Many of those starting from Hutton-le-Hole took an early 'wrong turn' to find themselves needlessly ascending very steep ground – only to descend the other side, with their starting point still in view! Things could only get better. Those that started from the Saddle Stones had an easier time of it, descending gently into delightful Farndale with a distinct hue of golden yellow clearly discernible from a long way above the dale. Those choosing to walk Rudland Rigg initially missed the route down towards Low Mill but eventually descended to join the much anticipate Daffodil Walk. The display not only of daffodils but also primroses, wild violets, bluebells and other species was as impressive as ever, with huge swathes of daffs draping the riverbanks along the way. Previous visitors to the area had commented that the daffodils were not as widespread as they had been years ago, but there was no suggestion that the walk was any less popular. The appropriately-named "Daffy Caffy" attracted a few of our walkers with some excellent bacon sarnies; others chose to linger in the Community Centre at Low Mill, enticed by the aroma of freshly made coffee that accompanied an extensive selection of home baked fare. Several walkers looking for more traditional refreshment walked through Farndale and then called in at the nearby Feversham Arms to enjoy a drink whilst reflecting on the impressive sighting of a Red Kite that had soared above the group, high on Rudland Rigg; its distinctive fingered wings and wedge-shaped tail had been clearly visible. Smaller birds frequented the tables in the pub's beer garden, mostly finches searching for scraps of food. Time to move on but the only drawback to undertaking



the Daffodil Walk end-to-end is the arduous climb up out of Farndale that follows, via the aptly named Long Lane. It's a real sting in the tail and our coach, conveniently parked alongside the Lion Inn on lofty Blakey Ridge, was a most welcome sight when it eventually came into view! The weather held throughout the day and there had been extensive views across Farndale, Rosedale, Bransdale and beyond. All had had a great day and the excellent range of ales and meals at the Lion Inn after the walk provided

the opportunity for much animated conversation about the day's experiences. In one corner a discussion about the huge chip portions was heard. However, also heard above the din was one contradictory voice claiming to have received short measure, certainly less than his fair share of chips! "Why is it always me?" said he. Poor George.....! If you wish to get your fair share of the great outdoors, why not apply to join our walking club. See our website www.afwc.org.uk for details, or simply contact Alan on 01325 488225.

In Memoriam

Joan Nicholson

16th April 2007

Your smile is in your photo, we look at it every day. Your memory is in our hearts and there it will always stay. For death leaves a heartache, that no one can heal. But love leaves memories, that no one can steal. Love you always. Also remembering your birthday on 22nd April. Derek, June, Pat, Ronnie, Linda, Ann, Susan, Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren, In-Laws and Sisters

STEVE (Ibo) IBINSON 16th April 2009. It's hard to put on paper, the feelings we have inside. Of a broken hearted family that have missed you since you died. To us you were so special what more is there to say. We only wish within our hearts that you were here today. Heartaches in this world are many, losing you was worse than any. Mam , Dad and family MAUREEN YOUNG In memory of Maureen. Died 20th April 2003. Much loved by Paul xxxxx KIM FOWLER, Newman, Oakenfull. Died 25th April 2009. five years since the angels came to your door. Now, there is white feathers left on our floor. So precious this message from you up above, to still be giving unending love. Not a day goes by Kim when you are not near, you are in Heaven now, nothing to fear. Reunited with your Son Michael, our Grandson who died on 29th April 2007. Love and mis you, it never goes away. To the world she was just one, to us she was the world. Missed with a grief beyond all tears. Love forever Kim. Mam Tessa, Dad Ian, Craig, Martin and all your loved ones xxxxx DENNIS POSKETT Died 22nd April 2007. Treasured memories of a loving Dad and Grandad. Loved and remembered always. Sandra, Michael and Gemma xxx

Greenfield Chess Club



Students at Greenfield Community College are making the most of their lunch times and have joined a thriving Chess Club. The club allows them to pit their wits against other students, whilst learning new skills and tactics. Friendly competition is very evident amongst this growing number of participants. A six round 'swiss' tournament was completed at the end of last term and was won by Joel Wraith from Year 11 with 5 points, followed closely by Kyle Phillips and Aaron Kilpatrick (4.5 points). After the success of the

tournament the students were faced with a new challenge – their teachers! Greenfield staff put together an 8-strong team to beat pupils by 6-2 in an exciting match over lunch time! This is just one of the thriving extra-curricular clubs at Greenfield, offering students the opportunity to try new activities and learn new skills. The club will continue after Easter, with matches against other schools planned in the near future. You never know we may have the next Magnus Carlsen in our midst!

A Politician With 400 Friends!

Dear Sir, When elected as a County Councillor last year, I determined to try to keep people informed and to that end set up a Facebook site at www.bit.ly/JDCIcare I update it most days use it as a blog and record all major decisions taken by the Cabinet and the County Council. I report in detail on those committees on which I sit (including Economy and Environment). I try to publicise things like road works, significant planning applications, local County Council events and initiatives etc. as I am told about them. I also report on developments and decisions by the Town Council. Facebook is not a passive medium, and the site gives people the opportunity to comment, complain, ask questions and suggest ideas. I believe that I am accountable, and this is a way people can hold me to account for what I do as a County Councillor. By using the 'message' function, residents of Aycliffe North and Middridge ward are also able to use the site as a way to contact me as their County Councillor. It is a 'public' site, so people can, of course, simply visit if and when they want, but recently the 400th person chose to become a 'friend' on facebook. It is a figure of which I am proud – as you know it has always been my hope that the people of Aycliffe might be informed and involved in the decisions which direct our community. I am using this milestone as an opportunity to publicise my facebook page, and to invite everybody in Aycliffe to join it – to keep in touch with what is happening day-by-day on their local councils, and also as an opportunity to respond ... positively, negatively or pro-actively! John D Clare, Aycliffe North and Middridge

Congratulations

FREYA WILLIAMS

Happy 1st birthday to my gorgeous niece "Freya". With lots of love from Auntie Deb and Uncle Gordon xx

FREYA WILLIAMS

Happy birthday to my fab cousin "Freya". Lots of love from Charlotte xx

FREYA WILLIAMS

Wishing our beautiful Granddaughter "Freya" a very happy 1st birthday. You light up our lives. Lots of love, Nana and Grandad xx

ANDRESS MILLER

18th April. Happy birthday to my beautiful Wife. I love you more than words can say. You are special to me in every way. My love for you will never end. You are my Wife, my angel, you are my best friend. Love you loads, John xxx

ANDRESS MILLER

18th April. Happy birthday to the best Mam in the world. have a great day and enjoy your night out, you deserve it. Lots of kisses and hugs from your special angel Chloe xx PS: Me and Julie will try and behave ourselves tonight!

DEREK NICHOLSON

19th April. Don't panic, you are only 80!! Time to celebrate and enjoy your party. Lots of love from all the family

SIMON JONES

16th April 2014. Happy 21st birthday. Hope you have a great day. Love, Mam, Dad, Sonya, Sarah and Jay xxx

DYLAN KJENSTAD

Happy 13th birthday Son. Teenager at last. Love from Mam xxx

DYLAN KJENSTAD

Happy 13th birthday Brother. Love from Chelsea, Lauren, Nathan and Andrew xxx

DYLAN KJENSTAD

Happy 13th birthday Son. Love from Dad xxx

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Daniel Summerson

Happy 40th Birthday Daniel

Lots of love from Mam and Mike

Sallyann Teal

Happy 18th Birthday Darling

Love, Nana, Grandad, Auntie Julie and David. We are so proud of you xxxxx

Sallyann Teal

Happy 18th Birthday

To a gorgeous Daughter and Sister. All our love, Dad, Leigh, Gabrielle and Harvey xxxxxxxxx

Huntsman Win 9 Goal Thriller Sponsor for Town Cricket Club

Huntsman travelled to the Education Village Darlington to take on high flying Highland Laddie from the league above in the first round of the Munden Memorial Cup on Sunday and came away with an impressive 5-4 victory a scoreline which doesn't do the Huntsman dominance justice. Huntsman started the game on the front foot knocking the ball around well and they were rewarded 10 minutes in when Shaun Sproates was fouled in the box for a penalty which leading scorer Jamie Herd slammed home sending the keeper the wrong way. Laddie had a spell of pressure with lots of long balls into the box,

a low shot forced a smart stop by Dodds low down to his right but from the resulting corner the ball bounced around before being poked home for 1-1. Huntsman got straight back on the front foot and made it 2-1. Stuart Ord picked the ball up deep in the Huntsman half and went marauding up field skipping past 5 players as the pitch opened up for him before he played a delightful ball into Shaun Sproates who committed the centre half into a tackle bringing down Sproates for another stone wall penalty. Herd again stepped up from 12 yards to arrow the ball into the top corner. They went in 2-1 up at half time with a deserving

lead. They started the second in a bright style and added a third not long after the restart. Sproates and Herd worked a short corner before the angle opened up for Herd to drive a fierce shot in the bottom corner to complete a 4th hat trick of the season. A 4th goal followed shortly after Steven Williams went rampaging down the left wing but looked to have lost the ball but showed great determination to win it back forcing a good save from the keeper before Carl Bates was on hand to poke home giving the Huntsman an impressive 4-1 lead.

Shaun Sproates back to something like his best form got a goal his all-round link up play deserved when he steered home a left wing ball into the top corner. They then however took their foot of the pedal and let the Laddie back into the game and they forced Dodds to turn over the bar from a fierce strike, but they weren't to be denied when the low corner was turned home at the near post. That gave the Laddie confidence and they got a 3rd with 10 minutes remaining a deep free kick was pumped into the box which Dodds spilled into the path of the oncoming centre half who bundled the ball home. A few minutes later they added a 4th to get the nerves jangling but they held out for an impressive victory which was slightly soured by the sloppy finish.

Next up is the Wheatshaf in the league at Simpature on April 20th a 10.30 kick off where they will be looking to put the pressure on the top two with a third successive victory. Get yourself along and show your support.



Frank's The Flooring Store have agreed to become Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's main shirt sponsor for the forthcoming season and will see their logo worn on the white shirts of both senior sides in the North Yorkshire and South Durham League. Club Chairman Ian Palmer said "When our previous shirt sponsor withdrew in February we needed to move quickly and I was delighted when Frank's agreed to become our sponsor.

They are very supportive of what we are trying to achieve at Newton Aycliffe and I hope that the current one year agreement will be the start of a long lasting partnership". Frank's Financial Director David Stubbs said, "Frank's the Flooring Store are passionate about the North East, and are proud to be supporting our local sports club. We wish Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club the best of luck for the coming season."

Newton Aycliffe warmed up for the new season with an emphatic win over Washington last Sunday.

Batting first Washington were

bowled out for 50 before Aycliffe posted an impressive 245 for 3. Washington then batted again and were restricted to 109 for 7. New signing Colin Myers took 7 wickets in the match while

Sam Telford scored 63 and captain Chris Palmer hit 52 not out. Having gained promotion to Division 2 Newton Aycliffe's first team start the season this Saturday 19 April with

a trip to Middlesbrough, while the second team start their Division 3 campaign by hosting Bedale at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club on the same day. Both games start at 1.00pm.

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Badminton at Aycliffe

With just one month left of the season for Aycliffe's teams the Mixed team finally recorded their first victory of the season during March with a 5-4 home win over Harrogate Hill, which along with a creditable 6-3 defeat away to Wensleydale A leaves them in 6th position in A Division.

The Ladies team only had one match during March which was a defeat 0-8 at home to St Teresa's meaning the team are now at the foot of the division although Aycliffe do have games in hand on the teams above them. The club continue to look for new members to play both socially and competitively on a Friday evening at 7.30 in the Leisure Centre with the exception of Good Friday. Visit <http://aycliffebadminton.webs.com/> for more information.

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