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Finance Secured for Hitachi Rail Production at Aycliffe

Hitachi, Ltd. have announced that the British Department for Transport and Agility Trains (with its main shareholders Hitachi and John Laing) have reached financial close for the fleet of Class 800 series trains set to run on the East Coast Main Line as part of the Intercity Express Programme (IEP). Commercial close of contract for the initial fleet of 92 trains (596 carriages) for the East Coast Main Line and the Great Western Main Line was announced in July 2012, at the same time as financial close was reached for the Great Western Main Line route.

In July 2013, the Department for Transport announced the decision to place an additional order of 30 trains (270 carriages) for the East Coast route with Agility Trains. Toshiaki Higashihara, President & COO of Hitachi, Ltd. said: "I am extremely pleased that a total of 866 Hitachi train cars will be running in the UK, which is the birthplace of railways. I would like to express my very sincere gratitude to all those involved, and particularly to the members of the Japanese and British governments who offered their strong support and invested great efforts in bringing this project to fruition. Hitachi will continue to provide highly reliable, comfortable passenger services with low environmental impact, by establishing a new manufacturing base equipped with the world's most advanced production facilities."

Alistair Dormer, Hitachi Rail Global CEO of Hitachi, Ltd. said: "I am delighted by today's news of financial close for the last tranche of trains for the Intercity Express Programme. Agility Trains has successfully raised the finance for this important infrastructure investment in the UK, bringing all contractual and financial agreements to a close. "For Hitachi Rail, the announcement signals a new phase in the Intercity Express Programme. With all finance raised, our teams across the

UK and in Japan, jointly with Agility Trains, can now fully focus on delivering all aspects of this programme, which will bring major improvements for passengers across two of the busiest train routes in Britain. The construction of our train factory in Newton Aycliffe is underway and we are looking forward to seeing all Class 800 series trains for the East Coast Main Line being manufactured by our 730 staff in north east England."

In addition to the factory construction, work on the Intercity Express Programme is progressing in various areas. The interior design of the

trains is at an advanced stage with final sign-off expected

Continued on page 3

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Benefit Gig for US Bluesman Walter Trout

OK folks I'd like to ask for your help. I am involved in promoting a benefit gig for US Bluesman Walter Trout on 10th May at Mainsforth Community Centre, Ferryhill Station.

Walter is in serious need of a liver transplant and I invite any Newtonian to attend the event. For more information visit the Facebook page which is: www.facebook.com/events/269314946575435/ - Tickets are £10 and are available from: www.etickets.to/buy/?e=11496

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Unexplained Arrival at Sugar Hill



Pupils arrived at Sugar Hill Primary school on Tuesday morning to find a giant egg on their school field. The alarm had been raised at 7am by the school caretaker, Mr Robinson, and teachers and other staff were contacted so that they could arrive early to deal with pupil and media interest in the strange occurrence. Writing about the mysterious egg, Leah Etherington, a Year 5 pupil, said that students '...were shocked at the sight of a giant egg on their school field'. Ellie Baker, another Year 5 pupil, wrote '...Nothing yet has happened but students are investigating...'. The egg currently lies untouched and the baffling case continues....

Sound Therapy at the PCP



If yoga seems a little too much like hard work for you, and you want to try something different from a one to one therapy, how about trying a very special aural event known as a Sound Bath?

PCP's Sound Therapist Jane Farrand will be facilitating another Sound Bath at the Pioneering Care Centre. The next one is on Friday 25 April, 10.30 - 11.30am and will cost £5.

Participants settle down, relax and allow a wash of sounds to cleanse their bodies on physical, emotional and mental levels to aid relaxation and encourage healing to take place.

After a session, participants have reported that they feel calmer, extremely relaxed, both physically and mentally, more in control of their life, and sometimes find long-term issues have resolved themselves.

With such benefits on offer,

why not give it a try? All that is required of you is that you rest on the floor or in a chair; the therapeutic sound will do the rest.

The gentle flowing sounds of Himalayan singing bowls, monochord, the powerful resonance of the gong, will immerse you in a feeling of relaxation and calm.

Sound therapy uses different types of sound, from instruments, a piece of music, voice, or all three, to help improve your health and wellbeing. Sound therapy can help create change in both our physical and emotional state.

Booking is advisable as at only £5 per person this event will be very popular.

To book your place contact the Pioneering Care Centre on 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net. Visit PCP's website www.pcp.uk.net - To find out more about the benefits of Sound Therapy visit Jane's website: soundaffects.uk.com

"MATCHING JACK"

St Clare's Church "Feel Good Film Show" on Tuesday 29th April will feature "MATCHING JACK". Starring James Nesbitt and Jacinda Barrett. Described as gripping, funny and deeply touching.

A child is ill, it's a matter of how far would you go for love? Tea and coffee will be served at 1pm (included in the £2). The film starts at 1-15pm. We provide a variety of chairs for your comfort, and provide tables so that you can bring a spot of lunch to eat while you watch the film in friendly company. For further details please ring Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755

INFORMATIVE EVENT FOR THE OVER 60'S

PCP's Cancer Champions project are hosting an event to provide useful information to people over the age of 60. The event will take place at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre 11am-2pm on Wednesday 30 April.

Attendees will get the chance to visit information stalls and chat about services that are available to them or that they may need in the future. Free soup and bread rolls will also be on offer to everyone who attends.

Confirmed services having information stalls include Care Connect, Durham Equipment Service, Stroke Association, Durham County Carers, Macular Society, Welfare Champions, Healthwatch, PCP, Cancer Champions and MacMillan Cancer Information and Support.

The Cancer Champions project forms part of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust's Talking About Cancer Service.

For further information contact the Pioneering Care Centre, Carers' Way, Newton Aycliffe, tel: 01325 321234 email: projectadmin@pcp.uk.net Or find us on Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: /PioneeringCare

LOCOMOTION ONE

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Saturday 3rd May - "Avatar"

Gig Pit Review: I just couldn't resist the lure of me old mates in Avatar, who were playing their comeback gig with their new line up after far too long an absence! The band have been in a bit of a limbo since the departure of ace axeman Paul Nesbitt and the mighty lungs of Graham Mannion and the search to find replacements willing to give the commitment required and focus on the direction that the band wanted to go was long and hard, but in my humble opinion they've got it nailed now! Old soldiers Titch on drums, Jeff on bass and Stan on rhythm have now been joined by Skinfint's Kev Burdon on lead and ex Kimra front man, Chris Kerswell on vocals.

Avatar have always prided themselves on playing the tunes as near to the original as possible and Kev is well up to the task and oozes enthusiasm during his performance as Skinfint fans will know! Chris is a natural front man with a great voice well suited to the Avatar set and a great line of patter with the crowd, you just can't help but like the guy! I was told that he was a bag of nerves before he went on, but I saw no sign of that, just a bloke having a great time on stage and sweating like a pig! If you like your music hot n' heavy, Alice In Chains, Pantera, Megadeath, Ozzy, System Of A Down and that ilk, you'll not be disappointed, the crowd wasn't and yelled for more! Another great night at a great venue with a great set of lads!

Saturday 10th May - "to be confirmed"

Saturday 10th May - "Mugshot"

Bio: A four piece band from the South Shields area playing modern and classic rock covers by bands such as Bon Jovi, Chili Peppers, Kings of Leon, Metallica, Muse, U2, Van Halen and Whitesnake, to name but a few.

"We hadn't seen this band before so we didn't know what to expect and boy did they rock. Something for everyone in the set that had the dancers on their feet. The tunes I remember were, U2, Whitesnake, Killers, Kings of Leon, Tom Petty, Nirvana, Guns 'n' Roses, The Cult, Radiohead, all played and sung brilliantly! If you haven't already seen this band, go and see them, you won't be disappointed. www.myspace.com/mugshotrockband

For more information on bands go to

www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke

Finance Secured for Hitachi Rail Production at Aycliffe

shortly. Three pre-series trains will be manufactured this year in Hitachi's factory in Japan, with arrival of the trains in the UK expected in the first half of 2015. Suppliers for the main bought-in systems on the trains have been selected, and a large number of British-based companies are directly bringing their products and expertise to the programme.

In Newton Aycliffe, construction of Hitachi Rail train factory is progressing. The £82 million manufacturing facility will be operational in mid-2015, with series production of the Class 800 series trains scheduled to start in 2016. Recruitment of the senior team for the facility has started, and large-scale recruitment of what will eventually be 730 staff is planned for 2015.

In order to fulfill the demanding requirements for dependability and availability of the trains, Hitachi Rail has started constructing a new, state-of-the-art maintenance depot in Bristol (Stoke Gifford), is refurbishing the North Pole depot in west London and upgrading the maintenance facility in Swansea. Construction of a new depot in Doncaster will start shortly. All work is on schedule and the trains are expected to enter passenger service in 2017 on the Great Western Main Line and in 2018 on the East Coast Main Line.

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ACORN's POPULAR PETTING ZOO



Little ACORNS, the junior section of the ever popular ACORN Residents Association, held a community Petting Zoo at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Friday 11th April which attracted over 350 people.

Many thanks to Great Aycliffe Town Mayor Barbara Clare who performed the cutting of a ribbon ceremony to open the event.

Primary attraction was the Animal Story Petting Zoo who brought along snakes, a rabbit, skunk, ducklings and an owl plus many smaller creatures. The event was supported by the Dogs Trust who held a free dog chipping event in the foyer of the leisure centre which saw 25 dogs chipped. They also had a stall selling items in the main hall.

Several organisations including the NE Autism Centre, livin', Horndale Residents' Association and Healthwatch were available to give advice and support.

Newly appointed welfare champions Jen Bewley and Phil Clarke were available in the hall to offer help to anyone in need. These volunteers do a magnificent job in signposting assistance available for the hungry and the homeless.

The leisure centre contributed a bouncy castle to add to the fun and with Professor Nincompoop working a little magic with his balloon creations and the ever busy Harry Potty turning children's faces into cats etc., the room came alive with chattering excited children.

Prowling the hall talking to revellers was Syd the ACORN Squirrel, The Horndale Hound and the new addition

Spotty the Dalmation who somehow managed to end up in the middle of the town centre talking to shoppers and children.

Keeping law and order in the room was a contingent from our local beat team who took time to chat with people around the room.

Special VIP's at the event included Jet and Ben and their handler Claire. These gentle dogs are a great favourite at schools and events around the county.

Vice Chair of ACORN Keith Lovejoy commented that the continued popularity of the event will possibly result in it doubling in size next year with added attractions to entertain.

Ken Robson summed up the event as a fantastic annual entertainment for the whole of Newton Aycliffe at a price people can afford.

ACORN have a full programme of entertainment planned throughout 2014 which is supported by Awards For All and our County Councillors through AAP funding including a family trip to Whitby for £2 per person.

VICTORIAN FUN DAY

St. John's Church in Shildon are holding a Victorian Fun Day on Saturday 3rd May from 10am to 3pm.

There will be Historical displays, lots of craft stalls, live demo's, visits to the tower, afternoon tea and much more.

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Animals Bring Cheer to Residents



It was a first for Defoe Court Care Home when Discovery Zoo visited with a selection of rabbits, guinea pigs and reptiles. Residents, relatives and staff were able to see and hold most of the animals and enjoyed the experience. Animal therapy is a great way to increase socialisation and helps with interaction between people and animals and everyone seemed to enjoy this special visit.

COFFEE MORNING

The Heighington WI will be holding a Coffee Morning between 10am and 12noon on Saturday 3rd May in Heighington Village Hall. Entrance is £1.50, which includes a cup of coffee or tea and a homemade scone with jam.

There will also be a Cake and a Craft stall as well as a Chocolate Tombola. We look forward to seeing you.

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NEW CRECHE SERVICE

1st Four Kidz are pleased to announce the opening of 1st Four Kidz Totz, providing a crèche service at the new OneGym on Newton Aycliffe Business Park.

We are offering reliable childcare whilst parents/carers use the gym facilities catering for children from 0 to 4 years.

1st Four Kidz provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment and staff are qualified with suitable experience and hold safeguarding, first aid and food hygiene certificates. We are open Monday to Friday 9.15am to 2.45pm on a temporary basis, but will open for longer hours if there is enough demand.

Sessions are priced at £3.50 for 1 hour 30 minutes. If you would like any more information please contact Liz Jones or Sharon Lynch on 07583 381008 or email: firstfourkidz@hotmail.co.uk



Town Council Considers Threat to Early Learning Centres

The Town Council's Policy and Resources Committee met on 16 April. The Committee agreed to cooperate with the Aycliffe Village History Society to commemorate the First World War, by assisting the Society as it seeks to put on exhibitions and refurbish the War Memorial in Aycliffe Village Churchyard. The Committee also signed off a successful Parish Plan performance report, which showed that all the council's targets were either complete or on-going. A major decision was to commit £20,000 from the Capital Programme budget to replace the bar roof at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex. The most important business of the Committee, however, was to consider a significant threat to its Pre-School Learning Centres.

Provision of Pre-School education is not a statutory duty of the Town Council – the Town Council's Pre-Schools originally started as playgroups in the 1970s, but were registered with Ofsted in 1998 to provide early years education. The two Pre-Schools are located in St. Oswald's Park and Woodham Burn Community Primary School, and are open during school term time to all children from their 3rd birthday. Places are part-funded by the government, with the first 15 hours free for eligible children, and £3.50 per hour thereafter. The Centres are open for the full school day, but provide flexible hours to meet users' individual needs.

Last Wednesday, Councillors heard that the government has changed the funding formula to pre-schools, awarding more funding to those which are judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted (where the Town Council's Pre-Schools are judged 'good'). The result is a 5% (£10,633) reduction of funding (to add to the £135,000 of cuts already made to the Town Council's income).

In addition, the Town Council had received an invoice for £4,000 from Woodham Burn Community Primary School. The Town Council owns its St Oswald's Park site, but rents a room from Woodham Burn School; the demand, received without prior warning, is a 90% increase in the rent the Council is being asked to pay (£1900).

These costs represent a threat to the Town Council's ability to provide Pre-School education. Councillors asked officers to negotiate with Woodham Burn School in regard to the increase in rental, and to report back to Council on the impact of the changes to funding.

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Great Aycliffe



Town Council

The Audit of the 2013/14 Accounts of Great Aycliffe Town Council

NOTICE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS

Audit Commission Act 1998 (Sections 8, 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18)

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 (Regulations 9, 10, 22, 23, 24 & 25)

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 15 and 16 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 that the Statement of Accounts and related financial documents of Great Aycliffe Town Council for the year ended 31st March 2014, will be made available for public inspection between Friday 9th May 2014 and Monday 9th June 2014.

The accounts and related financial documents will be available for inspection during opening hours at the offices of Great Aycliffe Town Council situated at School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

Appointments to view the accounts should be made to the Finance Manager at the Council who can be contacted on telephone number 01325 300700.

Any interested persons may inspect, make copies of the accounts and any supporting financial records including books, deeds, contracts, bills, invoices and receipts.

Notice is also given that on or after Monday 9th June 2014 until the completion of the audit, the Auditor, at the request of a local government elector for the parish of Great Aycliffe, will give the elector or his representative an opportunity to question him about the accounts.

The Auditor will be Mr Cameron Waddell of Mazars LLP whose address is; The Rivergreen Centre, Aykley Heads, Durham, DH1 5TS.

Any such elector or their representative may attend before the Auditor and make objections:

(i) as to any matter in respect of which the Auditor could take action under Section 17 or 18 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 (namely an unlawful item of account, failure to bring a sum into account, or a loss or deficiency caused by wilful misconduct).

(ii) as to any other matter in respect of which the Auditor could make a report in the public interest under Section 8 of the Act.

Questions may be received at the offices of Great Aycliffe Town Council, by prior arrangement with the Auditor, to whom requests for this purpose should be addressed. No objection may be made unless the Auditor has received written notice of the proposed objection and the grounds on which it is made. A copy of the notice must also be sent to the Finance Manager at the Council.

Dated 24th April 2014.

Mr Dan Austin C.P.F.A
Finance Manager



EXCURSIONS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Application forms and information leaflets for the free excursions for Senior Citizens of the Parish will be available from Tuesday 29th April at the Recreation Centre, Oak Leaf Sports Complex, the Library in Central Avenue, Newton Press Offices and at Great Aycliffe Town Council Offices during opening hours, Monday to Friday, or will be posted to you if you telephone 300700.

The closing date for applications is Friday 16th May 2014. Applications will be accepted at the Council Offices in person, by post or by e-mail to info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk - Please note if you choose to deliver your forms in person, you should park vehicles in the Council Car Park (Lorry Park). There is a short block-paved path from the car park to the reception area. Please note that you must provide proof of your age and residency, e.g. your birth certificate or passport and a current utility bill showing your current address, proof of age and residency must accompany your application form. Please do not send originals, Newton Press and the library in the town centre will photocopy your original documents for a small fee. Residents aged 60 or over on 1st April 2014, who live in Newton Aycliffe or Aycliffe Village, are eligible to choose one excursion.

This year's destinations are Scarborough, Whitby, Skipton, Northumberland or South Shields and will operate on weekdays from Monday 2nd June to Friday 4th July. If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Robinson on 01325 300700 or via our website www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

MBE for Dad BA (Hons) for Mum



Chris Foster received his MBE on the morning of Friday 4th April from Prince Charles in the ballroom at Buckingham Palace. The ceremony lasted two hours and Chris' two children, Rosie and Matthew, who attend Vane Road School, were there to witness their Dad receive his award which they both thought was fantastic.

Mr Foster, who works at Mowden Hall in Darlington was awarded the MBE for services to Education and the Community in Durham. The following day Rosie and Matthew attended another ceremony in Brighton to see their Mum, Louise Foster, graduate and receive her BA (Hons) in History from the Open University.

Grand Easter Raffle

At St Clare's Church we held a Grand Easter Raffle to raise funds for our Roof Appeal and we raised £200.

Many thanks to Milly Duffin for organising it and all those who bought tickets to raise much-needed funds.

Syd Howarth from the Newton News kindly came along to draw the tickets at our weekly Coffee Morning on Saturday 19th April.

1st Prize of a £50 M&S Voucher was won by Ric Hargreaves; 2nd prize of a bottle of whisky went to Sue Johnson; The third prize of a picnic blanket was won by Gordon Bell.

We hold a Coffee Morning every Saturday, 10am to noon, and everyone is very welcome to come and enjoy refreshments in warm and friendly company. Our Cake Stall is well worth a visit for good home cooking and preserves and our book stall for a wide choice of reading and greetings cards.



GRAVE MARKER FOUND

Dear Sir

Whilst out walking on the path beside the railway line, between Newton Aycliffe and Shildon on 18th April, my Wife and I found a grave marker, dumped in the bushes to the side of the railway. It is the type which has a simple message and holds flowers and, judging from the dirt accumulation, has been there for a while.

It is our wish to get this grave marker back to where it should be, as I am sure that relatives must be suffering, not only from the loss of a loved one, but from the theft of the stone.

Please find below the message as read from the marker and I hope someone recognises it: **Sharon, a treasured daughter, sister, granddaughter and niece (front). DoB: 20.03.64 (left side), Passed: 24.04.84 (right side).** On the rear, it is marked with the plot number of **H50**.

I have cleaned the stone for the family and passed it to Bishop Auckland Police Station on 19th April. If anyone recognises it, please call them on 101 and please also contact me on darranweston@yahoo.co.uk and I will remount it for the family as I would like to see this grave marked once again.

D. Weston



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YEAR 9 VISIT TO EMERALD BIOGAS

Three Year 9 students, Jaydene Chappell, Shannon Clay and Hana Stephen from Woodham Academy recently visited the Emerald Biogas Plant on Aycliffe Business Park. The purpose of their visit was to gather information on food waste and the Waste Warriors campaign for a project at school.

The plant, which was completed in July 2013, has a small work force of six employees. There are plans to expand the plant and increase the number of employees. On arrival, the students were given safety jackets and helmets to wear and were taken on a tour of the site. They learnt about the process of food waste, what Emerald Biogas do to help the environment and the company's plans for the future.

The students commented: "After we'd put our safety equipment on, we headed over to a building where there were trucks filled with food waste being emptied into a huge pile of rubbish. Outside the building there were several green bins that had been collected from homes. Before we even went inside the building there was a really unpleasant smell. As the smell was so strong we stood with our hands over our mouths, listening to information about how much food waste there was and where the company collects the food waste. When we finally caught our breath again we were taken to all the tanks around the plant and were told the processes of each tank. We were also taken into a boiler room, which was nice and warm, that contained energy that was used for powering and heating our homes and other buildings."

Although the smell was unpleasant a staff member stated that you soon get used to it. Visiting Emerald Biogas was an excellent experience and really helped the students understand how food waste is converted into energy.



Woodham Academy Digital Leaders Teach Hungarian Students

Woodham Academy has just embarked upon an innovative Digital Leaders initiative. Several students applied for a position and only the best were accepted. Mr Smith, Director of ICT, said "The standard of applications were really high. It was a difficult choice but it is an important position which requires a good level of expertise".

The first two Digital Leaders selected, Tamsin and Erica, are already keen computer users in school demonstrating excellent technical knowledge in lessons and regular attendees to Woodham Academy's CC4G (computer club for girls) and Code Academy lunchtime clubs.

As part of the Digital Leaders venture the two girls 'Skyped' the Hatvani Kossuth Lajos school in Hatvan, Hungary and shared their expertise. The students created an extensive teaching resource which supported the lesson and then used Microsoft's Skype video conference software to make



a video call to the Hungarian school. Tamsin and Erica then expertly took the Hungarian schoolchildren through the process of creating a computer game using the Scratch programming language. Tamsin said "I was really nervous about doing this but it was fine when I got started. It was excellent fun". Erica said "I loved doing this. I can't wait to do something like this again."

Feedback from Hungary has been amazing. Lionel Basa, the Hungarian teacher involved in the project said "It was really great. Our children loved it. They were very excited after the lesson and your students did a great job."

Woodham Code Academy club teaches students how to create games and apps and is available to year 7 and year 8 students on Tuesday lunchtimes in room 111.

Residents' Support for Marie Curie Cancer Care

Residents of Newton Aycliffe, Woodham and Heighington displayed great support throughout Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal in March by raising over £1,140 for the charity.

The Great Daffodil Appeal is a nationwide event, coordinated by local fundraising groups. The Darlington Fundraising Group, which incorporates fundraising in Newton Aycliffe, Woodham and Heighington, held supermarket and street collections and local businesses sold pin badges on behalf of the charity.

Pat Irving, Chairperson of the Darlington Fundraising Group said: "We'd like to wholeheartedly thank the people of Newton Aycliffe, Woodham and Heighington for their tremendous support of the charity, both in volunteering throughout the month and giving so generously."

"Marie Curie depends on public support for the charity to continue offering palliative care to terminally ill people in their own homes; without this support Marie Curie nurses would not be able to offer this vital service at a time when patient comfort and final wishes are most important."

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During May, Butterwick Hospice is working in partnership with reputable local Solicitors to help you make a will. These Solicitors are giving their time and expertise and all we ask is that you make a donation to the Hospice of £75 for a single will and £95 for a pair of matching wills.

CONTACT:

Hewitts, Bishop Auckland - 01388 604691
Tilly, Bailey & Irvine, B/Castle - 01833 638326
For more information please contact Laura Douthwaite
01388 660644 - lauradouthwaite@butterwick.org.uk
www.butterwick.org.uk

Bids Flood in for PCC's Community Safety Fund

Over 90 applications have flooded in for a share of the Community Safety Fund launched by Durham Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Ron Hogg earlier this month.

Local organisations and groups across County Durham and Darlington, particularly those from the voluntary and community sector, were invited to submit bids of up to £20,000.

Submitted applications will need to demonstrate that they support Mr Hogg's policing priorities, which include:

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

Ron said: "This has proved a popular scheme which I was pleased to open up to applicants. This was the first round of applications for the current financial year, with the second round of bidding available in August."

"The sheer number of applications means that unfortunately not all bids will be successful, as there is only a limited amount of funding available, £130,000, for the full year."

"What this does reflect however is the vast number of organisations and community groups, large and small, who collectively do a significant amount of good work for the benefit of their communities throughout County Durham and Darlington."

The closing date for this round of funding was 14th April 2014. Applicants will find out if their bid is successful before the end of April. Further details about PCC Ron Hogg, his policing priorities or the Community Safety Fund are available at: www.durham-pcc.gov.uk. Follow your

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Belford Way Newton Aycliffe

Modernised 2 bedroomed detached bungalow, unfurnished, recently refurbished & in excellent condition. Entrance hall, lounge/diner with feature fireplace, gas fire, kitchen, inner hall, bathroom, WC with overhead shower, 1 double & 1 single bedroom, conservatory. Gas CH, front & rear gardens (rear South-facing), parking. Rent £495 pcm



Hawthorne Drive Newton Aycliffe

4 bedroomed modern detached house in pleasant situation, unfurnished with carpets, some blinds, fitted appliances & fitted robes. Hall, WC, fitted breakfast room, lounge with feature fireplace, French doors to garden, dining room, kitchen, 3 double & 1 single bedroom, family bathroom/WC, en suite shower/WC. Gas CH, gardens with decking, parking. Rent £750 pcm



Bluebell Meadows Newton Aycliffe

Modern 2 bedroomed terraced house in pleasant area, unfurnished with some blinds, fitted oven & hob, fitted robes, entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom/WC with overhead shower. Gas CH, gardens front & back. EPC rating C. Rent £475 pcm

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NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Day Trip to Alnwick Castle Gardens on Saturday 28th June. Depart 9am Byerley Park School, picking up at the Station, St Clares Church, Aycliffe Village and Heighington. Bus fare is £12 + entrance fee on arrival. To book ring Peter Beatty on 313924. Another date for your diary is 17th June at 7pm - Darlington Orchestra who play at the Civic Theatre on many occasions. Come and try Nordic Walking with oles, rung by the NHS every Monday 10-11am, followed by free coffee, compliments of the Friends of Senior Citizens. If you can walk you can do this and it will help you keep fit. Just turn up with good walking footwear. Our Wednesday Art Club is now underway, 10-12, admission £2. If you are interested in art just turn up with your materials. Would you like to book our large hall, maximum 100 people? To view ring Peter on 313924. Why not start your own club and hire the hall? We now have Dog Training Classess every Sunday from 6.30pm, just come along.

Friends of West Park

At a very productive meeting of the Friends of West Park Group, held recently at the Royal British Legion Club, we heard an Interesting and informative presentation from Andrew Bailey our town clerk on the causes of problems in the park from vandals to the feeding of bread to the wildlife which although traditional is detrimental to their health. These problems were discussed and some extraordinary and imaginative solutions were suggested. Great Aycliffe Town Council are happy to work with the friends group and made some fantastic recommendations for the park including flowering trees and rose beds which will add colour to this magical place. Livin housing working through their partners at Durham County Council and Mears are also hoping to carry out some remedial and / or landscaping works in the park. Sonia Newhouse of Durham County Council RCC is keen to help with managing the project from making an action plan to finding funding and her expertise is very welcome. Chair allowed lots of comments from the floor to stimulate discussion and it is very clear that several individuals and organisations wish to help. The group is a friends society and the aim is to meet people, socialise and participate in improving a lovely part of the town. Among other fresh ideas and positive thinking was an idea brought forward by Konrad of the youth council to involve schools and others in a competition, building model boats to promote the park and encourage ownership. Meanwhile actions to be taken include setting up a bank account and the planting session which was planned for Wednesday 16th April at around 4.30pm where trees and bulbs donated courtesy of the youth council were planted by the youth council, Acle Scouts and Cubs. A very good second meeting with around 35 people attending.

ACORN PLAYERS



Jan Woodhouse and Anne Harland founder Members of “The Acorn Players” raising funds for their latest show “One Night Only”. The show is to be presented by Aycliffe’s Number One Dame. This will be a great night out and at a great price, the show suitable for young and old is on May 7th at 7pm. Admission £2.50 Adult, £1.50 Concessions. For tickets ring 311816 or call at The Pace Shop in the Thames Arcade.

Dedicated Music Venue for Aycliffe?

There is an idea that Aycliffe should have its own music venue, but the big question is will it get used, do the residents of Aycliffe want a dedicated music venue and will they support it? The idea has been born to create a cooperative of people who want the venue and if strong enough then we could go ahead and create a venue. If you would like to be part of this project and have money to invest (from as little as £100). Then get in touch with “Aycliffe Music-Man” on facebook or call 321123 or 07704 646346 and we will get a meeting together with all interested parties to get the project moving. The venue would have all genre of music and may also diversify into other areas of entertainment depending on the wishes of the cooperative and what the residents of Aycliffe want. This is your chance to get in at the start and make sure it is what you want to use. Don’t sit on your thoughts, have your say now!

The Youthy held its first of regular Disco’s aimed at younger people and families in Aycliffe. I went along to see how it went and was amazed to see the party / holiday camp atmosphere with youngsters from 3 to 16 along with their parents dancing to all the well known songs with DJ Tom and DJ Will taking requests and spinning the tunes. Everyone I asked said they will be back to the next one on Saturday 10th May 1:30 till 4pm. Disco is a great form of party and exercise; I think the kids will have slept well on Saturday night. If you would like Aycliffe Music Scene to come to your event and write about it, then contact us via facebook “Aycliffe Music-Man”.

STUDENTS EXPERIENCE CAREERS IN ENGINEERING



A group of students from Greenfield Community College attended the Engineering Day at Shildon Locomotion National Railway Museum on 20th March. The event was for Year 9 and 10 students who are interested in studying engineering, leading onto a Career in this area in the future. Over 15 companies and organisations attended the event at Locomotion, representing a wide diversity of engineering; these include a full-scale model of Bloodhound, the car that is being built to take the world land-speed record to 1000mph. The Royal Navy attended with its turbine demonstrator and Nissan brought a Leaf electric car. Students got involved in the various talks and activities including stripping a wheel bearing

and making a miniature metal aeroplane. The students, accompanied by Mr Henderson, a Maths teacher had a great time learning about the possibilities of engineering. We hope this has inspired them and look forward to seeing them representing engineering companies at events like this in the future!

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GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Tickets are selling fast for Newton Aycliffe Scout Supporters Association Family Disco and Karaoke night on Saturday MAY 3rd from 7pm – 10pm at the Scout Centre, Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe.

Whether you sing like a bird or your voice is all croaky, you are more than welcome at our Karaoke.

Tickets are just £2.00 per person (children under 3 free) and can be purchased at the bar.

There will be a professional disco/karaoke DJ to keep everyone entertained. As well as the usual alcoholic and soft drinks we also sell 'Mocktails' - non-alcoholic, at only £1 each, a real treat.

The 1st Newton Aycliffe Scouts are making their well-stocked tuck shop available for the evening.

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

We are now on Facebook – you can visit us under – GUESS WHAT? Newton Aycliffe Scout Supporters Association. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Junior Activities at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex



During the Easter break children from the town enjoyed the various activities held at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex, from Archery to Golf. There was something for everyone, even a Mini Activity Day for the little ones.

As you can see from all the smiling faces a great time was had by all.

If you would like to take part watch out for our Whit holiday courses or visit our website at great-aycliffe.gov.uk/oakleafsportcomplex/activities-for-all/juniors/super-sports-skills for further information.



Make a Will & Help Charity

During May, Butterwick Hospice is working in partnership with reputable local Solicitors to help you make a Will. These Solicitors are giving their time and expertise and all we ask is that you make a donation to the Hospice of £75 for a single Will and £95 for a pair of matching Wills.

Participating Solicitors are Hewitts, Bishop Auckland 01388 604691 and Tilly, Bailey & Irvine, Barnard Castle 01833 638326. For more information contact Laura Douthwaite on 01388 603003. Registered Charity No:1044816

Impressive Line-Up of Bands for Party in the Park

The line-up of bands has been announced for the upcoming Party in the Park, being jointly hosted by Newton Aycliffe FC and Newton Aycliffe Sports Club.

It is a line-up that really does have something for everyone and promises to be a great days entertainment.

Sports Club Secretary Shaun Saunders said "we wanted to make sure the event appeals to everyone in Aycliffe and the bands hopefully reflect that. We want this to become an annual event and one that music fans look forward to and we hope the artists we have lined up will help us to achieve that aim".

The day is scheduled to start at 12pm with a performance by Celestine. They are followed by the S26 Clique and then Live Lounge. Next up sees the Sunset Regime, with The Antispetics following on from them. Dr Brown and the Groovecats come on next and they are followed by Wayward Sons. As afternoon turns to evening, the next band on are The Volunteers and they will be followed by Kick. The penultimate act will be Another Crisis with the event being finished off by Howaysis.

The event is being sponsored by Newton Press and is designed to have a real festival feel. It is taking place inside the football ground at Moore Lane Park and will have a number of 'can bars' serving a range of alcoholic drinks, as well as several fast food vans to ensure guests are well fed and watered!

Tickets have been selling well for the event, but they are still available. They are available from behind the bar at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club. The tickets are priced at just £10 for the full day event, with the entertainment scheduled to start at 12pm and finish at 10.30pm.

If you require any further information these can be addressed to Shaun Saunders on kps5656@gmail.com or Dan Lewis at djl@thesoccerfactoryltd.co.uk

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KIDZ FLIX

After the amazing turnout for our last movie, KidzFlicks are now proud to show "The Moshi Monster Movie" on Saturday 3rd May at St. Clare's Movie Hall. We will open the doors at 1.30pm for a 2pm start, so please come early for the best seats. Candy floss, popcorn, sweets and drinks will be on sale at great prices. Come and support this great value club, everyone is welcome. There will be some Moshi Monster prizes to give away also.

ACORN AGM Reports Successful Year

ACORN Residents held their AGM on Thursday 10th April at the Royal British Legion Club. Chairman Ken Robson announced that ACORN were building on the success of the previous two years with more community activities and outings. ACORN will begin the year in a sound financial position and continue to work on community projects

and events of interest to its members. In a spirit of collaboration the group expect to work in partnership with other organisations including the Police and local authorities to solve local issues. 2013/2014 has seen an upsurge in local residents' associations eager to be involved in making improvements in neighbourhoods across the town.

We welcome the new Lakes and Dales group operating out of Silverdale Community Centre.

In moving the annual ACORN report and fiscal results it was noted that the whole of Newton Aycliffe was buzzing with a new sense of optimism in the future. There is nothing we cannot achieve together.

Speakers for the evening were Claire and Claire from Durham Constabulary who presented information on Cybercrime to Little ACORNS and the adult group. Hopefully armed with the information presented we will all be a little safer on the internet and social media.

ACORN continue to welcome new members from around the Great Aycliffe area. The present committee was re-elected unopposed and we accept that decision as a vote of confidence. Ken Robson (Chairman) ACORN group

HORNDALE HOUND ENJOYS EASTER FUN DAY



Horndale Hound was amazed at the turnout for Horndale Residents Association and Aycliffe Evangelical Church Easter Fun Day held on Saturday afternoon. The free event was such a success we ran out of balloons, we started with 100, sweets, hot cross buns, 128 servings, the only thing we didn't run out of was fun. Most people stayed for the whole 2 hrs joining in the games, face painting, enjoying refreshments, egg decorating and egg hunt. Tony Simpson, church pastor, organised games for the older children and the younger ones played with the soft toys etc. The

Police marked more bikes than at just a bike marking event and gave out crime prevention equipment and advice thus making Aycliffe a safer place to live. Thanks must go to the Mayor and her consort and all the helpers who made this a great community event for all ages to enjoy. Philip Clark Chair

STEPHENSON WAY'S SOCCER SUCCESSES

Last half term saw Stephenson Way's football teams bring to an end their successful respective league campaigns. Stephenson Way's "A" team competed in the Sedgefield School Sports Partnership's Primary "Premier" league at Sedgefield Community College after winning a more localised league at Greenfield School earlier in the school year.

The league featured teams from further afield, who had also achieved success in earlier season competitions, meaning it would prove a tougher test for the side. However, the team adapted quickly and were able to go the entire season without tasting defeat. Ultimately, they were unfortunate to be kept in second place by Consett, who recorded one extra victory to claim first place.

Congratulations to the team for a fantastic undefeated season. Their second place finish in the Premier League meant that they placed 2nd overall out of over 30 schools who entered the SSP Football competition; a superb achievement.

Stephenson Way "B" team entered only their second competition as a side and showed great signs of improvement in their league fixtures.

The "B" side won their first ever fixture as a team during the league season and built on this by winning 3 further matches on their way to finishing 3rd in their competition, picking up bronze medals; a great achievement for such a new side in a competitive league and a much-deserved reward for the levels of improvement and teamwork shown throughout the year.

The respective success of both sides is great testament to the sporting progress of the school. Being able to field two sides of players dedicated to playing each week is an excellent sign, showing that sporting participation is very high in school. Both sides enjoyed fantastic seasons and are looking forward to competing in future competitions with their teams.

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Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group

Our next meeting is on Thursday 1st May from 6pm - 7.30pm. The group is for anyone that has been affected by cancer, you could be the patient, the carer or relative. We have 2 guest speakers the first is a local fireman who will give a talk about safety in your home especially when you are ill, he will also be able to give information on how the Fire Service can provide smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms. The second speaker is Liz Cook who runs the Macmillan Information Centres at Newton Aycliffe and Peterlee. I would like to thank Gestamp, Mrs Franklin and Andrews Gardening for their kind donations towards our funding. We plan to go on our first trip on the 11th May to Seaton Carew and Hartlepool Marina as well as going for lunch. If any company would like to help with our funding please contact Allison 07762 258696.

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Aycliffe End Shildon's Title Hopes

Newton Aycliffe FC put an end to their recent run of defeats on Monday and in doing so ended any slim chance that remained of Shildon lifting the Northern League First Division trophy. With Allan Oliver again finding his resources stretched by unavailability, he switched to a 4-5-1 formation. Dan Mitton returned to the heart of the defence and Craig Mickle returned to lead the attack.

With just 4 minutes on the clock, Stuart Owen found Mickle who laid the ball off for Hedley to cut inside and smash a right footed shot into the roof of the net.

The first half was open and evenly contested. Richardson saw a shot come back off the Aycliffe bar while Graham made a couple of top saves in the Shildon goal.

And then, Shildon went up the other end and were awarded a penalty, as another former Aycliffe man, Ben Wood, was challenged on the edge of the box. He managed to pick himself up and strike his penalty into the bottom corner.

At the other end Tom Atkinson, who had replaced Butterworth, cut inside the full back and curl a shot across goal that just evaded the far post.

That was how the game ended. A much improved Aycliffe performance that must surely give players, management and supporters heart as they look towards next season.

Spence, Oliver, Clough, Mitton, Close, Butterworth, Broom, Green, Mickle, Owen, Hedley. Substitutes: M. Wood, Raitt, Atkinson, J. Young, Farley.

Aycliffe's next and final game of the season is this coming Saturday as they welcome FA Vase finalists West Auckland to Moore Lane Park. The game is a 3pm kick off, with admission costing £6 for adults, £4 concessions with u12s going FREE.

G.B. Selection in Two Disciplines in Same Month



Hannah Featherstone competed in the Commonwealth Trials held in Glasgow 12th to the 16th of April. She was 11th in the 50 Freestyle in a new best time of 27:25. In the 200 freestyle she posted a new best time of 2:04:00 to take the bronze medal. In the 100 Freestyle her time of 57:9 gained her 4th place. There was only :8 of a second between the first four places.

The outcome of these outstanding results is that Hannah has been selected to represent Great Britain in the Junior European Championships to be held in Doorecht, Netherlands during 6th to the 14th July.

Her team mates worked hard alongside her in the preparation for this event and were without doubt major contributors to her success.

As reported some weeks ago in Newton News Hannah had an outstanding result in the British Pentathlon the result of which has gained her selection to represent Great Britain in the European Youth Pentathlon to be held in Barcelona during the 30th July to the 4th August. This is followed by the ASA National Championships held in Sheffield. A busy time to say the least.

Team mate Elisabeth Yaneski travelled to Aberdeen to compete in the Scottish National Masters Swimming Championships. Our stated aim was to set a new Scottish Record in the 800 Freestyle. Although Elisabeth had a great swim in a new best time of 10:18 she had to settle for the silver medal and missed the record by 3 seconds.

Town Clerk at Friends of West Park Meeting

The Friends of West Park had a productive meeting last week at the British Legion Club. There was a very interesting and informative presentation from Andrew Bailey our Town Clerk. Sonia Newhouse is keen to help and her expertise is very welcome.

The Chairman allowed lots of comments from the floor to stimulate discussion and it is very clear that several individuals and organisations wish to help. We must however refrain from political posturing as that is a turn off for the public and we cannot pre-empt the conclusion of the project.

The group is a friends society and the aim is to meet people, socialise and participate in improving a lovely part of the town. Among other fresh ideas and positive thinking was an idea brought forward by the Youth Council to involve schools and others in building model boats to promote the park and encourage ownership.

Meanwhile actions to be taken include setting up a bank account and planting sessions with trees and bulbs donated by the youth council and planted by them, Acl Scouts and Cubs.

This was a very good second meeting with around 35 people attending.

Ken Robson, Chairman

Greenfield Sports Lead by Example!



Sports at Greenfield Community College continued its success over the last term, with its Sports Leaders out to set an example to younger sports enthusiasts from across the County.

The Greenfield leaders are part of the Olympic legacy, leading and supporting a range of sporting events for primary school pupils at different events. Notable from the last half term was their time at Maiden Castle as part of the Durham County Finals, where Greenfield's sports teams had success at Netball and Table Tennis in particular.

Some of the events supported by Greenfield's leaders included: Primary Cross Country held at Shildon, INIOS Go Run for Fun event at the Oakleaf Sports Centre, interschool Year 5/6 netball, and football and a number Year 3 Tennis open days held at Greenfield. They have done a very professional job, with a number of visiting staff

commenting on high standards, excellent organisation, good behaviour and how the leaders catered for the needs of all abilities and disabilities.

The leaders are a credit to the fantastic sports department, who offer a number of after school activities for all young people in the area as well as Greenfield students. To find out more about our sports and PE department, follow them on twitter @GreenfieldPE

Wrestling Winners

Congratulations to the three winners of four tickets each to see the live wrestling this weekend at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre.

The lucky winners are Sylvia Smith of Stephenson Way, Mr Cruickshanks of Lazenby Close, Darlington and Mr Lee of Bewick Crescent.

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Aycliffe Runners in London Marathon



Two of our athletes competed in the London Marathon on 13th April. For Shelley McCormack it was her debut at the distance and she certainly made the most of the occasion in producing the time of 4hrs:1m:29s.

This is part of three challenges Shelley is doing to fundraise for Lupus UK. The other events being the Thunder Run and Swaledale Marathon. To donate follow the website address given at the end of this report.

Also running in the marathon was Michael

O'Sullivan, veteran of many London Marathons and proved yet again he is still capable of turning out a good performance and finished in the excellent time of 4hrs:12m:29s.

The previous day, three club members did the Albert Park Run. Kelly Smith got yet another PB, finishing 37th in the time of 21:48. Peter Smith was first home, 14th in 20:05, followed by John Burnside, 31st in 21:04.

www.justgiving.com/Shelley-McCormack

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Local Kart Racer Takes Trophy

A local talented kart racer takes a trophy in the championship at Buckmore Park in Kent. 14 year old Luke Mason who lives in Newton Aycliffe and attends Woodham Academy, has ambitions of making a career out of motorsport racing. He has shown promising talent so far in the karting world and has gained trophies in both track karting and MSA racing as a novice, whilst ending 2013 as 49th in the World Sodi Junior Karting Championship. Luke started racing at Buckmore Park early last year – his first season at this track. Unfortunately he missed the first race of the season, but after that he went from strength to strength placing him in the position of possibly taking third place in



Huntsman Faint Title Hopes Maintained

Huntsman 3 - Wheatsheaf 2

Huntsman entertained the Wheatsheaf at Simpasture Park on Sunday knowing only victory would keep alive their title hopes and they came out victorious, 3-2, in a tight affair which they probably didn't deserve to win. Wheatsheaf started the game brightly and dominated the opening 10 minutes with the Huntsman struggling to get a foothold in the game and the Huntsman keeper had to parry away an early effort to keep the scores 0-0. After around 15 minutes Huntsman grew into the game and Andrew Richardson had an effort chalked off for handball before a mad 5 minute spell saw 3 goals. Firstly top scorer Jamie Herd expertly lobbed the keeper to give Huntsman a 1-0 advantage but the Wheatsheaf were soon level when a back pass wasn't dealt with by the Huntsman keeper who saw his kick bounce off the Wheatsheaf striker and into the empty net. Michael Sproates, starting his first game since March, soon restored the Huntsman lead as he ran down the right wing before firing an

unstoppable effort into the top corner, but the goal was soured as he had to come off with a nasty ankle injury which could have put him out of next week's cup final. Huntsman went in at half time with a 2-1 lead. The second half was a drab affair with both teams just pumping the ball backwards and forwards with no quality in the game at all. All the best chances fell to the Huntsman and Jamie Herd finally made one count when he turned home from close range to put Huntsman 3-1 up, surely the game was won but a lapse in concentration allowed Wheatsheaf back in. That made for a nervy finish and Wheatsheaf must have thought they were snatching an equaliser when the centre forward raced through but Adam McDonald appeared from nowhere to make an excellent tackle which keeps his team in the title race. Huntsman are in the DSIL Division 2 Cup Final on Sunday 27th of April at Darlington RA's ground on Brinkburn Road with a 2pm kick off against Yates. We would like to see as many familiar faces there as possible to cheer us on to our first ever trophy!

Aycliffe Suffer Frustrating Defeat

Newton Aycliffe FC's disappointing run of results continued on Saturday, as Bedlington Terriers secured a late win to all but guarantee their own First Division survival and condemn Team Northumbria to the drop. But boss Allan Oliver will certainly be a happier man than seven days previously, as his team turned in a much improved performance. However he will once again be cursing his luck as illness and unavailability deprived him of a key defender, key midfielder and key striker. The start from Aycliffe was high tempo and was rewarded when Stuart Owen fed a delightful ball through for Tom Atkinson. The front man checked onto his right foot and scored. Spence, in the Aycliffe goal, was much more like himself after conceding a couple of disappointing goals last week and he made two excellent saves to deny Walton and Williamson as the game swung from end to end. But then, with half time approaching, Aycliffe were undone by a left wing corner, Walton being gifted a free header from which to score. A back injury forced Mark Wood off at half time, with Lewis Green coming on to replace him and Paul Broom slotting in at right back. Then on 70 minutes, Oliver made a double change as he looked for the winner. Jamie Owens and Stephen Butterworth replaced Stuart Owen and Kerry Hedley, as the boss switched to a 4-3-3 formation. Unfortunately, however, the next goal went against Aycliffe. John Close, who has been so dependable this season, was robbed of possession on the edge of the box and Walton had a gift of a chance he wasn't going to miss. *Newton Aycliffe: Spence, M. Wood, Clough, Oliver, Close, Owen, Broom, Young, Atkinson, Mellanby, Hedley. Substitutes: Owens, Butterworth, Raitt, Green, Farley.* Off the pitch Aycliffe have announced the line-up of bands to appear at their Party in the Park event, to be held in partnership with Newton Aycliffe Sports Club on Sunday 4th May. The all-day event is scheduled to start at 12pm, with 10 live bands lined up to entertain the crowd, concluding with the highly sought after Howasis. Tickets priced at just £10 are available behind the bar in the Sports Club, and are selling well, with the all ticket event expected to sell out. For more details please contact Shaun Saunders on kps5656@gmail.com

the junior championship by the final race. The final race was an exciting one which saw Luke starting his first heat second on the grid and after a great race managed to hold onto second place finishing closely behind the current World Sodi Karting Junior Champion. In the second heat of the day Luke started third on the grid and after a close fought race snatched the victory, whilst the third heat saw Luke fighting his way through the field from an 8th position start to finish second only 0.269 seconds behind the championship winner. The race final saw Luke starting third on the grid, but unfortunately a racing incident on the first corner left him in last place. However Luke was determined and after fighting his way through the field managed to claim third place on the podium – as well as elevating him to third position in the final championship standings – giving him two well-earned trophies to add to his growing collection. Luke was presented these trophies by Tom Ingram (currently racing in British Touring Cars) at a special award ceremony (picture above). Luke is determined to succeed within motorsport being a passionate, talented driver who is committed to improving his racing skills and achieving future successes. Luke is looking to progress his career to the next level and is currently looking for sponsors to help him move forward in karting whilst keeping his eye on an ultimate goal of formula 1. This would be an exciting opportunity to support a local boy, assisting him to reach for the pinnacles of the motorsporting world. Your sponsorship would be greatly appreciated, if you are able to help then please contact Andrew Mason on 07960 227410.

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WOODHAMSKI VISIT



Students from Woodham Academy have recently returned from their annual week of snowsports in the Aosta Valley, Italy. The party was based in the scenic resort of Pila, where beneath the towering peaks of the Matterhorn and Mont Blanc they experienced the exhilaration of developing their skills in skiing or snowboarding.

The resort of Pila provides tremendous challenge for students of all abilities. Wide blue runs provide a great environment for the beginners to hone their skills, whilst the ever increasing number of steep, narrow black runs as well as the infamous 'wall' provides a real test for the intermediate and advanced.

Away from the mountain, as part of the après ski programme, amongst other activities, students experienced eating at a traditional Italian pizza restaurant as well as visiting the impressive Roman ruins that date

back to 25BC. Only Rome has more Roman ruins than the medieval town of Aosta.

AYCLIFFE BUSINESSES COULD HELP IMPROVE OUR ENVIRONMENT

Dear Sir,
On a blustery Wednesday evening an enthusiastic team of volunteers gathered to plant bulbs in our magnificent West Park. Acle Scouts and Cubs, members of the Friends of West Park, Representatives of the Youth Council and the public turned out to plant Daffodil, Bluebell and Snowdrop bulbs in an inspirational demonstration of how everyone can improve the environment of our town and get a little fresh air and exercise at the same time. For a little while the chattering of excited voices broke into a tranquil scene carried on the breeze, interspersed by instructions by Town Council Environmental Officer Steve

NOT AN AREA OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Dear Editor
As you know, I am always pleased when people take an interest in developments, so I was delighted to read the letter in last week's Newton News about the development at the Moor. However, may I address some misconceptions about the development.

To the best of my knowledge, the site has never been an 'Area of Scientific Interest', nor has it ever had Natterjack toads – the ecological report compiled for the planning application mentioned only common frog, common toad and smooth newt (and I am fairly confident that most of these will have decamped to the flooded medieval roadway

to the south of the site as soon as work started).

In fact, the ecological poverty of the area was what initially attracted me to the site, because – we said – it resembled the boggy rough grassland that covered the whole of Newton Aycliffe at the end of the last ice age.

Also, residents were consulted about the development. The Town Council has been considering developing the area since the late 1990s, Sedgefield Borough consulted formally with residents on a plan very similar to the current development in 2005, and the application this year for planning permission was not only properly advertised, but was discussed by myself and other correspondents in the Newton News. It is hoped that a 'Friends of The Moor' group might be established, if local residents wish.

If anybody wishes to debate these issues, I have started a thread on my facebook site at <http://bit.ly/DCCMoor2>
John D Clare

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Free Bus Tickets Available to Celebrate Catch the Bus Week

People in the North East are being offered free tickets to try out the local bus services as part of this year's Catch the Bus Week, which runs from Monday, 28th April to Sunday, 4th May, by Arriva.

Arriva, which operates services across the North East, is providing free day saver tickets as an incentive to people to experience the bus and understand the benefits, ease and convenience that public transport can offer.

Catch the Bus Week is organised by Greener Journeys, the sustainable transport group, and aims to increase awareness of the benefits of bus travel across the UK. Last year marked the launch of Catch the Bus Week and in 2014 the campaign will be even bigger as operators across the UK celebrate bus travel with a range of promotions and activities.

Nick Knox, area managing director of Arriva North East, said: "Catch the Bus Week is a fantastic idea by Greener Journeys, and one which Arriva is proud to continue to support. As the campaign aims to promote the bus as an option for certain trips, we thought the best way to get involved was to offer free

travel on the bus so people can try it for themselves.

"We are offering free day saver m-tickets to people in North East to experience the buses that operate in their area. All people have to do to take advantage of our offer is to register for the Arriva m-ticketing service and use our Catch the Bus Week promotional code - 4343, when purchasing an m-ticket between April 28 and May 4." The objective of Catch the Bus Week is to prompt people to consider using the bus as an alternative form of transport for selected journeys, getting the public out of the car and onto the bus. It will promote the many benefits of bus travel including convenience, value for money and environmental benefits - reducing the carbon footprint from transport and improving local air quality.

Nick added: "Arriva is constantly investing in services and technology as we look to evolve our offer to customers. Catch the Bus Week will hopefully encourage people who have forgotten about bus travel to review us as an option when travelling, and experience developments, such as our m-ticketing service, which allows people

to use their mobile to purchase tickets wherever, whenever." People looking to take up the Arriva free ticket offer and find out more about Arriva's services should visit www.arrivabus.co.uk/catchthebusweek. The free ticket offer will end on Sunday, 4th May.

Obituary

GROVER. Heighington, April 20th, peacefully. Denis aged 82 years. Husband of the late Marion; devoted Dad of Sue, Bev and Jacquie; cherished Grandad of Robert, Kai, John, Ashleigh, Sophie and Charlotte; Great Grandad to Sarah, Molly, Oliver and Hannah. Sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral on Wednesday 30th April. Would friends kindly meet for Service in St. Michael's Church, Heighington at 12.15pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu in aid of The Ward 4 Trust Fund at James Cook University Hospital will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6EN. Tel: 01325 318600.

Thank You

BILL ADDY Jean would like to say thank you to friends and family for their kindness at this sad time. Also Amanda & Co. at the British Legion for providing an excellent buffet

KEITH & FRED PETTIT The family of the late Keith and Freda would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives and friends for their kindness and support during a difficult and traumatic time. Our thanks also to Father Whalen (St. Mary's); to all at Aycliffe Care Home; Bryan and Dale at Whitehouse Funeral Services; Eileen and bar staff at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club and staff at DMH, especially those in Intensive Care. Thanks to all for the many cards, flowers and donations to Cancer Research UK. Best Regards, Darryl, Shaun, Julie and Lisa

MARGARET PHILLIPS The family of the late Margaret wish to thank the following people: Revd Julie Wing, Pam Lovelass; Doctors McKinty and Suzanne; Co-operative Funeral Services; David Scott; Carers; DeFore Care Home; Bethany Day Centre. For all who attended and served at her funeral or sent cards and flowers. Thank you **IT IS GOOD** to know there are still some honest folk around. A big thank you to the person who handed my memory sticks into Newton News Offices

In Memoriam

JUNE PORTER Died 27th April 2013. Mam, you left too soon and broke our hearts. We find it hard to carry on without you. We miss you and are so proud to have you as our Mam. We love you and always will, and wish we could tell you still. Think of you every day and you are in our hearts forever. Love, Joan, John, Angela, Anne, John, Anthony, Sue and all your Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

CHRISTINE ROBSON 25th April. A loving Wife, Mam, Nana, Sister and Aunt. 17 years have passed and we love and miss you more than ever. All our love xxxxx

FLORENCE DUNN 22-4-2010. You have always been in my heart Flo and thought about every day. Cherished memories I have of you that no one can take away. No longer in my life to share, but in my heart you are always there. Love, Les

FLORENCE DUNN 22-4-2010. It's hard to put on paper the feeling I 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. Still miss you Mam. Love, Wendy

DENNIS KELVIN HARDY 28th April 2008. We still love and miss your cheeky smile. Remembered every day and always in our thoughts. Your loving Wife Carol and family. Debbie, Barry, Lisa, Andrew, Stuart; Grandchildren Sarah, Jordan and Leah

WYN ATKINSON 29th April 2010. Please God forgive a silent tear, a constant wish that she was here. Others were taken, yes we know. But she was ours and we loved her so. Loving Husband Jack and her family.

ENID SHEDDEN Missing you. Always in our thoughts. Yvonne, George and family

ENID SHEDDEN In memory of a dear Sister and Aunt. Always in our thoughts. Elsie and Edith

DENNIS POSKETT Died 22nd April 2007. To lose a Dad as good as you remains a heartache all life through. Loved and remembered always by Daughter Susan xxxxx

DENNIS POSKETT Died 22nd April 2007. Treasured memories of a special Grandad and Great Grandad. Love always from Michelle, Kevin, Lisa and families xxxxx

ABSON Michael James. 27th April 2013. Sadly missed by loving Wife Judith and all the family. Always in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts xxx

Congratulations

Sharon Ellis



Happy 50th Birthday Sharon

23rd April 1964
Have a fab time at all your celebrations.
Loads of love, Mum, Dad
and all your family, near and far xxxxx

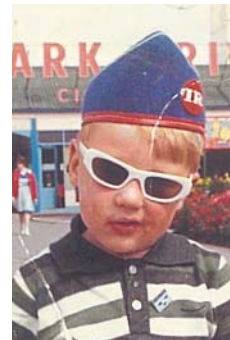
Jade Blades



Happy 18th Birthday

30th April
to our gorgeous Daughter xx Hope you have a fantastic day xxx Love and best wishes from Mam, Dad, Paul, Grandad, all your Aunts and Uncles, Cousins and Friends

Ian Ellis



Happy 50th Birthday

23rd April 1964
Enjoy your London Trip. All our love, Linda, Davy and Scott xxxxxx

Madison Cara Jade Jackman



Happy 18th Birthday

30th April
Hope you have a lovely day. Lots of love to our one and only Daughter from Mum and Dad xxxxx



Hope you have a good 18th Big Sis. Love from Mackenzie x
Woofs from Maverick, Marley and Madison

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Mastering Mathematics at Woodham Academy



A group of Year 6 students from Vane Road Primary School have been attending Woodham Academy to prepare themselves for their Key Stage2 SATs examinations. All students are aiming for a level 6, the highest possible grade. The students have been challenged to extend their understanding of Mathematics to above and beyond Level 6.

Steve Flynn, Head of Mathematics said that he was particularly impressed with the students' dedication, determination and overall mathematical ability. He continued to say that they were an absolute credit to both Vane Road and themselves and that he is convinced they are destined for a bright future in the subject.

Let them know you are thinking about them

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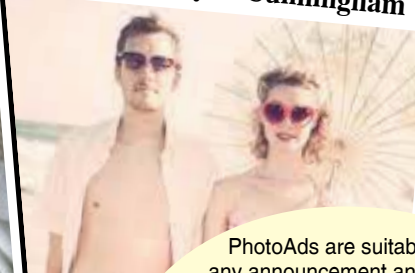
Alice Springs



Happy 21st Birthday

10-10-10
to our beautiful Daughter on your 21st birthday. Lots of love from Mam & Dad xxx

Bonny and Clyde Cunningham



Golden

ations Mar
on 1st Jan
nters, Gra

PhotoAds are suitable for any announcement and are preserved forever on our website www.newtonnews.co.uk

We are currently working on an archive site which will bring you ALL the past issues of the Newton News as far back as 1948!

WILDCATS INTO THE PLAY-OFFS

Sunday, 27th April, 4.00pm at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre



Newton Aycliffe's premier league basketball team powered into the play-offs last weekend with consecutive victories – on Saturday they ran out 113-81 winners at bottom-of-the-table Birmingham Knights, whilst at home on Sunday against Cheshire Phoenix they raced out to a 20-point lead in the first ten minutes, to be gradually pegged back, before securing a 104-96 victory in a thrilling final quarter.

Wildcats star Danny Huffor top-scored in both games and on Sunday point guard Devin Ginty pipped team captain Ralph Bucci to the MVP (most valuable player) of the season award. Excitingly, the outcome is that, for the first time in their history, the Wildcats are in the quarter-finals. Having qualified in eighth place, they play league leaders Newcastle Eagles over two legs this week – on **Friday 25th April** at Newcastle and on **Sunday 27th April** at 4pm at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. Durham have pushed Newcastle close over the last two games, so – with the Wildcats riding on a high – the result is by no means a foregone conclusion. It is to be hoped that many people from Aycliffe will turn out to support their home club for the most important game in their history. If you haven't been before, basketball games are fast and furious, exciting and unpredictable ... and (a huge boon in Britain's uncertain weather) indoors! Lulls in proceedings are filled by Aycliffe's own KDanz group, who act as wonderful cheerleaders. Tickets (£7 adult, £5 child) are available on the door or can be pre-booked via the website at www.godurhamwildcats.com

Aycliffe Finish Season With Cup Triumph

Newton Aycliffe 54 - Washington 17



Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club finished their season with a fine win in the Durham County Challenge Plate final played under lights at Durham City. With a squad of 22 able to be used in the game, Aycliffe were in the position of having 25 players available.

Aycliffe aimed to play the game the way they had finished the league season and took the lead with a team try, the ball passing through forwards and backs before Adam Gascoigne's pace finished off the move. Luke Tinkler added the conversion. Aycliffe now seemed to let the occasion get on top of them and they lost their shape in the face of some spirited play by Washington, belying their lowly league position. Washington brought the score within two points with a try and continued to play well for most of the half. With less than 10 minutes of the first half remaining, Aycliffe used their pace to take command of the game with three tries in quick succession. First a move by Luke Crossen and Tinkler made the space for Craig Holmes to cross the whitewash. Holmes then turned provider for Gascoigne to score his second and Darrell McLaren provided an assist for David Judge's score. A full house of kicks by Tinkler saw the teams turn round with Aycliffe 28 – 5 ahead.

Early in the second half a chip by Tinkler led to another Judge try. Washington again showed their spirit and another period of pressure was rewarded with a second try. Drew Gibson came on as a replacement and was soon on the scoreboard with a darting run. Another Washington try showed that they were still a factor in the game. Aycliffe put on their remaining

replacements, but their attacking edge was not blunted. A series of attacking rucks put Aycliffe in a strong position and scrum-half, Chris Richards, saw a gap to dart through for another try. To finish off the scoring in a fitting manner, captain Warren Parsonage showed a burst of speed to power through the defence. Tinkler's conversion was his 7th out of 8 to leave the score 54 – 17 to Aycliffe as they lifted the trophy for the second time.

This was a satisfactory end to a good season for Aycliffe under the new regime of coach Peter Ryans and his assistants, with a 3rd place finish in the league. The following day, representatives from the club met World Cup winning legend Phil Vickery and were photographed with him and the trophy. Newton Aycliffe are sponsored by Boola Clothing and Haywoods Home Appliances.

Visit the website at www.pitchero.com/clubs/newtonaycliffe

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Hole in One



On Wednesday 16th April 2014 Mr John Littlefair had a hole-in-one at the 4th hole Oak Leaf Golf Course. John recently retired from work this year and in March decided to take up playing golf after a lapse of a number of years.

He used to be a member at Woodham Golf Club and so decided to join Oak Leaf Golf Course and the Old Oaks Senior Section (formerly Woodham Senior Section) toward the end of March. What makes this more wonderful and a truly remarkable achievement is that John only has his left hand to play.

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