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Bishop of Durham Inducts New Rector of Great Aycliffe



The Shine Choir with the new Rector Chris Pearson and his wife Karin (right)

Great Aycliffe's new Team Rector, Rev. Chris Pearson, was formally inducted by the Bishop of Durham at St. Clare's Church last Sunday. In a long Service the packed congregation, including our Mayor, Deputy Chairman of the County Council and representatives from town churches, witnessed the ceremony which carried the ancient rite of installing a new priest in charge of the Parish of Great Aycliffe. The formality of the occasion was lightened somewhat by the lighthearted approach of Bishop Paul Butler and that part of the Service where the Shine Children's Choir performed to tumultuous applause. In his sermon the Bishop encouraged everyone to "Attempt great things for God and expect great things from God". He returned to this theme throughout, asking the congregation to memorise and recite the phrase on cue. Afterwards everyone moved to the church hall for the usual "Bun Fight" which had been prepared by church members, providing fantastic food with ample coffee and tea for all present. The new Rector, his wife Karin along with Bishop Paul



The Bishop and Rector with St. Clare's Churchwardens

took this opportunity to speak with people on this friendly and joyful occasion. The new Rector was left in no doubt how welcome he was as people rushed to congratulate him on his appointment.

Police Bike Marking Day

Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Policing Team will be conducting bike marking on Saturday 24th May from 10am until 1pm at Cycleways, Neville Parade. You are invited to come along with your bike or scooter and it will be security marked by the team. For any further information contact PCSO Richard Scott on 101. We look forward to seeing you all on Saturday 24th May 2014. PCSO Richard Scott 7438
Tel: 6732682
Email: Richard.scott2@durham.pnn.police.uk

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APPROVED GARAGES

Poets Inspired by WWI Anniversary



Last week representatives from the Aycliffe Village local History Society visited Greenfield to share creative writing produced by students to mark the anniversary of World War 1.

The students had been working on the project, organised by Greenfield Arts for students at Greenfield Community College, across different areas of the curriculum. They the project in their art lessons by creating boxes with memorabilia, objects and memories, inspired by the assemblage artists. They then used their artwork as inspiration for creative writing, producing poems remembering the war, and reflective writing about what it must have been like to live at that time.

The history society members

were impressed with the students' work, which will be included in a publication to commemorate the war. Recordings of their poems and their artwork will be on display as part of an exhibition in September.

The students have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to continue a project across different areas of their studies, enhancing and giving value to their learning. Greenfield Arts and staff at Greenfield Community College have worked together with the history society to make this fantastic project possible. The students will now record their poetry, and transfer their knowledge to their history lessons, considering the war from a local perspective. We look forward to seeing what they come up with next!

Ebac Want Your Input in Design of Washing Machine

Ebac, the company bringing home appliance manufacturing back to the UK, have launched a groundbreaking new website to ask real experts, the consumers what they really want from a washing machine.

The UK washing machine market currently consists of hundreds of machines, all similar in design and functionality with confusing terminology, technology and features that are rarely used. Ebac's team is convinced that the key to giving customers the product they want is to give them a platform to tell its designers what they would like from the next generation washing machine that really will be designed by consumers, for consumers. This first of its kind 'build your own washer' website has been developed by Ebac to enable consumers to choose the features and specification that are important to them. They can select from a range of wash programmes, functions, user interfaces and even colour. Visitors to the site will also pick up some great washing tips for an easier life and discover Ebac's journey to becoming a leading household appliance brand. Understanding the everyday user and the things they value are key elements to the Ebac brand and its success.

Consumers can contribute to the development of a British made washing machine at www.ebacwashingmachines.com. Ebac are encouraging interaction through the website with the addition of social media functionality



(left to right): Ebac's product development team for washing machines; Ian Howson, Jeff Palin, Clyde Pittaway, Craig Mason, Gerard Heselwood and Senior Product Manager Darren Feasey. (Photo by: Keith Taylor)

so visitors can share their custom designs with friends and family.

Everyone who designs their own washing machine on the website and therefore contributes to Ebac's research will be entered into a free prize draw to win an Apple iPad Mini (T&C's apply, see website for further details). Ebac has invested £7m in the development of washing machines, and has built collaborations with leading appliance experts, with over 30,000 man hours provided in research and development. This has given Ebac a world-class understanding of washing machine technology and manufacture. Already to date the company has had over 3,500 consumers' input and feedback from research to truly understand their needs.

Pamela Petty, Managing Director of Ebac, said: "This is a great chance for a wide range of people to get involved in informing the new generation of British-made washing machines

– and to tell us what their perfect product would be. These machines are being developed for use by people in this country, so now they can come online and tell us exactly what they want from an appliance. Whilst we have done a wide range of research in the past, none is as important as the information we receive from people who actually use washing machines; these are the real experts."

Senior Product Manager Darren Feasey added: "The information will be used in conjunction with our own experience and expertise to design the machines, so that they are as user-friendly as possible. Many of today's washing machines have far more programmes and gadgets than they need to have, most of which go completely unused. We plan to produce a simpler machine that does what the home owner wants, reliably and without complication." Ebac Washing machines will be launching late 2014.

THE TURBINIA

* Saturday Night Live *

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Saturday 17th May - "Mugshot"

Bio: A four piece band from the South Shields area playing modern and classic rock covers by bands such as Bon Jovi, Chilli 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

Saturday 24th May - "Sabbatica"

An evening of classic BLACK SABBETH music from the ossie era - Davy's rock page review - "The singer had great presence even managing a stand up comedy routine in the middle of a broken string break. The other three members of the band were excellent, its unfair to give the lead guitarist all the lime light ,but lets face it the lead guitar is like the centre forward, he gets all the attention, and boy did this guy milk it and deliver some fret work that left us totally speechless, its not often we are totally blown away but this guy did it, some of his solos made the hairs on the back of ya neck stand up, The bass was fantastic and the drummer gave an equally great performance, this may sound like we are going over the top but its not hype, we are paying £12 to see a U2 tribute band at the customs house, and to be honest after Hearing SABBATICA we would gladly pay the same amount to see them." www.sabbatica.co.uk

Saturday 31st May - "Uncle Gilbert"

RIFFS ONLINE REVIEW - " An excellent night with some classic rock covers done by mainstay of our rock fraternity both Bill & Gary gave the thumbs up to the performance - as did all the other punters in the venue tonight. For a band to stay together for that long you just know they're doing something right - this band have just earned themselves a promotion into the premiere league" covering tracks by - BAD COMPANY - BILLY IDOL - BON JOVI - CULT - DEEP PURPLE - GARY MOORE - HENDRIX - SATRIANI - PINK FLOYD - RORY GALLAGHER - SANTANA - U.F.O. - ZZ TOP & much more

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

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Wurlitzer Fete

The Mighty Wurlitzer Annual Fete is on Saturday 31st May 11am - 2.30pm. Admission Free. All welcome. Many Stalls including Tombola, Garden, Cakes, and Refreshments with lots of Music. New Victoria Centre, High St. Howden-Le-Wear, near Crook.

SIMPASTURE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

On Thursday 8th of May the first meeting of the fledgling association took place. A basic committee was formed and it was decided to look into creating a constitution for the group.

A further short meeting will take place immediately before the next Simpasture PACT meeting on Tuesday the 20th of May in the Simpasture Court meeting room.

We hope to have a representative from another, very successful, Aycliffe residents group to talk about what we can achieve. We hope to see Simpasture residents and other interested parties at 6.00pm on the 20th. John Clark:

johnclark.labour@gmail.com
Tel: 07972170190

Derek Atkinson:
derekatkinson.labour@gmail.com Tel: 01325 301 395

YOUNG DIRTY DANCERS WANTED

Young people aged 10 to 16 years of age from the Newton Aycliffe area are required for a local youth theatre group's musical adaptation of "Dirty Dancing" which will be staged in July this year.

A spokesperson said "We are looking for young dancers who are not afraid of a bit of hard work and would like to join The Tearaways Youth Theatre Group's production of the hit musical.

Even if you can't dance or just want to improve on your present skills, then we will coach you and would like to hear from you. We also have a few vacancies for singers, so if any young people think they can stop singing with their hairbrush and pick up a microphone instead, get in touch. Anyone interested in joining or needing any further information should ring 01325 313 363 or 0774 782 6324

NASSA News & AGM

It's that time of year again and the Annual General Meeting for Newton Aycliffe Scout Supporters Association is on Thursday 29th May 2014 at 7.00pm. Please arrive early as doors will be closed at 7.00pm prompt. If you wish to volunteer to be on the committee in any capacity, please add your name to the list on the notice board. Membership renewals are now also due- still only £2.00 per year. That's the boring bit out of the way. NASSA would like to say a BIG thank you to all

the people who came to our Family Disco and Karaoke night it was a sell out! What a fantastic night, everyone enjoyed themselves and there were some very happy little ones.

We sold out of tickets, Mocktails and ice lollies but new stocks have been purchased and tickets are now available for the 7th JUNE. Tickets are just £2 (children under 3 free). The tickets are available at the bar and can be reserved via our Facebook page. They are selling fast so get yours before it's too late!

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Sent in by A.H. - "And people complain about cars parking on grass verges . . ."

A TASTE OF LIFE IN 2014 FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

County Durham children their favourite photographs are being asked to provide capturing life in 2014 for

future generations. Durham County Record Office is holding its sixth annual family fun day to give families the chance to take a look at the county's archives and find out more about the history and heritage of County Durham.

This year the theme is photography and children are being invited to bring along up to three photographs to be preserved in the collections so that future generations can see what life was like in 2014. The pictures can be of anything which a child feels highlights what life is like today, this could be places, people or toys for example. Dawn Layland, education and outreach archivist with Durham County Council, said: "Photos are a fantastic way to explore the past. Even young children can have fun looking at how different clothes and cars used to be." A selection of old toys and outfits will be available for dressing up and little ones will also be given the chance to have a go at making a pinhole camera as well as trying their hand at historic jigsaws. Tours of the strong rooms, where the archives are housed, will also be available. The fun takes place on Friday, May 30 between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Admission is free and no booking is required but children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Durham County Record Office is part of Durham County Council and is located at County Hall in Durham.

Under 14 League Champions



Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre Under 14's Eagles had to win their remaining three games of the season, all away from home to be champions. They are now been promoted to Division 2 in the Teesside Junior Football Alliance. They won away to South Park Rangers Blue 5.0, Marton FC 4.0 and Northallerton Juniors 3.2.

Film Show



St Clare's Church "Feel Good Film Show" on Wednesday 21st May will feature "SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS" Disney's very first animated classic. Observers at the time said it wouldn't work, who wanted to sit through a cartoon lasting over an hour. Well Disney got it right, his first full length animated classic was a box office hit then and still is, because it appeals to everyone.

This is our third Disney film in a series which is proving very popular with "young-at-heart grown-ups". 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

Can You Put the Wag Back in Jim's Tail?

Dogs Trust Darlington is appealing for a dedicated dog lover to be a temporary foster carer for one of its canine residents who has recently undergone surgery to his tail. Jim, a medium-sized crossbreed, came to Dogs Trust Darlington about a month ago after being found as a stray. Sadly he had to have part of his tail removed and is urgently looking for a temporary foster home where he can chill out away from kennel life, without too much disturbance, to allow his tail to heal.

Sue Embleton, Dogs Trust Darlington Rehoming Centre Manager, explains:

"Volunteer foster carers on our Home from Home scheme provide a lifeline for dogs who need some extra TLC. Some dogs cope with kennel life better than others, but for those who struggle or like Jim are recovering from surgery, being in a temporary home can make all the difference, helping them to relax and aid their adjustment into a new home. Families will receive our full support and advice, and will be equipped with everything they need such as food, bedding. Any vet fees will also be covered by Dogs Trust. If you're an experienced dog owner, have lots of free time, and live locally to the rehoming centre, please get in touch if you can help."

"All dogs on the Home from Home scheme need to be cared for during the day and not left for longer than four hours - Jim is so friendly and cuddly but he needs to be constantly distracted from aggravating his tail injury. Ideally we're looking for people who don't have young children and no other dogs, to give his tail a chance to heal."

The Dogs Trust Home from Home initiative is designed to give extra care to dogs that find kennel life stressful or have not had much experience of living in a home environment. These dogs, so often overlooked by prospective owners, are given a safe and loving, temporary home until they feel back to their happy selves and are ready for a permanent home of their own. They may be puppies, older dogs or dogs that aren't coping in a kennel environment and need some special care to get their tails wagging again!

Contact the Darlington Rehoming Centre on 01325 333114 or visit us at Hill House Farm, Sadberge, Co. Durham, DL2 1SL during our opening



hours of 12-4pm everyday (except Tuesday closed). Dogs Trust Darlington cares for around 120 abandoned and unwanted dogs at any one time.

SNIPPETS

WHY DON'T Freshwater use the old Woolworths as an indoor market like Darlington?

R. Smedley HAVE THE COUNCIL cut down on the number of grasscutters? I've noticed it seems to get done in a hurry and areas are missed.

For example two lovely timber frames opposite Stephenson Way School were regularly maintained and filled with nice flowers, but the grass around it never gets cut? The grass and weeds are now higher than the timber structure!

D. Metcalfe JUNIOR CHEF COOKING CLASSES for Kids. Extra classes will be held on Thursday 29th and Friday 30th May at Ovengloves Cookery School in Brafferton. 10am - 2pm including lunch and lots of goodies to bring home.

For more information please call Hilary on 07767 274085 or check out the website www.ovengloves.net

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Lazy Aycliffe Drivers

Dear Sir,
I have been driving for more than two thirds of my life, and one thing I have noticed more than ever is how lazy drivers have become, adopting an 'I DON'T CARE' attitude. There are those who can't be bothered to indicate, ones who cut corners in and out of junctions and straight over mini roundabouts and this also includes Police Drivers. On Thursday 7th May at approximately 2:15pm I

followed a police white Ford Transit Van, and on it's approach to the roundabout the driver straddled the white line separating the two lanes without indicating. The driver turned right onto Shafto Way, again with no indication to show the vehicle was leaving the roundabout. If the police don't indicate their intentions, how can we expect other drivers to do so?

Then there are those drivers who can't be bothered to even walk a few step - parking in front of drives, across drop kerbs, double parking etc. I believe some drivers would if they could, drive their car into the shop, supermarket, school or whatever place they were visiting, so they don't have to walk. **THINK BEFORE YOU PARK.**

There are those who want to be at their destination as soon as they start the engine, or don't allow enough time to get where they want to go by setting off earlier, so end up speeding. **Give More Time for Your Journey.**
A. H., name and address supplied

JOBS - PRIORITY OF OUR NORTH EAST LABOUR EURO M.P. CANDIDATES

Creating jobs and protecting jobs will be our priority if elected as MEPs to serve the people of the North East in Brussels in the European election on Thursday 22nd May.

As Labour candidates in next week's Euro elections, Jude Kirton-Darling, Paul Brannen and Jayne Shotton are concentrating hard on what could help Newton Aycliffe and the rest of the region the most - the answer on the doorstep from North East voters is an increase in the number of good quality jobs available, especially for our young people.

Here in the North East we still 'make things', in fact we are the only English region that makes more than we import. Many of the things we manufacture, such as the trains that Hitachi will soon produce and the cars at Nissan, are exported and then sold in the other 27 countries of the European Union. Hence the EU is our most important market and is likely to remain so for many years to come.

Our region is also an overall net beneficiary from our EU membership. Since the 1980s we have received large sums of EU social and regional funding - £490 million in the last 5 years alone. This public investment draws in private



Euro MP candidates with Phil Wilson M.P. at the Hitachi site

money and central government funds, and has underpinned our regional infrastructure, business development and training programmes. We are in this situation, because we are the poorest region in England and one of the aims of the EU is to help develop the poorer parts of Europe. The North East is set to receive a further £660 million over the next 7 years and part of our role as Members of the European Parliament will be to make sure it is well spent; helping create as many jobs as possible.

We are committed to ensuring that the EU funds we receive as a region are used to create local jobs, especially for young people. Labour has fought for investment and jobs in the North East but the Tories and UKIP are putting jobs in Newton Aycliffe and across the North East at risk. We will spend our time in the European Parliament working hard to defend the interests of the people of the North East.

To begin with we will be asking young people from the region to join us in pressing the UK government to apply for the £81m allocated to the UK from the EU Youth Guarantee to start creating decent apprenticeships and jobs for 18-25 year olds in this region - money the government simply have not applied for.

If elected we will also work hard to defend the rights of working people, rights that have been long fought for but now stand threatened by UKIP and the Conservatives. Readers should be aware that when Farage and Cameron talk of 'cutting EU red tape' and 'repatriating powers', what they really mean is ending rights to four weeks paid holiday, health and safety, maternity and paternity leave etc. There is a lot at stake in the election on 22 May. Please vote and please vote Labour.

Jude Kirton-Darling, Paul Brannen and Jayne Shotton.

HELPING HANDS FUNDRAISER NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Rachel Stephenson is committed to raising as many funds as possible in the next three months for "Helping Hands" to help support people facing financial crisis in the area.

Rachel says "I've seen first-hand the positive changes Helping Hands make in people's lives and I'm determined to do what I can to support their valuable work. I've eagerly followed the articles in the Newton News and I decided that I couldn't just sit back and think about helping but I want to put my thoughts into practice.

"However, I need the Newton News readers support to make it happen! I would like good/excellent quality household items for me to sell on Ebay or Car Boot Sales or do you have a wardrobe bulging with clothes that you seldom wear?

I'd like to invite you to 'spring clean your wardrobe' and donate new/nearly new children and adults clothing to this worthy cause. Some of the children's clothing will not be sold because there are needy families who need them.

With your help we envisage

that the Helping Hands project will support 2,500 people in 2014 and already they are well on the way to meeting that target."

"If you would like to help please ring 07936 431262 for us to arrange collection or we'll let you know the drop-off points. In addition, we have a funder who will match donations up to £1000. Would you like to start the ball rolling?"

"Alternatively, if you are reading this and need Helping Hands to help you - please ring 07936 431262."

"I look forward to keeping you up to date with the progress I am making through the Newton News. Thank you in advance for your support."



EXHIBITION IN THE GREENFIELD GALLERY

Last week saw the opening of a great new exhibition in The Greenfield Gallery at Greenfield Arts. Hamsterley Artists Group will be showcasing their work until Thursday 29th May in the Gallery, and they held a successful preview evening last week.

Family and friends joined them to celebrate the opening, commenting how great the work looks and what a great success the exhibition is!

The group meet weekly in Hamsterley and are supported by artist Linda

Birch to develop their painting and drawing skills. There is a wide range of work in the exhibition, covering landscapes, portraits, flowers and more - it's a great mixture and well worth a visit.

Greenfield Arts are pleased to be able to support artists from across County Durham with exhibitions in the gallery space. The exhibition will be open now until Thursday 29th May, visitors are welcome any time we are open! For more information see our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

Dictatorial Landlords

Dear Sir,

I believe that Freshwater, the Town Centre landlords, are short sighted and dictatorial with regard to the market in Aycliffe. Surely a good colourful market would encourage people to visit our town. It is rather dull at the moment but with new bright covers, it could become much more attractive not only to the people of Aycliffe but to a wider field.

However, the squashed position it occupies at present cannot be very inviting to the shopping public. It needs to be in the centre of the town where there is space to browse in comfort. As for the piece of waste ground near Tesco, I think I am correct in saying that it has been vacant since the schools were demolished nearly 30 years ago. Perhaps someone from the Council can tell us what it is earmarked for and when it is likely to be occupied.

A Humble

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

Notice is hereby given that:

A meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee of the Town Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on:

WEDNESDAY 28th MAY 2014 at 6.00pm

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. Agendas and Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Dates and Times of Statutory Meetings of the Town Council

Wednesday 28th May 2014

Environment Committee 7.15pm

Recreation Committee

(Immediately following the Environment Meeting)

QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 20 minutes has been also set aside for an elector to ask questions, give evidence or make representation on any item of business included on the agenda.

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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CONFESSION OF A CYCLIST

Dear Sir,
I would like to be afforded the opportunity to respond to the article published in a recent publication regarding an "Ignorant Cyclist".

I have been a cyclist for 40 years and have never encountered the abuse and intimidation I received at the hands of a car driver on Burn Lane on that day. The gentleman concerned resorted to gutter language in order to remonstrate and inform the wrongs and rights of the road whilst brandishing a walking stick at head height.

As I recently moved to the area I was not aware of a cycle lane on Burn Lane. I apologise for my lack of awareness and can confirm that I will be utilising the cycle lane in future. I am used to resolving issues in a calm professional manner as I believe this achieves so much more than ranting and abusing strangers.

Whilst I appreciate the gentleman was frustrated I would strongly ask him to consider his own behaviour and how this could be interpreted by others. At the time of the incident the gentleman concerned had a young man

in the car who may or may not have been his son or grandson. I would hope that this is not typical of the example he would normally demonstrate. As for being dressed for the

occasion - I wear a fluorescent green jacket as I travel to work in the early hours and need car drivers to see me! I trust this matter is now bought to an end. Christopher Holmes

Middridge AGM & PACT

Middridge Parish Council will be holding their Annual Parish Meeting on Monday, 19th May at 6.45 pm in the Middridge Village Hall. The Meeting will be led by Councillor W. Mellors, the current Chairman of the Council.

This Meeting is an opportunity for Members of the Public to question the Council regarding its activities in the previous year. This Meeting will be preceded by a 'Police and Community Together' (PACT) Meeting at 6.00 pm, which deals with policing issues that affect Middridge.

This Meeting is followed by one of the Parish Council's regular two monthly Meetings. Amongst other

matters, this Meeting will appoint a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the Council for the following year, and approve the 2013/14 Accounts for the Audit Commission. All these Meetings are open to the Press and Public unless the Parish Council directs otherwise.

You might also be interested in the fact that Middridge Parish Council have applied under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012) to Durham County Council for Designation of the whole of the Parish as a 'Neighbourhood Area'. This is a necessary first step in the Parish Council's intention to develop a Middridge Neighbourhood Plan.

Youth Theatre Excels



Greenfield College presented an evening of Drama and Dance on Wednesday 30th April featuring Greenfield's dance groups and Youth Theatre.

Greenfield's "Grounded," and ICEL 8 groups, who have been touring venues and festivals in the region recently, gave a fantastic performance to the audience, adding to their continuing success.

The Youth Theatre, who meet weekly throughout the year and are supported by Greenfield's drama specialist Mrs Watt, performed 'Humpty Dumpty' a Theatre In Education piece that explores the tragic consequences of bullying. The play was hard hitting and

provided a powerful message to the audience, many of whom were moved by the storyline and the acting skills. Mrs Watt said: "The actors excelled and provided a superb performance which was testimony to their commitment and dedication throughout the whole process not just the performance. They are a delight to work with and it is inspiring to nurture such talent into quality youth theatre."

This recent performance is one of many where students have had the opportunity to be a part of this year, thanks to the hard work and commitment of the staff in Greenfield's Performing Arts department, we look forward to seeing what they do next!

Work on the Moor Revealed



The downpour of rain over recent times may have revealed the purpose of the heavy excavation work at Cobblers Hall Moor next to the new housing estate being built. A reader sent this photo showing what may be a man-made pond on the moor. We have asked for plans or an artist's impression of the finished site and will publish when at hand. It could be a very attractive area and an added amenity for Newton Aycliffe.

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TOWN GROUPS SUPPORT THE ANNUAL SWIMATHON



Members of Sedgfield 75 Club

The annual Swimathon organised by Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club partnered with other service clubs in the area was held at Spennymoor Leisure Centre last Sunday. There was a great turnout of teams all swimming for their own chosen charity, shared with the sponsored charity of the day. This event has been held annually for over 30 years and has raised around £400,000. The teams of swimmers compete for trophies for the



There were two teams from Newton Aycliffe Boys Brigade who swam 165 and 185 lengths and raised just over £200.



Bewick Crescent swimmers: Back left to right: Sean Kavanagh, Dan Thirlwell, Chris Stephenson, Peter Barnes. Front: Aimee Reed, Marie Gaffney, Gillian Rodda.

number of lanes swum and the most sponsorship money raised. Local organiser Rotarian Gordon Howe thanks all those from the Newton Aycliffe area who supported the event including businesses who bought advertising space on the poster.

Charity Golf

The 'Xcel Local' Charity Golf Tournament is on Friday June 20th for Teams of 4 and places are still available. Contact Ron Mitchie on 07749 236853 or e-mail agnewcommunitycentre@btconnect.com Prizes for the first 3 Teams, 6 Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive on the Fairway. Evening Meal, Raffle and much more. Please support your local community while having fun in the sun. Played over the Oakleaf Golf Course by kind courtesy of our Town Council.

NORTH EASTERNERS NOT KEEN ON FOSTERING

Why aren't people in the north east so keen on fostering? Only 21 per cent would consider fostering now or in the future, according to a poll released by the Fostering Network, compared with 24 per cent of the UK population. Yet north east residents are confident about fostering and their ability to be foster carers. The YouGov poll, published to coincide with the start of Foster Care Fortnight, found 69 per cent felt positive about foster carers and the work that they do. Moreover 26 per cent said they thought they were very or fairly likely to be accepted as foster carers if they applied within the next two years.

Commenting on the findings, Foster Care Fortnight co-ordinator James Foyle said: "Foster carers across the north east do an amazing job providing homes, stability and security for thousands of children every day. "But we need more of them. North easterners seem positive about fostering and confident they could do the job, now we need to encourage more to come forward and see if they have the skills to foster." Care leaver Clare Marshall,

who was fostered in the north east, said: "The support of my foster family helped me believe in myself and follow the path I wanted to take. My proudest moment was definitely getting into university. "I've now set up my own business and am newly married - I'm living proof that a stable foster family can make all the difference in the world." There are over 3,200 children from north east England living with foster families on any one day. The Fostering Network estimates that a further 450 foster families are needed across the north east

this year alone, particularly to look after teenagers and children with disabilities, as well as providing homes to groups of brothers and sisters. This year's theme for Foster Care Fortnight is "guess who fosters", with the aim of smashing stereotypes about who can and can't foster, and highlighting the skills and qualities actually needed to become a foster carer. See our skills checklist for more information. To find out more about fostering and becoming a foster carer, see www.couldyoufoster.org.uk and search for your local fostering service.

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Region's Biggest Engineering & Manufacturing Event at Aycliffe

Engineering and manufacturing companies in the North East are being urged to book their place at the region's biggest and most high profile inter-trading and networking event.

Durham Oktoberfest is organised by Durham's engineering forums in the north, south and east of the county to encourage companies across the region to promote themselves and meet potential buyers, suppliers and customers.

And after the success of last year's show, which was attended by almost 120 exhibitors and 1,600 people, details for the 2014 event on Thursday, October 23, have now been announced with the venue once again the Xcel Centre in Newton Aycliffe. The line up of guest speakers will be unveiled in the coming weeks.

Darren Race, project leader for Durham Oktoberfest and chairman of South Durham Engineering and Manufacturing Forum, said: "The North East is home to some of the country's most successful engineering and manufacturing companies and this event is all about showcasing them and promoting our world class capabilities and strengths."

"And as it's the only event of it's kind in the region, it also gives smaller businesses the opportunity to put themselves on the radars of those bigger companies - their potential customers - and gain from them an invaluable insight into what it takes to elevate their business to the next level."

"Every year Durham Oktoberfest gets bigger and more successful and we've already had a great deal of interest from companies who want to exhibit. And our message to businesses is if you want to put yourself into the biggest and most fruitful shop window, you need to book



Neil Forster, Pamela Petty and Darren Race

your place now."

Business Durham has been confirmed as the event's first Gold sponsor and so far 20 businesses including Hiatco, Bignall Group, Dyer, Eastern Seals and Microbac Ltd have booked their exhibition space. In addition, over 20 regional and national companies such as BAE Systems, Parker Hannifin and Seaward Electronic, will be involved in the Meet the Buyer event, which allows participants to meet potential new suppliers in a series of one to one meetings.

Last year's show featured some of the region's most prominent firms and organisations with Ebac, Heerema Fabrication Group, Calsonic Kansei and NEPIC all participating in the Meet the Buyer, while exhibitors included Hitachi, Shepherd Construction, DJ Franks Renewables, Pearson Engineering Services and Inspection and Engineering Services, who have now confirmed they're expanding their presence and taking three stands at Durham Oktoberfest 2014.

Trevor Forsyth, Managing Director of Newton Aycliffe-based Inspection and Engineering Services, said: "Durham Oktoberfest is perfect for us as it gives us the chance to meet companies within the manufacturing and engineering sectors and put our business on their radar. Often companies within these industries have used the same

suppliers for a number of years so it's difficult to get in front of them, but through this event we can. It is a great way for us to promote ourselves and because of the positive response we got during and following last year's event, this year we'll be taking three stands."

Helen Parkins, Procurement and Supply Chain Manager at Heerema Fabrication Group, said: "We participate in a number of events in the region but for us, Durham Oktoberfest is the most fruitful because we can meet suppliers which are best suited to what we need. We can see in advance who has registered and decide which ones provide services we're interested in, so I would definitely recommend it."

As well as engineering and manufacturing companies, Durham Oktoberfest is also open to support organisations, education facilities and financial institutions which want to promote the services they offer to the business community, for example Business Durham, the North East Chamber of Commerce, Teesside University, NatWest, the National Skills Academy, EEF and the University of Sunderland, all of whom had stands within Hall One in 2013.

Darren Race added: "Durham Oktoberfest is into its seventh year and it's great to see so many of our engineering and manufacturing companies continuing to support it. We want our region to be the best and if we're not afraid to shout about the strength of these sectors, other businesses elsewhere in this country and even further afield will sit up and take notice. Success breeds success and that's why this event is so important in the regional business calendar." To find out more about Durham Oktoberfest and how you can get involved visit www.durhamoktoberfest.org.uk, email info@durhamoktoberfest.org.uk or call 0191 3037772.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EUROPE AND THE ELECTION

I am aware the euro-elections - which take place next week - are the Cinderella elections of British politics, ignored by many, and used as a protest vote by others. This is a disaster for the North-East, for few people appreciate the extent to which our survival as a region depends on the European Union.

FUNDING: Over the next five years, the North-East will receive £660million "Transition Funding" from the EU to stimulate economic growth and counter deprivation. By contrast, our own government has abandoned us to our own devices.

Whilst the Tories give funding and powers to our nearest regional neighbour Scotland, and have actually increased funding to some southern councils, they have halved funding to North-East councils, and abolished the Regional Development Agency altogether. The government had to be lobbied to apply for the Transition Funding, and still refuses to apply on our behalf for European Youth Guarantee money, which would guarantee all young people under 25 access to a job, apprenticeship or training.

TRADE: The North-East's domestic economy is not wealthy enough to kick-start internal economic growth, so our region depends on foreign trade - the North-East is the only region in the economy which exports more than it imports. So it is not just huge inwards investors such as Nissan and Hitachi that need the European link - many North-East firms across the region depend on trade with Europe. We already struggle to compete with the much-stronger economy of the south-east; any disruption to our links with Europe could tip us over the edge into economic meltdown.

RIGHTS: We have a Coalition government which believes in a low wage economy - it supports things like zero-hours contracts, agency work and part-time jobs, because it believes that the way to attract the 'wealth-creators' is to offer them a low-paid workforce without working rights. So the Tories have reduced our rights-at-work, legal aid etc., until we approach a situation where most of our protections come, not from British law, but from EU directives. Stigmatised by the right-wing press as EU 'red tape' which is 'holding back British industry', these in fact are the rules which protect your hours-at-work, safety, equal pay, time off, maternity rights and many others. Why do you think many right-wing politicians are so desperate to leave the EU? Because exit from the EU's 'Social Chapter' will allow a bonfire of our rights. I appreciate that many people - on the principles of sovereignty and 'interference' - want Britain to leave the EU. That would simply be an economic and social disaster for the North-East. On the contrary, more than any other region in the UK, it is vital for the North-East that Britain works energetically WITH Europe.

So THE LAST THING WE NEED in Europe are UKIP MEPs, who will simply disrupt or do nothing, or half-hearted Tory MEPs who ally themselves with

some of the nastiest right-wing parties in Europe. Rather, it is essential - whatever your political opinions - that we elect Labour MEPs, who will join

the left-wing coalition in the European Parliament, and ensure that the EU's powers are exercised on behalf of its people.
John D Clare

Wanton Destruction of Garden Flowers

Dear Sir
May I make the people of Newton Aycliffe aware that there are morons out there that dislike the idea of normal people growing flowers in their gardens, mainly for their own enjoyment, but also for the passing public to enjoy. My husband spends a lot of time growing flowers for everyone to enjoy, but can you imagine my anger when

on Sunday 11th May I found the beautiful tulips that had been gently blowing in the breeze, beheaded! They hadn't been picked or taken to cheer someone up, but cut and the heads discarded on the ground - wanton destruction in my book! I know this letter won't prick the culprit's conscience - these idiots probably have difficulty reading too - but

I'd just like to warn decent folk, of whom there are plenty regardless of the general opinion, to be aware that being hard working and taking a pride in your home and garden doesn't always pay.
G Stevens, Marshall Road

Report People Who Spoil West Park

Great Aycliffe Town Council staff and volunteers from Friends of West Park worked together last week to dredge parts of the boating lakes, clearing twigs, leaves and other rubbish which had fallen into the water.

Much activity has taken place over the previous few weeks with bulbs and trees being planted by children and volunteers from several organisations. Friends of West Park are pleased to work alongside town park staff planting and keeping the park tidy. A regular Sunday morning litter pick in partnership with council staff is producing great dividends resulting in a cleaner park and a family friendly atmosphere.

Dog mess seems to be the next great challenge

with many dog walkers apparently unwilling to clean up after their dogs. This is unacceptable when our Town Council supply dog poo bags free of charge. There are responsible dog owners who do clean up after their dogs.

Modern mobile phones are fitted with cameras and the County Council Neighbourhood wardens will gladly accept photo's as evidence which will lead to a hefty fine for dog walkers who refuse to clean up. The number to ring for Neighbourhood wardens is 0300 0261000

Friends of West Park welcome new members and fresh ideas so please contact us or come along to our meetings in the British Legion club to get involved.
Ken Robson (Chairman)

PRINCE'S TRUST COURSE IN AYCLIFFE

We are kicking off a brand new location for our Prince's Trust TEAM programme in Newton Aycliffe on 19th May. It is a 12 week personal development course aimed at unemployed 16-25yr olds from any background. Existing benefits are not affected and travel and expenses are paid weekly.

The course involves a free teambuilding residential course, community projects and challenges as well as work placement and employability elements.

Does anyone know young people aged 16-25yrs who may be interested?

For more information contact Marc Iveson on 07553 367542 or email marc.iveson@stockton.ac.uk or message the Facebook page SRC Prince's Trust Team [facebook.com/srcprincestrustteam](https://www.facebook.com/srcprincestrustteam)

Greenfield Students at Ullswater



Last week a group of Year 7 students from Greenfield College visited Ullswater Outward Bound Centre for a week of fun, excitement and adventure. The students took part in a range of activities such as gorge walking, camping, raft building, canoeing and the legendary jog and dip!

As part of the experience, specific tasks and targets were set for the students. During their stay they experienced exciting physical challenges, and developed a positive mind set. Each and every pupil rose to the

challenges set for them, achieving their goals and beyond the expectations of the Greenfield staff and the staff at the Outward Bound centre.

This Outward Bound trip was a great opportunity for the students to learn outside the classroom, work as a team and learn new skills in a new and inspiring environment. They loved the week and said they would love a chance to go back again, they even spoke about the ways in which they can apply the skills they learnt back in

school and at home. This trip is organised each year by Greenfield staff as an opportunity for Year 7 students to learn new skills and experience something different. The benefits of their time at the Outward Bound center and the skills they learn are seen in the classroom throughout the rest of the students' time at Greenfield.

The Outward Bound staff said Greenfield's students were a pleasure to have, they were polite and excelled themselves in all aspects of the week - well done Year 7!

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HALF TERM CHILDRENS CRAFT WINDOW PICTURES

Come down to the Library on Thursday 29th May from 2.15pm - 3.15pm to make your own window pictures. This craft session is suitable for children aged 7 and over and due to demand places must be booked in advance by calling into the library or phoning on 03000 269 519. The cost is 50p per child.

Town Centre Market Questions

DECISION SHOULD BE RESCINDED

Dear Sir
I was sad to hear the Tuesday market will close on 1 June. I don't know the details, or why the managing company has decided on this action, but it is a shame that after so many years of trading we won't be able to buy fresh fruit, flowers etc. Thankfully Honest John's stall has been "rehomed" in the warm and nearby Cubby and he continues to do good work for the community. I understand one reason for closing the market is that the management company won't allow the market stalls to trade on the new pavement area! Why?? Does that mean we shouldn't walk on it either? As somewhat of a contradiction; the Advertiser



series on 3.5.2014 states:
• "over the last 5 years Freshwater has transformed the tired shopping area into a modern and open environment".
To be honest, it doesn't look that much different to me, although some stores have had new pvc windows installed. It has always been an open environment, albeit in an oblong format. The new pavement area is a huge improvement, although I don't think Freshwater started work 5 years ago, I

thought it was much later
• "New retailers including Aldi and Wilko's have opened stores and existing businesses have been encouraged to expand" Well, the Tuesday market is just one of the "existing businesses" who have traded for 30+ or so years I believe, so why is it being closed down? Also, people coming to the market visit the stores around them too (Tesco, banks, £stretcher, Boots, Boyes, coffee shops etc), so they gain (indirectly) financially too when the market operates
• "The town centre was closed in and we wanted to open it up and make it a more attractive and friendly environment" but - it is still closed in!
• "Councillor Bob Fleming asked whether the market would be re-launched" Surely you re-launch something that has been out of action, but the Tuesday market continued to trade near Boots throughout all the building work, under ("the oppressive") and dry cover of the ("removed") canopies
• Councillor Fleming "was told professional market companies had been approached for advice on how to attract new traders" I think the term this is an insult to the traders, past and present, insinuating they are not professional! This comment also implies that the Tuesday market will continue to operate and again is a contradiction in terms
• Closure of the Tuesday market will lead to loss of income - for all the traders after so many years of devoting themselves and their products to us
• Empty Shops - surely it would be better for Freshwater to fill the long term empty shops (Woolworths for one) with lower rents to entice new stores to the area. A lower rental income must be better than no income at all (?), and I'm not even an accountant! I know many people are unhappy about the proposed closure of the Tuesday market and hopefully the decision will be rescinded, for the benefit of the market traders and the local area. JEP, Heighington

STRICT RULES RUINED THE MARKET

Dear Editor,
It is with great sadness that I read that Newton Aycliffe market is to close. I used to work on this market until 5 years ago when our trailer and stock was stolen. I continued working on the market as secretary for the traders cooperative for a while after this and I saw the stalls go one by one. This market could have been really good had it not been for the strict rules set down by town centre management

and the council. Traders vans and cars were not allowed to drive on and off the town centre but other cars and vans were allowed. This meant that all traders had to barrow their goods on and off the market. This put a lot of would-be traders off standing on this market. Then there was the rule that the market could not have a tea or burger van and most markets have these. This was due to no large trailers or caravans being allowed

on the market, strange how the continental markets were allowed to bring there's on. Also some of the shops objected to the market having a burger van. When the modernisation of the town centre started it was the end! The market was moved around from place to place until some people did not know where the market was any more. Then when the work was completed what was left of the market was stuck up in a corner as if it was no longer part of the town centre. When I worked on the market the council always tried to help, we often had meetings and they did what they could but Freshwater own the town centre, therefore they have the final word. I believe they have wanted rid of the market for some time now and this has been the perfect opportunity for them to do so.
Helen Cox.

The Market Closure Is An Own Goal!

Dear Sir,
Talk about an own goal - what is the Landlord thinking by serving notice on the market? All that money has been spent on rejuvenating the town centre yet they seem incapable of understanding the needs and wants of the local people. I admit I don't use the market very often, but when I was there a couple of weeks ago it was clear that many people do. Surely whatever brings the people into the centre is a good thing. The lack of a market I'm sure will impact on other shop owners and it'll be a downward spiral until eventually there'll be nothing left and we'll have a ghost town.
Christine Marsh

MARKET MADNESS

Dear Sir,
So we are to lose our market, and in quick time too! It's a sad state of affairs when our Labour Town Council cannot get an agreement with our Labour County Council to pass over unused land for a market - surely not what the Labour Party would want at election time. If the County released the land on a short term lease, it would have given more time to explore other options or change minds. And what of the landlords?

they put up the service charges to their tenants then opt to close down the market which will reduce the footfall in the area resulting in less income for the shopkeepers. In retail terms that's economic suicide and people will inevitably shop elsewhere. And what of the much trumpeted revitalised town centre? Did the landlords intend to build a giant skateboard park, because without the footfall that's what it will become.
Peter Hardy

From the Editor
syd@newtonnews.co.uk

WHY THE MARKET HAD TO CLOSE

The truth over the closure of the Town Centre Market is emerging as people in the know reveal the real facts. It is now clear that the Town Centre owners, dissatisfied with the current management and appearance of the current market, want to introduce a more modern and higher quality set-up to attract more stallholders to Newton Aycliffe. People are aware that the market has dwindled to a few stalls and they don't look too appealing even though they have provided a good service to the townspeople. Suggestions that they improve their stalls were unacceptable due to the high cost of replacement. The Town Council are only the licenceholders and have no say in the standard or administration of the weekly market as this is managed by an association of market traders. The Landlord grasped the nettle and decided to end the current arrangement and the stallholders received the required notice to quit so that they could start again. The question now is how long before the market returns and will they be successful with their new strategy? If the cost of rental of town centre shops is anything to go by we must fear the worst as it is likely the cost of renting a stall will be too high for market traders. We understand one of the aims is to add Saturday

as another market day, if acceptable to other local markets in the area who have to agree. We have to applaud this initiative as it shows ambition and a real move to improve services in our Town Centre.

Notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting

Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association (GAVHA)

Saturday 14th June 2014 at 11a.m.
Great Aycliffe Village Hall, Committee Room
The purpose of the meeting will be to consider the following proposed resolutions:
"That members adopt a newly revised Constitution allowing the transfer of the currently un-incorporated charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)"
"That all assets and business of Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association be passed to the newly formed Charitable Incorporated Organisation of the same name and that after such transfer, the existing un-incorporated charity shall be dissolved, to allow the new CIO to continue the charitable activities of Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association."
NO OTHER BUSINESS WILL BE TRANSACTED AT THIS MEETING
S Hindle, Secretary
(12th May 2014)

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FACEBOOK

Cathedral Transformed During BRASS Performance

Audiences will see Durham Cathedral in a new light when it hosts the world premiere of a stunning new show featuring live music and 3D projections. Musician Jo Hamilton will perform tracks from her forthcoming second album Fractals, while the cathedral itself is transformed with stunning visual effects during the performance on Friday, 18 July.

The ground-breaking collaboration has been commissioned by Brass: Durham International Festival 2014, the annual celebration of the county's musical past, present and future organised by Durham County Council.

The evening will also include a performance by North East band Lanterns On The Lake accompanied by Durham County Youth Big Band.

Jo will perform a number of specially-arranged songs alongside a military brass ensemble during the piece, entitled Fractal Sparks. The show will feature full-height visual effects that explore the theme of perspective through a variety of patterns from nature. The projections will effectively 'remove' parts of the building to reveal a realistic night sky effect.

Jo said: "It's an honour to have been asked by BRASS to create a centrepiece show for the 2014 festival. "It will be a rare joy to sing in such amazing acoustics, especially accompanied by brass players."

"The scale of the building and the support of BRASS have also meant we have a unique opportunity to bring to life some of the themes within the music with some pretty ground-breaking visuals, creating what we hope will be an extraordinary memorable event for the city. We can't

wait to show you what we have planned."

Recognised as the world pioneer of the Air-piano, Jo's songs contain certain technological elements, but at their heart is the nostalgia of the Highlands and Islands where she sang as a child. Continues...

Following the release of her award-winning debut album Gown in 2009, Jo has performed live in Europe, Asia and North America, gathering a loyal fanbase across the globe, who are eagerly awaiting the new music, which will make its debut at Durham Cathedral.

Newcastle-based Lanterns On The Lake released their second album, Until the Colours Run, last year to critical acclaim.

Performing an exquisitely crafted blend of cinematic post-rock, folk and electronics, they have sold out shows at venues across Europe and North America as well as The Sage Gateshead and London's Bush Hall.

OJ Ketteringham of Lanterns On The Lake, said: "We are looking forward to playing BRASS. It's an awesome opportunity for us to put on a slightly different show and collaborate with brass players on our new material. Durham Cathedral will be a particularly special space to play."

Tickets for Fractal Sparks are now on sale. To book, visit Gala box office, call 03000 266 600 or go online at www.brassfestival.co.uk

BRASS runs from Friday 11th to Sunday, 20th July.

Improving Our Environment



Members of the newly formed "Friends of West Park" getting down to work cleaning the lake. If you wish to be come a volunteer please contact Ken Robson (Chairman) on 321471. You are welcome to attend meetings to put your ideas forward to improve West Park.

THE RIGHT WAY TO BIN IT

Residents across County Durham are being reminded to 'Bin it right' to make sure their recycling can continue to be used to make new products.

The six month 'Bin it right' campaign will encourage residents to put the right items in the right bin to stop recyclable material being contaminated and spoiled by items that can't be recycled. Recycling assistants will also be on hand to give advice to households in areas where recycling contamination is most common.

The majority of householders place the correct material in the right container and the amount collected for recycling has increased by

over 30 per cent since the introduction of alternate weekly collections in 2012.

But last year, nearly 10 per cent of the total material collected for recycling was non-recyclable. This included nappies, pet waste and food. Councillor Brian Stephens, Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, Durham County Council said: "It is essential that all items, from a used tin of beans or glass bottle to nappies and pet waste, are put in the right bin or box so recyclable materials are free from contamination and can be turned into other products. "Recyclable items should be washed and squashed where possible and placed loose in the recycling bin without being bagged. Items that can't be recycled such as food, pet waste and nappies should be bagged and placed in the rubbish bin.

"We would like to thank residents for recycling household waste items and hope to clear up any confusion about what goes where to give a better understanding of which items can and cannot be recycled. Contaminated material not only reduces recycling rates but also costs the authority about £100 a

tonne in alternative disposal." The awareness campaign forms part of an advisory system to improve recycling. Where there are repeated incidents of recycling contamination in household bins, residents will be notified directly by letter and the issue of a bin sticker. Further information on what items go where is available at www.durham.gov.uk/whatgoeswhere or call 03000 26 1000.

Council Commitment to Tackle Smoking

Durham County Council has renewed its commitment to help residents improve their health by giving up smoking. The authority's leader, Cllr Simon Henig, has signed the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control.

It means the council will work with its partners to reduce the number of smokers in the county, highlight the negative effects of smoking and develop a plan to tackle health inequalities.

Cllr Lucy Hovvels, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for safer and healthier communities, said: "By signing this declaration, Durham County Council is showing its commitment to reducing smoking prevalence and reducing the health inequalities, death and disease caused by smoking." The declaration has been endorsed by the Public Health Minister, Chief Medical officer and Public Health England.

LOCOMOTION ONE

Heighington Lane, Newton Aycliffe



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In Defence of Cyclists

Dear Sir,
I would like to agree if someone is using a bicycle to commute to and from work then they should, where available, use the cycle paths. I would like to point out that there are more than just cyclists who use bicycles to commute, there are those who cycle to keep fit and some of these use bikes that are designed for speed which are to be used on the road and NOT cycle paths. These cyclists have enough problems to deal with without being stereotyped as ignorant by dangerous drivers who have no regard for the cyclists safety.

Cyclists also contend with the state of the roads, with Newton Aycliffe having some of the worst in the north east. I would urge your correspondent not to tar all cyclists with the same brush.

A. P. Anderson
Honister Place

Town Mayor at New Rector's Induction



Town Mayor Barbara Clare with husband consort John, pictured with the Bishop of Durham and St. Clare's new Rector Rev. Christopher Pearson.



Members of St. Clare's Church provided a mouthwatering buffet for those present at the Service.

Pothole Query

Dear Sir
At long last the road by Bewick Crescent surgery has been resurfaced. Can I ask the relevant Councillor, via your newspaper when the rest of the "Pothole, Crescent", (sorry Bewick Crescent) will also be re-surfaced?
John Humble

Fashion Show

Neville Parade Community centre are staging a Fashion Show provided by Bon Marche. Tickets are £5 for the event on Thursday 5th June at 6pm. This includes supper. Ring 317308 and 324843.




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A Driveway Fairy Tale

by Sir Clarence of The Chare

CHAPTER ONE

Once upon a time in the Kingdom of Aycliffe, where the good citizens lived in "wards", there roamed the dreaded traffic monsters. They appeared to be many species from minis to the giant Green Arriva although the lesser spotted double decker seems to be extinct. The said citizens of this pleasant land paid their taxes, rents and generally went about their business. Years passed and the monsters seemed to increase in population, so much so roads were blocked, grass verges became unrecognisable. Parking was at a premium. The Green Arriva could often be seen snaking its way around the streets, honking its disapproval at getting into scrapes with other monsters. whilst trying to get to the Kingdoms of Darlington, Bishop Auckland and beyond. But behold help was at hand, because also living in this

Kingdom was a drive way fairy named Livinia. Dressed in her pink and black livery, she could often be seen flitting about the land. Livinia had the power to stop all this, so she set about her work in earnest flying high above the streets. With a wave of her wand and a sprinkle of fairy dust drive ways just appeared. Her generosity knew no bounds as she flew high above Anne Swyft, Bede and Baliol. Clarence Close (oops that's a mistake) too late already done, oh well, never mind. drives and laybys became her speciality. Bury, Greatead, Van Mildert next. boundaries were crossed and budgets blown, well not for the good of everyone it would seem. The poor citizens of The Chare were overlooked once again. Livinia's magic was not powerful enough for drives, try as they might, every time she waved her wand she was met with resistance and only

footpaths appeared.

CHAPTER TWO

Over the years the citizens of The Chare have learned to endure this great injustice as local councillors and landlords visited, wrung their hands and scratched their heads in despair. Many reasons have been offered - services underneath the verges, boundaries, budgets, ownerships of land and many other plausible excuses. No room for laybys here, just in places like Baliol, Dixon and Hopper paid for by neighbourhood budgets I fancy or maybe not. What makes us different we ask? Do we not warrant such riches?

Maybe our traffic monsters should block the way or turn our streets into a 'drag strip'. Is this the answer? No, because then we would become common criminals or at the very least be guilty of a breach of the peace. In this year of 2014 I would assume that all houses have boundaries do they not? The ownership of land should be of little consequence to tenants. I'm sure it could be transferred quite easily and painlessly between the relevant authorities. Common sense would then prevail, monsters would be tamed and the citizens would all rejoice. Councillors might even become heroes - maybe? Oh well, we can always dream. The End (Name and address supplied)

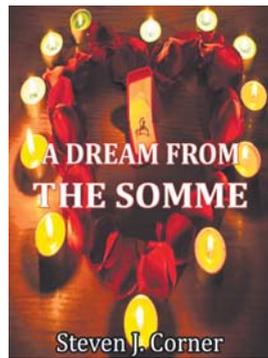
Newtonian's First Novel Receives Good Reviews

An Aycliffe College Lecturer and former Commando has published a book ahead of the First World War Centenary Year. Steve Corner hopes his novel will appeal to historians and romantics alike. It begins during the Battle of the Somme, in 1916 and the events that occurred, develop into a fictional tale that bring the reader to the present day. The review have been very favourable and the book can be purchased from www.lulu.com (RRP £5.99)



"A Dream From The Somme") A donation from the proceeds will be going to the First World War Poppy Appeal. Steve is 43 and has lived in Newton Aycliffe since 1977 after here from Chester. He attended The Avenue Comprehensive and gained an Engineering Degree from Newcastle University. Steve is married to Sarah an NHS Practice Manager. he undertook Royal Marine Commando training to earn his Green Beret in 1995. Newton News reported his charity run in 1998 that I organised with the Royal Marines for St Theresa's Hospice. The run from Newcastle to Darlington (36 miles in 4.5 hours) raised £1000. Steve currently serves with 102 Battalion REME (Army Reserve) in Aycliffe.

He is an Engineering Lecturer at Darlington College and developed the inert device simulator regularly used by 102 Battalion. The College is working on smaller devices using the latest technology to sell to the Army. His novel started as a short story entered in the Sid Chaplin competition and was extended and published.



Family Charity Day with Bungee Jump

Dear Sir,
I am organising a Charity Family Festival Day on July 19th at the Iron Horse pub from 12pm till late. It's ten years since I lost my daughter Olivia to stillbirth and I want to mark this in her memory by raising much needed funds for SANDS (Stillbirth and Neo Natal Death Society) who provide support to families affected by this and help fund medical research into the reasons why this is still happening today. I am in need of willing volunteers to do a Bungee

Jump on the day. The day is aimed as a fun day out and will have children's entertainment including face painting and a bouncy castle. On the evening there will be live music headlined by the young group Celestine who recently opened up Aycliffe's Party in the Park. There will also be a variety of stalls and a grand raffle. I am looking for people interested in holding a stall on the day. More information please call me on 07773 275 202 Andrea Harrison

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Common Sense Prevails

The committee of Great Aycliffe Residents' Association met this week and an item on the agenda focussed on the derelict land next to the Cubby - left in that condition, unused, for over 28 years. When it was suggested the Town Centre market could go there each Tuesday the owners Durham County Council issued a flat refusal stating it was land for development and could not be used. How bureaucratically obtuse and mean is that? This land can lay ugly and dormant for 28 years and yet cannot be used on a temporary basis, pending development, for the good of the community. This shows how inflexible officials can be and indicates how badly out of touch they

are with the people who employ them! Unbelievably some of the County Councillors we elect and whom we expect to represent our views, seem to lay down and accept what these officers say. However one County Councillor, Eddy Adam, has persisted and we believe may be successful in getting the land in question for the market until such time as the town centre market is resolved. Cllr Arun Chandran said: "Eddy Adam and I firmly believe the County Council should allow free use for the existing market traders on that site until such time as the land is actually sold or the new market is set up in the Town Centre following the final phase of development."



Great Aycliffe Town Council

Notice of a

Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council

Notice is hereby given that:-

An extra-ordinary meeting of the Town Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on:

WEDNESDAY, 21st MAY 2014
(Immediately following the Parish Meeting which is at 7.15 p.m.)

Item on the Agenda

'To consider a motion to request Durham County Council to reconsider the proposal to temporarily site a market on their land.'

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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BUSY TOWN RUNNING CLUB Sports Leaders Multi Skills Event

Members of Aycliffe Running Club have been busy with lots of races being covered. The local park runs are continuing to be well supported. At Darlington Park run on Saturday 03/05/14 Mark Wade finished in 18:19 and a new PB, Justin Hindmarch was next in 20:07 and also a new PB, next was Nigel Holmes in 20:14, Sue Milburn in 23:17 and Ally Chesney in 30:01. There was a good turnout from Aycliffe Running club for the Spring Coast Road 5K road race at Redcar on 30/04/14 and despite very windy conditions some very good times were recorded. Nigel Holmes was first to finish for Aycliffe in 20:24 closely followed by Justin Hindmarch 20:30, Peter Smith 20:37 and John Burnside 20:59. Kelly Smith was Aycliffe's first lady to complete the course in a good time of 22:10 and she was followed by Rob Nicholson 23:24, Susan Milburn 23:39, Penny Johnson 24:57, Trish Kay 25:31, Ross Garland in a new PB of 26:22, Diane Savage 25:25 and Bev Philippo 28:36. Three members of the Club completed the Sunderland Half marathon on 04/05/14. The route was changed from last year and started and finished at the Stadium of Light following a course through the city centre, river Wear and the sea front. First to finish for Aycliffe was Martyn Knox in a great time of 1:25. Clare Rose recorded a new PB of 1:51 and Kat Aspey also a new PB of 2:08. On Sunday 04/05/14 Peter Milburn from Aycliffe

Running Club took part in the first Reeth 20K trail race a new trail running event in scenic Swaledale. The course was a challenging 20k circular route, heading up to and along the hidden dale of Apedale, before returning across the river to Reeth. Peter completed the course in 1:45:48 and was 28th position out of 128 runners. Trish Kay headed to the Lake District at the weekend for the Keswick Half marathon on Sunday 04/05/14. The race is described as one of the most scenic half marathons in the country and follows a hilly course from Portinscale village through the Newlands Valley into Littletown, along the foot of Catbells to Grange and then followed the road into Keswick to finish at The Rugby Club. The race was well marshalled and there was a lot of support around the course from walkers and cyclists. Trish thoroughly enjoyed the challenging route and finished in 1:55, 3rd F50, and 269 out of 504 finishers. The Annual Tees Barrage 10k run was held on Monday 05/05/14. The course is on cycle and footpaths circumnavigating the river Tees. Starting on Navigation Way, runner's head towards the Newport Bridge. After going under the bridge, they run up onto the footpath at the top, then travel north. Within 500 yards they turn right, again passing under the bridge, continuing along the north shore footpath, back towards the barrage. The 4K marker is just before runners reach the White Water rafting course, parallel with the Wetland

Nature Reserve. The course then heads back along the riverside path passing under the Princess Diana Bridge. As they continue along the footpath on Riverside Road they pass the old mine sweeper, formally used by the Sea Cadets, arriving at the Millennium Bridge. After going over the bridge the course heads back along the river around the inland waterways connected by a number of small bridges. Robert Young was first to finish for the Club in 43:44 followed by Kelly Smith 46:52, Peter Smith 46:52, Paul Stretton 47:40 and Judith Porter 53:04. Entries are now being taken for Newton Aycliffe Annual Fun Run and 10K run to be held on 15/06/14. For details see www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk http://www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk/raceform_14.html



Greenfield Community College's Sports leaders ran an excellent multi skills event for 130 Year 2 students from local primary schools recently. Pupils from Byerley Park Primary School, Horndale Infants school, Stephenson Way Community Primary and St Joseph's Primary School, joined Greenfield leaders for a day of challenges as part of the Get Set Olympic Legacy. The event was organised by Greenfield staff with contributions from the leaders in choosing the activities designed to challenge the visiting sports men and women. The activities included tennis, golf, throwing, catching, boccia, jumping, aiming and more. Many of the children taking part achieved special awards for demonstrating the Olympic Values of

friendship, respect, determination and excellence. The Greenfield Sport leaders are growing in confidence each time they lead these events for Primary students. They continue to do an excellent job, representing Greenfield through their dedication, positive attitudes and behaviour. The leaders are logging the time they dedicate to helping and will receive awards based on the number of hours at the end of the year. Many of them are well on their way to reaching sufficient hours to receive a County Volunteering certificate. The Sports leaders' programme is a great opportunity for Greenfield Sports enthusiasts to share their skills, develop their ideas and support their community. Well done to all at Greenfield.

South African Immigrant Seeks Lost Friend

Dear Sir,
I'm trying to locate a childhood friend, Mandy Robinson who I kept in contact with when I left Newton Aycliffe to come to South Africa in 1975 until 1985 when we lost touch. I don't know if she is still living in the area but her sister was Lauren and her Mom Joyce. I've tried so many different methods of trying to trace her and I hope someone reading this will know her whereabouts and ask her to contact me. My email address is jmagencies@telkomsa.net or they can look me up on Facebook as Debbie Gardiner Welman. Debbie Welman (nee Gardiner) +27 82 330 1378

Students Visit Bradford Mosque



Year 8 students from Woodham Academy were delighted to be able to visit a mosque as part of the recent Specialist Day. Students were accompanied by RE staff, Mrs. J. Davison and Mrs. T. Tait, and visited the Madni Jamia Masjid in Bradford. This is a very large purpose-built mosque and students were able to relate the features of the building to the work they had done in their RE lessons. They also had time for an extensive question and answer session with the guide, who was able to answer a wide variety of questions on life as a Muslim in the North of

England, ranging from how Muslims are shown on TV to difficulties in following the rules of Islam in the UK. Mrs. Davison commented "very few of our students have an opportunity to visit a mosque, so this will be very useful for their future studies, helping them to understand how people live out their faith in the 21st century." Students described the visit as "fascinating", "informative" and one student remarked that "there were so many things I'd never thought of before".

FLOWER CLUB

The Open Meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club will take place at Shildon Civic Hall at 7.30pm on Monday, 19th May when National Demonstrator, Derek Armstrong from Carlisle, will present an evening of flower arranging entitled 'The Scents of Spring'. Tickets: £5 (Visitors £8) Pay on the door.

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CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team team sponsored by Franks progressed through to the quarter final of the NYSD League cup after an excellent 37 run home at home over Thornaby 2nd XI. Electing to bat first, Aycliffe totalled an impressive 134 for 6 in their 20 overs thanks to a brilliant 61 from makeshift opening batsman Michael Howe. Howe (photo attached) smashed 3 huge sixes and 3 boundaries in his innings and was given good support from fellow makeshift opener Matty Atkinson, who hit a useful 28 runs. In reply, Aycliffe seam bowler Ross Dixon finished with career best figures of 5 for 42 from an excellent 10 overs spell, to restrict Thornaby to just 97 for 5 in their allotted 20 overs. In the league, Newton Aycliffe's 1st team travelled to division 2 leaders Maltby 1st XI and were unlucky to only

come away with a well earned winning draw. Electing to bat first, Aycliffe batted between showers and a long stoppage to reach a respectable 156 all out after 44.2 overs. Captain Chris Palmer top scored with 44 and there was other useful contributions from Sam Telford (42 not out) and Colin Myers and Graham Telford, who both scored 16. In reply, Aycliffe bowlers Sean Morgan (3 for 24), Luke Telford (3 for 30) and Colin Myers (3 for 34) put Aycliffe in with a great chance of winning the match, but a defiant 10th wicket partnership from the homeside, saw them bat out the last 7 overs to snatch an undeserved draw for Maltby, who finished on 108 for 9 from the reduced innings of 36 overs. All the games involving the club's other teams were cancelled due to the rain and unfit grounds.

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PAYING THE PRICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENCES

More than 130 people are paying the price for committing environmental offences in County Durham in March. Durham County Council's neighbourhood protection team tackles issues including fly tipping, dog fouling, littering and anti-social behaviour.

In March the team issued the following fixed penalty notices:
 • 89 for littering
 • Ten for dog fouling
 • 35 for failing to respond to requests to clear untidy yards and gardens
 There were five prosecutions for non-payment of fixed

penalty notices, issued for failing to respond to requests to clear untidy yards and gardens, and eight prosecutions for non-payment of fines for littering. 145 advisory letters were also sent out to the owners of untidy properties and three for those who allowed dogs to stray.

Ian Hault, neighbourhood protection manager with Durham County Council, said: "We always aim to respond to concerns from within local communities and such environmental offences significantly impact upon and blight our villages, towns and rural areas."

Six offenders were also prosecuted for fly tipping offences. Fines have ranged in costs with one offender being ordered to pay as much as £330. Ian added: "Fly tipping is a serious offence and we prosecute those who illegally dispose of their waste."

"Householders have a duty of care to use a registered waste carrier to make sure rubbish is disposed of properly without being dumped. We investigate incidents to find evidence to link the fly tipping back to those who dump it."

All incidents of dog fouling, littering and fly tipping should be reported to the council by calling: 03000 261 000. Forms are available online to report offences: www.durham.gov.uk

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DROP-IN SESSIONS FOR FAMILIES THINKING OF ADOPTING CHILDREN

Ever thought about extending your family? To help people thinking about adoption, Durham County Council is holding a monthly information session. Social workers will be on hand to discuss the process and help answer any questions and some adoptive parents will be available to explain what life has been like since adopting. Jessica Cowen, adoption team manager, said: "We have a lot of children who are waiting to find an adoptive family. We understand that adoption is new to people and they may be nervous about coming forward so these information sessions will be a chance for people to meet our friendly team and have any questions answered. "It's also a good chance to find out about the support available. We have a lot of children waiting and would like more people to find out how they could adopt." The next information session is due to be held on Friday, May 30 between 2.00pm and 4.00pm at Durham Town Hall. Members of the public are invited to drop-in at any time.

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GRASSCUTTING RESULT WHEN CONDITIONS ARE UNSUITABLE



Perhaps Council Contractors require additional training on when the conditions are suitable to cut grass as common sense clearly doesn't prevail. This is one of three sections ruined along Rope Moor Way before the task was finally abandoned. I don't suppose the council have funds to rectify the problem so residents will no doubt have to look at this mess over the coming months.
Disgruntled Resident

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Residents' Forum Looking To The Future

After many years of great work in the Sedgefield area the Residents' Forum is looking on how to improve the lives of the communities and making good neighbourhoods even better places to live and work. The aim of the Forum is to bring all community groups together to share ideas and help each other work more

efficiently in their own areas. The group holds public awareness days highlighting issues affecting the public such as Welfare Reform, Loan Sharks and Health issues. If you are part of a community group living in the old Sedgefield Borough area and think you can help keep the good work of the Forum

going please come along to the meetings they are held every month in St. Clare's Vestry starting at 6.30p. The dates of the next meetings are 19th May / 16th June (A G M) / 21st July with no meeting in August. Philip Clark For more info contact rayhowe30@btinternet.com/ christine.hall@gmail.com

Birthday Remembrance

RAYMOND SPARKS, 17/05/46. Fond memories of you on your 68th birthday, from Linda
JOAN HUGHES Happy birthday Mam, 17th May. Luv and miss you, Sue xx
HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOAN, 17th May. Love from Alan x
TREVOR PLASKITT 23/05/1941, died 12/12/2010. You left too soon and broke our hearts, we find it hard to carry on without you. We miss you and are so proud of you. We love you and always will Trevor xxx Thinking of you every day and in our hearts forever, love Wife Valerie, Daughters Shirly, Jasan, Julia and Adam and Loving Grandchildren, Jonathan, Maxine, Louis, Mia and family xxx

Obituary

Hills
 Peacefully on May 1st. Agnes aged 66 years.
 Much loved Wife of Thomas, loving Mam of Kevin, Karen and Pamela, much loved Nana of Andrew, Amy, Michael, Laura, Chelsea, David, Jason and Jonathan and Great Nana of Casey and Frankie, also a much loved Mother in Law, Sister, Sister in Law and Auntie.
 Will family and friends please meet for Service and cremation at Darlington Crematorium on Monday May 19th at 1.15 pm.
 Donations, if so desired, may be made in memory of Agnes to Cancer Research UK. Plate provided at the Crematorium.

FORSTER RONALD RITSON of Newton Aycliffe, peacefully on May 10th aged 81 year. Dearly beloved partner to Joyce, much loved Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather. Will be missed so much by all of us. Family and friends please meet for Service at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe on Wednesday May 21st for 1.30pm. Followed by private interment at West Cemetery.

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 3 **BEDROOM HOUSE** in Stocks Green, Newton Aycliffe. GCH, new bathroom and well decorated. £450 pcm. Reference required. Call/text 07590 840 666
 2 **BEDROOM HOUSE** to let, quiet cul-de-sac in Shildon. New carpets and decor, GCH & DG, front & rear gardens, nice area. £425 pcm. 07952 610 047

In Memoriam

Yvonne McKee (Elliott)

 16th May 2012
 Deep in our thoughts every single day. Loved heaps and remembered in every way. "To the Moon and Back" beautiful Mum xoxoxox

KILLIP George William, died 21st May 2013. Those you love don't go away, they walk beside you every day. Deep in our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered every day. We all love and miss you so much, you were one in a million. Loving Wife Dorothy and loving family. God bless.
NORMAN SANDERSON 7/9/20 - 17/5/13. Almost a year since I've called you, your cloud was ready, your rent was due. We know you had to catch your train, to start your trek down God's green lane. Always remembered, never forgotten by your Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren
EDWARD JOHN GALLAGHER 14th May 2009. It's five years since you passed away, we love and miss you every day. Your Loving Wife Joan and family
SPENCER CLARKE A special Husband, Dad and Grandad, 14/05/2008. We all miss you so much, not a day goes by when we don't think of you. The times we had together will never be forgotten. Love, Grace, Paul, Michael, Carol, Ann, Karen, Keith, Andy, Dom and Ben
CHENTRENS DENNIS 1924-2005. You are missed today and every day Dad. Always in our thoughts, from your loving Daughters, Margaret, Doreen and Denise xxx

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Thank You

GARTLAND The family of the late Dennis Gartland would like to thank everyone who attended his funeral, sent cards and flowers of condolence and donated to Cancer Research UK, over £280 was raised. Thank you to everyone who looked after Dennis, the District Nurses, Dale Care Carers, Dr McKinty, the Co-op Funeral Directors and Jan Carr, for a beautiful Service. Many thanks to the Royal British Legion and Amanda for use of the Legion and buffet.
THANK YOU to family and friends who attended the funeral of Lisa-Jane Maddison. To the Co-op Funeral Service for their kindness and consideration. To Vicar Anne Melton for a lovely Service. To Amanda at the British Legion for a smashing buffet. For all donations for Huntington's Disease, £261.89 was raised from the collection plate at the Church. Thank you.
VERA STOBBS I would like to thank all my family and friends for the many gifts, cards and good wishes I received on my 90th birthday on 4th April. I had a wonderful weekend of celebrations. Thank you all again xxx

Congratulations

Lord George White of Glenmore

94 Today
 Friday 16th May
 Best wishes from all the family

Naomi Elston

Happy 16th Birthday
 Sunday 18th May
 Love from Dad, Nanna and Grandad & Josh, Charlie, Dylan, Uncle Keith, Uncle Steven and Megan

Lauren Ward

18th Birthday
 Friday 16th May
 Happy birthday. Legal age now! Lots of love, Mam, Daddy Burn, Beth, Arron, Bonnie and Cougar

CHARLOTTE ALLEN Happy 18th Birthday Princess. Lots of love, Dad and Tracy x
CHARLOTTE ALLEN Happy 18th Birthday Mrs B. Lots of love, Luke, Bradley and Tyler x
CHARLOTTE ROSE ALLEN Happy 18th Birthday. Love from Auntie Margaret, Uncle Joe and family
CHARLOTTE ALLEN 18/05/14 Congratulations on your 18th birthday. A beautiful granddaughter inside and out. All our love always, Grandma and Granddad xx
CHARLOTTE ALLEN 18/05/14 Congratulations Charlotte on your 18th. Love, Uncle Craig, Auntie Annabel, Vinnie, Oscar and Daisy x
LOLLIPOP! Happy Birthday Love from us xx
BRADLEY CLAUGHTON Happy Birthday Brad. Lots of love, all the Crew x

Shaun Petrie

 Congratulations on your Passing Out at HMS Raleigh. We are all very proud of you. Mam and family

Getting Married?
 We remind those who are planning to get married they can have their wedding recorded in Newton News at no charge.
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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 Years Celebrations Mar on 1st Jar 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!

Aycliffe Triathlon Club

On Sunday 4th of May Darlington Rotary Club held it's annual Sprint Triathlon at Branksome School. The event made up of a 400m pool swim 26k bike and 5k run was well supported with many experienced and beginner triathletes taking part. First home for the club and 8th in his group Graham Atkins in a very respectable 1hr 19mins, next home was Melanie Rowland in 1hr 32 (giving her a new PB for this event). Next home and making her triathlon debut Tracey Warrior who completed the race in 1hr 45. On Sunday 11th May four of the club's members travelled to Stokesley to take part in the Cleveland Sprint. Luckily the weather held out for 400m pool swim, 20k bike and 5k run making for fast times for all four triathletes.



All the clubs triathletes had fantastic race times giving them a good start to the season.

BADMINTON AT AYCLIFFE

With both the Mixed and Ladies teams winning their last two games of the season the Final Darlington & District Badminton League tables show the Mixed team finishing in 6th position which unfortunately means they will probably be relegated into B Division for next season. The Ladies team finished in 3rd position exactly mid table in the Ladies Division.

Now the season is finished Club Nights will continue for all social and team players at Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Friday evenings from 7.30 til 9.30, new players and members are always welcome visit <http://aycliffebadminton.webs.com/> for more information.

Warriors Start Season in Style



On Saturday, 26th April, The Woodham Warriors started their 2014 British American Football season with a tough group of away fixtures in Burnley. Woodham, who have been beaten National finalists in each of the last 4 seasons, were looking to regain the magic that had taken them to Northern Conference champions and all the way to the British final in 2013.

Playing the home town Burnley Tornados first was always going to be a difficult fixture, Woodham were buoyed by great performances from James Rawe, playing his first game as a Warrior, and Richie Howe. The Warriors dominated the game right from the very first play, touchdowns by Kyle Broad, Chris Horn and Josh Penny saw the team take a commanding 22-0 lead into half-time. Woodham extended their lead to 30-0 in the second half, before changing things up to finish the game. Burnley finished strong but were never a match for the Warriors, as Woodham ran out winners 30-14.

The second game saw Woodham face off against league new boys Pennine Panthers. Again, the Warriors led from the front, flying out to a 16-0 lead. Pennine impressed in their first outing of the season but were too inexperienced to match a well-oiled Warriors unit. Kyle Broad led Woodham on offense and defence, Woodham pulled away in the second half to win the game 47-13.

The third and final game saw Woodham matched up with Manchester Titans, a team with a great men's league pedigree. Woodham were once again too strong for their opponents, dominating the game from the outset. A fantastic performance from Kaleb Stephenson on defence led the Warriors suffocating defensive unit, that, matched with a brilliant display from Dylan Lumley on offense and Callum Clasper getting his first career touchdown, saw Woodham cruise to a 52-6 victory. Head Coach, Danny Ketch, commented on his team's performance, "It's been a long, tough winter. Our team worked very hard to prepare for the season and they are now reaping the rewards of it. To start 3-0 was the goal we set for ourselves. We've got to keep building from here. Let's hope our fantastic results continue throughout the season."

Woodham now look forward to another away trip, this time to North-East rivals Newcastle, on May 17th.

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Golf Pro Moves On

After 27 years service working at the two Newton Aycliffe golf courses, Golf Professional Ernie Wilson is to take up a position at Middlesbrough Municipal golf course.

Ernie first arrived to Aycliffe in 1987 to work at Oakleaf then known as Aycliffe Golf Club leaving in 1991 to play on the Scottish Tartan Tour for two seasons.

In 1993 Ernie returned to the town to take up the position of Golf Professional at Woodham Golf & Country Club leaving in 2002 to return to Oakleaf Golf Complex as golf manager for five years.

In 2007 Ernie returned to Woodham to be employed by new owners Washington Developments until sadly at the end of the 2013 season the golf club closed.

Ernie would like to thank all of his customers for their support over the years at present Ernie is still available for lessons and coaching at a local club, he also has golf stock remaining to sell on if anyone would like bargain clothing, shoes etc. Please ring for details 07599 528153 For Golf lessons with Ernie at Middlesbrough Driving Range please contact the golf shop on 01642 300720.

Karate Club News



Photo left to right: Jonathan Timmis, Andy Bailey, Connor Mills, Kayleigh Smythe, Kyle Smythe, Steve Wilkinson.

Newton Aycliffe Karate Club took part in the Isle of Man Karate Federation Annual competition on Easter Saturday at Peterlee Leisure Centre.

Kyle Smythe, 7th Kyu Orange Belt, 15 years came 3rd in Up to 4th Kyu Men's Kumite (Free Fighting). He did really well against adults twice his age.

Jonathan Timmis, 7th Kyu Orange Belt, 15 years, came 3rd in the Team Kumite event. Sensei Stephen Wilkinson, 4th Dan Black Belt came First in Brown and Black Belt Kata (Forms) and 2nd in team Kumite. Sensei Andy Bailey, 3rd Dan Black Belt, came 2nd in Brown and Black Belt Kata.

Congratulations to Sensei Stephen Wilkinson for passing his Yondan, 4th Dan Black Belt after taking his grading under Sensei Frank Newton, 6th Dan and head of the Federation.

For those interested in training in Karate we are at Neville Parade Community Centre training Tuesdays 7pm to 8.30pm and Sundays 10am to 11.30am. Adults £2.50 a session and kids £2. First lesson is free.

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