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## More Good News for Aycliffe as 3M Expand



Phil Wilson officially opens the new production area at 3M Aycliffe watched by plant manager Colin MacLeod (left) and 3M employees.

A new production area at the 3M manufacturing site at Aycliffe has been officially opened by Sedgfield MP Phil Wilson. The custom-built extension to the Heighington Lane plant is the result of a multi-million pound investment by the diversified technology company to produce 3M Filtrete, a filter medium for a wide range of applications. The product is used to filter out particles, dust, gas and odours for applications that range from industrial and medical purifiers to air filters in cars and vacuum cleaners. It is also a component in disposable and re-usable respirators made at the site. It was previously made at a 3M site in the Netherlands, but five production lines have been transferred across the North Sea to the newly built 4,000sq.m production area at Aycliffe. "The fact that 3M chose Aycliffe as the home of this new production facility is further evidence of the company's strong belief in the future of this site," said plant manager Colin

MacLeod. "The plant's success in gaining this investment is a

*continued on Page 2*

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## Aldi Parking

Dear Syd  
On Friday 30th May after I finished work I took my wife shopping in the town centre. At about 4.45pm I pulled into Aldi car park only to find all the disabled bays full so I parked as close to the entrance as I could. When I went to the shopping trolley rack, I looked at the cars parked in the disabled bays, not one had a disabled badge! I also noticed that some of the cars, either pulling into or out of the parent & toddler bays nearest to the entrance did not have any children. Didn't see any parking tickets either!  
War Pensioner

## Drama Classes at Aycliffe Autism Centre

New Drama classes are starting at the North East Centre for Autism (NEAS) as part of a Dance and Drama project that starts next month. Funded by the newly formed Ashburn Trust in Darlington the project aims to support young people with autism and other disabilities to use dance and drama as a means to communicate, express ideas and emotions. "We are really keen to make the most of the marvellous facilities the charity has here in Newton Aycliffe"

explained Susan Tron, Trust Fundraiser from the Aycliffe Centre "This is a great example of how we can work with other groups and organisations to offer a service that will help more than just our young people with autism" TIN Arts are a not for profit contemporary arts group that will be facilitating the Dance and Drama classes. These inclusive classes are a great way to help people with disabilities make new friends and develop some self-confidence. At the same time it gives parents of the young people the chance to meet and share ideas. These sessions will be offered free to those aged under 18 years and who are eligible and sessions commence on Saturday 14th June. If you know someone who would enjoy joining these sessions please contact Susan at the charities head office in Chester-Le-Street on 0191 410 9974 or email susan.tron@ne-as.org.uk and check out www.ne-as.org.uk for more information.

## New Residents' Association Proposed for the Agnews

The Agnew Community Centre Management Committee have agreed to sponsor the formation of a Residents' Association for the Agnews and have called a Public Meeting for Thursday 26th June at 7pm in their Centre at Morrison Close. This follows a line of successful associations formed around the town who are finding their voice and pressing for improvements on all aspects of community life. Syd Howarth, Chairman of Great Aycliffe Residents Association suggested this at the recent AGM where he was the guest speaker. Syd commented on the upsurge of Residents Association in recent years and encouraged Agnew to do likewise to give people living in the Agnews a forum to express their opinion on how their area can be improved. Agnew Community Centre will be offered free to the Residents group to

administer the Association and call meetings. Already people have expressed interest in serving as officers and see this as a positive move for the area. Items affecting people in the area include: parking, speeding, litter, noise, vandalism ASB etc. Play area for toddlers, youth facilities and welfare issues are other topics for debate. Syd Howarth has agreed to Chair the meeting and Ken Robson from the

successful Acorn Residents Association will explain how his association was formed and the advantages gained. All interested parties will be invited to the Public Meeting and refreshments will be served. Anyone requiring more information can call in at the Centre at anytime to discuss the project or e-mail the secretary Ron Mitchie to offer their support on agnewcommunitycentre@btconnect.com Tel: 321504. Mobile: 07749 236853.

## FLYTIPPERS CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Dear Sir,  
On Sunday 1st June I went to get my car from Ebba Close garages and noticed a large red wooden box and two cardboard boxes illegally flytipped. The boxes contained handbags and a large selection of ladies shoes. I informed the neighbourhood warden so the culprit can expect a visit as the area is covered by CCTV cameras from Pease Way Surgery. The contents of the boxes have been given to a charity shop and the evidence passed on to the authorities. Name & address supplied

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## More Good News for Aycliffe as 3M Expand

*continued from front page*

tribute to the highly skilled workforce we have here in the North East and will be contributing to additional jobs. The product will be exported from here to countries all over the world." The opening of the 3M Filtrete production area is the latest investment at the site, which last year opened a new production line to increase substantially its capacity to make cartridge filters for a range of its respirators. These filters had until then been made in the USA. As well as producing respirators for workers' safety and the 3M Filtrete material, the site's 320-strong workforce also makes a range of products for vehicle aftercare market.


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**Saturday 7th June - "Insanity"**  
 "Two great sets with something a bit different, early Sabbath, Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Foo Fighters and a brilliant version of Queen's Of The Stone Age 'No One Knows', were amongst the stuff Insanity serve up. Not all my cup of char, but thoroughly enjoyable. The band were nice and tight with Graeme his usual rocking self at the back, ably assisted in the rhythm section by Hirdy playing great bass and jumping around like only he does. Brian on vocals has a perfect voice for the material and headbangs and poses like a proper frontman. I was most impressed with John "I only play rhythm really" ... yeah, right! :o :))) Trigg on guitar. Great, clean but dirty tone playing in a variety of tunings and some real tasty phrasing and playing. Definitely a less is more style, but some lush soloing that was even more impressive considering the lack of saturation, each note ringing out nicely. Excellent stuff!"  
 GIG PIT REVIEW - [www.insanity-rock.com](http://www.insanity-rock.com)

**Saturday 14th June - "Tony Liddle Band"**  
 PLEASE NOTE This gig will start at 8.45pm, because of the England World Cup game

Reviews: "The room was full, and the sound was deafening with a mixed bag of people in, being entertained with the likes of Toto, Rainbow, The Cult, Bon Jovi, Bryan Adams, Judas Priest, Led Zep, Stereophonics, Whitesnake, AC/DC and Boston my favourite "More than a Feeling". Jon on bass/ keyboards seems to be having a good time in the now settled line up; Ade looking ice cool out front with the shades on and Tony being his cheeky self cracking on to the crowd. - Tony and co always deliver the goods and he has a cracking sense of humour. They sound even better now there set list has been re-vamped". One of the most talked about bands on the circuit"

**Saturday 21st June - "Bon Jovi Forever" & "The Kill"**

[www.unclegilbert.co.uk](http://www.unclegilbert.co.uk) For more information on bands go to  
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## School Parking Campaign

Monday 19th to Friday 23rd May was ARMSS (Aycliffe Road Management & School Safety) Action Week, a number of Schools were involved in highlighting the problems they encountered morning and afternoon regarding pupils' safety outside and near their schools.

Ron Hogg, Police & Crime Commissioner visited four out of the five schools that were mainly involved in the action week to experience for himself the problems the schools have.

Greenfield Community Arts College; SPEEDING, Byerley Park Primary School; SPEEDING & PARKING, Aycliffe Village Primary School; PARKING, Sugar Hill Primary School; PARKING, Vane Road Primary School; PARKING.

Pupils at each school were involved in highlighting the problems, as well as Police Officers, Police & Community Support Offices and Parking Wardens were in attendance to offer advice to drivers.



Police Commissioner Ron Hogg discusses school parking problems with a parent

Vane Road Primary School, held a competition for the pupils to design a road safety posters, the winners poster was displayed on the school fence, 2nd & 3rd placed posters being handed out as leaflets to drivers and parents. Sugar Hill Primary School, made Scarecrows, which were displayed outside the school.

The Chairman, Vice Chair & Secretary of ARMSS, would like to thank the schools who were involved, especially the pupils, teachers and staff, also Ron Hogg, The Police Offices, Police & Community Support Offices and Parking Wardens who come to the schools.

Alan Hindmarch  
ARMSS Secretary.

## Are People Really in Need of Food?

Dear Sir,  
I would like to know where all this food from local charities is going as there cannot be that many people on this town that are really classed as needy.

I know one woman who has a part time job plus two cleaning jobs, and all the benefits yet goes drinking most nights and smokes about 15 to 20 a day. She received three bags of

food and gave half away so you cannot tell me she should have been getting this. Come on do you really think this fair? If anyone needs help it's the pensioners - now THAT I could understand.

Good for you Aldi refusing to give bread - there is far too much given away and that's why they don't need to work! Observer  
Name & address supplied

### From Aycliffe's Foodbank Organiser

*When my wife and myself were first asked to co-ordinate the food bank in Newton Aycliffe I didn't think there would be a need for people to be given food - not in the twenty first century. How wrong I was, changes in the welfare system have placed an enormous strain on many families, even those in employment are feeling the pressure, and as a consequence there are a great number in this town who find themselves in food poverty.*

*need who do not seek help from agencies who could support them either with food vouchers or other help. Finally may I say how good it is to live in a town where there is so much generosity. We receive donations from individuals, and also organisations large and small who are prepared to use their resources to help those families. Last year St Clare's food bank fed over 1,500 adults and children. Ernie Temple, Foodbank*

*It is also true that as in any system there will be those who will take advantage. The food bank does not assess need, this is left to welfare and health professionals who know their clients and issue a voucher to those whom they assess as being in need. The food bank provides help to all irrespective of age, who have been assessed and are in receipt of a food voucher. Our main concern is not that we are providing food to those who do not "deserve it", but there are people in*

## MIDDRIDGE PETITION

The Middridge Parish Clerk has received a petition from residents of 1-10 Middridge Farms expressing their opposition to Great Aycliffe Town Council's move to take in part of their parish boundary, Eldon Whins. They insist that this area has been part of Middridge since its inception and urge people in Great Aycliffe not to sign the Town Council's petition.

## David & Goliath Fight Over Eldon Whins

Dear Sir,  
I do not understand the reference on the Great Aycliffe Website regarding the Eldon Whins Petition that the "Residents of the new housing will utilise the services within Great Aycliffe". The essential Services (Gas & Electricity, Lighting, Water, Sewerage, Roads, the NHS, and the Emergency Services) are NOT the responsibility of Great Aycliffe.

I, in common with many Middridge Residents, happily use these essential services, many of which are based in Great Aycliffe, as well as shopping and banking, but this does not make me feel that I am thus somehow a resident of Great Aycliffe! I believe the real reason for this battle is that Great Aycliffe are after the potential "Spoils of War" i.e. the

money from the Community Infrastructure Levy for the proposed new Housing. It seems sad that, after many years as good neighbours, that Middridge 'David' now

has to fight the Great Aycliffe 'Goliath' for such a dubious reason. I'm not quite sure this is what the Government intended Localism to mean! Middridge Resident

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# Town Council Object to Plans for Wind Farm

The **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** considered 'The Isles' planning application. As you know, EON is applying to site a huge windfarm on the 'Carrs' land to the east of Newton Aycliffe, viz:

- 24 turbines (7 with a maximum tip height of up to 126.5m on land to the north west of the A1(M) and north of Great Isle Farm, 13 with a maximum tip height of up to 101m and 4 with a maximum tip height of up to 115m on land between Mordon and Preston-le-Skerne) 1 permanent 80m high anemometer mast, and associated infrastructure including control building and substation compound, access roads and related engineering works.

The Committee agreed to submit an objection to the development, citing the following planning objections:

- The Sedgefield Borough Council saved plan does not allow such a development.
- The Durham County Plan, soon to be approved, does not allow such a development.
- The windfarm would have an unacceptable visual

impact.

- The windfarm would have a very unacceptable landscape/environmental impact on the delicate area of the Carrs and surrounding land.

- The windfarm would compromise housing development proposed for Copelaw by the Durham County Plan.

- The cumulative impact of this development, added to all the other windfarms in the area, would be excessive.

- Overall, the committee objected to what will amount to the industrialisation of a rural landscape so close to a major town.

If you also wish to support or oppose the windfarm, you have until 11 June to write to: Planning Development (Strategic), County Hall, Durham DH1 5UQ.

The **RECREATION COMMITTEE** also made a number of important decisions.

(1) Regarding the fireworks display, the Committee heard that the Safety Advisory Group is unable to meet with officers until 2 July – too late to book specialist services such as the fireworks, PA etc. Officers described the

measures they have taken (lighting, fencing, extra stewards, evacuation plans, ticketing etc.) to meet the safety objections raised by the SAG two years ago. In the expectation that these measures will satisfy the SAG, councillors agreed to book the firework display. This will be lost money if the SAG again refuse to sanction the event, but not to do so would have meant that the Fireworks Display could not have taken place this year.

(2) members received a description of the Cutting Loose carnival event which is to take place in West Park on Tuesday 15 July at 6pm ... and were very impressed.

(3) The Council considered a DCC consultation on a strategy for future fixed play provision in County Durham. The council was concerned that the proposals would put Great Aycliffe at a disadvantage, with investment going to other areas of County Durham.

(4) members agreed to write a letter of support for a lottery bid by Greenfield Tennis Club for the refurbishment of the tennis courts and 3G sports pitch.

# GARDEN THIEVES TARGET NURSERY

Children and staff at Playday Nursery were left distraught as heartless thieves broke into their gardens and stole the recently installed AstroTurf. The AstroTurf had been funded by the nursery at a cost of £5000. The children absolutely loved it, describing it as their 'sparkly grass'. It had transformed the gardens from an area to be avoided during wet weather to one the children could access in any conditions.

Nursery manager Linda Watts spoke of the frustration they felt "we couldn't believe it. We had worked so hard for so



long to save the money to be able to afford the AstroTurf as we knew what a difference it would make to the children who come here. To see the children's faces was heartbreaking".

Aycliffe Police have been and have put appeals out via their social media outlets to ask the public to be vigilant and to report any people offering the turf for sale. However for the nursery it looks as though it isn't going to be replaced, meaning the garden is now worse than ever given the mess the thieves left it in. Playday have their Family Fun Day on 12th July, sponsored by Newton Press, and are hoping for a good turn out from the local community as they look to raise funds to allow them to replace the AstroTurf.

Linda added "we are desperate to be able to replace the AstroTurf for the children. Thieves are bad enough at the best of times but when it affects unsuspecting children like this it's even worse. We would love to hear from anyone who has any information, or would like to offer any help to us to replace the AstroTurf. We are improving our security

measures with an extension of our CCTV to hopefully ensure this doesn't happen again".

# FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW



St Clare's Church "Feel Good Film Show" on Wednesday 11th June will feature "PATCH ADAMS" Based on a true story, it stars Robin Williams as a doctor who thinks humour is the best medicine, combining an inspiring story with side-splitting fun. 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. **EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME TO JOIN US.** Watching in friendly company makes all the difference. For further details please ring Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755

# Classic & Vintage Car Event at Hardwick

Butterwick Hospice in Bishop Auckland are inviting vintage and classic vehicle owners to attend their 2 vehicle exhibition evenings.

The annual event at Hardwick Country Park, Sedgefield will begin at 5.30pm on Tuesday 17th June and vehicles including tractors, motor bikes, cars, light haulage and trucks from a bygone era will be displaying by their owners until 8.30pm. Places are allocated on a first come first served basis.

All vehicles must be pre-registered in order to gain entry. The cost is just £3 per vehicle with all proceeds going to the Butterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland.

The following Tuesday 24th June a similar event will be staged in the Market Place, Bishop Auckland from 5.30pm.

For more details and registration forms please Tel: 01388 603003 or email [lynnalbury@butterwick.org.uk](mailto:lynnalbury@butterwick.org.uk). Payments accepted over the telephone with credit/debit card.

Members of the public are invited to attend both events.

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## Family Fun Day

In Aid Of Childrens Liver Disease  
**Saturday 14th June**  
 Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre  
 Opposite Tesco  
**12pm-3pm**  
 Party Palz Fireman Sam

Spiritualist Medium Ray Bokor  
 Retro Sweet Shop  
 Bodyshop  
 Crafty Little Clare  
 Daisy Dee's Home Baking  
 Bounceabout and Play  
 Bouncy Castle  
 Ditzzy Bitz  
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 Soap UK  
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## Charity Seeks Part Time Project Worker

Local charity Lifeline Community Action have created a position for a Project Co-ordinator. This is an exciting and challenging opportunity to help manage and develop the work of LCA. The registered charity is a rapidly growing crisis intervention project operating across Co. Durham. Less than two years from start-up it now delivers aid to almost 200 people each month. It involves over 20 volunteers, 2 distribution points (with more planned). LCA enjoys widespread

community support, recognition from the local authority, statutory agencies and front line support agencies. Rapid growth continues and we need a part time project co-ordinator. Helping Hands project is part of LCA and has a Christian ethos, and we welcome applications from people who endorse Christian values and principles: we do not discriminate on religious grounds. If you are interested in the post please send a recent CV to lifeline.action@googlemail.com

## Litter Picking in Burnhill



Children from the Burnhill Way Church JAFFA After School Club were out picking up litter from the area around the church, next to the Turbinia and from across the other side of Sid Chaplin Drive. Armed with plastic gloves and pick up tools they collected several large bags and the children were very proud of what they had achieved.

## PARKING DAMAGE AT TESCO

Dear Sir  
On Thursday 29th May, while shopping at Tesco between 15.05 and 15.45pm. I returned to my car a Metallic Blue Citroen C3 Picasso 10 Reg. to find it severely damaged. This was not the usual but annoying door dent or scratch but collision damage. If it was a genuine accident fair enough but no note was left. I cannot believe that the driver was not aware of causing this level of damage and it is despicable if they did and drove off. This happened opposite the main entrance drop off/taxi pick up and ATMs and would be grateful if anyone witnessed anything to get in touch. Tesco Security are looking at CCTV and the Police have been informed. Meanwhile I have the inconvenience of waiting days for a repair and paying an excess on my insurance. I hope someone has their conscience pricked and this warns others who park there to beware, as according to Tesco Security it happens all the time! Contact details held by Newton News.

## LATEST ON THE TOWN MARKET

Rumour has it the Market will be offered a home, but not on the Cubby site! The County Council are putting up all sorts of obstacles including health and safety which is always a good one to hide behind. However the market will be housed in the town centre area if everyone agrees with the new terms which need to be laid down. The market traders did enjoy favourable rents based on the fact they suffered inconvenience and loss of stalls, but a new regime and conditions might put them off so nothing is certain.

### JUST IN FROM DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL!

Stuart Timmiss, Durham County Council's head of planning and assets, said: "The council owns only two sites in Newton Aycliffe town centre, both of which are on Greenwell Road. Early analysis of these sites, which takes into consideration safety, access and cost, has identified the car park, which was the former Direct Works Depot site, as the only realistic option we are able to offer the market traders. "We have had positive discussions with the Town Council who will be speaking to the market stall holders over the next few days. However, it should be noted that these are very early discussions and no decisions have been taken. More work is needed and any decision would be subject to consultation."

## Tickets now on sale for a Darlington Orchestra Concert

**Tuesday 17th June**  
Commencing at 7.15pm  
**Neville Community Centre**  
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Tickets: Adults £5.00, Seniors £4,  
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To book your tickets and collect on the door  
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# Aycliffe Ex PC Launches Course for Prospective Police Officers

Former police officer Katy Graham who started her career at Aycliffe aged 19 has developed a new course which offers ideal preparation for students looking to follow in her footsteps. As a Durham Constabulary police officer Katy faced a wide range of challenges, from aggressive drunks, to victims of crime, to families touched by tragedy. But it was her work on the rehabilitation of prolific young offenders which gave her the desire to pursue a new career in teaching. Since completing her Certificate in Education Post Compulsory Certificate in Education and Training at the college in 2010 and later being appointed as a part time lecturer teaching Travel & Tourism and Uniformed



Services, Katy's career has progressed at pace. She was promoted to Learning Area Leader and is now a Manager for Uniformed Public Services and Sport, with teaching responsibilities. As a result of her close links with Durham Constabulary, the college has been able to develop a new HNC/HND in Public Services (Policing and Criminal Investigation) qualification starting in September designed for students planning a career in the police and related services such as criminal profiling. The one and two year Higher Education programmes see students gaining skills such as an awareness of substance misuse, how crime affects our society, effective searches of vehicles and properties for evidence, and also working with local police on a large-scale public consultation. Modules include psychology of human and criminal behaviour, justice and punishment, crime reduction and community safety, technology use, custodial care, and substance misuse, culture and crime, and a Certificate of Knowledge of Policing as recommended by the Home Office for all new police recruits. The course has been developed with the support of Durham Constabulary and is being launched at an ideal time, according to the force's Head of Innovation, Learning and Planning, Superintendent

Bill Dutton, who said: "For anyone looking to join the police this course will be a very good use of their time at a time when most forces are not recruiting, to gain a worthwhile qualification and relevant experience. Extra-curricular activities Katy has initiated include a ball attended by 250 stakeholders which raised £5,000 for local charities and a staff versus students charity football match held at a local football stadium. She has also just been named as a finalist in the VQ Newly Qualified FE Teacher of the Year Awards being held at the Houses of Parliament on June 3rd. This exciting new development for the college has been endorsed by her former Superintendent, a real scoop and important progression route for many of our growing number of L3 Uniformed Services students. Katy added: "I am very excited that the college is offering this course to potential police officers of the future. I loved my role as a police officer and am looking forward to working with my colleagues to deliver an outstanding higher education programme which will equip our students with the knowledge and skills to be well-prepared to undergo their initial police training." T: 01388 443000 E: enquiries@bacoll.ac.uk W: http://www.bacoll.ac.uk Client Services: 01388 443030

# Aldi Prices Help Too!

Dear Sir, Whilst it is a loud hurrah for Tesco in welcoming their continued support for the Newton Aycliffe Food Bank and agreeing to donate twenty loaves of fresh bread weekly to that social lifeline, I certainly would not castigate Aldi and their social role. They too are playing a vital part in supporting struggling families. It is a modern day continuing scandal that there is a need for Food Banks. In the context of food retailers within Newton Aycliffe Aldi are very competitive on price and quality. I am certain that there are many, families extremely grateful that they can avail themselves of the cheaper prices of food stuffs at Aldi. There are many who struggle to make ends meet, week on week. They do not have to go to the Food Bank, but the pennies and pounds that they save on their weekly shop makes a real difference to them. Yes, three cheers for Tesco, but let us be very grateful for Aldi, without them, many more Newtonians would be knocking on the doors of our Food Bank Derek Atkinson (GATC Cllr for Simpasture)

# £802 for Christian Aid

Churches Together in Great Aycliffe would like to thank those who gave so generously to the recent Bucket Collection in Tesco on 16th/17th May. The total amount raised from the bucket collection and church collections was £802.65. Our thanks also go to the management of Tesco for allowing us to collect in their store over these two days and to Newton News for publicising this event. Anne Molyneux Secretary

# Family Activities Enjoyed at Greenfield



Last week at Greenfield Arts we filled May Half term with some fantastic activities for young people and families. The focus of the week was preparing for this year's Cutting Loose event, which will take place on Tuesday 15th July, 6pm at the Boating Lake.

We started the Half term with a creative session designing and creating faeries and boggles as puppets to get us thinking about the faeries and boggles that live in Aycliffe. Wednesday morning was spent creating a new installation for the Arts Centre foyer, hoping to give the King of the Faeries something to smile about! Local artist Jilly Greenwood led these fun sessions to a packed room of families and children, all of whom enjoyed the experience. We finished off the week with a Mexican inspired day of Family Cooking sessions with Season to Taste. Thank you to all the families and children who joined us,

# Park Meeting

Friends of West Park next meeting is on Tuesday, 10th June at 7pm in the upstairs lounge in the British Legion Club at Macmillan Road. All welcome to attend

# Will There be a Park?

Dear Sir, I hope the new development at Cobblers Hall provides somewhere for the kids to play as according to rumour the play area on the Miller Homes development is now not going ahead. A few residents who live near where it was shown on the plan have decided the rest of the estate's children shouldn't be allowed on this area and have complained. It was clear from day one this was always going to be a play area and I am quite sure the council has to be informed if plans change. I bought my house in Youens Crescent knowing my children had somewhere to play and now it seems this is not the case. Yours Awaiting Council reply, Toni Smythe

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# Aycliffe Village EGM

Residents of Aycliffe Village are invited to a meeting to decide the future of the village hall. Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association has called an extraordinary meeting to adopt two resolutions which are crucial to whether we are able to retain the village hall. The meeting, which takes place on Saturday, June 14th, at the village hall at 11am, is required because of changes to how village halls are managed. Up to now, Aycliffe Village Hall has been financed by Durham County Council. However, this is no longer the case, and now there are two options facing residents. Either we accept financial responsibility for the running of the hall, under a process called Asset Transfer, or we give up the hall. To accept responsibility for the hall, we need a new constitution to provide more security for trustees in the lead up to the Asset Transfer process. The new constitution has to be accepted by members. If you wish to receive a copy of the proposed new constitution please e-mail aycliffevillage@btinternet.com or to read more about the new legislation, please visit the Charities Commission's website. If you wish to have an input into whether or not we keep the village hall, then it is vital that you attend the meeting on June 14th.

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# PCP Thanks 89 Active Volunteers

Dear Sir,

1st-7th June marks the 30th anniversary of Volunteers Week and on behalf of everyone at the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) I would like to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers.

We like to recognise PCP volunteers at every opportunity, whether that's nominating them for a local, national or regional award, celebrating their anniversary for years of service or simply offering them a free cuppa in our Mall Coffee Shop to say 'thanks'.

National Volunteer's Week is a great way to highlight all the good work volunteers do in our communities. As part of this year's celebrations PCP invited people along to an event at the Pioneering Care Centre on Thursday 5th June to recognise the invaluable contribution that volunteers make in helping PCP achieve its mission, to improve health, wellbeing and learning for all.

Attendees found out what volunteering and training opportunities are available and information on the different services and projects to get involved with. They also got to chat to existing volunteers about the positive effect volunteering has had on their lives.

Volunteering is an excellent way for people to get involved in their local community. It provides



people with an opportunity to make new friends, whilst learning new skills to help them get into further training, education or employment.

PCP currently has 89 active volunteers and from April 2013 to March 2014 they provided PCP with over 7,900 hours of their time helping to support the smooth running of the Centre and of the projects based at external locations.

PCP wouldn't exist without the support of volunteers and we are keen to support any individuals who would like to give a little of their time to make a big difference.

Thank you,  
Carol Gaskarth  
PCP Chief Executive

To find out more about the volunteering opportunities available please contact the Pioneering Care Centre, Carers' Way, Newton Aycliffe, tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net

# VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED TO CREATE GREAT AYCLIFFE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Two Steering Group Members are needed to assist with the preparation of the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan. This is a voluntary position that will be established for a time-limited period. The project is intended to run until a Plan has been approved by the independent examiner prior to final referendum. An interest or experience in PLANNING would be beneficial, in addition to community engagement. It is envisaged that the Steering Group will meet, initially, at least once a month. There will be a form to complete and a selection process to undertake. This is a voluntary position which may last 2 years. You must have a positive can do attitude.

Members of the Steering Group will be required to declare any personal interests that may be perceived as being relevant to the decisions or recommendations made by the group.

The main roles of the Steering Group will be

- 1) To produce a sound Neighbourhood Plan that defines the planning policy priorities identified by the community, residents and businesses of the Great Aycliffe Parish.
- 2) To determine the overall scope and objectives of the plan.
- 3) To advise on the development and co-ordination of the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4) Take an active part and assist in the research activities

conducted by the various groups and organisations whilst developing the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan

- 5) To monitor the progress of work being undertaken by the various task/thematic groups and individuals.
- 6) Actively support and promote the preparation of the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan.

For further information and an application pack please contact Chrissy Walton, Great Aycliffe Town Council, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6QF, by telephone 01325 300700 or are available online at [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk). The deadline for receiving applications is MONDAY 9th JUNE 2014. Interviews will take place on THURSDAY 19th JUNE 2014

# Praising Good Workmanship

Dear Sir,

We would like to congratulate local firm, Meridian Upholstery on the Business Park, for giving our old sofa a new lease of life. The quality of work and their professional and friendly service has exceeded all our expectations.

Jackie & Glyn Edwards

# Greenfield Supports Traffic Safety Awareness Week



Last week staff and students at Greenfield refreshed their campaign to keep students safe as they arrive on a morning and leave at night. Last November students carried out a democratic vote focused on the speed limit along Greenfield Way. There was a very strong feeling that the speed limit should be reduced to 20 mph during peak times, currently it is 40 mph.

We have worked with the Police and the Council in an attempt to achieve this, hopefully students will see their campaign come to fruition in the near future.

Last Wednesday we were joined by the Police who agreed to carry out a speed check on vehicles who pass the school. We have reminded everyone of our system for dropping off and collecting students and have spoken to parents and carers to remind them of safe practice.

On Friday students turned out in mufti to remind everyone of our "20 is plenty" campaign. They were raising money for Stephen's Story (Cancer Charity) and Farplace Animal Rescue Centre. They were joined by Police and

Crime Commissioner, Ron Hogg, who wanted to see our traffic system in operation, following advice from the Police eighteen months ago. We have come a long way since the launch; however there are still a few concerns with unsafe procedures and the speed limit on Greenfield Way.

Safeguarding all of our students is of paramount importance to us at all times, we will continue to strive to provide a safe and secure environment in which our students feel valued. Traffic awareness is part of this and is everyone's responsibility.

# REGULAR GIVERS NEEDED TO ASSIST "HELPING HANDS" FIGHT POVERTY IN AYCLIFFE

There are thousands of people trapped in poverty whose lives and families are being completely destroyed. We have an answer and are ready to help those who live in and around Newton Aycliffe, but there are still those people who we can't help. We are desperate to assist anyone that rings our helpline. To do this we need more people to give cash so that we can help

these people in their hour of need.

Would you consider giving regularly to the town's Registered Charity "Lifeline Community Action" for the "Helping Hands" project. Would you set up a standing order today and donate a few pounds per month to really help us make a difference? Please phone 07936 431262 or e-mail [lifeline.action@googlemail.com](mailto:lifeline.action@googlemail.com) for more details on how you can join those already who are making a difference to many unfortunate families through generous donations.

We receive no government funding so rely on people who share our values to give what they can to help. We are all about bringing justice and 'speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves'.

googlemail.com for more details on how you can join those already who are making a difference to many unfortunate families through generous donations.

We receive no government funding so rely on people who share our values to give what they can to help. We are all about bringing justice and 'speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves'.

"Helping Hands" need more people to help us to reach out to 2,500 people, unable to feed their families, living with stress and depression, in the midst of family breakdown or even thinking about suicide - all because of poverty.

Will you throw them a lifeline and make a gift today? On behalf of the poor and needy - thank you!

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## Council Plan to Keep Business Local

Durham County Council's Cabinet will be asked to approve plans by the Social Value Taskforce to further increase spending with local firms.

The taskforce, the first of its kind in the North East when it was created, was set up by the council and the Federation of Small Businesses in response to the Social Value Act. The taskforce's aim is to consider the 'social value' of contracts, ensuring County Durham businesses and the local economy benefit even more from council spending.

Cabinet will be asked to approve the group's initial report and action plan to further boost local business when it meets on 11 June at The Witham, Barnard Castle.

The council already champions local spending with 54.4 per cent of contracts (worth £286.6m) awarded to County Durham based suppliers in 2012/13. Of this, 55.6 per cent (worth £159m) was spent with small to medium enterprises (SMEs). SMEs make up 96 per cent of all County Durham businesses.

This excellent performance has been achieved by the council going further than the requirements set out in the act for local authorities; ensuring local firms can tender for the supply of goods and to carry out works in addition to the service contracts covered by the act.

Contracts of a much lower value than the law dictates are also made available to businesses in the area, meaning more money stays in the county, creating local jobs and improving prospects for local residents.

As part of their first report, Cabinet will hear how the taskforce plans to encourage even more local spending using best practice gathered from organisations around the country. As well as encouraging more organisations to follow its lead, the taskforce, in partnership with Sunderland City Council and the North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO), will hold an event to launch

the report. This free session, on the morning of 10th July, will aim to spread awareness with even more local companies and show how they can bid for council contracts.

Cllr Neil Foster, Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "The council strives to secure the best services at the best price for taxpayers but the taskforce will help us ensure that even more benefit is felt by local businesses, boosting the county's economy as well as securing and creating local jobs."

"With 96 per cent of all County Durham businesses employing less than 50 people, it's essential that the council does all it can to support SMEs. Nurturing the smaller businesses that our local economy is built on and helping them to grow."

Ted Salmon, Federation of Small Businesses North East regional chairman said: "Establishing a taskforce approach has enabled us to bring together small businesses, social enterprises, the biggest council and the largest representative of small businesses in the North East to work on growing the local economy. Keeping more local spend in the county is what we're all hoping to achieve."

"The taskforce report contains clear recommendations for the county council and partner organisations, which we hope to see implemented, not just across County Durham but within the wider NorthEast region."

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## SWDT TO DRIVE F1 IN SCHOOLS CHALLENGE

A LEADING training provider in Newton Aycliffe has put the wheels in motion to introduce the world's largest educational programme at its facilities.

As part of an initiative to engage with young school children in the region and inspire future careers in engineering, South West Durham Training has joined forces with F1 in Schools Technology Challenge, a programme based on the design, build and racing of Formula 1 cars.

From September 2014, SWDT will teach budding students from years 9, 10 and 11 to use CAD/CAM software to design, test and build a scale-model Formula 1 car out of a block of balsa wood and race it in an exciting team competition. A purpose-built 20 metre

track is used to test the speed of the miniature cars and the participants are judged on their car speed, final car design, verbal presentation, engineering development, team work, project presentation and marketing display.

Trevor Alley, chief executive of SWDT, said: "It really is an amazing opportunity which will see our engineering tutors teach students to design their products using industry standard computer aided design software, and manufacture it using Computer technology (CNC machines) in place to bring their dream cars to reality."

"Housing all of the specialist technical equipment required for learners to prepare for and take part in the challenge, SWDT is currently in discussion with schools across the region that are looking to add engineering to their curriculum to highlight the benefits of engineering as a career prospect."

For more than 45 years, SWDT has been equipping the region with the skills needed to support a number of world-wide manufacturing and engineering careers.

The progression of the competition will see learners compete in rounds from schools to regional, national, international and world finals, with previous finals being held in Abu Dhabi, Austin (Texas, USA) and Melbourne, Australia. SWDT is in discussion with Andrew Denford, founder of the scheme, with hopes of hosting the sub regional final in the near future.

Mr Alley added: "Not only will the programme offer



a chance to learn science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) related subjects in an exciting way, I have high hopes that it will achieve great results, ultimately increasing the intake of students into engineering careers.

"The ultimate aim of the challenge is to highlight engineering as an exciting career prospect to learners, addressing the skills shortage in the workplace. The North-East in particular is crying out for skilled engineers, but the opportunity to target young learners gives us much needed optimism for the future. The F1 in Schools Technology Challenge is something really special for SWDT and I am committed to making sure that we are here, helping our future engineers to prosper, for many years to come."

For more information on the F1 in Schools Technology Challenge or South West Durham Training, call Kate Chapman – business development manager on 01325 328170 or Trevor Alley, chief executive officer on 01325 328160.

## NEW APPOINTMENTS AT STILLERS

Stiller Warehousing and Distribution has appointed a new General Manager in a move which will help boss Paul hand the reins to the next generation of his family almost six decades since the birth of the company.

As the Aycliffe firm approaches its 60th birthday, Stiller heads into a transitional period by promoting Matthew Stiller to Commercial Manager.

Brian Simpson has joined the family-run business from neighbouring PWS, a major manufacturer of kitchen components and worksurfaces, to help with the process.

Managing Director Paul, who was handed the company from his father, Gunter, 30 years ago, says it's a major step forward: "We've known

Brian for a number of years and we've always had such a high regard for him. The disciplines he brings with him, his management style, the whole package, will benefit the business tremendously.

"He's ideally placed to help Matthew in the transitional period of him taking the reins, and that's a key element. It's a major step for us, from a developmental point of view. He brings with him a modern, up-to-date management style which can only benefit Matthew and the company."

"Brian has two operational teams reporting to him and he's starting to see the inner workings of a busy logistics company from the other side of the fence."

Brian was warehouse and

distribution manager for PWS, having worked for them for more than nine years. The 45-year-old, originally from the Borders, said: "I've moved to the other side of the table, having employed hauliers in my previous role, I'm now the haulier."

"I've known Stiller for a while and it has a good name in the industry. The main attraction for me was the variety of the role, working out different solutions for a variety of companies."

Stiller, who employ 115 people, reported an increase in turnover to £10.5m at the end of 2013 and recently announced plans to invest £700,000 in a new multi-use building on its huge site as part of the group's long-term growth plans to create employment.

Stiller's premises at the heart of Aycliffe Business Park includes a 15,000-pallet store within 160,000 square feet, which stores for 15 customers from varying industries.

Due to a strategic reorganisation of its site, extra pallet storage space has now become available, and firms seeking storage can contact them on 313140.



Brian Simpson (left) with Matthew Stiller

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# Finley Structures at Centre of Hitachi Steel Ceremony

Aycliffe company Finley Structures featured highly at a steel ceremony hosted by Hitachi Rail Europe last week. The Japanese giants held the event to celebrate another major milestone in the development of its £82m train-building factory on Aycliffe Business Park. Finley Structures is in the process of erecting a 2,000-tonne skeleton for main contractor Shepherd Construction. With Finley's steel project about a third of the way through, the firm's managing director John Finley watched on, a very proud man, as his daughter Julie addressed the guests before her daughter, 7 year old Grace, presented commemorative podgers - specialist spanners used in the construction industry - to mark the occasion. Grace presented podgers to MP Phil Wilson, Hitachi Rail Europe's managing director Keith Jordan, Shepherd Construction's regional managing director Andrew Constantine and her Mum, Julie. In her speech, Julie said the contract has helped to secure 100 local jobs. "Finley Structures was established in 2000 by my father, John Finley, however, my mother Valerie played a major part, and very rarely gets a mention. But, as they say, behind every good man, is a good woman. "John's ambition was to build a company that would create sustainable employment, while delivering top quality products and service. The company has grown immeasurably over the years, slowly increasing the workforce, picking up bigger, high-profile contracts and increasing turnover year-on-year. "To us, this project is more than just a contract. It's an historic one. It will bring train-building back to the birthplace of the railways. It will bring hundreds of jobs to the area and then thousands more in the supply chain. It will help to create prosperity and, for Aycliffe Business Park, it will raise the profile."



John Finley with his daughter Julie and granddaughter Grace

Finley's part in the project will finish later this year, while Shepherd Construction is due to complete the 43,000 square metre factory by the end of summer 2015. The firm's regional managing director Andrew Constantine said: "This development has provided a welcome boost to the region's economy, harnessing expertise from across the North-East and providing hundreds of local jobs throughout the supply chain. "We are delivering this project from our Darlington office, and sticking to the promise we made to Hitachi that we would source as many suppliers as possible within a 50-mile radius." The shells of the trains are being constructed by Hitachi in Japan before being shipped to the North-East. Hitachi's managing director Keith Jordan revealed the firm is in talks about taking land adjacent to the factory where it could set up a sister facility to make train body shells - a move which would create more jobs on top of the 730 which will work at the factory from next year. "We think trains that will transform the lives of people in Britain should be made in Britain. Why not?" said Mr Jordan. Hitachi considered 42 sites across Europe

before deciding to make Aycliffe the centre for it train building operations. "We knew that this was the perfect site, so it is wonderful to see it taking shape," added Mr Jordan, who said Sedgefield MP Phil Wilson had been

"instrumental" in Hitachi's decision to invest in the region. Mr Wilson added: "It is great to see an iconic factory being built here in Aycliffe that will be one of the leading manufacturing sites in Europe."



Our M.P. with Julie and John Finley

# Aycliffe's Samwon Gives a Kind Helping Hand



Samwon's Managing Director, Gary Quickfall, came to the urgent rescue of Aycliffe's "Helping Hands" charity last week. He accepted a delivery of pallets of food at his factory at Northfield Way ready for volunteers to pack for a project helping needy families in our community. Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership made the request and Gary without hesitation said he was happy to assist. One of the problems of obtaining the food is finding the right premises to offload large pallets at this end and moves are afoot to provide a permanent facility. The Helping Hands team would like to thank Samwon for stepping in and allowing them to store excellent quality food that was donated. Alwyn White says "Without Samwon we would not have been able to accept this wonderful donation, they truly have helped us out. The pallets of food will be made up into packs for

the 100 people we are taking on self-catering holiday this year. We are really excited how

all good things are coming together as we push on to support more people in our community."

## Local Supply of Wiltshire Farm Foods

For people who want to enjoy life to the full, there's not always enough time in the day to cook from scratch. That's why thousands of customers are choosing Wiltshire Farm Foods' frozen meal delivery service. With a delicious range of frozen meals delivered directly to the front door, Wiltshire Farm Foods helps people to eat well in their own home, in their own time. Wiltshire Farm Foods' award-winning chefs have cooked up over 260 delicious dishes, using quality ingredients from approved suppliers. These meals are delivered directly

to your front door for free by a friendly, local delivery driver and stack neatly in the freezer. When you're ready to eat, simply remove a meal and pop it straight in the microwave or oven. As well as being quick and easy, the Wiltshire Farm Foods' service is also completely commitment-free - customers can order as much or as little as they like. Enjoying life and eating well has never been easier. For more information about Wiltshire Farm Foods in County Durham, you can contact 01388 765500 or visit wiltshirefarmfoods.com for a free brochure.



Mayor Wendy Hilary scans Hitachi's new factory



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# Can We Bring Back Boating to West Park Lake?

As a result of campaigning to rejuvenate our fantastic West Park I am frequently asked if it would be possible to reinstate the pleasure boats, which have left an indelible impression on the collective psyche of our residents. The obvious answer is yes. If the will is there, but we need to ascertain if those persons who represent us are in a position to help. If you would like to see a return of the boats please make your feelings known to your local and County Councillors who may support the campaign. First we should revisit the decision that resulted in the boats being removed and to be frank I cannot remember the circumstances very clearly. It would appear that two staff were required to rent out the boats and the income from the boats was not sufficient to make the operation viable. This of course raises a couple of questions in that; is the facility a public service or a commercial venture? Also were other options explored to run the boats i.e. volunteers? As we consider the implications of the current financial downturn with parents and grandparents finding it difficult to entertain children by taking them to the seaside etc. We as a society could consider providing attractions to keep young people of all ages occupied during school holidays and summer weekends. This

should pay a return in a reduction of anti-social behaviour. Of course we now find ourselves in different times with financial constraints on council expenditure. Maybe a more innovative method is sometimes required to achieve a result so perhaps we could explore a different approach. Examine a scenario: If it were possible to apply to the Heritage Lottery or other funders for the acquisition of new boats could we find a way to operate them with little or no cost to the council? Perhaps we may be able to get funding for community workers to operate the boats. Or thinking outside of the box: *Give much needed work experience to students. Allow voluntary groups to administer boating to accumulate funds for good causes.* Thinking along similar lines perhaps it would also be possible to install a zip wire or other adventure equipment. Alternatively, there are people who would like to turn the West Park into a solely environmental area with frogs, tadpoles and sticklebacks the primary focus. This leads me to ponder that we have lots of facilities in our town for wildlife; from the nature park to the burn, which winds itself around the length of the town. It would appear that we are about to gain

another pond in the Cobblers Hall area and we even have a fishing pond. Swans, ducks and Canadian geese frequent the West Park along with a multitude of other birds and wildlife that have been a feature of the area for years; providing a form of entertainment in themselves and fun for all the family. One of the cheapest and most innocent of pleasures is to take a small child to the park to feed the ducks. However, with two lakes it can be argued there is space for both pursuits. As Friends of West Park the object of our mission is to promote full use of the park for everyone. Ken Robson "Friends Of West Park"

## RESIDENTS' MEETING

The Lakes and Dales Residents' Association meeting is at Silverdale House on Wednesday 11th June 2014 at 6pm. This meeting will discuss the results and Livin responses to issues regarding fences and general points of complaint. Livin officers have said they will discuss the problems at a separate time and try and find a satisfactory solution on issues we raise which they will inform us of later. Ring 308094 for further details

# Woodham Students Study Wildlife Conservation

The term home-learning has taken on a new twist thanks to an innovative partnership agreement between a local school and a prestigious international conservation group. Students at Woodham are to be offered the opportunity to study wildlife conservation and management as an extra-curricular activity at the start of the next academic year, but, as luck would have it, they won't even have to leave their home-turf to do it. This is because the Academy is fortunate enough to occupy a large site on the fringes of that area popularly known as the burn, and has within its boundaries a rich variety of habitats regularly visited, and occupied by, a number of the nation's favourite creatures, including foxes, moles and hedgehogs, and home to various wildflowers, native trees and shrubs. Learners will be able to join a Wildlife Club in September. Once enrolled, these roving wildlife rangers will be encouraged to take up four challenges set by the John Muir Trust: to discover a wild place, to explore it, to conserve it and to share their experience of it with others. By thinking of practical solutions to improve the environment for wildlife and recording their findings they will be able to access three levels of award with the trust: The discovery Award, the Explorer Award and the Conservator Award. In so doing, it is anticipated that they will acquire new practical-skills and develop a greater awareness and understanding of the world on their door-step. The ambitious scheme will be supervised by Mr Heaven, who promotes literacy and reading across the school. He is excited by the prospect of his up-and-



coming training with the John Muir Trust, and by the prospects the scheme presents for both the school and its learners: "Our school is extremely fortunate in having valuable resources at its fingertips", says Mr Heaven; who was himself brought up in Newton Aycliffe. "By combining the existing material resources we already have: broad-leafed woodland, hedgerows and grasslands, with the natural curiosity and ingenuity of our greatest resource – our learners, we are confident we can improve the outlook for both." When pressed about what the scheme might look like in reality, Mr Heaven is open-minded: "The John Muir Award takes an holistic approach to learning: it encourages participants to come up with their own ideas on how they might promote or protect the plants and animals which call this school home." That, he said, might include learning to lay hedges, planting 'dead' borders or coppicing trees, growing a mini-wildflower meadow or manufacturing bird boxes, bat boxes and bumble bee hibernation houses. "What could be better than

using the skills you have learned at school to document wildlife movements, to sketch and paint resident flora and fauna, write a publicity leaflet, or make an information board for the benefit of local residents?" Woodham Academy will begin implementing the scheme in the autumn term, and have promised to keep local residents updated throughout the coming year.

# Lack of Road Marking

Dear Sir,  
I would like to congratulate Dan Hodgson on the piece he wrote regarding Parking Danger at Cobblers Hall Shops - not only was the piece very cleverly written, being particularly witty, but it was also very true! Having just returned from a trip to the Cobblers Hall shops where I commented to my partner that it was like 'Wacky Races' - we then discussed how chaotic the whole system (or lack of a system) appears to be. I would be interested to discover how many accidents there has been there - as it seems it would only be a matter of time before someone's car is clipped or some poor unsuspecting person attempting to cross the road is hit by Dick Dastardly or Penelope Pitstop. Some sort of road system and markings are definitely required!  
Sam Level

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## Aycliffe Village News

**COMMITTEE MEETING:** There is a committee meeting of Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association on Monday, June 9th, at the village hall at 8pm.  
**BABY SENSORY CLASSES:** For parents and carers with babies up to 13 months, there is a sensory class at the village hall on Tuesdays at 10.30am. For details, call Carly on 07881-922076.  
**BREAKFAST CLUB:** There is a breakfast club is on Saturday, June 14th, at the village hall from 9am-noon, when Curtis Office will be kindly sponsoring the event. There will be bacon, egg or sausage buns on offer, as well as cups of tea or coffee. Plus, there will be activities for children and a book stall. All proceeds go to the village hall.  
**IMPORTANT MEETING:** There is to be an extraordinary meeting of Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association on Saturday, June 14th, at 11am in the committee room, for members to adopt two resolutions to change the status of the association from an unincorporated charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. For details, call Sue Hindle on 07775-680804.  
**CRAFT CLUB:** For anyone interested in learning skills in basic knitting, sewing, quilting, card-making or baking, there is a craft club on Tuesday, June 17th, at the village hall from 1-3pm. Entry is £2 and includes refreshments. For details, call Tricia Johnson on 01325-314735.  
**WI MEETING:** The next meeting of Aycliffe Village WI is on Wednesday, June 18th, at the village hall at 7.30pm, and will be a members' games night with a special supper. For more details, call Sue Hindle on 07775-680804.  
**FAREWELL SUPPER:** St Andrew's Church is holding a barbecue on Saturday, June 21st, to say goodbye to Reverend Julie Wing, who is leaving the parish. The ticket-only event takes place at the village hall at 6.30pm, and the cost is £5 for a meal and £3 for a burger. For more details, call Dawn Herbert on 01325-300040.  
**JUNIOR DISCO:** It's disco time for children aged five to 12 years at the village hall on Friday, June 27th, from 6.30-8pm. Hot dogs and a range of snacks and drinks will be available. Children can also have a glitter tattoo for £1. Entry is £1.  
**JAZZ NIGHT:** Enjoy a summer's night of jazz music and food at The County on Friday, July 25th, at 7pm, when The Jazz Tones will be performing. Tickets for the fundraising night for Acle Scout Group cost £20, to include a buffet supper, and are available from The County on 01325-312273, Joy Marie Hair Design or any of the Acle leaders.

## Situations VACANT

Holiday Inn at Newton Park is recruiting for  
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<b>IT Software Apprentice</b> £100 per week	Newton Aycliffe and Durham
<b>Recruitment Sales Consultant Apprentice</b> £100 per week	Newton Aycliffe
<b>Switchboard Apprentice</b> £100 per week	Darlington
<b>Mechanical Traineeship</b> £100 per week	West Auckland
<b>Sales &amp; Admin Traineeship</b> £100 per week	Newton Aycliffe
<b>Retail Traineeship</b> £100 per week	Ferryhill

Please contact Laura Bell to apply Tel: (01325) 328443



# Join Mayor of Darlington on Charity Bike Ride

Recently Ruth and I had the pleasure of being appointed Mayor and Mayoress of Darlington. Without the continual support from people in Heighington and Coniscliffe this would never have happened. Thank you for giving me the opportunity of representing you all in the Town Hall for so many years and now through your continued support we have the privledge and honour or being the Mayor and Mayoress of Darlington for 2014 - 2015.

Over the coming year, we will be raising money for two charities namely, The Phoenix Recovery Centre at Catterick and the Butterwick Hospice. On Sunday, June 15th we will be holding the Mayor's Charity Bike Ride and we invite everyone to take part. Two rides are planned. A forty mile run around the borders of Darlington taking you through some beautiful countryside and attractive villages and the second a Family Cycle Ride varying in length from 1 to 12 miles around our scenic South Park. Refreshments will be available together with First Aiders and a support vehicle on the longer route. Registration for the rides will take place in Bedford Street entrance to South Park Darlington between 8.30am

- 9.30am for the 40 mile run and 9.30am - 10.30am for the shorter ride. Cost of entry will be only £5 per adult with children under 16 free. Ideally it would be good if you could help raise even more money for being sponsored for the ride and to encourage companies to take part, a Shield will be presented to the company who raises the most money through sponsorship for the event and if you are unable to take part, why not sponsor me - over weight, over old and under fed but good to do forty miles - I hope. To make a contribution to this charity fund raiser, please send a cheque made out to The Mayors Charity Fund, c/o Marion Ogle, The Dolphin Centre, Darlington. For more information call 01325 388151 or visit [www.gov.uk/mayorscharitybikerides](http://www.gov.uk/mayorscharitybikerides)

I am also pleased to announce that a further event is also being organised by St Edwin's Church High Coniscliffe to help raise money for the Mayors Fund. On Saturday July 12th a Musical Evening with the wonderful Northern Voices will be held in St Edwin's Church High Coniscliffe meeting at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. The cost will be £8 which will include a drink and nibbles. To buy your



tickets please telephone 483592, 374525 or me on 314622.

So please help me to raise money for these two worthy causes by joining me by taking part in a pleasant cycle ride and enjoying a delightful musical evening in a lovely village church. Councillor Gerald G. Lee

# Giving Your Goods a Safe Transit



Adam White from GAMP (left) with Darren

Newton Aycliffe resident, Darren Burston is embarking on a new career journey thanks to the GAMP AAP's flagship 'Step into Business' scheme.

Darren has been successful in launching his own courier service 'Safe Transit' from a GAMP grant scheme which saw Darren benefit from funding and assistance essential to his business idea. Darren has been driving for over 20 years and 10 of those years involved driving professionally for a number of companies. The experience he gained over 10 years has proved to be invaluable when trusting someone with your goods and belongings. Darren is a fully qualified HGV Class 2 Driver, and aims to enhance his skills further to benefit Safe Transit's service.

Darren will serve local business and is only minutes away from Aycliffe companies, opposed to the bigger courier companies which can be over an hour away. He will operate as a one man business offering expert customer services to make potential clients feel at ease, and is hoping to develop trade from Aycliffe Business Park as well as bookings from his website. Whilst working with South Durham Enterprise Agency Darren was introduced to the GAMP Scheme, who were willing to support him with the cost of branding which helped Darren create a professional image and a recognisable van.

Darren commented "The GAMP funding helped my business become more professional with the purchase of uniforms and logo, I was able to buy other essential equipment for the job including boots, marketing material and printing. Overall the grant was very useful and I was able to make a good impression"

Darren is now running his fledging business in and around the Newton Aycliffe area and up and down the country, offering a personal service to individuals and businesses.

Adam White, AAP coordinator for GAMP said: "GAMP'S key priorities are Employment, Enterprise, Education and Training". This initiative brings together the Area Action Partnership and colleagues within South Durham Enterprise Agency

with an aim of increasing self-employment opportunities.

# Cost of Loneliness

Dear Sir, Researchers say loneliness can be as harmful for our health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day and doubles the likelihood of developing Alzheimer's.

As many as 6,600 over-65's in County Durham are often or always lonely but Independent Age, the older people's charity, aims to stop this being a daily reality for so many.

We rely on a network of 1,500 volunteers throughout the UK who provide face-to-face volunteer visits, friendship on the telephone and telephone discussion groups for isolated older people.

We are currently looking for Organising Volunteers in and around the Newton Aycliffe and Bishop Auckland area who can help recruit new volunteers and isolated older people. If you like getting out

and about and meeting new people, and you have what it takes to help enlist and support our volunteers and the older people we support, then we would love to hear from you.

This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone who has a few hours a month to spare. Full training will be provided and you could develop new skills or make use of professional skills in a voluntary capacity. And of course, it will make a huge difference to the lives of older people in your local area.

For more information on these opportunities and other ways to support Independent Age throughout North East England, contact Kay White, Independent Age Area Manager, on 0191 236 5093 or [kay.white@independentage.org](mailto:kay.white@independentage.org) Yours faithfully, Kay White

# Aycliffe F.C. Announce Pre-Season Programme

Newton Aycliffe FC have rubber-stamped their pre-season programme ahead of new manager Dan Mellanby's first term in charge. 35-year-old Mellanby took charge of the Royal Blues last week in a switch which seen long term manager Allan Oliver revert to club chairman. The Newtonians will be looking to improve on a campaign which saw them parked in the bottom half of the Ebac Northern League for most of 2013-14.

First up in the summer will be another trip to Barnsley-based outfit Athersley Recreation, in a repeat of last summer's opening game, which saw Aycliffe run out 2-0 victors. "The Rec" play in the Northern Counties East Premier League, finishing 10th last season, but more impressive was their defeat of Evostik League side Frickly in the Sheffield Senior Cup at Sheffield Wednesday's Hillsborough stadium. Aycliffe stay on the road - albeit more local in their next games, which are away to Weaside League side Seaton Carew, followed by trips to second division pairing

Heaton Stannington and Tow Law Town - a game which was organised as part of the deal which saw Aycliffe sign Lawyers top scorer Daniel Wilson last November. The centrepiece of the summer will be club's first game in front of home support, as outgoing Northern League Champions Spennymoor visit Moore Lane Park.

'Moors pipped Celtic Nation and Shildon to secure promotion to the Evostik League and will compete with Darlington 1883 and Scarborough come August. An emotional day is sure to be had on July 26th as Aycliffe defend the annual Frank Swinburne Memorial Trophy against Northallerton Town, having run out 6-2 winners in the inaugural game last summer. Club legend Swinburne was remembered with a charity walk from Northallerton before the game and it is hoped something similar can honour the game this time around.

The campaign is wrapped up with games against second division Darlington RA before Athersley repay the Newtonians with a return

visit on August 2nd, one week before the Northern League season kick off.

Pre-season programme:  
Sat 12th July - Athersley Recreation (a) 2pm  
Wed 16th July - Seaton Carew (a) 7pm  
Sat 19th July - Heaton Stannington (a) 3pm  
Tues 22nd July - Tow Law Town (a) 7.30pm  
Thurs 24th July - Spennymoor Town (h) 7.30pm  
Sat 26th July - Northallerton Town (h) 3pm  
Wed 30th July - Darlington RA (h) 7.30pm  
Sat 2nd August - Athersley Recreation (h) 2pm

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## Kidzflix

"Freebirds" is the latest movie to be released from the makers of 'Shrek' and features two turkeys from different side of town who join forces to try and get turkey off the dinner menu for good! Come along on Saturday 7th June to St. Clare's Church Movie Hall - doors open 1.30pm.

A great value tuck shop will be open selling sweets, crisps, drinks, chocolate etc. Adults are welcome to stay or leave children in the responsible care of the team. £1 entry.

## Business Accommodation

**ROOM TO RENT** fully equipped with bed and furniture, ideal for beautician or treatment room. £50.00 per week. For further information contact Trimmers Salon, Bishop Auckland Tel 01388 602 001 and ask for Jean Wombwell

## Clairvoyance

**DARLINGTON Spiritualist Church and Awareness Centre**, Denmark Street, Darlington invite you to our "Mind, Body & Spirit Day Fayre". Saturday 14th June, 10.30am to 2.30pm, entrance £2. A variety of mini readings, graphology and therapies, plus various stalls and attractions. Spiritual healing available. Tables available for table top sales £10 per table. Private sittings available. Followed at 3pm by a **special demonstration of Mediumship** with well known mediums Les Henderson CSNU, Irene Wilson CSNU and Julian Crump CSNU. £5 on the door. (£3 if attending fayre). For more information ring Irene on 01325 316901 after 6pm. Find us on Facebook "Special Events of Darlington Spiritualist Church"

## STUDENTS LEARN HOW TO SAVE A LIFE



In a series of lessons, Year 9 Health and Social Care students at Woodham Academy have been learning about the importance of effective communication in healthcare.

In a scenario, based on an elderly gentleman having an accident, and working alongside health professionals, students had to identify problems created by ineffective communication and then make suggestions on how communication skills could be improved and how they might affect the patients' health outcome.

The students have also completed their Basic Life Support skills training. They have all enjoyed working with David Cummings an Intensive Care Staff Nurse and Carole Joyce

an Occupational Health specialist, on Basic Life Support, and were all successful in passing their skills test.

During the test the students had to demonstrate what to do in an emergency, how to react in an emergency and how to work as part of a team delivering potentially lifesaving support.

## Tuition

**ENJOY LEARNING** Guitar, Bass or Drums at home. Tel Roger 01325 321 444 - Friendly, Experienced, Local. **C. EXLEY A.L.C.M.** Piano/Brass Teacher. Contact details 01388 773 588 or email colin.exley@btinternet.com

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## Public Notice

**DONATIONS** needed of Bric-a-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring Honest John 316 630

**RSPCA North Tees & District** cats and kittens for adoption, fee applies to cover 1st and 2nd vaccination, also neutering and ID chip. Please Tel 311 215

## Weddings

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# Newcastle Professor Returns to Room 13

Recently Professor Sugata Mitra of Newcastle University returned to Greenfield Arts to see the fantastic progress in Room 13. The enquiry space was funded by Professor Mitra as part of his TED funded "School in the Cloud" research. Greenfield is one of only 2 Schools in the Cloud labs in the UK, and 7 worldwide. This is a great honour and opportunity for Greenfield Arts and Greenfield Community College to support Professor Mitra's research. During the course of the day Professor Mitra saw a number of SOLE sessions in action, as well as speaking

to staff and students at Greenfield Community College about the space and the research. He was impressed how much the room has been used by staff and students since opening in February, and amazed by the impact it seems to be having on teaching and learning at Greenfield. The day also included a chance for Sugata to meet Greenfield's "Engine Heads" a group of enthusiastic students who have used the room multiple times and who will be involved in planning future activity in the space. Professor Mitra said that space is performing beyond expectations, and he is impressed with the number



of staff and students who have been using the space with interest. After talking to staff and students he is interested to see what impact the sessions are having in the classroom. The visit has left everyone at Greenfield enthused about the research, with ideas and areas to focus on for the future! To keep up to date with everything that's happening in Room 13 visit the "School in the Cloud" blog via our website [www.greenfield-arts.co.uk](http://www.greenfield-arts.co.uk)

## DENTAL FUN AT SEDGEFIELD FAYRE



The team of Sedgefield Dental Practice were in full swing at Sedgefield Medieval Fayre on Saturday 17th May. The practice was there to promote National Smile Month, the UK's largest oral health campaign and to promote three key messages: • Brush your teeth for two minutes twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste • Cut down on how often you have sugary foods and drinks • Visit your dentist regularly, as often as they recommend. The aim of the month long campaign is to ultimately improve the dental health of the nation. The team raised the awareness of the importance of diet on oral health and had many freebies of smiles on sticks, balloons, pens and sugar free sweets to hand out to all of the many people who attended. There was also an amazing prize draw where a life size bear was the prize. The winner of the bear was Max Wanless. We hope that Max and his mum were able to get the bear home safely!!!



Mrs Wanless and son Max with the prize bear

National Smile Month runs from 19th May to 19th June and is organised by the British Dental Health Foundation and if you wish to find out more about dental health matters please feel free to call into Sedgefield Dental Practice at any time. Adele Edmonds - [adele@cedmondsassociates.co.uk](mailto:adele@cedmondsassociates.co.uk) Tel: 01740 621040 or Carol Groombridge - [carol@groombridge.com](mailto:carol@groombridge.com), Tel: 07791 345323

## Object to Wind Farm Near Aycliffe

Dear Sir, E.on have now submitted their application to build 24 wind turbines in two areas between junctions 59 and 60 of the A1. These gigantic structures will dominate the landscape and destroy habitats over a vast area. Some will be built on flood plains, some on peat. E.on has ignored the concerns raised by the community, yet claims to have consulted and listened to us. The effect of these turbines together with those already built as well as those that have been given planning permission and are waiting to be built, will be overwhelming and oppressive for many readers of this paper. This technology does not bring jobs to the area. It will bring chaos to our roads during construction. As evidence mounts about the effects of turbine noise and flicker on some people, we are facing the possibility of the largest turbines in the County being built far too close to homes and roads. There are many reasons why the Isles is a completely unsuitable place to build so many turbines and we are asking people to submit their objections to Durham County Council planners via e mail [dmstrategic@durham.gov.uk](mailto:dmstrategic@durham.gov.uk) Please help us to protect our County, our communities and our homes. Susan Fox

## Free Holiday for an Aycliffe Family APPLICATIONS INVITED

The Helping Hands team are taking two groups of people away on holiday this year, 70 in this country and 30 abroad and we still have room to take a family camping to France from 3rd - 10th August 2014. Alwyn White says 'we are delighted to make this offer available for the Newton News readers and we'd love to take another family in need of a holiday with us' Those excluded from holidays are often those most in need and their social exclusion is damaging both physically and emotionally. Many of the families helped by us already have never been able to give their children

a short break, let alone a much-needed holiday. We believe that a simple break away from the pressures of home brings families closer together and better able to face the future. This is particularly true for those families who can least afford a holiday. We want to help build stronger, happier families, as this is so important to us. If you'd like to be considered for this bursary holiday, adults will need a passport but we can apply for collective passports for the child/children if they haven't already got a valid passport. Tents are already erected at the holiday destination. For disabled guests a chalet could be made available. Please e-mail lifeline.action@googlemail.com explaining why you feel you need a much-needed holiday.

### NEWTON NEWS

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### Wanted

**CASH FOR FURNITURE** Cookers, freezers etc. Houses cleared. Tel 07587 736357. **CARS WANTED** running or not. Tel: 07860 560 295

# RESIDENTS INVITED TO ACORN JUNE MEETING

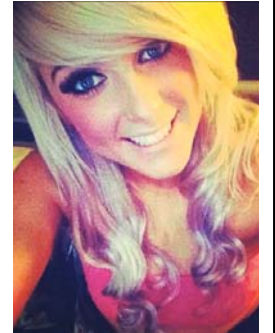
The dynamic Residents Association, ACORN, will be holding their monthly meeting at 6pm Thursday 12th June in the Royal British Legion upstairs lounge. ACORN incorporates Woodham Burn Neighbourhood Watch within its organisation and a junior group of Little ACORNS. ACORN Residents take a keen interest in events which affect Newton Aycliffe and try to champion causes which benefit our great town and its residents. Subjects for discussion will include events, which ACORN intend to organise this coming year and items of interest to the community. ACORN welcome attendance from representatives of other community groups and interested parties. Attending ACORN meetings gives access to town councillors,

county councillors and representatives from living Housing and is a forum for residents to air views and seek support. Police representatives may also be in attendance, duties permitting. At least three members of the group are now Welfare Champions and are eager to dispense advice signposting through other

organisations and GACAP. You are assured of a warm welcome; so please come along. ACORN Junior Section "Little Acorns" also welcomes new members and will be holding a meeting at the same venue from 5.30pm to plan trips and events. Further details can be obtained from: Ken Robson (Chairman) 01325 321471

## Congratulations

### Bethany Brett



### Happy 21st Birthday 5th June 2014

Happy birthday 21st birthday to my beautiful Daughter, Bethany Brett on June 5th. Love you tons, have a lovely day. Love from Dad, Harris, Sabrina and Andrew, Gordon and Son Tyler, Grandad Peter and all your family xx

### Andrew Clark



**Happy 50th Birthday** Lots of love, Lesley, Craig, Rachel, Lynsey, Andy, Jake, Miles, Joel and Ellis xxx

**Happy 50th Birthday** Love from Mam and Dad, Joanne, Andrew, Matthew and Jamie xxx

### Marian Clewes



4th June 1934 **Happy 80th Birthday** Enjoy your party. Lots of love, Wendy, Valerie, Julie and families xxxxxx

**SAM CURRIE** Happy 20th birthday on 6th June. Love from Sam, John and Mikey xxx **SAM CURRIE** Happy 20th birthday on 6th June. Love from Melanie and Fraser xxx **SAM CURRIE** Happy 20th birthday on 6th June. Lots of love forever and always, Jess xxx

## In Memoriam

**RITA ANN CHAPE** 18th November 1952 to 12th June 2006. Taken 5 days after our 31st Anniversary. Still loved and missed, Vaughan **ADA HUTSON** 4/4/1927 - 5/6/2007. The warmth in your smile, the love in your kiss. We will always remember and sadly we miss. A love so precious, a love so true, our darling Mam and loving Gran too. Forever in our prayers, always in our hearts. These are our memories of which we will never part. From all of your loving family xxx **ALLAN SHELTON** 6th February 1943 to 7th June 2010. I cannot bring the old days back. Your smile I cannot see. I can only treasure memories of days that used to be. Loving Wife Maureen and family **RON KIRTLEY** 6th June 2004. Ten years have passed Dad, since we said goodbye. We miss and love you always. Lesley, Graham and Lauren xxx

## Birthday Remembrance

**LILY PEART** 5th June 1932. Thinking of our lovely Mum and Nana on her birthday. Miss you every day. Love from all of your family **ROBERT WAITES** 7th June. Thinking of you on your birthday. All my love, Ruth **LILIAN HILL** 7th June 1928. Happy birthday Mam. Think about you every day. Miss you so much. Wish you could still be here. From your loving Daughter Mavis. Lots of love, God bless xxxx **LILY HILL** (Lilpot). 7th June 1928. Memories today on what would have been your birthday Mam. Loved and missed "me little Lilpot". Love, Linda xxxx **IKLE NANA LILPOT** Happy birthday Ikle Nana up in Heaven. Love, Blake, Joshua, Harry and Daniel xxx



## New Running Club Member in First Marathon

Justin Adam Hindmarch, who is a relative newcomer to the club, recently took part in the Edinburgh Marathon. This was Justin's first attempt at the distance and almost gave up in the last 3 miles but battled on to achieve the excellent time of 3hrs:49m:30s.

Nine members of Aycliffe Running Club took part in the annual Middlesbrough 5k last Sunday. It was a very hot but great atmosphere and several of the runners achieved PBs. This must have been helped by fact that the race finished in the Middlesbrough football stadium to the inspiring music of The Chariots of Fire amidst a lot of cheering.

Richard Campbell was 1st home for the club in 18:08

and a PB, finishing in 95th position, followed by Tom Porter, 107th 18:33 PB, Peter Smith, 163rd, 19:33, Kelly Smith, 270th 21:34 PB, Steve Smith, 305th, 21:58, Susan Milburn, 387th 23:17 and 1st F/55, Trish Kay, 427th 23:41PB, Yvonne Williams, 754th 28:11, and finally Elaine Morgan 828th 29:26.

The previous day two members of the club ran in the Hardwick Hall park run.

Gary Minns finished in 24m:12s, whilst Susan Clark achieved personal best in 29:05.

Entries are now being taken for Aycliffe 10k and Fun Run on 15/06/14. For details see <http://www.ayclifferrunningclub.org.uk>



## NEWTON NEWS EXCLUSIVE

## Woodham Golf Course Bought by Newton Aycliffe Company



Newton News is delighted to report that a home grown Aycliffe business has acquired Woodham Golf Course.

Hall Construction, a family business run by Stephen and Neville Hall, has offices just across the road from the course and is the ideal company to develop the site and make the necessary improvements to a course which has great potential. Golfers will be overjoyed by this announcement knowing a recognised and highly successful construction company with a great reputation will bring new life to Woodham. The company was formed in 1974 first dealing in Plant Hire and progressing to become Civil Engineers and builders taking on

massive projects all over the country contracted by leading developers.

Halls now employ over 300 staff with offices in Co. Durham, Sheffield and Scotland. They specialise in industrial premises, housing and infrastructure. We spoke to Stephen who gave assurances that the golf course would re-open in the first week of July and operate as before.

Previous staff are being offered employment and Golf Professional Ernie Wilson is returning to start work immediately. He hopes that golfers will return as soon as the course opens. Stephen over time will make improvements to the course and greens giving his expert attention to drainage problems.

Newton News joins everyone in the town in welcoming and congratulating Halls on their acquisition and wish them the success they deserve in this venture.

## Family Quiz

The young people in Great Aycliffe Parish are hosting a Family Quiz night on Saturday 14th June at 6.30pm. The evening promises to be fun filled, and with the young people serving a supper of chicken and chips all included in the £5 ticket price (£3 for children) great value also.

Mr. Dean Cooper is the quiz master who promises there is something for everyone and the quiz will not be too hard! So please come along, make up your own teams and support the youngsters. Book your tickets on 316755 through Ric Hargreaves

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## CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team team sponsored by Franks The Flooring Store were well beaten away by promotion rivals Barnard Castle by 7 wickets in the 2nd division of the NYSD league.

Electing to bat first, Aycliffe were skittled for a very disappointing 104 after 37.1 overs, despite good innings from Matty Atkinson (28 runs), Pritpal Grewal (21 not out) and Luke Telford (17 runs).

In reply the home side romped to victory after just 20.5 overs with only Aycliffe's Ross Dixon emerging with credit after taking 2 wickets for 9 runs with his medium pace bowling. This result saw Barnard Castle leap frog Newton Aycliffe into 2nd place in the table with a 15 point margin between the two teams.

The 2nd team played superbly winning a second consecutive league game at home to Yarm 2nd XI in the 3rd division of the NYSD. Being asked to bat first, the visitors found 16 year old leg spin bowler Patrick Howe in unplayable form, as he destroyed the visitors batting line up taking a career best 6 for 48 from 15 overs.

He was given good support from Danny Weldon, who bowled well to take 2 wickets for 31 runs from his 14 overs as Yarm were restricted to 136 for 9 from their allotted 50 overs. In reply Aycliffe captain Adam Gittins scored an excellent unbeaten 46, including six boundaries and he received good support from Tom Wickins (26 runs) and James Brown (13 runs) as the home side reached their victory target with 5 wickets and 3.1 overs in hand.

Newton Aycliffe's under 18's team were beaten in a much improved performance by just 20 runs away at Crook in the quarter final of the Bob Hay cup. Chasing 85 for victory, captain Tom Wickins followed up his two wickets in the Crook innings, with an excellent innings of 26 and James Skerret scored 12, as the Aycliffe reply was restricted to 64 for 7 from 20 overs.

The under 15's team lost by 24 runs away at Langley Park in the County Durham junior league. Ryan Patrick took two wickets as the home side were restricted to 89 for 5 in the 20 overs. Aycliffe batted in the rain for a while and reached a creditable 65 for 6 thanks to an excellent unbeaten 33 from captain Josh Pearson and 11 runs from Arran Taylor. The clubs under 13's team lost at home to a very strong Darlington team, however Adam Lamb still managed to smash 23 runs for Aycliffe, including a huge six that sailed out of the ground and captain Dylan Tribble chipped in with 12 runs.

## Family of Triathletes in Ironman Event

It was a bright sunny early morning on Sunday 1st June when 9 intrepid members of Aycliffe Tri Club entered the water at the National Water Sports Centre Nottingham to take part in the Outlaw Half Ironman distance triathlon.

Individual athletes Mark Harrop, Phil Harrop, Andrea Jones, Wendy Bake and Michelle Scott were joined by 2 relay teams of Darren Harrop, Kelly Harrop, Vicky Howse and Andy Sedgwick for the 1.2 mile swim, 56 mile cycle and 13.1 mile run.

Along-side 1,400 hardened triathletes the Aycliffe Club members showed their dedication and determination as they all completed the course well within their anticipated times. Each triathlete showed their strongest disciplines and

conquered their weakest. The swim started in waves from 6.30am, it was an out and back course which made for easy navigation.

The cycle route was a fast course with only one real climb followed by a stunning ride around the Nottingham countryside. Temperatures rose as the athletes went out onto the run, taking in two laps of the lake and finally finishing on the red carpet to the welcome sound of cheers from the crowds.

This was a fantastic achievement for the club having so many athletes taking part in such a highly esteemed tough event. They felt a great sense of achievement and the club send a big 'well done' to everyone who took part.



Darren, Phil and Mark Harrop

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