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New Golf Course Owner Gets Down to Work



Last week we announced Stephen Hall and his brother Neville of Hall Construction have bought Woodham Golf Course.

Last Sunday afternoon we snapped Stephen hard at work, tidying up the grass verges on Middridge Road. The ground care staff have been re-employed and Golf Professional Ernie Wilson has returned and commenced work this week.

Licences to be obtained with a view to opening the sports bar and some facilities in the Country Club early in July. The owners hope to be in a position to reopen for golf in early July, subject to all necessary consents being in place and the weather improving.

Meanwhile general maintenance and grass cutting is ongoing along with drainage repairs. Works to the Car Park, Terraces and footpaths commenced on 9th June with a deep clean of the interior of the Sports Bar and Country Club.

All Licences and permits applied for and a new carpet for Golf shop ordered along with new signage for the course.

Stephen and Neville thank dog walkers who have kept an eye on the course while it

has been closed. However, now it is being restored they would appreciate dogs being kept off the course.

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ARE YOU PROUD OF OUR ARMED FORCES?

To mark the beginning of 'Armed Forces Week' the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Wendy Hillary will be raising the Armed Forces Flag at St. Clare's Church on Monday, 23rd June 2014 at 11 a.m. Members of the public are cordially invited to attend. The Mayor will be assisted at this annual event by Officers from 102 Battalion (REME) together with Standards from both the REME Association and the Royal British Legion. Armed Forces week was first held in 2009 when it was an opportunity for local communities to be able to show their appreciation to the men and women of the Armed Forces from serving personnel to service families and from recruits and veterans.

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REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 4th JUNE

THE FUTURE LOOKS BLEAK

The Town Council's Policy and Resources Committee met last week. Its main business was to consider and approve the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Introducing the Plan, Finance Manager Dan Austin reported the Town Council's finances were currently very healthy, but outlined significant future challenges facing the Council in the years ahead. Chiefly, changes to Government legislation have reduced the council's tax-raising capacity by £100,000 over the last two years, and will leave the Council facing

cuts of a further £100,000 over the next four years.

In addition, it seems that the government is to implement a 2% 'cap' on council tax increases by town councils, so there is little leeway for the Council to meet the deficit by increasing Council Tax.

As a result, Mr Austin outlined increasing pressures on council finances, concluding that, by the financial year 2018-19, it is likely that the Council will be in a position where there is no contingency sum. There will be no contribution to capital reserves, and no

further scope for efficiency savings.

If nothing changes, beyond 2018-19, therefore, the Town Council would need to consider reductions to services and establishment. Members received the Plan, thanking the officers that – because of their careful financial management and planning-for-the-future – the Council has at least now been given four years to prepare for such a bleak future.

The Medium term Financial Plan makes difficult reading, but it is available online at <http://bit.ly/GATCMTFP14-19>.

PUPILS SHOWCASE MUSICAL TALENT



With the help of resident music tutor, John Melvin, pupils from Sugar Hill school recently performed a range of songs to the rest of the school and invited parents. Accompanied by the many talented guitarists in the school, singers from the music group gave superb renditions of hits as diverse as Ben E King's 'Stand By Me' and the contemporary 'Somewhere Only We Know' by Keane. The set was completed with a

rousing guitar performance of the classic Surfaris track, 'Wipeout'.

Mr Melvin told the audience how very proud he is of all the musicians and singers in the group wishing them success in their musical futures. The staff of Sugar Hill add their congratulations on a magnificent performance. It's evident that some of the talented pupils will go a long way!

THE TURBINIA

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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"

Gig Pit Review: "I went up the Tuns, glad I did, never seen 'The Kill' before, known Mark for years, what a band, top drawer!!!! Not a great fan of Bon Jovi, but I have to say these are the best tribute act I've seen, and Greggs vocals in both bands was awesome, guitar playing was immense and the rhythm section tight. Grown men stood open mouthed, and the women went beserk. Great nite lads!" Rockermouth review: "Great band! Still haven't seen the Bon Jovi Forever set, but it's the same line-up as the Kill,and they rock! Talented lads, the lot of them. A great set of musicians, and Gregg has frontman skills and stage presence to back up his excellent voice. Then add to that a cool and interesting set list, a quality P.A. rig, and you've got a superb package. Can't wait to see the lads play again. But maybe next time at the Office".

Saturday 28th June - "Storme"

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

Credit Union Visiting Town Organisations



Newton Aycliffe MIND manager Muriel Gordon with members of MIND and NEFirst volunteers

Last week Newton Aycliffe MIND hosted a visit by the NEFirst Credit Union, with volunteers Kate Hopper and Barbara Clare, and local organiser Harry Drake, who gave a talk on why you need to become a member of a Credit Union. Credit Unions are not-for-

profit financial cooperatives offering loans and savings opportunities to their members – NEFirst says it is 'not for profit, not for charity, but for service'. Members are encouraged to save on a regular basis as little or as much as they want.

Any adult member of the Credit Union can take out a loan; rates of interest depend on the amount of the loan and your personal circumstances ... but are much, much lower than High Street 'pay-day' lenders.

As 'austerity' bites, and more people of limited financial circumstances slide into difficulties, the Credit Union provides a much cheaper way to get over unforeseen financial crises – the washer breaking down, the unexpected bill etc. – than loan sharks and payday lenders.

In the coming months, Credit Union volunteers aim to visit a number of local organisations, encouraging people to think ahead before trouble strikes, and to join a Credit Union now.

If you are interested in joining a credit union, phone 0191 3757677 for more details, or go to the Credit Union which is held in Newton Aycliffe Library, 11am-12 noon every Thursday.

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14-20 June 2014

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Day	Activity	Time
Mon	Bird box making	09.30am- 12.00pm
	Floristry	01.00pm- 03.30pm
Tue	*CIEH Level2 Award in Food Safety	09.30am- 04.30pm
Wed	*Level 2 First Aid at Work	09.00am- 04.30pm
Thurs	Reiki	09.30am- 12.00pm
	Intro to Childcare	12.30pm- 03.00pm
Fri	Smoothie Making	09.30am-12.00pm
	Cake Decorating	12.30pm-03.00pm

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Aycliffe Councillor Joins "Jarrow NHS March"

Town Councillor Neil Collinson who represents Woodham Ward has been a resident of Newton Aycliffe for over 20 years. Married with 2 grown up children he has just retired from the local NHS Mental Health Trust which serves this area. Neil is an active member of the GMB Trade

Union, Vice Chair of the GMB Northern Equalities Forum and a representative of the GMB NHS National Health Committee.

As a passionate defender of local Public Services especially the NHS he will be taking part in the 300 mile "Peoples March for the NHS" starting in Jarrow on the 16th August 2014.

The march through Britain will end at Parliament in London on the 6th September where the walkers will be joined on the last leg by many politicians including Ed Miliband and Andy Burnham.

"I am joining this march because of the assault on our most prized national possession - the National Health Service. I will be joining many others in campaigning to keep it



safe and free for all". Neil appeals to anyone who is able to support the march when it passes their area and to join it by doing 1 mile, 10 miles or all 300 miles. Anyone can register at 999callforNHS.org.co

He is also looking for sponsorship or donations from local companies or the public to help with costs of the 3 week march.

Church BBQ

St. Andrew's Church hold a BBQ on Saturday 21st June from 6.30pm in Aycliffe Village Hall. Tickets are £5 to include a Burger & Bun. Sweets are £1 each. For tickets contact Alan on 318663 or Dawn on 300040.

Supplier Replaces Nursery's Stolen Grass



A Newton Aycliffe nursery has benefited from a kind donation that will ensure its children can continue to play in a safe environment. Playday Nursery staff were shocked to find out that its artificial grass had been stolen - just three weeks after it had been installed in its garden area.

After reading Newton News about the crime, Grass Direct, the UK's fastest growing artificial grass supplier, kindly donated its stolen grass, which limited children to playing indoors. Linda Watts, manager at PlayDay Nursery, said: "The thieves had hacked the grass out after scaling our back fence; they destroyed our playing area for the sake of some artificial grass. It's disgraceful, especially since it was only recently installed,

THAMES CENTRE OFFER INDOOR MINI MARKET

Aycliffe Market has been suspended but the Thames Centre Landlord has taken a positive move by creating a mini indoor market which is proving popular and is adding something special to the town centre shopping experience. The Town Centre landlords Freshwaters, however, are less interested in bringing a speedy resolution to whether the town has a market. Newton News suggested they provide an Indoor Market in one of the many large empty units in the town centre, but that fell on deaf ears as did the request for them to make a comment on the current situation.



Donations from Honest John

Honest John's Community Kitty has donated £550 to the Woodham and Greenfield Year 11 Prom Night awards. Newton Aycliffe Under 15's £500 for Football Strips. St. Clare's Youth Drama Group: £350. The Cubby: £820. The winner of the £100 Monthly Draw was number 191 which has been claimed. Tickets now on sale for July 5th Draw - 50p each. We are now raising funds for Newton Aycliffe 1407 Squadron Air Cadets. Thanks to everybody who supports Honest John's stall.

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Helping Needy People in the Town

Dear Sir,

When people seek help from Helping Hands, we ask for proof of benefits/debts/sanctions and any other information which would prove that they are indeed in crisis.

We ask people that they would not give away goods which we have provided and certainly tell them that it is illegal to sell the said goods. However, we are aware that some people will do these things and we cannot judge why they've done this. We help people of all ages, including pensioners if they are in crisis.

Some people are unaware of the poverty in Newton Aycliffe - some Wards are within the top 10% of the most deprived in the country. Some situations which might cause people to be in crisis are redundancies, bereavements, relationship break ups, delay in paying benefits and benefit sanctions and providing extra meals when the children are on holiday from school.

These may cause people to choose whether to pay for housing or provide food and this would be particularly difficult when there are children in the family.

We aim to help people when they are in short term crisis and if these situations take longer to resolve then we are able to provide money management advice via the Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Money Course and hopefully get those people who are unemployed back into employment.

Alwyn White, Manager

RENEWABLE ENERGY JARGON

The government's latest 'go-green' incentive - which kicked in on April 9th this year could save homeowners hundreds of pounds on their heating bills - but only if they understand it!

That's the message from Yorkshire Heat Pumps owner, Michael Wright, who says the new domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Scheme offers massive potential to those who can cut through the jargon and confusion.

Said Michael: "There is a real opportunity to increase efficiency and save money on energy bills for those exploring the possibility of incorporating renewable energy heating into their home."

For anyone wanting to navigate their way through the information minefield, here are Michael's answers to a number of the most frequently asked questions.

What is a renewable energy heating system?

It's a heating system which uses alternative sources of energy to fossil fuels.

What is the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme?

RHI is a world first - a government scheme which incentivises customers to switch to a renewable energy heating system. It pays people for every kilowatt hour of renewable energy they produce. Domestic RHI payments are made quarterly over a seven year period.

A non-domestic scheme was launched in 2011, and has just been extended to the domestic market.

Why has it been introduced?

The government has a tough carbon reduction target to hit by 2020 when 12% of the UK's heating must come from renewable sources. The only way they can expect to hit this is by encouraging people to move away from fossil fuels. And the most effective way to do is by offering a financial incentive.

Can anyone claim?

Domestic RHI is for new installations of eligible

renewable heating systems, it is also available to people who have installed eligible systems since July 2009, if, and only if their installations were done by appropriately accredited installers, who must have Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) accreditation. It will also need to have been registered on the government's MCS Installation Database (MID) by 22 October 2013.

Which heating technologies are eligible to receive domestic RHI payments?

Ground source heat pumps, biomass boilers, air source heat pumps and solar thermal panels are eligible.

What do you get paid?

You are paid a tariff for every kilowatt hour (kWh) of renewable energy you generate, which varies depending on what technology you have. The price paid is expected to go down as uptake of renewables grows and the government closes in on its carbon reduction target, so getting in quickly will see you getting better returns.

Where do I start?

A Green Deal Assessment must be completed for your home before you can apply for RHI payments.

It's crucial you find a suitably qualified and registered Green Deal Assessor to undertake this. There are sadly some rogue traders out there claiming to offer this service but without the proper accreditation.

You can find a registered Green Deal Assessor by searching on the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Green Deal Assessor database: <http://gdorb.decc.gov.uk/>

consumersearch

How do I know which is the right technology for me?

Ask the experts: In addition to the mandatory Green Deal Assessment, we recommend that our customers commission an independent Heat Loss Survey. This is undertaken by a suitably qualified person such as a Chartered Engineer (CEng), and looks at everything from a room by room heat loss calculation to the insulation values of your home and the local climate to help arrive at a system specification which is just right for your property and your circumstances. The findings are transferable to any provider and are extremely detailed.

Keep an open mind: When embarking on your renewables journey don't rule out any technology too soon. Take the long view - don't just look at the seven year domestic RHI payback and the highest tariff you might receive. Think about the right system for you, your home and your lifestyle.

For example:

- If you have a poorly insulated home in need of some modernisation, a low temperature system, such as a Ground Source Heat Pump, won't be suitable. It's the most efficient when installed in well insulated properties and works at its best with underfloor heating, and has a high tariff, but you'd be best considering a high temperature option such as a biomass boiler, and bear in mind, you might need to increase the size of some of your radiators to maintain a comfortable temperature

Foodbank is a Godsend!

Dear Sir,

My husband and I both worked hard and never thought that people needed food. We were also of the opinion that people on benefits were better off than us.

I now see that is not the case, since I took ill and my husband had to care of me. We were forced to leave the family home. We needed help and I went to the Jobcentre who told me to go to the Foodbank at St. Clare's.

I was so embarrassed and shaking when I met Ernie and June Temple who were warm and kind and made me feel at ease. I received no help from the Jobcentre where I explained I had no food or money.

I received help from the Foodbank for which I am very grateful. When I get on my feet I will donate to the Foodbank.

I was glad of help from Ernie and June and thank them for the great work they do for those in need.

Kelly.



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None for the Road

Road safety charity the IAM is offering weekly motoring tips from Britain's top advanced driver, Peter Rodger. This week, he offers tips on how to avoid the drink drive temptation this summer.

- If you've had a couple at a summer celebration, don't try to calculate whether or not you are over the limit. It's always best to make it none for the road.
- Remember that home measures are often larger than what you'd get in a pub.
- Many crashes involve pedestrians who have been drinking and drivers who haven't. When walking home after a drink or two, take care and pay attention to your surroundings. When you're driving, be aware that pedestrians may be the worse for wear and unpredictable, especially late at night, and be prepared for them to step out without looking for you.
- If you drive to a party and drink when you didn't expect to, don't risk it. Get a taxi or arrange for a friend or family member to pick you up.
- A drinking session the night before might put you over the legal limit the following day. Keep this in mind and organise alternative travel plans for the next morning.
- If you are involved in a road accident you will be breathalysed. Don't risk it, or somebody else's mistake could become your problem - being hit from behind while

sitting at a red traffic light could get you banned.

- Ignore peer pressure. It may seem like a better option to others - for you to risk driving rather than paying for a taxi - but it is your licence and your liberty that is at stake.

IAM chief examiner Peter Rodger said: "The summer is a time of BBQs, jam packed beer gardens and festivals. But the summer sees a rise in drink-drive casualties too. Enjoy yourself and leave the car at home if you plan to celebrate with a drink."

Unify School Aycliffe Under GATC

Dear Sir,

I have been following the debate outlining the merits or otherwise of the GATC versus Middridge battle for control of Eldon Whins.

We already have a prospective target for take over that has already been developed. I refer to the Chestnuts which currently is under Darlington Control.

Surely it makes sense to unify ALL of School Aycliffe under the GATC/DCC banner. When can we expect the council to make their move?

Peter Hardy

NEWTON AYCLIFFE ROTARY CLUB

An Evening with Stars of the Future

Alistair Sheerin & The Vaneers
plus Alice Jordan (Singer/Songwriter)

Saturday 14th June
Navy Club at 7.30pm

Tickets £8 including
Hot Beef or Pork Sandwiches
and Roast Potatoes

Courtesy of Walkers Butchers (Vegetarian option if ordered in advance)

Proceeds to Rotary's Polio Plus & local Autism Charities

Tickets from Walkers and Newton Press

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 Knitters
Little Wonders
Tombolas, Raffles And Much More
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Volunteers Wanted to Clean the Lake

Residents are invited to spend an hour or two this Sunday morning (15th June) from 10.30am in West Park helping to clear out some of the algae within the lakes in partnership with the Friends of West Park.

Great Aycliffe Town Council's Environment Officer, Steve Cooper will be present to explain about this naturally occurring problem before providing a necessary safety talk and equipment before commencing the work.

ROTARY CLUB FUND NORMANDY VETERANS FINAL LUNCH

Normandy veterans from No.17 Durham Branch, unable to make the trip to the events held in France to mark the 70th anniversary of D-day on 6 June, met for lunch at the Bay Horse, Middridge for their final meeting prior to the national organisation disbanding in October.

The lunch was arranged by Tom Robson, retired secretary of the Durham Branch of the NVA assisted by Vicki Peterson of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association



for the veterans, their family members and carers along with officials from SSAFA.

The veterans, whilst remembering and paying respect to their fallen comrades also remembered the camaraderie and friendships made so many years ago. The humour which must have helped them get through the events of D-day still shone through, without exception these "ordinary" men insisted that they were not the heroes, the heroes were their mates who hadn't come back from France.

The veterans expressed their thanks to Vicki for organising the event, to Brian and Liz Wilson, Terry Walton and Mike Donne from SSAFA, to Mandy from the Bay Horse Middridge for laying on a lovely meal, decorating the room and having forties music playing, to "Totally Crumbtious" for a fantastic cake and to the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe for funding the event.

Following a short Act of Remembrance led by Tom Robson, Geoff Batchelor, President of the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe thanked the veterans for allowing the club the opportunity and honour to show their respect to the men without whom life in this country would be very different from the freedom we have today.

Perhaps the quality of these men may be summed up in the comment from one of the veterans who joked "we only went to Normandy to complain about the noise"

Ashamed to Use Foodbank, but Must

Dear Sir,

In reply to the letter do we need food banks? The answer is YES, people do and the majority are ashamed and do not flaunt it like the woman mentioned. The author has made the common blinkered assumption, that if one cheats then all must do the same.

I am 53, a disabled widow. At present I receive ESA, but due to the government's 365 day rule this will stop soon. I shall then be entitled to £71 a week in benefit, in total, nothing else! This is despite the fact I have limited mobility and take morphine for constant severe pain. The government's nonsensical Work Capability Assessments have deemed me fit for work despite my doctor, consultants and physiotherapist disagreeing.

£71 a week will not cover my household bills and I will be left with no money at all for food, if not for the support of my family.

This is not unusual. People apply for benefits due to illness and redundancy and can have weeks without money while being assessed. Punitive sanctions can take away benefits for weeks on end.

I worked and paid my taxes but now am unable to despite wanting to work. We are not scroungers, just victims of this government's unfair policy of penalising the ill, disabled and those out of work through no fault of their own.

Name & address supplied

(FOOTPATH NO. 36 AYCLIFFE) (TEMPORARY FOOTPATH/FOOTBRIDGE CLOSURE) ORDER 2013

The above-named Order made by the Council on 17.12.13, under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and which became operational on 18.12.13 has been continued in force from 18.06.14, as approved by the Secretary of State for Transport, until 31.07.15 or until the completion of the works, whichever is the earlier. The effect of the Order prohibits pedestrian traffic from proceeding on a 75m length of Footpath No 36 Aycliffe Parish eastwards from the north-south section towards Codling Railway Bridge then northwards along the western side of the railway line then westwards, northwards and eastwards crossing the Millennium Bridge the adopted highway of Long Tens Way and Millennium Way, Aycliffe. There is no alternative route for pedestrian traffic during this closure.

Dated: 13 June 2014



Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal & Democratic Services
County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL

Great Aycliffe



Town Council

Notice of a

Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council

Notice is hereby given that:-

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

WEDNESDAY, 25th JUNE 2014
at 7.15 p.m.

Item on the Agenda

(i) To consider and approve the Council's Statement of Accounts 2013/14.

(ii) To consider and approve the Council's Annual Governance Statement 2013/14.

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

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

"The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".

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Top Marks for Woodham



Woodham Academy has been awarded the top rating of 5 after a Durham County Council food hygiene inspection. This demonstrates a high standard of compliance with food safety legislation and robust management where cleanliness, equipment, preparation of food, layout and record keeping are assessed. Linda Vipond, Catering Manager, Claire Jeffery, Assistant Catering Manager and their enthusiastic, dedicated team received a certificate in recognition of achieving this high standard. The Catering Team offers over 850 staff and students a range of services including Breakfast Club from 8.00 a.m., morning break snacks, lunchtime hot and cold meals, Sandwich Bar, Pasta Bar and even run special "Themed Days". All meals are freshly prepared using locally sourced ingredients. This means that the food on offer is appetising, healthy and good value for money.

IGNORANCE IS BLISS

Dear Sir,
How can such a small minded individual be so ignorant and heartless to write into the Newton News and say the people of this town don't need a Foodbank at all?
How can he or she complain about a charity that helps so many lonely people, loved ones and families in Newton Aycliffe that are desperate for help? Let's hope that you don't fall on hard times!
I wish my name and address to be included as I am proud of what I believe in, unlike others.
Chad Kemp
Emerson Way



DON'T FALL VICTIM TO COSTLY SCAMS

People are being urged not to fall for scams and rip-offs which could leave them heavily out of pocket. Durham County Council is marking 'Scams Awareness Month' – which takes place throughout May – by highlighting some of the most common con tricks people should watch out for.

They include dodgy internet-based offers, mailshot scams, bogus telesales calls and rogue traders who call at people's homes.

Joanne Waller, head of environment, health and consumer protection at Durham County Council, said: "Scams often target the most vulnerable people and come in a variety of ways – including through the post, over the phone, on the doorstep and via the internet."

"They are all aimed at persuading people to hand over money or their personal details, which can then be used to commit fraud."

"These scams can bring heartbreaking consequences, particularly for elderly and vulnerable victims, so we want to ensure people are aware of them and can spot the warning signs."

Scams Awareness Month aims to raise awareness about four main types of scam:

- Online scams, such as websites offering 'check and send' services for things such as passport, driving licence and European Health Insurance

Cards applications as well as help with tax returns.

These copycat websites can appear genuine and give the appearance that they are official or authorised Government websites when this is not the case.

The fees charges by these sites are often substantial.

- Mailshot scams. These are often designed to get people to part with money or bank details by promising huge rewards.

The most common types of mailshot scam are fake lotteries, prize draws and sweepstakes, requests for advance fees or money transfers, promises of home working and career opportunities, offers of health and slimming 'miracle' products and investment opportunities.

- Telephone scams – in particular one where the caller claims to be from the Microsoft or Apple technical support team.

People receiving these calls have reported that they have been asked to give personal details or pay for an unnecessary service or bogus software which can enable fraudsters to access all data on their computer or leave the computer affected by harmful viruses or spyware.

The caller often claims there is a problem with the computer but cases that have come to light show that this is not true.

- Doorstep scams where tradesmen offer products or services at often extortionate prices. They often leave behind

sub-standard work which the homeowner then has to spend more money on to get it put right.

These tradesmen can be difficult to trace as they rarely leave paperwork or receipts and the consumers often have no contact details.

People are being urged to look out for potential scams and be aware of some of the tell-tale signs – including promises of prize money in a competition you haven't entered, requests for payment to claim a prize, offers that are too good to be true, persistent sales pitches and requests for bank details or money up front.

If anyone suspects they have been the targeted by a scam they are advised to report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and internet crime and details of some of the current scams targeting people are detailed on their website at www.actionfraud.police.uk

Advice is available from the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 08454 04 05 06 or online at www.adviceguide.org.uk

People are also urged to warn their family, friends and neighbours about scams and suspicious offers. Residents can get details of vetted traders by checking the Durham County Council Registered Trader Scheme at www.durham.gov.uk For more information on the campaign please visit www.tradingstandards.gov.uk

Aycliffe Company Appoint U.S.A. Agents

Tekmar Energy Limited, the leading supplier of cable protection systems for the offshore wind and oil & gas markets globally, has announced an agency agreement with the Massachusetts-based Whitman Consulting Group Inc. WCG will represent Tekmar as its commercial services agent for the full line of Tekmar products and services in the US, Canada and the Caribbean.

WCG will focus on the offshore renewable energy markets for wind and marine hydrokinetic as well as oil & gas and high voltage offshore transmission.

"North American projects are finally underway and the Whitman Consulting Group has the experience and expertise we were looking for to ensure we will be well represented in this important market," said James Ritchie, Chief Executive at Tekmar. "We look forward to working with WCG in ensuring that project developers identify and avoid the common issues and risks related to their cable systems by protecting their cable investment properly."

Issues related to cables are commonly cited as major areas of concern for offshore project installation and system maintenance. Tekmar has an excellent established track record of success having worked on over 27 major offshore wind farms and supplied over 3,000 systems since its entry into the market with its TekLink system which has revolutionised the connection and protection of subsea power cables.

"We want to see a best-of-

breed supply chain develop here in the US," said Joel Whitman, Principal of the Whitman Consulting Group. We are very familiar with Tekmar as a result of our work over the years in the European offshore wind and transmission markets. Through our agreement, we aim to establish local business relationships in the US which can grow as the market here expands over time. We believe that is a low-risk way to begin development of a high-quality US supply chain" Aycliffe based Tekmar specialises in the design, manufacture and supply or subsea cable, umbilical and flexible protection systems for the renewable and oil & gas industry. As a leading supplier, Tekmar is committed to providing a service that complies with the highest quality, environmental, health and safety standards and is accredited by Det Norske Veritas to BS-EN-ISO 9001:2008, BS-EN-ISO 14001:2004 and BS-OHSAS 18001:2007. For more information: Tekmar.co.uk

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Official Documents Confirm Eldon Whins Part of Newton Aycliffe

Dear Sir,
Reference Eldon Whins issues:

The S.B.C. Local Plan a valid, legitimate document states that Eldon Whins developments is within Newton Aycliffe. (Policy H1, Page 86).

It is "part of the planned development of the TOWN, near to shops, schools and community facilities". Policy H2, Page 87.

Policy H7, Page 92, states, "Eldon Whins is adjacent to existing houses and the Cobbler's Hall area. THE DEVELOPMENT IS WELL INTEGRATED INTO THE URBAN FORM OF THE TOWN, contained by woodland belts.

THE GAP BETWEEN THE TOWN AND MIDDRIDGE VILLAGE WILL BE MAINTAINED."

Developing Eldon Whins as part of Newton Aycliffe was delayed until 75% of Cobbler's Hall developments were built. As to the S.B.C Local Plan, until the new D.C.C. Plan is ratified, it is an important relevant document. And D.C.C.as the inheritor of S.B.C.'s assets, and duties

under the Local Plan, own Eldon Whins.

And implementation of its Policies, I believe, including, "Improvements to Middridge Lane (C35), proposed under Policy T8", SBC Local Plan, (Page 118). "Increasingly important as the housing developments at Cobbler's Hall takes place (Page 119).

Don Fraser, Woodham


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Avenue School Reunion



The Class of 88 Reunion is to be held at the Iron Horse on 21st June at 7.30pm. People from different years or just friends from back then would be more than welcome.

May We Have This Lighting?

Council Accused of Misrepresentation

Green Living

Street lights given a brighter life

Over the next few years we will be upgrading the street lights across the county. We have so far replaced 8,000 old lights and we will continue to do so to ensure we reduce carbon emissions and save almost £24 million over 25 years.

The main difference with the new LED lights is that the light focuses on the footpath and highway, with less overspill into surrounding gardens and homes. It is a brighter, whiter light with colours more visible.



Dear Sir,
The new "Improved" Street lighting has been causing a bit of a stir since the installation in November 2013 with numerous letters and comments in the following months.

I received my copy of Durham County News and found myself chuckling at an article on page 22 headed by the caption "Street lights given a brighter life".

The lights installed wherever the photographs were taken are absolutely fabulous, not only are they as they state "a brighter, whiter light with more colours visible" but according to the old and new photographs they are also capable of lightening the sky and changing it from virtually pitch black to a deep orange fading to sunlight on the right hand side.

If this is truly possible can we please have the same lights in Aycliffe instead of the new improved lights that I feel are not adequate at lighting the roadway or footpaths?

I would very much like to hear the comments of Durham C.C. with this obvious misrepresentation of the actual light quality attained.

I totally understand and agree with the reasoning behind the new lighting and stand by the council and their decision, but there must be a better option available to obtain satisfactory coverage. In addition, as a concerned resident, I personally feel that the current inadequate lighting seems to be assisting with crime in the area.

Recently there was a spate of car thefts and thankfully the culprit was caught after the police reviewed CCTV footage (from one of my neighbours who installed CCTV due to the rise in crime) and a keen-eyed officer recognised the culprit by his silhouette.

Only a few weeks ago a car pulled into the estate and was seen on CCTV (again, turning round in a cul-de-sac and braking outside a house as it left the field of vision,

nothing unusual about that except it was approximately 3am in the morning.

When the owner of the property went outside the following morning, various heavy items had been stolen from the front of his property. When the CCTV footage was viewed, all that could be seen was a dark silhouette of a vehicle and a set of brake lights. NOTHING ELSE was distinguishable.

With the old lighting quality, one would have been able to recognise the make, colour

and probably the registration of the vehicle as it turned round, therefore helping the police with a useful lead, alas this was not possible.

We cannot be the only area in Newton Aycliffe that has seen such negative results with these new lights, but it seems that our voice is not loud enough to be heard within DCC and, therefore, are we to suffer reduced night time safety and an increase in crime for the foreseeable future?

Brian Winwood

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Aycliffe Care Home

SUMMER FETE

Saturday 21st June, 2pm



Plus many more - Come and join in the fun.
Everyone is welcome

Tickets now on sale for a Darlington Orchestra Concert

Tuesday 17th June
Commencing at 7.15pm
Neville Community Centre
Neville Parade DL5 5DH

Tickets: Adults £5.00, Seniors £4,
Children Free (accompanied)

To book your tickets and collect on the door
contact Peter Beaty on 01325 313924

National Care Home Open Day Friday, 20th June, 2014

Defoe Court Care Home will be opening their doors to the public for National Care Home Day

The open day theme this year will be
"AROUND THE WORLD"

We will have outdoor stalls along with mini tapas tasters, Woodham School Steel Band, the Deputy Mayor, Mary Dalton and we will be inviting everyone to join us in the Mexican Wave at 2.15pm.

Events from 11am till 3pm

"Everyone is welcome"



The Village Pharmacy
Pioneering Care Centre, Newton Aycliffe

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Friday 8.30am-6.00pm

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NEWTON NEWS

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FREE COURSES AT PCP

Come along to a free information event at the Pioneering Care Centre on Wednesday 18 June between 10am – 3pm and find out about the brand new exciting courses on offer.

PCP's new 'Work for Health' project and social prescribing project 'Colour your Life' are starting very soon and places will be filling up fast. Be one of the first to find out what courses are available and sign up on the day.

The Work for Health project is funded by Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) and aims to help people who are having difficulty finding employment. Free 10 week courses are specially designed to support people with health problems who want to improve their skills, confidence and opportunities. Colour your Life is similar to the previous Arts on Prescription service run by the PCP but now offers a 10 week course in either learning or art and will co-ordinate access into volunteering, books on prescription and ecotherapy.

If you would like to find out more or work with clients who would benefit from either projects come along on the day or contact:

Work for Health: liz.godfrey@pcp.uk.net
Colour your Life: dan.fletcher@pcp.uk.net
Or call into the Pioneering Centre, Carers Way, Newton Aycliffe, call general enquiries on: 01325 321234 or visit: www.pcp.uk.net

Greenfield Students Visit to the Somme

A group of Year 9 Girls from Greenfield Community College recently participated in an International, sport, dance and artistic event, organised by Durham County Council. The event, which took place in the Somme region of France, involved over 350 young people worldwide.

Becky Adams, Katie McLaren, Ami Henderson, Sophie Hayes, Samantha Clarke, Hannah Day and Ellie Jade Anderson were selected to represent Greenfield at the event, which first established a link with the Somme region over 30 years ago.

Greenfield was selected to represent 'Team Durham' and 'England' to compete alongside other schools from the area including Parkside, North Durham Academy and Durham Johnston. We were pleased to be chosen from the many schools in the region to represent our area.

The group of girls and accompanying Greenfield staff were 'on tour' for 4 days which involved two days of travelling on a coach from Durham to Albert in the Somme region of France. This was very timely as it coincided with the commemorations and celebrations of the anniversary of the First World War. There were two days of sporting



events which involved Rock Climbing, Futsal, Kayaking, Orienteering, Cross Country Running and Archery.

Out of more than 30 teams, England came 4th overall with our girls claiming the individual title for the Rock climbing. The dancers worked with a professional choreographer for two days and performed a very poignant piece in front of delegations of each of the represented countries; Germany, Australia, Hungary, Italy and of course France.

Having been given the opportunity to visit this famous historic area of Europe, pupils took the opportunity to visit the

War museum of Albert and laid a wreath at Thiepval on behalf of the people of County Durham. Students were visibly moved when they visited the monument which bears the names of 72,195 missing British and South African soldiers of WW1 without a known grave. It was an incredibly emotional experience to accept the scale of the number of names- some of whom belonged to the Durham Light Infantry. This most recent international visit is one of many that have taken place this year, as Greenfield continues to place importance on Global Learning and internationalism.

NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Fancy a few nice hours out for a coffee and lunch then go to Number 4 Cafe at Front Street, Sedgfield I can highly recommend this venue.

We are looking for donations of gifts for our next event on Tuesday 17th June at 7.15pm when the Darlington Orchestra give a concert.

Admission Adults £5, Seniors £4, Children free. Please ring me on 313924 to reserve tickets to collect at the door, or to donate.

The Bon Marche Fashion Show was brilliant and we are grateful to Margaret Gent and friends for organising this event. The models deserve a big thank you as do the staff from the Town Centre store.

The Art Class is moving to a Wednesday from 1-3pm. Just turn up with your gear.

New Age Kurling for beginners is on every Thursday 10am - 12 noon. Ring to book a place.

New clubs starting 12th June: Toichi 6.30- 8pm. and Karate 8pm - 9.30pm. Knit & Natter every Thursday 10am-12 noon.

Just come for the natter or if you are knitting something bring it along. Marie Curie Coffee Day on Saturday 21st June 10am - 4pm.

MEETING NEEDED TO RESOLVE MILLER'S CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

Dear Sir,

In response to the article on page 6 about the play area in the Cobblers Hall development. As one of the residents of the properties surrounding the area I feel the need to put our views forward.

We don't have any problem with the children using this area however it was never intended to be used for ball games due to the size, it is far too small. This is supported by the number of times the ball strikes vehicles and bounces onto gardens.

We have experienced damage to our vehicle which could only have happened in this way. Suggestions have been made to Millers as to how this could be resolved to the satisfaction of all residents but nothing has come of the suggestions.

We even suggested to Millers

a meeting with all residents to discuss an outcome which would be suitable to all but again to no avail. We do appreciate that children do have a right to play but isn't that the reason we purchase a property with a garden so that they can do so safely?

We have also commented to Millers on the current condition of the area, with regards to the appearance and health and safety. The current planting scheme appears as though it is not looked after by either Millers, Local Council or the residents.

The fencing put in place to protect this area is regularly used as a climbing frame by the children which is obviously a safety issue. In order to reach an outcome that is acceptable to all maybe the residents need to get together!

Stephen Pallister

FUNdraising Night

(+Class of '95)

at

Newton Aycliffe Big Club

on

Saturday, 5th July, 2014

2 fantastic singers

Sean Mac and Samantha Mac

+ Disco2Party

and Free Snap2Party Photo Booth

All proceeds in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, Kieran Maxwell Fund and Breast Cancer Care



Raffle - Tombola - Tickets £5.00 each

Tickets available from Samantha on 07738 233875, The Big Club and Newton Press Offices

Town Centre Car Park Wrong Site for Market

Dear Sir,

I am not really surprised that the use of the car park on Greenwell Road, Newton Aycliffe was suggested as an alternative temporary home for the market. However it would be impractical as it would not result in a footfall to give the traders a viable living.

We are informed by Durham Council that major problems would make the use of the land adjacent to the Cubby impossible. As the Council will probably use the Health and Safety argument as their friendly ally to force the decision upon Newton Aycliffe there are a couple of points which I would like to stress:

1. The land next to the Cubby has been allowed to remain a carbuncle and an eyesore for a number of years with no attempt by the owners (Durham County Council) to landscape or even tidy up the land.

2. Access to the proposed car park on Greenwell Road will incur a substantial increase in pedestrians crossing the road at various points along the highway without the facility of a pedestrian crossing.

3. The car park is very well used at present and the use of the car park by the market will increase pressure on other parking areas.

4. Trade will be taken away from businesses in the Town Centre itself as the location of the market will be drawing potential customers away.

5. With the Taxi rank overflowing along Greenwell Road past the rear of the old Woolworths building and Taxi drivers wandering around in the middle of the road with their car doors open, Homeplan receiving deliveries and customers loading, Fast food outlets with customers parking outside of the shops, Buses picking up and dropping off passengers and lorries delivering to shops, one can only imagine the melee.

6. With an organisation that has experts in every possible department from highways to legal, I find it very difficult to believe that those problems incurred with using the Cubby site cannot be overcome if the will is there.

We seem to be ruled by people whose primary interest is in Durham City and surrounding areas so I would pose this challenge: Come on Durham prove me wrong and solve this situation for the good of Newton Aycliffe and the great County of Durham. Ken Robson Chairman (ACORN Residents Association)

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RINK

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TREKKING

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Great Aycliffe Town Council

Council Offices - School Aycliffe Lane - Newton Aycliffe - Co. Durham DL5 6QF

Telephone: 01325 300700 • Fax: 01325 301053

Email: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk • Website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk



ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

13th June 2014

Foreword by the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Mrs Barbara Clare

It was a great honour for me to be appointed as Mayor for the Town Council, something which I could not have considered not too long ago due to ill health. The James Cook Hospital Cardiovascular Unit saved my life when my heart operation hit problems 5 years ago. It was the opportunity of that second chance at life which made me choose James Cook Hospital as my main charity, my second charity was the St Clare's food bank. Looking at it one way, it is a disgrace that we have had to set up a food bank in Newton Aycliffe, the birthplace of



the Welfare State. But it is desperately needed, and it was my delight to have been able to raise this money to help those in our town who are in need. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped me raise £5,500 for my nominated charities which also included a generous donation from Barclays Bank.

At the start of my year I set myself three objectives – to acknowledge the marvellous people of Great Aycliffe and all that they do, to raise the profile of Great Aycliffe in County Durham, and to build links between the community and the companies on the Business Park.

It has been a privilege to be Mayor at a time of great success and expansion for Great Aycliffe. There have been some amazing highlights – the opening of Hitachi and Emerald Biogas; going on stage with Amelia Lily in the refurbished town centre; Palram's and the Newton News's 50th, and Formica's 100th, anniversaries and not forgetting all the wonderful Aycliffe people I have met and celebrated special occasions with over the year. What a privilege it has been to have shared these amazing moments with you all.

A message from the new Mayor, Councillor Mrs Wendy Hillary

Although I have not been a Town Councillor very long, I have been involved in local politics for a number of years and have a great passion for our town moving here in 2007. It was a huge honour for me to be appointed as Mayor for Great Aycliffe Town Council. My nominated charities for my year in office are the Cruse Bereavement Service and County of Durham School Benevolent Fund.

During 2013/14 the Council has continued to provide services to residents of Great Aycliffe. The coming year and years to come will be challenging due to decreases in finance available. The Council will need to review what services it currently offers and how they are delivered.

We will hold the Firework Display this year but the success, or failure, of the event will dictate the future of the Firework Display.

This year will see the last Great Aycliffe Show in its current format. However, a week-long festival of local and community events will be supported and encouraged by the Town Council to bring back that old style community pride that many residents can remember.



OUR PERFORMANCE

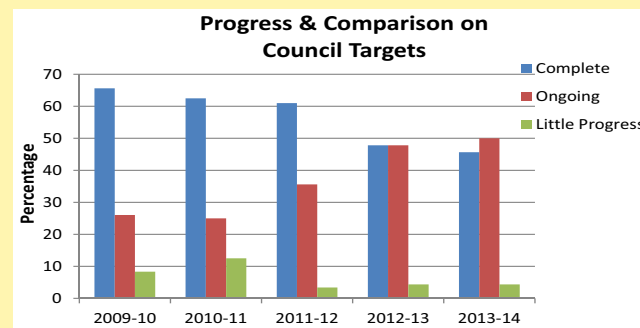
The Town Council Parish Performance Plan is our overarching document that aims to inform you about what we said we would do and what we actually did. It is an important strategic document that we produce each year as part of our aim to deliver quality services for the residents of Great Aycliffe.

There are currently 46 targets set out in the Parish Performance Plan supporting the 8 strategic aims of the Town Council. At the end of the financial year

- 21 targets were completed,
- 23 targets are on-going,
- 2 targets are behind schedule and they are both linked to the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan. There is a brief update on the Neighbourhood Plan later in the newsletter.

Although no new targets are being added to the Parish Performance Plan this year the work we will be undertaking on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan will ensure that there will be lots of challenges to face in the very near future.

The table below shows progress, as a percentage, on the Council targets over the previous 5 years. Regular reports are provided to both Councillors and the Customer Panel who have the opportunity to discuss progress on individual items.



SOME KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ 41 public countryside events have taken place. Activities have included pond dipping, nature walks, bird box making, rubber duck racing along the Burn and various themed arts events.
- ✓ 39 environmental workshops have taken place with local school groups. All schools within the parish have been included.
- ✓ Volunteers have spent in excess of 750 man hours helping to improve the nature areas around the town.
- ✓ An Environment Week was organised with the assistance of the Youth Council. This involved visiting every primary school in the town, giving them an interactive presentation on litter and then giving them the chance to do a litter pick in their local community.
- ✓ The Council took over the ownership of Seven Hills Woodland site near Neville Parade. The site has since been improved by installing entrance gates and signage, tree maintenance works, community bulb planting, removal of household waste and regular litter picks.
- ✓ Even though finances are extremely tight, and we must continually monitor what we are doing, we still managed to help 13 different local organisations by giving over £8000 in grants.
- ✓ Oaklife Club, continues to be a success, with spins offs including a 50+ circuit exercise class which is growing in popularity.
- ✓ The Bygones vintage car society held their first rally/show on the fields at the rear of the complex; they hope this will be the start of many happy years using the facility.
- ✓ On the 1st April 2014 Great Aycliffe hosted the areas first go run for fun event, more than 300 young people took part in the event which is designed to encourage participation in running. Olympian Chris Tomlinson started the mile fun run along with the Mayor of Great Aycliffe Town Council. All those who attended had a wonderful time.

Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan

ABOUT THE PLAN

The Neighbourhood Plan is a new right for communities to have a major statutory say in helping to shape development in the areas in which they live.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a very important document it will help PLAN for things that are important to the residents and businesses of Great Aycliffe. It will become a statutory planning document that will steer future development of our neighbourhood areas. It is only about planning but an important factor to note is that it's not about saying NO to development.

The Town Council actually started doing some work on the Neighbourhood Plan 2 years ago but things are finally starting to pick up pace. An officer has been appointed and will start work in June. In the meantime we are in the process of putting a steering group together and we have been looking for 2 public representatives to become part of the group along with the other organisations.

Keep your eyes open for opportunities for you to have a say in the future of Great Aycliffe, we will be visiting as many local events as possible to gain your views on shaping our future.

My name is Angela Corner and I have been appointed as the Community Neighbourhood Engagement Officer and I will be responsible for 'engaging the community' and assisting in writing the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan.



I have lived in Newton Aycliffe for 38 years and have one daughter aged 2. After working as a Project Manager for Stockton Citizens Advice Bureau for 12 years I am really excited to be working on a project which will greatly benefit the residents and businesses of my home town.

LOGO COMPETITION

Are you 18 or under and enjoy a challenge. The Town Council are looking for a logo which can be used on official and promotional information for the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan

We would like to give the young people in Newton Aycliffe the opportunity to enter a competition to design the Neighbourhood Plan logo. The logo should be something about 'planning for the future'. What do you want Aycliffe to look like in 10 years' time? It can be a painting, drawing or photograph.

The winning entry from the above competition will become the official logo for the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan. This is a great opportunity for you to become involved in a very important project which will run for at least two years.

Entries should be sent to Great Aycliffe Town Council, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6QF stating name, age, contact details and availability for the inaugural Neighbourhood Planning Event on Thursday 24th July where the winner will be presented with a prize of £25 in vouchers.

Deadline for entries to be received at the Council Offices is **TUESDAY 1ST JULY 2014**, Winners will be notified, either via telephone or in writing, by **MONDAY 7TH JULY 2014**.

Partnership Working

The Council continues to further explore partnership working / joint procurement with Durham County Council.

The Council has worked with Horndale Residents Association to provide a Multi-Use Games area at Horndale Park and has been involved with the Friends of West Park group which has been recently set up to look at ideas for improving West Park. The Council have been building partnership working and are looking at some very interesting projects. One in particular is an art project run through the Active Aycliffe Group based at the Pioneering Care Centre which is an intergenerational art project to help those with mental health problems which has been funded by our Youth Council.

The Youth Council are also helping to develop a pilot project with 3 organisations on the business park which they hope will eventually be adopted by the Aycliffe Schools. They are aiming to dispel the myth about apprenticeships, get young people 'work ready' and improve their understanding of what businesses are looking for.

The Council has also worked with Katy Milne from Greenfield Arts to provide a Community Carnival Event, "Cutting Loose" in West Park that will take place on Tuesday 15th July.

AIMS AND TARGETS 2014/2015

AIM 1 "TO PROVIDE GOOD QUALITY GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL"

- 1 Publish a Parish Performance Plan by 30th June
- 2 Achieve an unqualified audit opinion on the Annual Governance Statement
- 3 Pursue the development of a Neighbourhood Plan, improving community engagement and encouraging the residents of Great Aycliffe to become involved in the process
- 4 Deliver the Internal Audit Plan Schedule of Work and report to Council
- 5 Provide a Member and Town Clerk training programme to comply with guidance for Quality Status
- 6 Undertake a review of all records and filing systems annually to comply with Freedom of Information Act
- 7 Improve advertising of Council facilities and services by targeting a service area in each publication

- 8 Undertake a town wide questionnaire consultation, as part of the Neighbourhood Planning process
- 9 Complete the new Health & Safety Manual, ensuring requirements for feedback from Managers is incorporated
- 10 Develop and deliver a training plan for new Members
- 11 Produce annual statement of accounts by 30.6.14
- 12 Achieve an unqualified audit opinion of the accounts by 30.9.14
- 13 Ensure the Medium Term Financial Plan is approved by 30th June each year
- 14 Quarterly budget control reports are presented to Policy and Resources Committee
- 15 Undertake a review of all Council risks every March and report to Council
- 16 Budgets/Precepts approved by 31st January 2015
- 17 Manage the future financial impact of the localisation of support for council tax (LCTSS) and any future cuts to LCTSS
- 18 Commence a programme of financial reviews of all service areas
- 19 Undertake an annual update of the Asset Register including the schedule of expected life and replacement costs for plant and machinery. Ensuring that any works are prioritised by the Equality Act and replacement plant and machinery is built into the capital works programme as necessary

AIM 2 "TO MANAGE THE COUNCIL'S FINANCES AND ASSETS IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER"

- 20 Deliver 40 public countryside events
- 21 Deliver the Council's programme of special events
- 22 Expand the activities offered at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex
- 23 Complete the programme of asset management planned work at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex
- 24 Provide at least 10 bar/catering promotions to develop the social side of the Oak Leaf Complex business
- 25 Investigate ways to extend the cycle paths on the Great Aycliffe Way and around Great Aycliffe
- 26 Assist Aycliffe Youth Council to assist and hold additional activities at one Fun in the Park event

AIM 3 "TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE LEISURE FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES"

- 27 Assist Aycliffe Youth Council to assist and hold additional activities at one Fun in the Park event
- 28 Aim to maximise child numbers at both pre-schools

AIM 5 "TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT OF AYCLIFFE BY MANAGING AND DEVELOPING PARKS, PLAY AREAS AND GREEN SPACES"

- 29 Environment Officer to work with local schools and community groups to develop volunteer opportunities
- 30 Work with the Youth Council, schools, community and voluntary groups hold a Town Pride Environment Day
- 31 Undertake maintenance and management of specific DCC environmental areas as per the management agreement
- 32 Undertake a limited snow clearing and gritting service on behalf of Durham County Council as per the management agreement

AIM 6 "TO HELP AND ENCOURAGE PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO IMPROVE THE SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF GREAT AYCLIFFE"

- 33 Support and encourage Aycliffe Youth Council (AYC) by
 - Organising the election process
 - Holding at least 8 meetings a year
 - Helping to organise at least 1 project a year
- 34 Working with other groups to develop community activities to encourage pride in Great Aycliffe
- 35 Work with partners and assist with initiatives to reduce litter

AIM 7 "ENCOURAGE THE RESIDENTS OF GREAT AYCLIFFE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN LOCAL DEMOCRACY"

- 36 Hold at least 5 Customer Panel meetings with the residents of Great Aycliffe
- 37 Hold a budget setting consultation meeting with the Customer Panel
- 38 Hold a Parish Meeting
- 39 Hold an Allotment AGM
- 40 Hold 6 allotment representative meetings
- 41 Hold or take part in at least 2 events to inform residents about Town Council services

AIM 8 "TO RESEARCH INFORMATION AND MAKE THE CASE FOR GREAT AYCLIFFE"

- 42 Produce timely responses to all major consultations carried out
- 43 Undertake benchmarking and research where appropriate for new policies and procedures
- 44 Keep up to date with any changes in legislation and report to council as and when required

BYERLEY PARK, HORNDALE & COBBLERS HALL WARD



John D. Clare
Lab - Tel. 318333



Ian Gray
Lab - Tel. 313770



Brian Hall
Lab - Tel. 314105



Irene Hewitson
Ind - Tel. 318763



Paul Kjenstad
Lab - Tel. 07814 777212



Alison Palmer
Lab - Tel. 314559

WOODHAM WARD



Barbara A. Clare
Lab - Tel. 318333



Neil Collinson
Lab - Tel. 300072



Mary Dalton
Lab - Tel. 320499



Michael Dalton
Lab - Tel. 320499



Sandra Haigh
Ind - Tel. 318303



Keith Henderson
Lab - Tel. 319542

KNOW YOUR COUNCILLOR

AYCLIFFE CENTRAL WARD



Jim Atkinson
Lab - Tel. 310791

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE



Bill Blenkinsopp
Ind - Tel. 788893

SIMPASTURE WARD



Derek G. Atkinson
Lab - Tel. 301395



John Clark
Lab-Tel. 07972 170190



Valerie M. Raw
Lab - Tel. 311447



William Iveson
Lab - Tel. 312490

WEST WARD



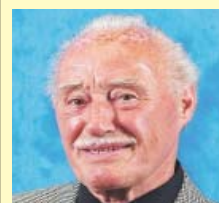
Eddy Adam
Lab-Tel. 07900 701966



Raymond Bowman
Lab - Tel. 308094



Arun M. Chandran
Lab - Tel. 313224



George C. Gray
Ind - Tel. 314934



Daniel Summers
Lab-Tel. 07931 768951



Tom Twissell
Lab-Tel. 07455 666550

SHAFTO / ST. MARY'S WARD



Robert S. Fleming
Lab - Tel. 310025



Wendy Hillary
Lab - Tel. 313273



Malcolm Iveson
Lab - Tel. 319759



Chris Wheeler
Lab - Tel. 318805

NEVILLE WARD



Jed P. Hillary
Lab - Tel. 313273



Sarah Iveson
Lab - Tel. 319759

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014 / 2015

CHAIRMAN / VICE-CHAIRMAN

Number of Members

COUNCIL *(All Members)* **Councillor Mrs. Wendy P. Hillary (Mayor)**, **Councillor Mrs. Mary Dalton (Deputy Mayor)**

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE *(26 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)*

Councillors E. Adam, J. Atkinson, B. Blenkinsopp, R. Bowman, A.M. Chandran, Mrs. B.A. Clare, **J.D. Clare**, J. Clark, N. Collinson, Mrs. M. Dalton, M.A. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, **I. Gray**, G.C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, Mrs. I. Hewitson, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, P. Kjenstad, Mrs. V.M. Raw, D. Summers, T. Twissell and C. Wheeler.

RECREATION COMMITTEE *(26 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)*

Councillors E. Adam, J. Atkinson, B. Blenkinsopp, R. Bowman, A.M. Chandran, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, N. Collinson, Mrs. M. Dalton, M.A. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, **I. Gray**, G.C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, **B. Hall**, K. Henderson, Mrs. I. Hewitson, **J.P. Hillary**, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, P. Kjenstad, Mrs. V.M. Raw, D. Summers, T. Twissell and C. Wheeler.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE *(26 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)*

Councillors E. Adam, D.G. Atkinson, J. Atkinson, B. Blenkinsopp, R. Bowman, A.M. Chandran, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, N. Collinson, Mrs. M. Dalton, M.A. Dalton, **R.S. Fleming**, **I. Gray**, G.C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, Mrs. I. Hewitson, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, **M. Iveson**, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. V.M. Raw, D. Summers and C. Wheeler.

SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS from the Policy and Resources Committee

SERVICE REVIEW WORKING GROUP *(7 Members)*

Councillors J.D. Clare, R.S. Fleming, **I. Gray**, **B. Hall**, J.P. Hillary, M. Iveson and C. Wheeler.

GENERAL APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE *(Members chosen as necessary)*

PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE *(9 Members + Mayor as ex-officio)*

Councillors D.G. Atkinson, J. Atkinson, Mrs. B.A. Clare, R.S. Fleming, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W. Hillary, M. Iveson and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE *(9 Members + Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)*

Councillors E. Adam, A.M. Chandran, J.D. Clare, M.A. Dalton, Mrs. M. Dalton, K. Henderson, Mrs. I. Hewitson, W. Iveson, P. Kjenstad and C. Wheeler.

AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE *(7 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)*

Councillors A.M. Chandran, J.D. Clare, M. Dalton, Mrs. M. Dalton, G.C. Gray, B. Hall, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson and Mrs. S.J. Iveson.

ASSET MANAGEMENT MEMBER WORKING GROUP *(11 Members)*

Councillors D.A. Atkinson, J. Atkinson, J.D. Clare, R.S. Fleming, G.C. Gray, B. Hall, K. Henderson, J.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw and C. Wheeler.

CHARGES WORKING GROUP *(Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Environment, Recreation and Policy and Resources Committees plus the Mayor and Deputy Mayor)*

Councillors J.D. Clare, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, **I. Gray**, **B. Hall**, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary and M. Iveson.

WORKING GROUPS from the Recreation Committee

GOLF COURSE WORKING GROUP *(3 Members + Chair and Vice of Recreation)*

Councillors J. Atkinson, R.S. Fleming **B. Hall**, J.P. Hillary and M. Iveson.

SPORTS COMPLEX WORKING GROUP *(Members chosen as necessary)*

FESTIVAL WORKING GROUP *(8 Members + Chairman & Vice-Chair of Recreation)*

Councillors J. Atkinson, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, M. Dalton, Mrs. M. Dalton, B. Hall, J.P. Hillary, P. Kjenstad, D. Summers and (Vacancy)

WORKING GROUPS from the Environment Committee

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP *(4 Members + Chairman & Vice-Chair of Environment + 2 Members of the Public + 8 Co-optees)*

J. Atkinson, J.D. Clare, M. Dalton, **I. Gray**, B. Hall and C. Wheeler.

GRANTS / DONATIONS

The Council considered applications for Grants and the following were agreed and paid out over the year 2013/14.

• North East Autism Society	£ 52	• Woodham Community Assoc.	£ 200
• Greenfield Arts Event	£5,000	• Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre	£ 200
• D.C.C. Newton Aycliffe Library	£200	• School Benevolent Fund	£ 200
• St. Clare's Food Bank	£1,000	• New Age Curling Club	£ 200
• Great North Air Ambulance	£ 200	• St. Clare's Food Bank	£ 500
• Akari Care Home	£ 20	• Oakleaf Bowls Club	£ 200
• Newton Aycliffe Rotary	£ 84		

MAYOR'S ANNUAL EVENTS

The following Civic Dates have now been finalised for the newly appointed Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs. Wendy P. Hillary.

MAYOR'S "AT HOME"

Saturday, 12th July 2014 at the Council Offices - 2pm to 4pm

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, 5th September 2014 at the Oakleaf Golf Complex

MAYOR'S CIVIC BALL

Friday, 20th February 2015 - (Venue to be arranged)

NEWTON AYCLIFFE ROTARY CLUB WILL ALSO BE ORGANISING THE TOWN COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

Sunday, 14th December 2014 (Provisional) - Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre - 2.30pm to 4pm



REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2014/15

- (a) **Youth Council - Three + 1 Officer**
Councillor J.D. Clare, Councillor D. Summers, Councillor T. Twissell, Corporate & Policy Officer
- (b) **County Durham Association of Local Councils - Two Members only at AGM + Town Clerk**
Councillor R.S. Fleming, Councillor J.D. Clare, Town Clerk
- (c) **Aycliffe Village Community Association - One**
Councillor C. Wheeler
- (d) **Woodham Village Community Association - Two**
Councillor N. Collinson, Councillor K. Henderson
- (e) **Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Council's Committee - Two + Town Clerk**
Councillor R.S. Fleming, Councillor B. Hall, Town Clerk
- (f) **Larger Local Councils' Forum - Two + Town Clerk**
Councillor R.S. Fleming, Councillor J.D. Clare, Town Clerk
- (g) **Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre - One**
Councillor T. Twissell
- (h) **Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society - Two**
Councillor I. Gray, Councillor D. Summers
- (i) **Sedgefield Health Network - One**
(Vacancy) Appoint in due course
- (j) **Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve - One**
Councillor I. Gray
- (k) **Friends of West Park - Two**
Councillor E. Adam, Councillor P. Kjenstad
- (l) **Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway - One**
Councillor J. Atkinson

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

28th May 2014	Environment	26th Nov. 2014	Environment
28th May 2014	Recreation *	26th Nov. 2014	Recreation *
4th June 2014	Policy & Resources	3rd Dec. 2014	Policy & Resources
11th June 2014	Full Council	10th Dec. 2014	Full Council
2nd July 2014	Environment	14th Jan. 2015	Environment
2nd July 2014	Recreation *	14th Jan. 2015	Recreation *
9th July 2014	Policy & Resources	21st Jan. 2015	Policy & Resources
16th July 2014	Full Council	28th Jan. 2015	Full Council
3rd Sept. 2014	Environment	25th Feb. 2015	Environment
3rd Sept. 2014	Recreation *	25th Feb. 2015	Recreation *
10th Sept. 2014	Policy & Resources	4th Mar. 2015	Policy & Resources
17th Sept. 2014	Full Council	11th Mar. 2015	Full Council
15th Oct. 2014	Environment	8th Apr. 2015	Environment
15th Oct. 2014	Recreation *	8th Apr. 2015	Recreation *
22nd Oct. 2014	Policy & Resources	15th Apr. 2015	Policy & Resources
29th Oct. 2014	Full Council	22nd Apr. 2015	Full Council
All meetings commence at 7.15 p.m.			

* The Recreation Committee will commence immediately after the Environment Committee Meeting.

13th MAY, 2015 - COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING - 7.15 p.m.

20th MAY, 2015 - PARISH MEETING - 7.15 p.m. (*)**

The Public and Press are cordially invited to attend.

"The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".

COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEES

Personnel Sub-Committee - This Sub-Committee will be held as and when required.

Audit Sub-Committee - This Sub-Committee will meet, as a minimum, on a quarterly basis. (Dates as appropriate)

Appeals Sub-Committee - This Sub-Committee will be held as and when required.

General Appeals Sub-Committee - Will be held as and when required.

The following Working Groups will meet as and when required.

Charges Working Group	Asset Management Member Working Group
Golf Working Group	Sports Complex Working Group
Show Working Group	Service Review Working Group
Personnel Member Appeal Panel	

(***) (N.B. - this is not a meeting of the Town Council but a meeting of local government electors in the Council's area. Any queries about the Parish Meeting can be made to the Town Clerk on 01325 300700).

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Listed below for public disclosure is the allowances and other expenses claimed by the Council's Elected Members during the financial year 2013/14 in line with statutory requirements as set out in the Local Authority (Members Allowances) Regulations 2004.

Surname	Forenames	Title	Total Payment	Allowance	Subsistence	Mileage Claim
Adam	Eddy	Mr	£954.21	£954.21		
Atkinson	Derek	Mr	£954.21	£954.21		
Atkinson	Jim	Mr	£954.21	£954.21		£19.99
Blenkinsopp	William M.	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Bowman	Raymond T	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Chandran	Arun M	Mr	£954.21	£954.21		
Clare	Barbara Anne	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Clare	John D	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Clark	John	Mr	£954.21	£954.21		
Collinson	Neil	Mr	£954.21	£954.21		
Dalton	Michael A	Mr	0	0		
Dalton	Mary	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		£10.37
Fleming	Robert S	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Gray	George C	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Gray	Ian	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Haigh	Sandra	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Hall	Brian	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Henderson	Keith	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Hewitson	Irene	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Hillary	Jeremy P	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Hillary	Wendy P	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Iveson	Malcolm	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Iveson	Sarah J	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Iveson	William	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Kjenstad	Paul	Mr	£954.21	£954.21		
Palmer	Alison	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Raw	Valerie M	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Summers	Dan	Mr	£954.21	£954.21		
Twissell	Tom	Mr	£954.21	£954.21		
Wheeler	Chris	Mr	£954.21	£954.21		

Subsistence figures are for Conferences - As per approved Members Allowance Scheme

Annual Report on the Council’s Finances 2013/14

1. Introduction

Welcome to the annual report on the Council’s finances which we hope you will find informative and of interest.

This report sets out the Council’s spending plans for 2014/15 explaining how the budget will be funded by you, the council tax payers of the Parish, whilst also providing a summary of the Council’s financial performance last year including the outcome of the annual audit inspection.

2. The Council Budget

The Council Budget is an estimate of the resources that the Council will require to be raised from council tax to fund all of the services it provides for the year ahead.

The Budget covers the financial year which runs from 1st April to 31st March.

The Council needs to set a Revenue Budget and a Capital Budget each year.

The **Revenue Budget** funds the day to day running costs of the Council’s services such as salaries and supplies and the net cost, after deducting any income receivable from fees and charges and grants, is met from the Town Council proportion of your Council Tax bill.

The **Capital Budget** funds major one off investment in the Council’s fixed assets such as its buildings, vehicles and play areas and is funded from the Council’s Balances and Reserves and any external grants that may be available.

3. 2014/15 Revenue Budget

The 2014/15 Revenue Budget was developed on the principle of maintaining services whilst keeping the required increase in council tax as low as possible bearing in mind the difficult back drop of funding cuts and increasing costs.

Additional budget provision totalling more than £150,000 needed to be made for a number of unavoidable budget increases including:-

- A £40,000 cut in the Local Council Tax Support Grant funding;
- A 1% officer pay award;
- Additional pension costs following the implementation of automatic enrolment;
- Pension contributions now being payable on all staff overtime; and
- Inflation on running costs;

However, these increases were offset, for the most part, by savings, budget reductions and increases in income, assisted by the favourable Revenue Budget position in 2013/14 when a significant saving was achieved. Savings included:-

Service Area	2014/15 Budget £
Members and Civic Expenses	67,300
Corporate Management, Finance and Administration	437,500
Capital Financing Charges	30,150
Pre Schools	252,650
Community Events	150,700
Sports Complex	653,500
Golf Course and Driving Range	223,600
Environment and Open Spaces	129,250
Parks, Sports Pitches and Play Areas	222,100
Works and Depot	170,100
Street Equipment	9,250
Cemeteries	72,450
Allotments	16,000
Neighbourhood Plan	37,500
Contingency Sum	27,500
Total Cost of Running Town Council Services	2,499,550
One Off Capital Investment in Council Assets	170,500
Contribution to Capital Reserves	25,000
Total Planned Spending	2,695,050
Less Income	
Council Tax Support Grant	(255,850)
Pre-Schools Funding and Fees	(220,500)
Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(442,500)
Golf Course and Driving Range Fees and Charges	(183,000)
Cemeteries and Allotments Fees and Charges	(26,550)
Feed In Tariff Income from Solar Panels	(12,500)
Other Income	(25,050)
Investment Income	(4,500)
Total Income	(1,170,450)
Less Use of Balances to fund Capital Budget	(170,500)
Less Use of Balances to fund Neighbourhood Plan	(37,500)
Net Budget Requirement / Council Precept	1,316,600

- The significant recovery in sports and golf complex income during 2013/14;
- High attendance levels and therefore funding income at the pre-schools;
- The removal of the budgets for elections and the neighbourhood plan which will be funded from earmarked revenue reserves in future years;
- Cutting the annual contribution to capital reserves by £25,000;
- Efficiency savings from improved procurement; and
- Reductions in under-utilised budgets.

In overall terms, the increase in the Council’s **2014/15** Net Revenue Budget Requirement, as represented by the **Council Precept**, increased by £45,000 or 3.5%, from £1,271,600 to **£1,316,600**.

4. 2014/15 Council Tax

The 2014/15 Council Precept resulted in a Town Council Tax at Valuation Band D of £209.18 per year.

This represented an increase of £5 per year or 2.49% on the 2013/14 Council Tax of £204.10.

However, it is important to note that more than half of the properties in Great Aycliffe fall within Council Tax Band A and therefore pay only two thirds of the Band D Council Tax. The Band A Council

maintenance works, replacement machinery and computer equipment, play equipment, footpath and play area safety surface repairs.

The Capital Programme Budget will be funded in full from the Council’s Earmarked Capital Reserves which are set aside for this purpose.

6. Council Balances and Earmarked Reserves

The Council’s Balances and Earmarked Reserves stood at just over £1.05 million at the end of March 2014.

This is significantly better than had been originally anticipated and is as a result of the savings delivered on the Council’s Revenue Budget last year as well as the lower than expected spending on the Capital Programme Budget.

The current level of reserves held will help the Council to meet its capital spending commitments for the foreseeable future, and will provide some protection against further cuts to the Local Council Tax Support Grant funding.

7. 2012/13 and 2013/14 Actual Revenue Spending

A summary of the Council’s actual expenditure in 2012/13 and 2013/14 in running its various services, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed below:-

2012/13 £	Service Area	2013/14 £
68,670	Members and Civic Expenses	62,953
413,560	Corporate Management, Finance and Administration	429,612
30,184	Capital Financing Charges	29,958
232,968	Pre Schools	249,930
140,409	Community Events	129,785
702,778	Sports Complex	709,089
274,390	Golf Course and Driving Range	276,303
321,138	Parks, Sports Pitches and Play Areas	316,644
318,284	Environment, Works and Street Equipment	304,759
79,666	Cemeteries	77,302
18,057	Allotments	19,222
3,933	Contingency Sum	842
-	Elections	14,956
2,604,037	Total Cost of Running Council Services	2,621,355
	Less Income	
(38,475)	Council Tax Support Grant / Double Taxation Grant	(296,146)
(251,345)	Pre Schools Funding and Fees	(226,232)
(424,563)	Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(441,905)
(152,110)	Golf Course and Driving Range Fees and Charges	(186,026)
(18,575)	Cemeteries Fees	(19,362)
(6,425)	Allotments Rents	(6,603)
(37,725)	Other Fees and Charges	(40,207)
-	Use of Balances to Fund Election	(14,956)
(4,592)	Investment Income	(5,896)
(933,810)	Total Income	(1,237,333)
(359,843)	Exclusion of Depreciation Charges	(347,410)
1,310,384	Actual Net Cost of Council Services	1,036,612
314,016	Contribution to Council Balances / Savings	234,988
1,616,850	Council Precept / Council Tax	1,271,600

provide for further investment in Council and community assets for the benefit of the tax payers of Great Aycliffe over the coming years.

8. 2012/13 and 2013/14 Actual Capital Investment

A summary of the Council’s capital investment in Council and community assets in 2012/13 and 2013/14, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed below:-

2012/13 £	Investment Area	2013/14 £
62,606	Council Buildings Investment	16,775
10,183	Council Offices Solar Panels	-
46,585	Aycliffe Show Field Improvements	-
25,500	Replacement Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment	19,037
-	Information Technology and Office Equipment	32,048
61,008	Parks and Play Area Investment	-
27,667	Infrastructure Works (Drainage, Bridges, Footpaths)	28,683
3,033	Street Equipment (Bus Shelters, Bins, Fencing)	8,648
236,582	Total Capital Investment	105,191
	Funded by:-	
61,076	Capital Contributions	-
175,506	Use of Council Balances	105,191
236,582	Funding of Capital Investment	105,191

maintenance works to public buildings and replacement vehicles, machinery and equipment.

This is all investment that would not otherwise have been possible if the Council did not include a contribution to capital reserves in the Revenue Budget each year and achieve efficiency savings against the Revenue Budget year on year.

It is also important to note that the Council has actively sought external grant funding to support its capital investment in the town in recent years, securing over £500,000 from various funds.

9. Annual Audit Report

The Council is subject to an annual inspection by its external auditors and the overall opinion on the financial standing of the Council is set out in an Annual Audit Letter. The auditors looked at three main areas in 2012/13:-

1. Statement of Accounts
2. Annual Governance Statement
3. Value for Money (Use of Resources Assessment)

The Council is pleased to report that it has again received a clean bill of health on all aspects of the audit inspection.

This means that the external auditors consider that:-

- The Council’s Statement of Accounts presents fairly its financial position;
- The Council is well managed and governed with sound strategies, policies, procedures, systems and internal controls;
- The Council’s finances are in good order;
- The Council secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public money and delivers value for money services to the local community.

This was a very positive Audit Report for the Council and has been achieved as a result of the hard work and commitment of all councillors, management and staff.

The Annual Audit Letter and the Council’s Statement of Accounts are available to view at the Council Offices or on the Council’s website.

The financial position and spending of the Council is continuously monitored and controlled in order to help achieve the most efficient use of public resources. Efficiency savings are identified wherever possible, for example by reviewing services, changing suppliers, and testing the market.

As can be seen above, this prudent management of the Council’s spending has resulted in significant savings being achieved in both 2012/13 and 2013/14.

Spending last year was nearly £235,000 or 18% under the level of Precept. This saving was made up of the planned £50,000 contribution to Earmarked Capital Reserves as well as efficiency savings, increases in income and under spending of around £185,000.

All savings achieved on the Revenue Budget have been set aside in the Council’s Earmarked Reserves to support future spending commitments and to

While capital investment has fallen back in the last couple of years, the Council has still made **investment in Council and community assets of nearly £2 million over the six years since 2008.**

This investment has included the installation of numerous new play areas and multi-use games areas across the town, the opening of the Environment Centre at Moore Lane, planting of new woodland, disabled access works, planned

Tax for 2014/15 equates to £139.45 per year.

The decision to increase the Council Tax this year, for the first time in five years, was not taken lightly by the Council.

By limiting the increase to 2.49%, the impact on the Council Tax Bill at Valuation Band A was restricted to £3.40 per year or 7 pence per week.

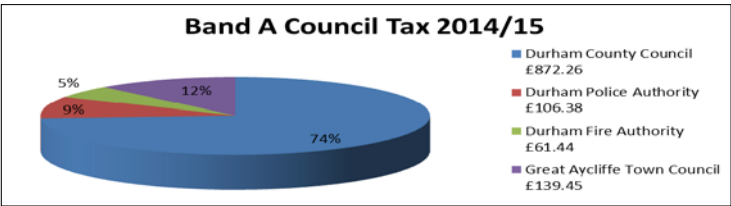
This increase has ensured that all of the important services provided by the Town Council to the community of Great Aycliffe can be maintained in the year ahead.

A breakdown of the 2014/15 Council Tax is shown below showing that only 12p in every £1 of the total Council Tax comes to the Town Council, with the remaining 88p funding county council, police and fire services:-

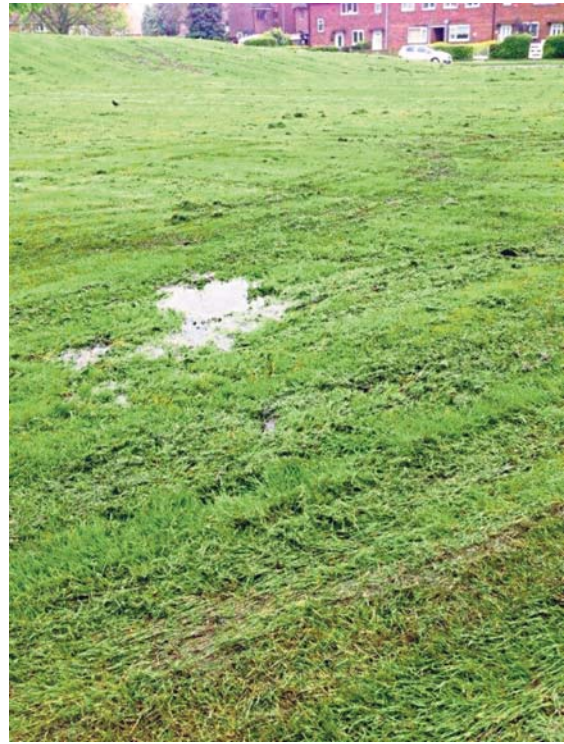
5. 2014/15 Capital Programme Budget

The Council will continue to make capital investment in 2014/15 in order to deliver the Council’s Asset Management Plan and invest in community assets.

The **Capital Programme Budget for 2014/15** has been set at **£170,500** and includes provision for building



Grasscutting Folly



Dear Sir,
I'm not one for publicly voicing my opinion in such a way as this, however, when I went out to work I noticed the council had been out to cut the "Green Hill" near Simpasture. They had cut it recently leaving behind large areas of long grass which is understandable as this area is prone to flooding and has large boggy areas, but at least it looked neat. This time round, even with the recent heavy rain, they decided to cut the whole green! As seen by the picture they have left an eyesore behind and did not even clear the grass off the paths. They have driven through boggy areas leaving turned up soil - Is there any sense to this?
Leanne Ritchie

NEW SNACK BAR OPENS ON BUSINESS PARK

Heather Jones opened her new Hot & Cold Snack Bar on Aycliffe Business Park on Monday 16th June managed by her lifelong friend Sue Casey. Both have lived in Newton Aycliffe and Heather returns to fulfil her long time ambition to run her own business. "The Sandwich Box" is an excellent facility in a prime position next to Newton Press offices on St. Cuthbert's Way between Ramsays Garage and Tallents. Heather and Sue offer a wide range of freshly prepared hot and cold food to suit all tastes. There will also be a selection of cakes confectionery and drinks. Heather and Sue look forward to welcoming everyone to their sandwich bar which is open from 7.30am till 1.30pm Monday to Friday.



Heather (right) with Sue Casey



HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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Tel: Syd
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or syd@newtonnews.co.uk

NORMANDY VETS ENJOY THEIR FINAL MEETING

Dear Sir
The Normandy Veterans met for the annual commemoration of the Landings on 6th June at The Bay Horse, Middridge. They thank the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe for their generous sponsorship, which enabled our 'Vets' who could not join their comrades in Normandy, to meet together for the last time. The Rotary Club, on many occasions, have proven to be indispensable in helping our servicemen who have fallen on bad times and we are eternally grateful for their assistance. The President of the Rotary Club, Geoff Batchelor, was present and said how honoured the club was to sponsor the lunch. The Bay Horse at Middridge laid on a mouth-wateringly, delicious 'nonagenarian' meal, 1940's music and tasteful decorations. Crumblicious of Ferryhill designed and made the 70th Anniversary Cake, which was truly delicious. Liz Wilson and Anne Carbin of SSAFA (Sedgefield Division) provided the Haversack rations to take away. Vicky Peterson, of Wear Valley and Teesdale SSAFA Division, organised the event which was enjoyed by all. I would be most grateful if

you could also remind your readers, that SSAFA exists to assist both serving and ex- serving members and their dependants of the armed

forces who have fallen on bad times - please contact us on: Tel: 01325 314043 Brian Crawford Wilson Div. Sec, SSAFA (Sedgefield)

Smoke-Free Outdoor Children's Play Areas

Children's outdoor play areas across County Durham could be declared smoke-free zones if members of the public back the proposal. Members of Durham County Council's Cabinet are being asked to give the go-ahead for a six-month consultation on plans for a voluntary code banning people from smoking at outdoor play areas. The idea has been put forward by the County Durham Tobacco Control Alliance, which includes Durham County Council. The alliance believes by reducing children's exposure to smoking and making it less socially acceptable, children are less likely to take up the habit themselves. Cllr Lucy Hovvels, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for safer and healthier communities, said: "More than 80,000 people die from smoking related diseases every year in England. "We want to prevent as many of those deaths as possible, not just by encouraging people to stop smoking, but by deterring them from taking up the habit in the first place. "We know from research that young people are most at risk of becoming smokers if they grow up in communities where smoking is the norm. "Making our play areas and play parks smoke-free is one of the ways in which we could change that social norm and hopefully prevent young people from taking up smoking." If a consultation goes ahead and members of the public are in support of the idea, 178 play areas owned by the county council would be declared smoke-free. The owners of the remaining 129 play areas would be asked to sign up to the voluntary code, placing posters and stickers at play areas advising people not to smoke. Cabinet meets at The Witham, in Barnard Castle on Wednesday, 11th June.

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Aycliffe Village Heritage Centre Open

St. Andrew's Church once again throw open its doors on Thursdays, 2pm to 4pm, from now and continuing until the end of September. If, like many, you have often passed through the village, noticed the church and said we must visit that old church, well, now is your chance, it is a lovely church to visit. The original church was built in Saxon times and much of the Saxon stonework is still visible. There are few finer places to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, in pleasant surroundings than this beautiful old church of St. Andrew's. Take time to look at some of the old tombstones in the old churchyard while you are here or simply steep yourself in the history of the church and its parish. Stewards will be available to answer any questions or give you a guided tour. Group visits can be arranged at other times. For more information contact: D. Herbert 01235 300040.

School Club Visit Museum



During the school holidays the children from Woodham Burn Out of School Club visited Preston Park and Preston Hall Museum. The rain held off for us and we headed straight to the park, we had lots of compliments about our new high visibility jackets that were recently purchased to help safeguard the children during outings. We then went for a short walk around the grounds followed by an early lunch. The staff at Preston Park kindly provided us with a wooden cabin to have our lunch in, keeping us warm and dry. After lunch the children were eager to explore the museum, the children particularly

enjoyed the interactive games and information screens, looking at the old toy memorabilia, old appliances such as hoovers, washing machines, old bikes etc, and the dressing up clothes around the museum, this sparked lots of discussion. Outside in the old street the children visited the shops talking to the staff behind the counters and finding out interesting facts about shops in the past. Before leaving the museum the children visited the sweet shop choosing an assortment of old fashioned sweets to take home. Just as we were about to leave the museum the gardener invited us to plant potato

plants, the children were very excited as they could take them home to grow. We would like to thank J & C Coaches for a safe journey (as always) and the staff at Preston Park who made our visit to the museum informative and enjoyable. To find out more information about the oosc club, arrange a visit or to book a place for your child during term time (before or after school-transport available to/from local schools) or in the school holidays (7.45am-6.00pm) please do not hesitate to contact Kendra on 01325 300080 or visit our website www.woodhamburnoutofschoolclub.co.uk

YOUTH COUNCIL COLLECT GLASSES FOR VISIONAID

Aycliffe Youth Council recently got together to donate 42 unwanted spectacles to Vision Aid Overseas in partnership with Spec Savers in Newton Aycliffe. The Youth Council organised the project by collecting all their families' old glasses that they no longer require and donated them to Vision Aid via the collection bins which are available in all local Specsavers stores. The spectacles are reconditioned and distributed to various projects around the developing world to help bring sight to many people who otherwise may not be able to afford them. Aycliffe Youth Councillor Katie Osbiston said "It was easy to take part in this as I know many people who wear glasses as well as me. We had fun seeing the various styles of glasses people have worn over the years. My family and friends did not know about Vision Aid and its work". Aycliffe Youth Council would urge fellow residents of Aycliffe to recycle their glasses by having a clearout and supporting this project.



A.G.M of RESIDENTS FEDERATION

Sedgefield Residents Forum hold their A G M on Monday 16th June, starting at 6.30pm in St. Clare's Vestry, Newton Aycliffe. The Federation covers the old Sedgefield Borough Ward and any Resident or Community groups are welcome to attend and move the group forward.

The meetings are a good way of meeting like-minded people to share their knowledge, experiences and pass on tips and ideas helping groups to make our neighbourhoods better places to live. The Federation are planning for the next year and need

people to help in this process. Officers will be elected and anyone is invited to stand for election. The next meeting will be on July 21st, 6.30 at St. Clare's Vestry with no meeting in August. On behalf of Federation Philip Clark

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Retail Traineeship	£100 per week	Ferryhill

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

FREE PLOT TO PLATE COURSE AT PCP



Workshops to develop a socially inclusive community garden set in the grounds of the Pioneering Care Centre are well on their way with participants learning, growing and being inspired. Plot to Plate is a free 16 week course, with thanks to the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Area Action Partnership's (GAMPs) 'Your Money, Your Area, Your Views' Community Grants Fund. It's been running on Wednesday mornings since April and local residents are gaining 'hands on' experience clearing the site, sewing seeds, understanding soils and composting, growing vegetables, cultivating fruit and herbs and much more. A wide variety of plants including tomatoes, potatoes, salad leaves, beans, chives, rocket and beetroot have been planted in the garden and greenhouse and volunteers have been recruited to tend the plots during the week. Participants are feeling

benefits in the following ways:

- improved physical health from increased activity
- feeling better from being outside
- making new friendships
- learning new skills
- saving money from growing their own produce
- opportunities for volunteering

One of the gardeners said "This is a very interesting course, we have good team work, an interesting tutor and it promotes good healthy eating whilst helping us keep fit". People will be able to sample the home grown produce once it is ready in the Pioneering Care Centre's Mall Coffee Shop and anyone can pop into the Centre and see how the community garden is growing! Further information: Pioneering Care Centre, Carers Way, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham DL5 4SF tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net, www.pcp.uk.net, www.facebook.com/PCPandCentre

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New Chairman for Air Ambulance

AN acclaimed businessman from the North-East has been appointed as chairman of trustees at the region's air ambulance. Technology entrepreneur Professor Brian Jobling has joined the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) in a move which both parties hope will secure the long-term future of the life-saving charity. Brian started Gateshead-based software firm Eutechnyx as an 18-year-old and led it to become one of the world's biggest independent video games developers with 181 staff in its offices in the North-

East, USA, China and Hong Kong. After taking over as executive chairman at Eutechnyx in 2013, the 45-year-old has more time to focus on his other interests, including a prominent role at the fledgling Lakes Distillery in Bassenthwaite, Cumbria, and his new position at GNAAS. Mr Jobling is no stranger to the world of aviation as he holds a licence to fly both helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. His new role is not about getting behind the controls of the GNAAS helicopters, however, but making sure the charity is



raising enough money to keep the service airborne. "I'm here to support the chief executive and to ensure we are raising enough money to keep the aircraft flying," he said. "This isn't about coming in and making sweeping changes, it's about continuing the great work and promoting the charity, what it does and stands for in the region. "It still isn't widely known that the Great North Air Ambulance Service is 100 per cent charitably funded. Our main focus is to ensure we are raising the £4m we need every year to keep the aircraft flying."

Grahame Pickering MBE, chief executive of GNAAS, said: "We are lucky to have Brian on board and we are thoroughly excited about the future with him as Chairman of the Trustees. Since 2001, this charity has grown rapidly to become a leader in the field of pre-hospital care. "Brian's business acumen and technical expertise will allow us to take the service to the next level, hopefully securing the future of the charity for generations to come." Mr Jobling takes over the post from Dr George Murphy, who stepped aside after three years at the helm.

Care Home Residents Welcome Pony Visit



A lovely photograph of one of the residents at Defoe Court Care Home enjoying K. L. Pony Therapy. Blondie the Pony spent one to one time with all of the residents which they thoroughly enjoyed.

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Miller Estate Park?

Dear Sir, I read with interest the doubt as to whether the proposed children's play area situated within the Miller development is likely to go ahead. This was always the case and was clearly marked on the plans. I have noticed that the area has since been fenced off and is becoming an eyesore. Many would not want a play area adjacent to their front aspect, but it was very clear on the first iterations of the plan. If there are objections I for one have not been

consulted. I think the existing solution is not satisfactory as local residents weave around a blind corner where children are now congregating. Is this profits before safety Miller? Perhaps you would like to tell residents where the section 106 money was spent? Surely it wasn't all spent on security fencing. An ideal photo opportunity for Newton News! Get yourselves a look around and bring a camera. Oh, and be careful not to knock over the children playing at the entrance to the estate. Name and address supplied.

Middridge to Disappear?

Dear Sir, Along with many Middridge residents, my husband and I are outraged to learn of GATC's proposed takeover of part of the eastern boundary of our parish. One reason given, apparently, is that because residents of the new estate proposed there will use the facilities of Newton Aycliffe therefore the site should be considered part of it. This very flawed argument could be applied to Darlington and Newton Aycliffe: most of us use Darlington's facilities, are you prepared to surrender land to Darlington for the same reasons? We wonder if Middridge's longtime non-political status renders us the Underdog in this battle?

Both Durham and Newton Aycliffe councils are strongly Labour in flavour; are we to be bullied by them and annexed using Big Brother political tactics? Middridge is slowly being encroached upon because of the Shildon (Spout Lane development), the proposed new estate on our eastern boundary and the proposed biting off of a chunk of our

parish land. If this continues, there will soon be no recognisable Middridge and an ancient, historical village will disappear forever. John and Stephanie Morland

FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW

St Clare's Church "Feel Good Film Show" on Wednesday 18th June will feature "POCAHONTAS" Disney's 33rd animated classic, sparkling with fun, music, adventure and lovely songs like "Just Around the Riverbend" and "Colours of the Wind". 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

SWDT at Aycliffe Engineer a Future for Girls

SCHOOLGIRLS in the region will have the opportunity to gain an insight into a career in manufacturing and engineering with the help of a leading training provider workshop.

South West Durham Training (SWDT) will take to County Durham and Darlington to deliver the Girls into Engineering workshops for schoolgirls aged 13 to 16 to inspire a career in the industry and tackle gender stereotypes. The training provider, which has been equipping the region with the skills needed to lead the way in the manufacturing and engineering sector for more than 45 years, is also hoping to encourage schools to add the subjects to their curriculum after recent figures showed that just 6% of the UK engineering workforce is female.

The one day workshop will offer an overview of the manufacturing and engineering industry, address gender stereotypes and will include Snacktory Factory, an interactive activity which has an element of creativity and design, which according to studies evokes better engagement in girls. In light of National Women in Engineering Day on June 23, Kate Chapman, business development manager at SWDT is leading the workshop programme and hopes that schools will sign up to the workshops before September. She said: "We're currently working on the development of Girls into Engineering workshops, intended for delivery into secondary schools from September 2014. It's a focused campaign



initiated to respond to this area of improvement with a targeted approach and measureable outcome.

"I came through the apprenticeship route with SWDT myself and have seen first-hand how great a career in engineering and manufacturing can be. I'm delighted to play a part in introducing the next generation to the industry and hope to see schools across the board sign up to take part in the workshops." The drive behind the call for women in engineering comes as Government announce a national shortage of engineers required to drive forward the economic recovery and future growth within the sectors. Miss Chapman, added: "We have a noticeable disproportion in male-to-female learners' at SWDT, which currently stands at a 14:1 ratio. We have recognised this as an area for improvement, not only to tackle the gender bias issues in industry, but as an area for recruitment to address the

engineering skills shortage as a whole.

"With this repeated fact comes the extreme under-representation of women in industry and it is within our own values as a training provider to ensure that we strive for equality of opportunity. The Government is looking at ways of trying to remedy the problem and at SWDT we're embracing that." The role of female apprentices will also be addressed at an upcoming business conference hosted by SWDT on 8th, July. The training provider calls employers across the region to pledge an apprentice in order to work towards employing more of the UK workforce through apprenticeships by April 2015. For more information on the Girls in Engineering workshop or South West Durham Training, call Kate Chapman, business development manager on 01325 328170 or Trevor Alley, chief executive officer on 01325 328160.

SUMMER FAIR AT VILLAGE SCHOOL

This year's Aycliffe Village School Summer Fair, organised by the PTA will take place on Thursday 26th June at 3.15 to 6pm, kicking off with a visit from Tommy Bungle & Friends. There will be an excellent range of stalls this year with hand-crafted goods on sale, a free cookery demonstration & mini-facials available from Temple Spa. There will be a selection of children's rides including teacups and an inflatable slide. Hotdogs, snack plates and refreshments will be on sale all afternoon and live entertainment will be provided by Xcel Church band and The Woodham Academy Samba band. The fair is an open event so please feel free to come along and join in the fun at Aycliffe Village School, North Terrace.

FASHION SHOW GIVEAWAY FOR PEOPLE IN NEED

Due to huge demand the "Helping Hands" team are now ready to host another Fashion Gift Show. at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre on Thursday 26th June. Programme: 11am Reception & Nibbles, 11.30am Fashion Show, 12.15pm Refreshments & Cake with Prizes. 12.30pm My Story, 12.45pm Redeem Free Vouchers, ending at 1.15pm. Alwyn White project leader of Helping Hands said 'The demand for our fashion shows are increasing which is not surprising when the quality of the clothing is so good and the need out there is so great!. We are putting our efforts into making this a day to remember for all our guests. All models are from Life Church in Newton Aycliffe and service users from statutory organisations. The age range is from teens to pensioners, male and female! Many of our models said they never thought they would ever be able to do anything like this. The fashion shows

are great confidence boosters for the models. All the beautiful clothes and shoes modelled will be given away to those who need them most, those who are in financial crisis! Entry is strictly by invitation only and each person will receive vouchers to redeem on the day for items of their choice. We have a range of new ladies clothing from size 8 - 24 and men's clothing and shoes too! Kerry said: "We want to go the extra mile - making our guests feel special by providing them with special something. We want people to feel good about themselves, which I believe we will achieve! It is already a lot of hard work as we are well into preparing for the day, but it is wonderful to see the clothes looking so great on the models and ultimately on our guests. Please contact Kerry Wooton on 0793 6431262 to see if you qualify for a free invite for what promises to be another amazing event!

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Campaign for Young People Proves Popular

A campaign launched earlier in the year to support unemployed young people has helped 336 youngsters onto the job ladder.

Durham County Council's Start Today campaign began in January offering access to opportunities; courses; training; jobs and apprenticeships to 16 to 19-year-olds from across the

county.

It was launched by the council's One Point and Improving Progression of Young People services.

Officers provide help with job applications, preparation for interviews and work alongside colleges, learning providers and employers. In addition they support the most vulnerable young people in the area who often face a mixture of life experiences such as family breakdown, homelessness, bereavement, medical conditions or school attendance issues which inhibit their ability to easily move on to employment or training.

Chris Peverall, One Point service manager with Durham County Council, said: "Currently in County Durham we have the lowest percentage of young people not in education, employment and training ever recorded."

"This is testimony to the excellent work currently going on to give our young people the support, advice and guidance to help them with their progression into training and apprenticeships. "The Start Today campaign is just one of the ways we reach out to young people and I am delighted with the result."

"The work is challenging and often the young people we are trying to help have a range of issues which need tackling before they can

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 Cook required to work in a busy site canteen full time Monday-Friday. Kitchen assistant also needed part time. Hours and pay are negotiable. Please contact victoria 07877 387512

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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"

Public Notice

DONATIONS needed of Brica-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe food 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

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

present local band "ANOTHER CRISES" on Friday 20th June. Entrance fee is £2. Starts at 8pm. On Saturday 21st June we have a rock band called "ROXY" and solo artist "Anthony Williams", £3 entrance fee, 8pm start. On Friday 27th we have rock guitarist "GRAHAM RUSSELL" £1.50 entrance fee 8pm start

secure their future."

Young people aged 16-19 years, looking for support can ask to speak to a One Point personal advisor on 03000 261 111 and more information can be found on the website www.help4teens/start.co.uk

The campaign also helps those aged up to 25 with learning difficulties and disabilities

Accommodation

ALL LANDLORDS

We need 2, 3, 4 bedroom houses and apartments in Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas for our clients on our waiting list.

For further information call

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2 BEDROOM House to rent in Bluebell Meadow, Newton Aycliffe. Front and rear garden, car parking, spacious living room, DG & GCH, Excellent condition throughout. £475 pcm. Call Carol 07967 030443

2 BEDROOM semi detached house to let in Newton Aycliffe. Recently decorated and brand new gas central heating system. £430pcm. Tel 07855 387212

3 BEDROOM Property available to rent in Eskdale Place, Newton Aycliffe. The property is spacious and has 3 bedrooms. There is an enclosed garden to the rear and open plan grassed area to the front. If you are interested then please contact Kevin on 07775 811527 for further details.

3 BEDROOM to rent well presented 3 bedroomed semi-detached house in Guthrum Place. Rent £450 per month + £450 bond. Contact 07907 690416.

1 BEDROOM Flat, Woodham, Unfurnished, No DSS, No Smokers, reference required, £300pcm, £400 Bond, Tel 07990 658407 after 6pm.

2 BEDROOM house to let in Shildon. Double glazed, recently refurbished in the Byerley Road area. £400 per month. Tel 07894 141553

3 BEDROOM modern semi det property in Sheraton Road, Newton Aycliffe, large kitchen/dining room, downstairs WC, Gas CH, DG, £550 per month. Available beginning of July. Tel: 01325 382302.

2 DOUBLE BEDROOM house to let in desirable location in Newton Aycliffe. Very quiet area, lovely garden, living room, dining room and kitchen. Large bathroom with separate shower. Immaculate throughout. No DSS. £450 PCM. Please contact 07826 951354

2 BEDROOM in Bewick Crescent. No smokers, No pets. Please ring 07811 804310 for details

2 BEDROOM semi, Woodham. Just decorated, new carpets, new bathroom, fitted kitchen being replaced, new DG, Driveway, Garden front & rear. No DSS, Professional/working only. One month rent and deposit in advance. £475.00pm. Tel 07570 140140.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

We are always interested in local news stories. We like to feature good news and interesting items on achievements & community service

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01325 300212

or syd@newtonnews.co.uk

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3 bedroom property to let separate bathroom. Lounge, separate dining room, new fitted kitchen including oven and hob. Downstairs toilet. Fully carpeted throughout. Enclosed garden and garage. £500 per calendar month.

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CARS WANTED running or not. Tel: 07860 560 295

Lost & Found

LOST Burn Lane/Osric Place area a peach/ginger and white Tom Cat, neutered. Has bend in tail and no front teeth after an accident. Black and red spiked rubber collar. Any info appreciated to 07472 245545

Holiday

FLORIDA VILLA for sale. Close to Disney, shops, supermarket, golf, highway to coast. Sleeps 8/10, own pool and spa. Photos and details www.floridaholidayvillarental.com - Fantastic for holidays or investment for rentals. £130,000 (offers considered for quick sale). Tel 01325 320409

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GREAT PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE OF YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre held their AGM on 19th May 2014 at 6pm. The AGM was well attended and for the first time ever the nominations exceeded the 12 spaces, which resulted in an election by secret ballot. The Management Committee would like to thank the 2013-2014 Committee and would like to thank Noellen Jones and

Cllr Mike Dixon, who stood down for their support and hard work. We would like to welcome the new Management Committee for 2014-2015 and express our excitement at the forthcoming year. The new committee are: Dorothy Bowman, Debbie Burdon, Corinn Chambers, Joan Clark, Vince Crosby, Kevin Crowle, Evelyn French, Anne Hewish, Victoria Hewish, David Judge, Rebecca Metcalfe and Paul Whiting. Cllr. Tom Twizzel will represent Great Aycliffe Town Council. David Judge addressed the meeting with an enlightening talk on his youth work initiative Global Hands. His vocation has given the youth a chance to explore who they are, what they want and where they want to be, not just on a local community level but on a global scale. The meeting was closed by Cllr John Robinson who praised the achievements of the Management Committee, over the last year including the Youth Workers, Staff and Volunteers. He said "You should be very proud of yourselves. You now face new challenges over the next 12 months, but I'm sure you will rise to meet those challenges – all for the benefit of the community".

STOP PRESS

LICENCEES APPOINTED AT GOLF CLUB

The new owners of Woodham Golf Course have just informed Newton News that the new licencees of the Bar and Restaurant is Mandy and John of the Bay Horse in Middridge. This will be more good news for golfers who will know the fine reputation for good food the Bay Horse enjoys. The venue will also attract non-golfers looking for a nice place to have a meal.

BIG RISE IN CHILDREN CONTACTING CHILDLINE ON PARENTS' DRINKING & DRUG-TAKING

The number of children counselled by ChildLine because their parents were drinking too much or taking drugs more than doubled last year – averaging 15 counselling sessions a day to the free, 24-hour helpline. ChildLine carried out 5,323 sessions with children worried about their parents' abuse of drink or drugs – up from 2,509 the previous year. Most of the children counselled were 12 to 15 years old, although one in 10 were of primary school age. The figures contrast with a long-term fall in violent crime in England and Wales, thought to be partially influenced by the rising cost of alcohol. Research is needed to explain the sudden increase but it would appear that more children are witnessing drunken behaviour and experiencing violence at home, or they are more aware that help is available. Many children told ChildLine that they lived in fear of their parents' anger, with one in six saying they'd been physically hurt by their mum or dad when they were under the influence. Some reported living in dirty and even dangerous surroundings, lacking essentials because money was frittered on alcohol or drugs. Children spoke of feeling helpless and not knowing where to go for support. 19 per cent said the stress of their

situation had led to them feeling depressed, self-harming, or having suicidal thoughts. One child told ChildLine: "My dad has been drinking and taking drugs a lot recently – it's ruining our family. He gets angry when he has been drinking so he says nasty things to us like we are stupid and worthless. I'm finding it difficult to deal with because underneath it all I know he's a really good dad." 4 Sue Minto, Head of ChildLine, said: "These shocking ChildLine statistics are sadly only one small piece of the jigsaw. Official estimates are that more than 250,000 children in the UK have parents with drug problems, and three in 10 children live with at least one binge-drinking parent. "It's heart-breaking that so many young people struggle alone because they do not know where to go for help or are unsure of what might happen if they speak to someone. They may fear being taken away from their families by social services and put into care and believe that they are protecting their family by keeping quiet. "Some children tell us their parents are under stress and it may be that they are using drink and drugs to blot out worries about jobs, money or housing issues. But whatever the reasons behind the rise, it's vital that anyone who knows a parent with drink or drug problems takes action to get

that family help so that their children are protected." Children can seek help by contacting ChildLine on 0800 1111 or at childline.org.uk. Adults with concerns about a child should call the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000. The NSPCC is using public donations to fund specific services for families affected by drug and alcohol problems and is building an evidence base to help statutory services better meet the needs of children growing up in such circumstances. One NSPCC programme, FEDUP, helps parents understand and reduce the impact of their behaviour and provides a safe space for children aged between five and 12 to talk about their feelings.



In Memoriam

FRANK McCAFFERTY Died 14th June 1999. Words are few, thoughts are deep. Memories of you we will always keep. Love, Nancy, Frank, Kevin and Tracy
SYLVIA HUBBARD 13th June 2007. Seven years have passed away, but I remember you every day, (and always will). Sadly missed by all and will never be forgotten. I remember all of our times. Your loving Husband Derrick xx
RITA ANN CHAPE 12th June 2006. I love those random memories that make me smile, no matter how hard life can be sometimes. Love, Martyn, Nicola, Natalie and Daniel xx
RITA ANN CHAPE (nee Lawson). 12th June 2006. Memories are a gift to treasure. Your love and kindness will last forever. So sadly missed. Mam and family xxx
TONY THOMPSON 11th June. Another year without you. But I feel your love around me every day. Grace xxx
GILBERT WILSON Died 19th June 1997. Dad, a certain smell, a sight or even a familiar song, brings back treasured memories of you, I get so emotional I struggle to stay strong. However, not just happy times are remembered for I can also vividly recall, holding your hand on the blackest of days when you died and left us all. 17 years have passed without you Dad, but I still miss you every single day. You were the best, no the bestest. Love always, Daughter Pamela xxxxx
DENNIS HESLOP Who died peacefully on 11th June 2008. It has been 6 years now since you left me. Still in our thoughts. Love you very much even though you are not here. From Eileen, Pam, Derek, Lyn and Jerry
DOUGLAS DENHAM Died 15th June 2009. Life is so lonely without you. Much more than you could ever know. We love and miss you so much. God bless darling. Loving Wife Pat and all the family xxx

Birthday Remembrance



Barbara Bennett
June 18th
Happy Birthday Barbara
We all miss you so much. All our love, Mam, Martin, Darren, Rachel, George, Katherine, Michael, Ben, Keith, Joy, Carl, Lucie, Shane, Christine, Ian and James xxxxxx

KENNETH INNES Birthday memories of a dear Husband, Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. You are forever in our hearts and thoughts. Your loving Wife Brenda and all the family.

Congratulations



Liam Holmes
Congratulations on Passing Out at Pirbright. Well done Son, so proud of you, wishing you all the best in your army career. Love from Mam, Dad and Grant xxx

Hannah Johnson



Happy 18th Birthday
Hope you have a great day. Lots of love, Mam, Loz, Jake, Bekki and Billie xxx
Happy 18th Birthday
Love from all your family xxxxxxx

For all your print requirements
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Thank You

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all the doctors and nurses at Bishop Auckland Hospital and all my friends in Heighington for all their help and support during my recent accident and illness. Thank you, Doreen Garner
ANNE and family of the late Hugh Thomas Brady wish to express their gratitude to friends and neighbours for their kindness and sympathy shown and for all the condolence cards received during their sad bereavement. Special thanks to Dr Welsh, Andrea Carpenter, all of the Cancer Care Team and all at Sedgefield Community Hospital (FWU), for their dedication and devotion to Hughie. Thanks also to Brian Shepherd at Whitehouse Funeral Service for their outstanding support and to John Melvyn for his moving contribution to Hughes Service. Your kind donations of £366.07 will be given to Sedgefield (FWU). **ALAN AND JANINE** would like to thank Mary and the staff of the Iron Horse for giving us such a warm, friendly and helpful welcome to celebrate the Christening of our Daughter Millie. Mary and her staff couldn't do enough for us and, thanks to them, we all had a wonderful time, thank you.

LIZ A very happy anniversary. All my love and a very happy birthday (8-3-1) xxxxxxxxx
DONNA Congratulations on your 40th. With lots of love, Bri, Bobbie and Charlie. "You're the Best" xxx
DONNA congratulations on your 40th. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Rachel, Leo and Emma xxx
CATMULL, Kay and George, Happy Silver Wedding Anniversary Mam and Dad on 17th June. Lots of love, Lysn, John, Adam and Lucy xxx
DELIA STOUT Happy birthday Grandma on 17th June. Lots of love, Lysn, John, Adam and Lucy xxx
KAY CATMULL - All my love to my lovely Wife on our Silver Wedding Anniversary. Looking forward to our next 25 years together. Love, George xxx
GEORGE CATMULL - Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary, 17th June, to my Darling Husband. All my love today and always, Kay xxx
CATMULL Congratulations and best wishes to Kay and George on your Silver Wedding Anniversary. Love from Mam xxx

Fathers Day Greetings

VIC SPENSLEY The greatest Dad ever! I'm the luckiest girl in the world! Have a great day Dad. Love you, Julie and Den xxx
JOHN HOWEY Happy Fathers Day Dad. Love from Michael, Stephen and Paul x
MICHAEL HOWEY Dad, I hope you have a wonderful day. You are the best! Lots of love from Kya xxx
STEPHEN HOWEY Love you all the world. You are the best Daddy ever. Love, Poppy and Thomas xxx
PAUL HOWEY Thank you for everything you do Paul babe, especially loving me. Lots of love from Olivia xxx

The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) is an award-winning North East charity whose mission is 'Health, well-being and learning for all'. We are currently recruiting:

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For an application form and further information please contact PCP on 01325 321234 or email hr@pcp.uk.net

Closing Date: **12 noon Thursday 26th June 2014**
Interview Date: **Friday 4th July 2014**

We are an equal and diverse employer and particularly welcome applicants from groups who are currently underrepresented at PCP, such as men, people with sensory impairments and carers.

BARGAIN BUYS Bosch washing machine to rent, £3.99 a week! No deposit, no more unwanted repair bills. Tel 321 678
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6ft FRIDGE, good condition, only £55. Can deliver, Tel 07587 736357
BRAND NEW double divan with quilted Damask mattress, can deliver, £120. Tel 07789 113 343
ROBBIE WILLIAMS tickets (2 off) at Newcastle Metro Radio Arena on 23rd June. Best seats, block 114, £300. For details ring 07733 412054
10'x6' SHED/Workshop, made by Hodgsons, excellent condition, £195 ono. Tel 01325 374717 or 07976 584030
CARAVAN awning, 13ft (605cm) in a tent, hitch lock, stabilizer and tow bar, offers, will separate. Tel 01325 317011

Fathers Day Remembrance

RAYMOND BENNETT To our Dad and Grandad we loved so dearly. Our memories will forever stay. Your love will run throughout our hearts each and every day. Love, Jacky, Ian, Luke, Charlotte and Hannah
RAYMOND BENNETT (Ben). No one knows how much I miss you, since I lost you life has never been the same. In my heart your memory lingers, there's not a day dear Dad, that I do not think of you. Love, Susan
LAWRENCE LAING (Larry). Thinking of you on Fathers Day. From all of the family
DENNIS GARTLAND Missing you so much Dad/Grandad. Our first Fathers Day without you. Forever in our hearts xxx
FRANK SWINBURNE Our thoughts are with you on Fathers Day. You were simply the best. Love, Diane and Frank
JOSEPH HEDLEY To us you are someone special. There's nothing more to say. Wishing you with all our hearts a Happy Fathers Day. Love and miss you. Anne, Grace, Keith, John and Ruth xxx
BRIAN DUNN 8th July 2010. The best little Dad and Grandad in the world!! Our thoughts are with you on this day, happy memories comes to mind of the Dad and Grandad we loved with all our hearts, and will till the end of time. Loved always from all your Bairs and Grandbairs xxxxx

RESIDENTS WHO COULDN'T CARE LESS

Dear Sir,
I was interested in the comments regarding the traffic issues at Cobbler's Hall shopping area. These articles prompted me to think about many other issues regarding thought for others.

The traffic flow into and out of the Cobbler's Hall complex is difficult as there is no one way system. Actually getting into the car often proves difficult through thoughtless people parking in totally inappropriate places and as such, blocking half the road for traffic.

I wonder why the council does not impose double yellow lines on the approach road and especially on the narrow road leading directly into the shopping complex. As I walked around the Cobbler's Hall/Bluebell area I was astounded at the number of commercial vehicles parked outside houses partially blocking pavements. Surely private housing estates are no place to be parking large commercial vehicles particularly over a weekend. I wonder if the drivers ever wonder how their neighbours feel about their road being blocked or their views being compromised.

I was also in wonderment at the number of wheelie bins left out on pathways on the evening of the day the bins were emptied. As cars and vans were parked at these houses I can only assume they rather like to see wheelie bins cluttering up the pavements and pathways rather than wheel them back to their rightful place.

It doesn't take too long before nice estates and areas become

untidy and unkempt and all this through people being lazy and unthinking - how much effort or time does it take to return a wheelie bin to one's own property?

Come on residents of Newton Aycliffe, start to have some pride in your surroundings and let your neighbours enjoy their environs without your clutter.
Pat S Conway

Performers Wanted for Local Panto Group

The summer is nearly here, World Cup, Athletics Championships and many more summer sporting events will be soon on our TV's and before we know it we will be heading towards the winter months.

Also starting in the summer will be Shildon Centre Stages next production which is the superb pantomime, "Dick Whittington" as we follow Dick and his loveable cat, Tommy all the way to the city of London.

Many of you would have seen many a panto whether it be when you were a kid yourself or even now, taking your own family to join in all the fun.

Shildon CentreStage is an adult theatre community group based at the Shildon Civic Hall and we are looking for fun loving adults who would love to join in the fun we have in putting a great panto together. The group are looking for new members to join our family of cast, crew and great friends for this superb comedy panto, with plenty of singing, dancing, acting and not to forget the back stage crew antics that make this production such an enjoyable experience.

The director Andrew Timmiss, from Aycliffe says, "I joined the group in 1995 to help with the sound and lighting, just for one show to help the group out, and have loved every minute of every year I have been involved since, made many new friends and experienced the amazing buzz you get when appearing on the stage. We are based in Shildon but have many members who live all around Co. Durham including quite a few from Aycliffe."

So if you are 18 or over and like the idea of joining our next production, please come along to the Shildon Civic Hall on Thursday 19th June at 7.30pm and join our theatrical family or phone 01325 313363 / 01388 774838 for more info.

Dick Whittington will be stages in November 2014.



From the Editor
syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Back to Square One - Town Centre Market

Things are now settling down over the Town Centre Market issue as the stallholders have refused to take the Car Park site on Greenwell Road offered by

the County Council. Great Aycliffe Residents Association were considering calling a public meeting to gauge opinion and work towards changing the County Council's mind on allowing use of the Cubby site.

The general consensus is that even if the Cubby site was available the stallholders would find the costs involved too high as there would be no subsidy from the Town or County Councils.

So we are back to 'Square One' with the ball firmly in the court of the Town Centre owners, Freshwater who said they were looking to bring new ideas on the provision of a market.

They said they are looking for a new management company to run our Market, possibly on two days a week, subject to agreement. The question is will it come off and when? As Newton News have no dialogue with Freshwater we are unable to inform residents of their future intentions.

Whilst the Council have refused use of the derelict land next to the Cubby for a market, it does not mean we are content to see it continue as an unsightly mess.

After 30 years it is time they tidied up the area - it might also help the sale of this land for a suitable town centre purpose.

Ernie's Back for the Third Time!

Ernie Wilson who originates from Fife returns to Woodham Golf Club for the 3rd time to take up the position of Golf Professional employed by the new owners and local company Halls Construction.

Ernie's first position was working for owner Stan Roberts 1992 until 2002. After five years away at the Oakleaf Golf complex Ernie returned in 2007 until 2013 and was employed by Washington Developments. Sadly on 30th October the golf club closed down and the company was placed into administration.

Ernie started back on Monday 11th June working for the new management who have exciting plans for the golf course with drainage improvement on the course the main item on the agenda. Owners Steven and Neville Hall would love to see all members return to the course. The four Woodham Golf member sections who ran the club competitions at Woodham all did a fantastic job and were a big asset to the facility and the management team hope they all return to continue their good work.

"Woodham has been a big part of my life and I am honoured to be the golf professional at this great facility" said Ernie.

Golfers will be looking forward to getting back to Woodham which is due to reopen in a few weeks time. The club has produced two County Champions in recent years in Lee MacCavanagh 2011 and Rebecca Horner 2012 Ladies champion which speaks volumes for the challenge of the course.



Ernie has always been heavily involved in junior development, and says it has been fantastic to see the youngsters come through the ranks as they have grown up. No mean player himself Ernie played all levels at Scottish amateur school, youth and full international levels also representing Great Britain & Ireland at youth level and as a professional winning the Lord Derby trophy.

He played with golfing stars Bernhard Langer, Vijay Singh, Colin Montgomerie, Sandy Lyle and the late Payne Stewart.

Ernie brings a wealth of experience in his 30 years as a professional and will provide a fully stocked golf shop is on site.

For details on membership, Green fees, retail goods, private tuition, group lessons etc please ring 07599 528153 or 01325 311013.

Running Club at Blaydon

Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park was the venue for the third of the 5k Summer Tees Tail races. This course can be quite muddy in places and with a steep hill to run up twice makes it hard going at times.

Dez Fielden was first home for the club in 8th position, recording 18m:44s, and was 1st m/40, followed by Martin Knox, 16th 20:26, Matt Heron, 24th 21:24, Graham Atkins, 34th 22:01, John Burnside, 36th 22:31, Kelly Smith, 54th 23:51, Susan Milburn, 93rd and 1st f/55 26:18, and finally Simon Robinson 116th 27:42.

Four of our athletes competed in Monday's Blaydon races. Clare Rose was first home for the club finishing in 46m:58s, followed by Simon Robinson, 47:19, Judith Porter, 48:28, and Dave Thompson 51:58.

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GREENFIELD DEMONSTRATE OUTSTANDING APPROACHES TO STUDENT LEARNING

Sue Williamson, CEO of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) visited Greenfield Community College on Friday to observe the outstanding practice in pupil progress at the school.

Mrs Williamson and Regional officer Andy Williams met with Head teacher David Priestley and observed students in lessons throughout the morning. The visitors were impressed with the independence of students and the focus from teachers on innovative teaching and creative ideas.

Students shared outcomes from recent enquiry based learning and demonstrated a wealth of knowledge gained from a whole host of different topics and in-depth research projects. The guests also visited 'Room 13' the School In The Cloud project looking at work involving SOLEs. Mrs Williamson said

'It is wonderful to see a school that has the pupils at the heart of everything taking place. Pupils and teachers are not afraid to take risks in their learning and the results are clear to see. The enquiry based learning is challenge in the simplest and most effective form and children are genuinely inspired by the approaches taken by the school.'

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