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New Two Mile Footpath Links Town with Shildon

The past and the future come together with work starting on a new public path linking Shildon and Newton Aycliffe.

The route comes full circle tracing the route of the former Stockton and Darlington railway line ending up on the doorstep of Hitachi who are bringing rail building back to Co. Durham with plans for a £82m train factory providing 730 jobs. When it opened in 1825, the original line was the first public railway to bring together passenger and goods traffic and steam locomotives.

Now the route will provide a new two-mile path for pedestrians, cyclists, horse-riders, mobility scooters and families with push chairs. The route will be a three metre wide tarmacked path which will be low maintenance.



Representatives from Network Rail, Durham County Council and Sustrans at the Newton Aycliffe end of the new pathway.

Open to the public later this year the route comes alongside other path improvements to the existing network to create a more comprehensive network for walkers and cyclists.

Cllr Neil Foster, Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "It is fitting that that this important corridor is brought right up to date at a time when there is major rail investment in the county. It will be a link not only between the two towns but also with the past and future. The path will also make active travel a viable and sustainable option to getting to school, work and other services."

Durham County Council has been working closely with the landowners Network Rail and has provided £350,000 funding. A further £300,000 has come from the government via Sustrans Links to Communities Fund. The path comes within the Local Motion campaign area, backed by Durham County Council, to promote sustainable transport and healthy lifestyles throughout south Durham.

The Stockton and Darlington Railway operated in north-east England from 1825 to 1863 and the first line connected collieries near Shildon with Stockton-on-

Tees and Darlington. The movement of coal to ships rapidly became a lucrative business and the line was soon extended to a new port and town at Middlesbrough. Stephen Hind, route enhancements manager at Network Rail said: "We're pleased to be supporting this project which touches on railway history, and will provide a great new pathway for cyclists and pedestrians alike."

"As part of this project, we have installed a new fence, to help make sure people who use the new path and the railway are kept safely apart."

Fun Day at Horndale

Newtonian David Pickering, a soldier serving with 5th Regiment Royal Artillery, is organising an Armed Forces Fun Day on 28th June starting at 1pm till 4pm on the grassed area at the rear of Greenfield Hall.

Face Painting - Beat the Goalie - Fire Service Display - Police marking bikes - Bouncy Castle - Mini Assault Course - Army Truck Display - ABF Charity stand (donations and things to buy) - Juice plus stand and the Bumble Bee Mascot.

This will be a great event to get people to show their support for our armed forces and also bring the community closer together. This would not be happening without the support and help from the Philip Clark • Jim Bulman - Fire Service • PC Welsh, PCSO Hutchinson • Gareth Wilson - fellow soldier • Residents of Horndale

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REV. JULIE RECEIVES PARTING GIFT

Following a happy final Sunday Service with Rev Julie Wing she was presented by Church Warden Mrs Eunice Waggott with a bouquet of flowers. Church Treasurer Charles Taylor gave Rev Julie a cheque which



was a collection from the congregation of St Elizabeth's to help with her move to her new church. She will be missed by us but her Christian journey continues and our prayers go with her. St Elizabeth's Church life goes on with a busy month for July. Souper Lunch Wednesday July 2nd 12.30. Menu includes - 2 soups, 2 puddings, tea or coffee all for £3.00. Our ever popular Coffee Morning on Saturday July 5th at 10.00am. Home bakes, Preserves and Raffle. Look out for events in the future, Treasure Hunt 13th July and a Sponsored Songs of Praise Sunday 20th July. Hoping to meet you there.

Wurlitzer and Weardale Railway Trust War-Blitzer



The North East Theatre Organ Association supported by The Weardale Railway Trust are proud to present a nostalgic evening of Film and Music from the Second World War Years featuring the MIGHTY WURLITZER and COLIN BOURDIEC (George Formby Tribute Artist). Period Costume and Uniforms welcome. The WAR-BLITZER SPECTACULAR has proved to be very popular over the last 4 years and with limited seating capacity advanced booking is essential. Refreshments are available

to be purchased during the interval or FREE if you are wearing period costume. Come along and experience a magnificent show in the warm and friendly venue of the New Victoria Centre, Howden-Le-Wear, home of the mighty Wurlitzer on SATURDAY 19th JULY 2014 7.00pm at The New Victoria Centre, High Street, Howden-Le-Wear, Nr. Crook, Co. Durham DL15 8EZ, 2miles south on Bishop. Auckland Road. Tickets £7.00 Tel. David Kirkbride 01388 762467 Full details of NETOA 2014 program www.netoa.org.uk

Tomato Growing



Stephenson Way's key stage 2 classes are competing against each other in a race to be crowned the most green-fingered class by cultivating tomato plants in their classrooms. Each class received a small pre-planted pot at the beginning of May and were tasked with researching the crop in order to create the optimal growing environment for their plant. Organised by the school's gardening club, the competition has been successful in encouraging the whole school to become involved with the labours and joys of gardening on a small scale. Children throughout upper school have taken a great interest in the progress their plant has been making. Members of each class have watered, pruned and nurtured the plants and the competition is looking to be a tight one,

with several classes now featuring towering tomato plants. The competition will not just be judged on size. The winning class will be the one who has presented the healthiest tomato plant, with the condition, amount of tomatoes and bushiness of the plant taken into account along with size. As the competition enters its final weeks, the inter-class competition is really heating up with children eagerly eyeing up other classes plants and feverishly comparing them to their own. Other than the pride of nurturing the biggest and healthiest plant, classes are also competing for a mystery prize that has been put on offer by the gardening club, to be won by the winning class. The competition will be judged in the final week of the school year.

Air Ambulance Attends Injured Pedestrian



A lady was hit by a car as she crossed the road at Emmerson Way last Friday. The Air Ambulance was requested to attend by NEAS and landed on the Iron Horse Carpark. The lady sustained serious head, chest and injuries to her abdomen, she was treated at the scene by the Doctor led trauma team before being flown to James Cook Hospital where her condition was said to be stable.

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Saturday 28th June - "Storme"

Gig-pit review: "Normally I wouldn't bother with a new band but in this case it's line up convinced me it would be worth a punt. The band comprises some heavyweights of the local scene with Steve Smith (Hocus Pocus and Whodlums) on drums, Pete Tunnah (Hocus Pocus) guitar, Patrick on vocals (NEDC), Phil bass (ex This Machine) and Alan (ex Prognosis) on keyboards. Without any fuss straight into David Lee Roth "Living in Paradise" and then Foreigner's "Feels like the First Time. We then had a parade of lesser covered tracks interspersed with good old cover band tunes. Journey, Jefferson Starship's "Jane", Van Halen, Ozzy "No More Tears", Bad Company "Good Lovin' Gone Bad", Whitesnake's "Is This Love" and Wings "Live and Let Die" or was it Gun's 'n' Roses? A short interval then the second set and we had the greatest hits of Python Lee Jackson, a Thin Lizzy number, a long Marillion number very reminiscent of Rush and showcasing Pete's excellent guitar playing. I know you shouldn't have favourites but he is my favourite local guitarist. I had also forgotten how good Phil is on bass. It's good to see him out of retirement. "Whole Lotta Rosie" ended the set keeping the cheesemakers happy before departing into the night. It was a good night and it is always a pleasure to see a band that has a keyboard player and this only adds to the variety that every punter needs. The crowd loved it and that's the important thing".

Saturday 5th July - "Born Villains"

Only their third appearance at the Tub, but already one of our favourites. Durham based classic/hard rock/alt rock, 5-piece (3 guys and 2 girls) covers band. A professional covers band cranking out songs from all the biggest and best rock bands from the last 40 something years. This band are one of the most highly rated new bands in the region, they will be massive. Covering tracks by Foo Fighters, Stereophonics, Whitesnake, AC / DC, Guns n Roses, Metallica, Black Sabbath, Aerosmith, Led Zepellin, ZZ Top, Pearl Jam, Bon Jovi, Nirvana, Alice Cooper and more.

Saturday 12th July - "F.M."

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FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW



St Clare's Church "Feel Good Film Show" on WEDNESDAY 2ND JULY will feature "THE BLIND SIDE" based on an extraordinary true story, starring SANDRA BULLOCK in the powerhouse roll that won her Oscar and Golden Globe Best Actress awards. 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

More Volunteers Needed to Clean the Lakes



Chairman and Secretary of Friends of West Park, Ken Robson and Arun Chandran along with Andy Anderson meet every Sunday at 9am to litter pick Woodham Burn adjacent to the Park, then at 10am litter pick the whole of West Park. Around 11am they enter the top lake and spend a few hours raking out the algae and pond weed finding that using an ordinary lawn rake is the most effective method. They capture most of the weed and algae drain it ready for lifting out onto the side in tidy piles for Council Staff to collect. At the present rate it will take about eight more



Sundays a couple of hours each time to clear the Top Lake and when complete should be easy to maintain thereafter. The volunteers will then turn their attention to the bottom lake. Great care is taken to observe health and safety to protect the volunteers and the Council. The hard work, is good exercise and once you've recovered you feel better for doing it as well as completing a good deed. Once autumn is over it will

be necessary to flush both lakes dry and remove debris from the lakes. This might also encourage the Ducks to migrate to safer land so that Ducklings survive as most do not, due to attacks by other ducks and sea gulls as well as stupid individuals. More volunteers are required to help with the work. "If just ten people turned up with rakes and waders we could probably do a lake in a day!" said Arun Chandran.

MAYOR RAISES FLAG FOR ARMED FORCES WEEK



The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs. Wendy Hillary, attended the War Memorial outside of St. Clare's Church on Monday, 23rd June 2014 at 11 a.m. to raise a flag on behalf of the Town to mark the beginning of 'Armed Forces Week'. The Mayor was assisted by Officers and representatives from 102 Battalion (REME) and 201 Field Hospital (A.Det.). Standard Bearers from the Royal British Legion were present together with members of the British Legion. The bagpipes were played by Arthur Middleton (a retired member of the 102 Battalion REME Pipe Band) during the service and flag raising. Representatives of 'Churches Together' performed the Service, Revd. Julie Wing from St. Clare's Church and Pastor Geoff Walvin from the Harvest Church. The Council would like to

thank the volunteers of St. Clare's Church for supplying tea/coffee and biscuits in the church hall which was greatly appreciated. A big thank you to Members

of the Public and Councillors who were present to show the Town's appreciation and support to our Armed Forces both past and present serving personnel.

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P.A.C.T. MEETINGS

PACT Meetings will be held at the following venues.
SIMPASTURE COURT Coffee Lounge Tuesday 1st July from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.
AYCLIFFE VILLAGE Hall Saturday 5th July from 11.00am to 12noon. PC Alan Thompson & PCSO Richard Scott are your Community Police Representatives.Councillors & Partners will attend if available. Visit www.durham.police.uk for more information on whats going on in Newton Aycliffe.

NEW DAY and TIME for PACT MEETING

Tuesday 1st July at 6.30pm Evangelical Church, Lady-bower, covering **GREENFIELD, BYERLEY PARK AND HORNDAL AREA**. PC Mike Welch PCSO Mike Hutchinson Park Wardens Neighbourhood Wardens and County Councillors will be in attendance.

WEST WARD

A PACT Meeting will be held at the Methodist Church, Burnhill Way on Thursday 3rd July from 6.00pm. Please come along to hear updates and have your say on local issues. PC Mike Welch & PCSOs Nicola Shaw & Chris Noble are your Community Police Officers. Local Ward Councillors in Attendance.

For more information on whats going on in your area visit www.durham.police.uk

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BUDDING WRITERS VISIT MEDIA CENTRE

Budding Year 10 Sports Writers from Woodham Academy were able to hone their journalistic skills whilst covering the Durham Jets T20 game against Leicester Foxes last Friday.

The school enjoys a highly productive working relationship with Durham County Cricket Club which stems from their involvement with the Woodham Sports Academy and has evolved to incorporate the Durham CCC initiative, Learning Beyond The Boundary. Woodham is one of only two schools working in partnership with the LBB team where students are able to explore the different forms of media used to cover the game from their privileged position in the state of the art media centre. Sharing the stage with professional journalists from The



Northern Echo, BBC Radio Newcastle and The Journal, students wrote summaries of the game as well as regularly 'tweeting' to give updates as the game developed.

At the game's conclusion the students prepared questions for Durham star and former England wicketkeeper batsman Phil Mustard and conducted a video interview on the game's highlights and key moments.

A further visit is scheduled for 25th July where a full stadium tour is planned, which will include the changing rooms and the Sky Television broadcast area.

CHARITY SHOWS ALTERNATIVE TO COURT PROCEEDINGS

A 61% rise in people across the North East representing themselves in family courts highlights the need for couples to seek out a more pragmatic solution for their family's future, instead of heading straight to court, says Changing Lives' Families Talking service.

Families Talking, part of the Changing Lives charity group, works across the Tees Valley and including Darlington, Peterlee, Newton Aycliffe. The charity provides practical information and guidance for adults and children who are experiencing problems and distress as a result of family breakdown, separation or divorce.

"Most couples across the North East who have decided to separate think their only option is to head straight to court," says Kay Duffie, Manager of Families Talking Service in Middlesbrough.

"Legal Aid cuts introduced last year mean more and more people are representing themselves when they get to

court because they cannot afford high cost solicitor fees."

Figures from a Freedom of Information request show the number of people representing themselves in private law child proceedings in the North East rose from 4,698 (April to December 2012) to 7,562 (Apr - Dec 2013), an increase of 61 per cent.

"But the 'courtroom first' culture is deeply flawed," she adds. "There are alternative and better ways to settle disputes that put children first. Family mediation can provide long-lasting, common sense solutions that avoid a courtroom drama, especially for children caught in the middle of their parents' disputes. Mediation is quicker, less stressful, and it's cost-effective too."

Duffie ends: "Legal Aid is still available for mediation too - a cheaper and quicker way of resolving family issues than heading straight off to court. People who want to know more should call 01642 222967 or visit our website www.familiestalking.co.uk"

It follows the results of a survey carried out by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, The Independent on Sunday and the Magistrates' Association, using a sample group of 461 magistrates sitting in a variety of courts across the UK. Nearly two thirds of magistrates think 'litigants in person' have a negative impact on the court's work.

Appointments Boost Tekmar's Business

Leading offshore cable protection specialist, Tekmar Energy of Aycliffe, has reinforced its senior management team with the appointments of a non-executive technical director and a technical sales manager.

Dr Terry Sheldrake and Charlie Sullivan have taken up the respective roles which further underpin Tekmar's engineering-led technical expertise.

Dr Sheldrake, a specialist in developing technology strategy, will support the development and implementation of the firm's innovative products servicing both the oil and gas and offshore wind industries. He joins Tekmar after 15 years in the post of technology leader at GE Wellstream.

"I'm joining an inventive company known for developing industry-leading technology that brings a real benefit to the market," said Dr Sheldrake, who has sat on several technology strategy boards and worked on the steering committee for flexible pipe standards."

Mr Sullivan joins Tekmar from Wilton Engineering where he was also technical sales manager. He will be responsible for further driving forward Tekmar's commercial and business development for new projects while also providing technical support for engineering led enquiries. Chief executive officer at



Tekmar, James Ritchie, said: "Appointing Terry and Charlie greatly strengthens our technical team and enhances our industry standing for delivering on time and within budget for clients."

"Terry's extensive experience in strategic planning and development of technology is a huge boost to the business. His knowledge should support us as we continue to bring new technologies, which minimise risk and drive down costs, to market while Charlie will play a key role in ensuring our growth is in line with our business strategy."

With over 25 years' experience, Tekmar is a market leader in the design, manufacture and supply of subsea cables, umbilicals and flexible protection systems for the renewable energy and oil & gas industry. For more information about Tekmar please visit - www.tekmar.co.uk

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Dates and Times of Statutory Meetings of the Town Council and its Committees

Wednesday 2nd July 2014

Policy & Resources Committee - 7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

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

If members of the public have any questions it would be appreciated if they could make them known prior to the start of the meeting. Agendas/Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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



GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Customer Panel Meeting

The next meeting of the Customer Panel will be held on:

TUESDAY, 8th JULY, 2014

Commencing at 6.00p.m. The Panel meet in the Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

'At this meeting the following item will be discussed':-

"NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE"

We are always looking for new members. If you would like to know a little more about us and our work this would be a great meeting to attend. The group are informal and quite often have lively debates about a wide range of Town Council matters.

Why not come along and join us at this meeting - we look forward to seeing and meeting new members.

Further information can be obtained from Christine Walton on 01325 300700 e-mail: Christine.Walton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

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

BENGAL LOUNGE CELEBRATE ANOTHER ANNIVERSARY



Bengal Lounge the popular restaurant and takeaway at Woodham celebrated its anniversary on 16th June offering customers a different insight into Indian cuisine. The chefs used their culinary skills to prepare a mouthwatering traditional banquet.

Customers tucked into Roast Chicken Bhuna and Lamb Chop Korma with all the usual extras on the menu. A Henna artist was present decorating hands and forearms with dainty or bespoke designs.

The family members of Abdul Basir thank customers for their attendance on the night and for their loyal support over the years. "Without you there would be no Bengal Lounge" said Abdul.



STEPHENSON WAY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

"This is a good school." - Ofsted 2014

All comments are from the Ofsted 2014 report

"All groups of children make good progress."



"Pupils who join part way through Key Stages 1 or 2 settle quickly and make good progress."



"Pupils behave well and feel safe at school."



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For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact the main office, Tel 01325 300324

School Website: www.swcps.co.uk

NINE YEAR WAIT FOR MARRIAGE



Photo by Grange Photography

The wedding of Mark Cunliffe and Lauren Brown took place on 25th May 2014 at St Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village. This was followed by a lovely reception at Hardwick Hall enjoyed by all their family and friends. The Bridesmaids were Katey Brown, Leigh Weir, Clare Weir, Rosie Hill and Samie Graham. The Best Man was Ryan Roscher and Ushers Stephen and David Cunliffe. Lauren and Mark who have been together for nine years are both from Newton Aycliffe and were students at Woodham Comprehensive. The family send lots of love and best wishes to both for your future together.

Music Stars of the Future Support Rotary Charity Night

Some of Aycliffe's young talented musicians and singers featured in a Charity Music Night at the Royal Navy Club this month organised by the town's Rotary Club.

Among the young singers was Alice Jordan a 14 year old girl who has autism. She was such a joy to listen to and has a lovely personality. Alice was discovered two years ago and has blossomed into a much sought after entertainer.

Her autism made her a target for bullies and she had difficulties as a result. She is still very reserved, but when she sings everyone stops to listen.

The evening was very special featuring young artistes and giving them a stage to express their individual talent.

Rotarian Don Walker, the popular butcher and baker from Simpasturegate supplied hot roast Pork sandwiches with roast potatoes and peas which were delicious and a welcome change from the usual Pie & Peas supper.

The entertainment was provided by The Creative Dream Works an organisation set up to provide support for disadvantaged young people in the region through creative activities, and SteveMet Management who develop and support talent towards careers in the Music Industry.

Those appearing were Emma Jordan, a 12 year old diagnosed as dyslexic. She is currently working on 20 original songs written by herself.

Alice Jordan a 14 year old girl from Coundon who suffered from bullying and issues at school until she was diagnosed with Autism at age eleven. Alice discovered that when she sang she came out of her shell. She performed a song called 'you won't hurt me anymore' jointly written with Steve Metcalfe which deals with her issues. With the support of TCDW, Alice has appeared at 'Autism Got Talent' in London in Association with the Anna Kennedy Online Autism Charity, and has been asked to appear in Manchester and 'Disability Rocks' in Leicester this summer.

Luke Freeman a 20 year old singer songwriter from Middlesborough whose songs reflect issues of urban deprivation and the effects of unemployment in his area. Luke is currently working on development of his material recording studio supported by SteveMet.

Alistair Sheerin is making big waves on the music scene, attracting interest from record companies with his dynamic style of good old fashioned Rock and Roll. He is currently working with SteveMet on his first Album and has supported Miles Kane and The Enemy on their UK Tours. He is headlining at the Tramlines Festival in Sheffield as well as other gigs across the region this summer. He thrilled everyone with a full set of one hour thirty minutes!



TEARWAYS DIRTY DANCING IN JULY

"Hungry Eyes" and "She's Like The Wind" are just two of the many song and dance tunes that are in The Tearaways Youth Theatre Groups musical adaptation of "Dirty Dancing" which will be performed the first week in July at the Civic Hall, Shildon.

Local girls Charlotte McAdam, Jordan Sandford and Hana Stephen take on the lead roles of Baby Houseman, Johnny Castle, and Penny Johnstone in the 2 hour production.

Nadia Kovacs plays the part of Baby's mother, Mr. Houseman. Sisters Nataly, and Erica Wood, along with Blake Reed and Caitlin Barron-Hay supply some of the vocals to the many songs in the show.

Ellie Picken is part of the dance troupe and this is her first Tearaways show. As always Andrew Timmiss

keeps a watchful eye backstage on the whole performance. The Tearaways have kept to the movie story that everyone knows with just a few additions of their own. All they need is an audience to perform it to. That's where you the reader comes in: Performances are from Thursday 3rd July to Saturday 5th July at 7.30pm Afternoon show: Sunday 6th July at 2pm. Tickets are priced £5 Adults and £2-50p Children (5-15) and Concessions. They can be prebooked on 01325 313363 / 01388 774838

The next Tearaways production is The Disney Pantomime and any young people aged 10 to 19 years of age who would like to be part of this show either singing, dancing or acting, please ring the above numbers www.tearaways-shildon.co.uk

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Woodham Academy - North East's Leading Basketball Provider

Basketball provision at Woodham Academy has always been something that the school has rightly been proud of. A proven track record and extensive list of students who go on to earn regional and national honours is testimony to the high quality opportunities and provision Woodham students can enjoy. In recent times 2 students have made the England National Under 16 squad and a further 20 have represented the North East Region at National Championships. As the 2013/14 season draws to a close, the Academy teams have enjoyed one of their most successful seasons ever. The Year 7 team have won the Durham Wildcats Under 12 tournament and finished runners up in the schools county tournament. 7 members of the current team have been



invited to attend the Regional Performance Programme to hone their skills and take the opportunity to showcase their skills to regional coaches. The Year 9 team have proven to be unbeatable in all competitions they have entered during the course of the season. With North East point guard Ryan Harris orchestrating the plays, the team overcome all opponents in the Durham Sport County Championships, Durham

Wildcats County Tournament as well as the Durham Wildcats CVL; winning all without losing a game during the season. Basketball at Woodham is overseen by the expert eyes of Assistant Headteacher Danny Morgans who has extensive experience working with young players and developing their skills in preparing them for National League Competition. Danny has been involved on a

voluntary basis with Durham Wildcats Basketball Club for the last 10 years working in a variety of roles, extending from junior National League coaching U14,15,16 and 18 teams to Assistant Coach to Dave Elderkin with the men's BBL team. During his time at Woodham, school teams have reached National Schools' finals and semi finals and 5 teams have reached the last 32 and two players have been selected for the England Under 16 squad.

Having coached successful school teams, with 13 Woodham players representing the North East Region at England trials at Lilleshall in 8 years, Danny was approached by Durham Wildcats Head Coach, Dave Elderkin, to work on their junior national league programme. Danny has worked as assistant coach for the men's BBL team during the 2012/13 season.

Danny has coached the Wildcats under 16 team to the league championships as well as coaching five Woodham school teams that reached at least the last 32 of the national schools tournament.

Danny has also coached two players, who he first encountered as novices, who have been selected in a 20 player England squad, one of whom has played for England. During the 2013/14 season the U14 basketball team won a clean sweep of all County Durham and Durham Wildcats competitions.

The under 12s have enjoyed an excellent season having spent the year working with Durham Wildcat BBL player Mark Elderkin. Working on an intensive programme that is focused on developing fundamental skills, the team is technically extremely proficient and in later years their skill progression will be significantly enhanced through their experiences.

Most of the 12 strong squad were new to the game when starting Woodham in Year 7 and can be very proud of their development and performances this year. The team finished runners up in the Durham Sport County Finals as well as the local district schools competition, 2 players have also played an instrumental role in the under 14 team winning the Durham Wildcats CVL in the spring.

As a result of their skills, 7 players have been recommended to regional coaches and have been invited to attend the regional squad sessions and trials. Next year, as under 13s, the team will be entered into the English Schools National Competition where they will be able to apply their skills against more demanding opposition. In their hands, the future of Woodham Academy basketball continues to look very promising!

Winning all games and competitions that they entered, the under 14s have had a tremendous season. Next season they too will be able to showcase their skills on a national level having also been entered into the English Schools National Competition. In addition to the school competition, 4 have been invited to play their trade and gain exposure to a significantly higher level of competitive basketball by playing for Durham Wildcats Under 16s in the England Basketball

National League.

During the season, the team has won the Durham Sport County Finals, the Durham Wildcats festival as well as the Durham Wildcats Central Venue League competition. The latter being the most significant of the achievements due to the fact that largely the competition were made up of club sides who could call upon a player pool from much further afield.

It is also likely that 4 of the current squad will be training with the North East Regional squad with the opportunity to be selected to play in the regional competition that is effectively a trial from which the England Squad is selected. Under 16s basketball seasons review

The highlight of the under 16s season was a visit to RAF Menwith Hill to play a game against the American High School team from their Air Force Base. Through the American Football teams involved in the European DODDS League, a good relationship has been developed between the two schools, and opportunities to provide high quality match experience has proved invaluable to both sets of students.

The under 16 team gives opportunities for the more able Year 9 students to gain more challenging experience and they are surrounded by 5 players in Years 10 and 11 all of whom have significant experience of National League Basketball; 4 with Durham Wildcats and 1 who has been a key player for both the Newcastle Eagles and the North East Regional side over the last few years.

Playing fixtures both home and away against an American High School provided the students with an exciting opportunity to play against their American counterparts the majority of whom will have had exposure to the game from a much younger age.

With the school having such strong partnerships with Durham Wildcats, regional coaches and local league clubs, largely due to the network of contacts that have been developed through their association with Woodham Academy Assistant Headteacher, Danny Morgans, aspiring basketballers can be assured of a high quality learning environment in which to develop their skills, as well as being introduced to an appropriate though challenging playing environment.

Taking into account the successes of the last 10 years Woodham Academy has quite rightly established itself as one of, if not the leading basketball provider of schools basketball in the north east. Players, teams and indeed the coach have gained recognition at national level. With that in mind and the continual developments that are being made to the programme of delivery, the future of basketball at Woodham Academy looks in a very healthy state.

CHARITY SHOP AT THE CHURCH



The "All Sorts" Charity Shop situated along the path from St. Clare's Church to the halls on the right of the church is run by Godfrey Bennett, long time resident of the town. He opens every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10am to 1pm. The shop has hundreds of interesting items including household goods, toys, bric-a-brac, jewellery etc. Many donations have been made to various charities and the most recent was to St. Clares Roof Appeal.

The photo shows Godfrey presenting the donation to new Rector Rev Chris Pearson who visited the shop last week. Godfrey extends a warm welcome to all readers.

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED TO HELP WITH GIRLGUIDING



After lots of hard work (and a frustrating delay in getting the file verified and returned) Trudy Holman, Leader in Charge of 1st Newton Aycliffe Rainbow Unit, finally received her Adult Leadership

(01325) 311204 or log on to www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus. There are lots of opportunities, not just Unit Leaders and not all requiring a qualification. To register girls for Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or the Senior Section please log on to www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus and select your preferred unit.

Qualification badge and certificate from Division Commissioner, Becci Barnett, on Friday 23rd May. If any reader is interested in volunteering with Girlguiding please speak with Becci on

LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Greenwell Road Aldi Crossing Needs Lights

Dear Sir,
Are the good people of Newton Aycliffe and the Highways Authority aware of the accident just waiting to happen at the crossing in Greenwell Road outside Aldi? Drivers are, and I dread approaching this crossing because of the number of people streaming out of Aldi and straight across without looking. Yes, many are road conscious, but many more are not. Bicycles come hurtling across, young un's with a mobile attached firmly to their ear, or texting quite unaware of an approaching vehicle. I slow down when I approach the crossing and just when I think it is safe to proceed, another load of lemmings bent on suicide decide to

cross and that is only from one direction. There is also pedestrians from the direction of Argos and Tesco. The road is a nightmare and not only do we have to avoid traffic coming the other way (some heavy goods delivery vehicles) but have to avoid them overtaking the cars parked outside the Cubby, thereby coming on to our side of the road whilst our minds are focussed on the crossing. I know not what technical issues were considered when the crossing was installed, but surely it could have been a crossing with lights, making it far safer to cross. High time the police and Co. Durham Highways Department came out and inspected what is going on choosing a busy time. Margaret Chappell, Chilton

Town Council Senior Citizens Excursions

Dear Sir,
Why is it that every year there is someone willing to air their negative comments on what is a fantastic amenity provided by the Town Council! It would have been better if the Mesdames Humble and Tinkler had complained about their supposed 'poor meal' direct to the hotel management, and presumably they rated it on the questionnaire provided by the Council, handed out on the homeward journey. I fail to see why they feel the need to spoil their otherwise complimentary letter by bringing this comment to the fore! As a previous employee of the Town Council I am well aware of how much hard work goes into organising these trips (and all the other events provided), and

although I have only been able to attend for the last three years I have never found cause to complain, and this year's trip (Alnwick last week) was no different. Tell me ladies, are you in the habit of taking yourselves off for the day, travelling over 100 miles, paying for fuel, morning coffee and biscuits and then a three course meal? I very much doubt it, so why complain when you've had all this for FREE (oh, and please don't start spouting about it coming from your Council Tax, we already know that, just think of it as a summer trip savings scheme!) On behalf of all those with NO complaint, well done GATC, and Marie in particular, for another successful season of trips. M Miller

HORNDALE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION Flower Demo

Tuesday 1st July meeting at 6.00pm with refreshments at 5.45pm, Evangelical Church.
At this month's meeting we will discuss "Fab Friday" which is a fun day to be held 29th August at The North East Autism Centre, which is a great asset to our town and needs as much support as possible to improve the lives of the people that use the services. The fun day will be great family day out with lots to do. If anyone can help or assist with the day please contact the

centre on 01325 328080. Your local councillors and a representative from Livin will be at our meeting to talk to and listen to any problems or concerns you may have. This a good opportunity to meet people to discuss any ideas to make our good neighbourhoods better. Please remember that the PACT meetings are now held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm. Our meetings are friendly and very laid back so please come along. Philip Clark
Horndale Residents Ass

"These Are a Few of My Favourite Things" will be Area Demonstrator Eileen Baraclough's theme when she presents an evening of flower arranging. The meeting is on Monday 7th July at Shildon and District Flower Club at Shildon Civic Hall starting at 7.30pm. Free to members, Visitors £5



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Primary School Graded "GOOD" by OFSTED

Dear Sir,
I would like to offer my congratulations to all staff, pupils and governors at Woodham Burn Primary for the GOOD judgement awarded to the school by OFSTED after their inspection in May 2014. A GOOD judgement for overall effectiveness, especially under the new framework, is a very clear endorsement of the success of the school and the result of a lot of hard work by everybody concerned. The full report is now available to view on both the OFSTED and the schools own website. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers of all the children at the school for your continued support. Rest assured the staff and



governors will continue to ensure your children receive the best education possible in a happy and safe environment.
Jay Steward
Chair of Governing Body

Missing Councillor

Dear Sir,
I cannot understand how we can have someone still on the Town Council claiming expenses whilst living and working abroad for the best part of a year. Surely he should have stood down from his position to give someone else the opportunity.
J Williams

Newton News contacted the Town Council to pose the question and received the following statement.

Cllr D Summers is

currently out of the country undertaking seasonal employment. Cllr Summers advised of this employment and his wish to cease receiving his Councillor Allowance during this period. It is confirmed that no allowance has been paid during this period. Should Cllr Summers not attend a Council meeting or other relevant qualifying event within six months, he will cease to be a Councillor, due to disqualification. Alternatively, Cllr Summers may request the Council to consider a 'leave of absence' for any further absence beyond the six months and the Council may or may not grant his request.
Andrew Bailey, Town Clerk

Christmas Eve Accident at Macdonalds

Dear Sir
I am needing a little help looking for witnesses to an incident that happened last Christmas Eve 2013 at lunch time at Macdonalds. Myself and another car reversed into each other, but no damage was done. The other driver is now claiming, 6 months later, for a large amount of damage to his car against me. I have tried to get CCTV footage from Macdonalds but they only go back to February. I have no witnesses at the moment and was wondering if any Newton News reader could help me. If you can could you contact this newspaper direct on 300212 as I have reasons not to identify myself.
Reader

DOCUMENTS PUT ELDON WHINS IN NEWTON AYCLIFFE

Dear Sir,
Reference deletion of Policy H7 (S.B.C Local Plan)2007, by W.J.Mellors under headline: "Old Plans For Eldon Whins Scrapped". The Policy H7 was a PHASING POLICY listing conditions as to when Eldon Whins could and would be developed. Deletion of Policy H7 removed those inhibitions from the development of Eldon Whins as a Housing Site.

The Policy for developing Eldon Whins, and other sites in the former Sedgefield Borough is H1. Sites listed as Policy H2.

The point was, that Eldon Whins is part of development within the Planned Boundaries of Newton Aycliffe TOWN.

Copies of Policies H1, H2 and H7 are with the Editor for evidence showing ELDON WHINS AS A PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEWTON AYCLIFFE.

Copies of the validity of the S.B.C LOCAL PLAN as a "Saved Plan", by direction of the Secretary of State are given along with a copy of the Planning Approval for Housing on Woodham Golf Course, 20th November 2012, DCC,PP,1-4.which details that validity in the Planning Approvals. The S.B.C. Local Plan was

NOT scrapped, and it is still a valid reference by Order of the Secretary of State in 2004 also in the North East Plan - Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021. Donald Fraser Woodham.

Editor: Copies of the above references have been left with me and are available for inspection.

Parking in Disabled Bay

Dear Sir,
Went to Tesco's last night to do some shopping with my wife. The 3 disabled bays closest to the entrance were occupied by 2 cars and a van without a disabled badge. I informed the Tesco security men who said there was not much we can do about it and they changed the subject. Disabled War Pensioner.

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PROUD TO HELP AYCLIFFE FOODBANK

Dear Sir,
I would just like to thank the narrow minded views of the man who wrote into the Newton News about the “unnecessary” Food Bank a couple of weeks ago.
This story highlighted to me that Newton Aycliffe has a food bank, which I was previously unaware of. I am not in need of a food bank, however am educated enough to understand that not everyone is as fortunate.
In life you will always get individuals who take what they don’t deserve, even in my place of work you get people who come in to work repeatedly late, take longer than their hour for lunch, but the majority of us don’t.
Just two hours after reading the article in the paper we went to do our grocery shopping and the local food bank was set up outside the shop with a list of items you could buy to help out. We went and set one bag aside for the food bank, which we donated afterwards. We don’t repeatedly have spare cash to do this, but a few sacrifices from our own shopping every now and then seems worthwhile.
When I donated my bag of food, I did not feel bitter that someone undeserving may receive the food I had worked hard to buy. I simply thought, I hope someone can feed their children this week, and feel happy that this week someone is eating and not as hungry as they were the week before.
One day any of us may need the food bank for one reason or another, redundancy, divorce, who knows. But what I do know is if I ever need help, I know now where to go.
It would be great if Aycliffe food bank could provide us details of how volunteers could help, as I’m sure there will be a lot of proud Newtonians (including myself) who would be willing to give up some spare time to help out.
I may also benefit the gentleman who wrote in to spend a few hours at the food bank helping out to see the benefits of this cause. The time it took him to write his mindless article could have been spent helping families in need.
p.s I would also like to thank this man for highlighting a certain supermarket who would not donate to our food bank. I am proud to say I won’t ever give them another penny of my money.
Leyanne Pennington-Foster



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I Can’t Believe it!

Dear Syd
It would seem that Victor Meldrew is alive and well and living in Newton Aycliffe hiding behind the ubiquitous “name and address supplied.” I refer to the letter headed ‘No Room for Market in Thames Centre’.
It is to the owners of The Thames centre and the stall holder’s credit that they support the public and have a commitment to a market on the town centre despite having to squeeze into a relatively small space. He/she says “Imagine stalls, mobility scooters, wheelchairs and all the people”.
Dear me he/she missed out the inconsiderate mums with pushchairs! Supporters of the market do not have to imagine, they are shopping and making the best of a difficult and hopefully short term job without complaint as it is a service they want on the town centre; it is their way to try to show the owners, the monied people in London, that they have made a mistake.
Is this person always in such a rush, so impolite, and without compassion that they feel they can not stand aside for a minute or two for someone less able than themselves? Are they aware that a similar situation can and does sometimes arise in Tesco, or are they one of the people who barge through the isles regardless, tutting at other shoppers and the free standing baskets that get in their way piled high with goods they do not want?
I was not surprised that this person was the only one complaining to Newton News as most considerate people take into account that the Aycliffe stalls are the only source of income for some stallholders.
My message to name and address supplied is - if you don’t like it avoid the Thames Centre, don’t denigrate people who are trying to make a difference.
Andrea Bergg
Lascalles Ave.

MIDDRIDGE COUNCIL ARE JUST AFTER THE MONEY!

Sir,
The latest letter from Middridge finally bares the truth, namely that to Middridge Council this is all about money. Council Tax as well as Community Infrastructure levy (CIL).
In 2011 the submissions from Middridge to the County Council on future housing provision theywere all opposed to any houses being built on Eldon Whins. Yet now Middridge Council is getting all upset, not because housing has been approved for that site for the future, but because Great Aycliffe Town Council dare to request that an area of future housing that will form a natural part of Newton Aycliffe should come under the Town Boundary.
The consequence of the houses (and at least 342 are envisaged by the County Council) are that if they remain in Middridge Parish boundary they get the Council Tax and CIL money from it. People in Eldon Whins will be geographically part of Newton Aycliffe, use Newton Aycliffe’s facilities and services yet contribute nothing to Newton Aycliffe.
I totally support our Town Council in having the Boundary changed, these people will be part of Newton Aycliffe in every respect, and should pay their share just like everyone else in Great Aycliffe. Indeed by being within our boundary the additional houses will expand the tax base on which Council Tax is calculated thus reducing everyone’s council tax.
If it remains in Middridge’s boundary, Eldon Whins residents will outnumber and out vote any Middridge Village attempt to stop further development. It’s council will be out voted indeed elected decided by the majority in Eldon Whins on everything, out voting the original Village residents by at least 2 to 1.
The really stupid suggestion that we should wait several years for the houses to be built, then ask the residents which parish they wish to belong to, is the same as ‘do turkeys vote for Christmas’.
If we wait for the houses to be built why would any resident choose to pay a higher Council Tax to Great Aycliffe Town Council, when they could simply choose to pay the lower tax to Middridge Council but still use everything in Newton Aycliffe without the cost that everyone else in Great Aycliffe Shares. This is what happened with the Chestnuts area of school Aycliffe. Our Town Council is absolutely right.
Great Aycliffe Town Council have done the sensible and proper thing by asking Middridge Council to mutually agree the change hence it would have removed the need for a Community Governance review. Middridge Council realising they could not stop the housing they simply want the money it brings.
The Town Council had no choice but to request for the County Council review which is lawful, democratic, proper and above board open and morally justified.
To do otherwise would have been a dereliction of duty by our Councillors, who are elected and paid to serve Great Aycliffe not Middridge. I fully support our Town Councillors in seeking this change it will benefit Great Aycliffe, be fair, and reduce Council Tax, by adding to our Tax Base, whilst at the same time ensuring people living in part of Newton Aycliffe pay their fair share and contribute to what the Town provides. The tail does not wag the dog. Sign the petition.
K Curry
Stainforth Close

Life Story of Peter Lee

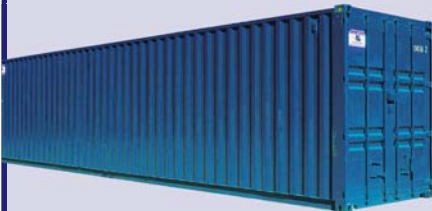
On Wednesday 2nd July at 7pm in Aycliffe Village Hall, the Local History Society will be hosting a talk by Win Colman entitled ‘The Life and Times of Peter Lee’. All are welcome, members £1 and non members £3 includes tea/coffee/biscuits. Further details from 01325 301093.

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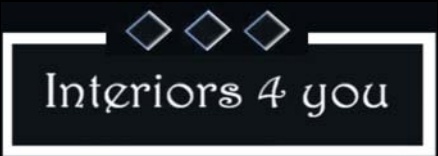
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Thames Centre Mall Now a Vibrant Area

Dear Editor,
In response to the writer of last week’s item complaining about the “market” in the Thames Centre, I would like to praise the Manager Matthew, and his family for having the initiative to provide a much needed fruit and veg stall for the residents of Newton Aycliffe.
It is a well used and much appreciated bringing people into the mall. Goodness only knows what the shopkeepers in the town centre have had to endure over the last year where trade levels have still not recovered since the disruption. We lost a greengrocer during all of this and also the one at Neville Parade.
The Thames Centre now has a vibrant little shopping community where you can buy all your fresh goods in one handy place and this can only be a good thing and bring people to this area of the town instead of everyone flocking blindly to Tesco and Aldi.
Whilst I have every sympathy for those people who genuinely need to use a disability scooter and have also had many years of pushing pushchairs the world can’t stop for the minority. If those people using such a mode of transport are simply using the Thames Centre as a thoroughfare and have no intention of purchasing anything from the shops perhaps it would be more convenient for them to go round the outside, a very small diversion?
I was taught three words when I was small and they have served me very well throughout my life, “excuse me please”
Grateful Shopper

Bad Use of Tesco’s Mini Roundabout

Dear Sir,
Why do we have so many incompetent drivers in Newton Aycliffe? The worst spot for these idiots is Tesco’s mini roundabout where I have lost count of the times whilst already on the roundabout indicating to turn right when I have needed to brake hard to avoid a crash. Stupid drivers just drive straight on toward the petrol station on their way out of the car park.,
They all have the same “If I don’t look at that car and stare straight ahead I will be ok” attitude. They need to learn the Highway Code and always give way to traffic from the right on a roundabout before someone gets hurt.
Careful Driver

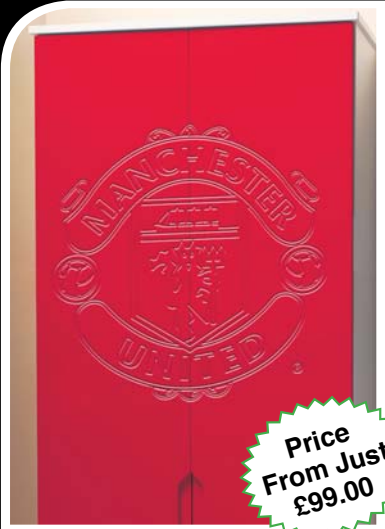


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GARDENERS BEWARE



After purchasing three Gala Lillies from a local supermarket I have an infestation of a flying insect which is similar to a ladybird, It is bright red and very shiny and on further investigation this insect is a Scarlet Lily Beetle and is found abroad and in the south of England. On further reading about this beetle I found out it can destroy and decimate Lilies and plants in a garden. Everyday I have to look for the beetle and its eggs left under leaves. I don't usually use insecticide, but will now have too.
Ann Dunn

EX REFEREE AT WOODHAM SPORTS ACADEMY PRESENTATION EVENING



Woodham Sports Academy is delighted to announce

that its presentation evening will take place on Monday 7th July, at Hardwick Hall Sedgefield. The evening will start at 7pm and will finish around about 9pm. This year there will 7 awards presented to students, the awards are: Woodham Sports Academy Individual Achievement of the Year Award Woodham Sports Academy Team of the Year Woodham Sports Academy Young Sports Performer of the Year Award Woodham Sports Academy Performer of the Year Award Woodham Sports Academy Recognition of the Year Award Contribution to Woodham Sport The Mark Bulman Award The keynote speaker is George Courtney. George is a retired headteacher and professional referee who has officiated in some of the biggest games in world football, including the World Cup, European Championships and FA CUP finals.

As is appropriate during the World Cup, George will be able to give students an insight of what it takes to compete at an elite level, the preparation involved not only for the players but referees too.

Tea/Coffee Morning at the Vicarage

A Coffee Morning in aid of Christian Aid will be held on Saturday 5th July from 10am till 12 noon at the Vicarage on East Green, Heighington. If it is fine the event will be outside, inside if not and will include a raffle, cake stall, books, and other attractions. Admission £2 to include a coffee or tea and a scone.

Greenfield Athletes in Inter County Finals



Throughout June two students from Greenfield Community College, Courtne Mills and Adam Lamb, have been competing in the area Athletic championships. The pair were successful in their respective events at the first event to qualify into the next round. The next round was at Monkton Stadium, Jarro, where Courtne raced in the 200m representing Durham County Schools Athletics squad. Unfortunately Adam could not take part in the triple jump due to another sporting fixture. Courtne trained hard this season for the event and it paid off, finishing 2nd in the 200m. With this success Courtne qualified for the Inter County Championships held at Gateshead Stadium. After the competition Courtne

said 'I felt great, a real success and an amazing achievement to qualify for the inter counties'. Courtne went on to compete at the final event, representing Greenfield and Durham at the event involving the whole North East region. She continued her success by coming 3rd in the 200m, making her the third fastest in this event in the North East! This is a fantastic achievement for Courtne who was thrilled to be the first Greenfield athlete to qualify for the final in this event. Greenfield are extremely proud of Courtne and Adam's successes in this year's Athletics events, their achievements are a credit to their hard work and dedication to their events and the support of the staff at Greenfield - well done!

Famous Football Pundit at Big Club



Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club again packed out the Big Club for their 3rd Annual Sportsman Evening. Over 200 people came along to support this fundraiser and see guest speaker Paul Merson. Paul was very open about his history of addiction to drink and gambling, but explained that he had left that all behind and was enjoying a new career working for Sky Sports. He told many interesting stories about his playing days at Arsenal, Middlesbrough, Aston Villa, Portsmouth and Walsall which held the attention of an appreciative audience. Before leaving Paul held a Q&A session and signed autographs as well as posing in Photos with everyone who asked. A great comedian rounded off the night before the fundraising was finally added to with an auction of footballs and T shirts signed by Paul Merson. Newton Aycliffe Youth FC would like to thank everyone who supported the event and the Big Club for the use of their concert room which will help continue providing affordable football for everyone

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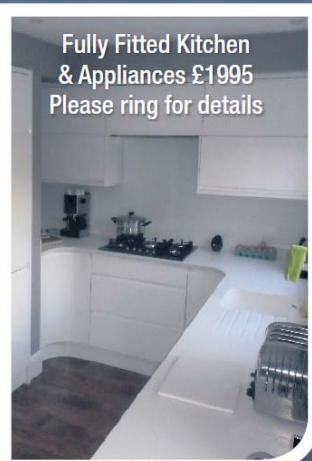
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AYCLIFFE JUNIORS BEAT SHILDON BY 9 WICKETS



Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team sponsored by Franks won for the first time in four games with a tough 31 run victory at home to Thornaby 2nd team in the NYSD 2nd division. Electing to bat first, Aycliffe

opener Sam Telford got his side off to a flyer, scoring 32 from just 20 balls, but his dismissal lead to a collapse as the home side teetered at 77 for 6 after 18 overs. Captain Chris Palmer (57 runs) and Dave Atkinson

(43 runs) steadied the ship with an excellent 7th wicket partnership of 76 as Aycliffe eventually reached 196 all out after 39 overs. Thornaby batted well and were looking favourites for victory as they comfortably reached 117 for 2, needing just 80 runs for victory from the final 21 overs. However the introduction of medium pacer Ross Dixon (4 for 13) and fast bowler Matty Atkinson (4 for 37) into the attack soon had the visitors in trouble as their superb bowling removed the last 8 wickets as Thornaby were dismissed for 165 after 57.1 overs. The win consolidates third place in the table for Aycliffe with 163 points from 12 games played. Newton Aycliffe 2nd team continued their brilliant run of form with a comprehensive 72 run win away at Northallerton 2nd team in the third division of the NYSD. Aycliffe were asked to bat first and scored an impressive 186 for 9 in their allotted 50 overs thanks to an unbeaten 48 from captain Adam Gittins and a fluent 46 from debutant Neil Bancroft. In reply outstanding medium paced bowling from both Jack Slatcher (5 for 13) and Tony Travis (5 for 33) helped skittle the home side for just 114 after 29.5 overs. Aycliffe's young 2nd team are delighted to be sitting comfortably in mid table with 112 points from their 12 games. Newton Aycliffe's u13's had a tremendous 34 run victory away at Billingham Synthonia in the NYACC league. Batting first the visitors totalled a challenging 98 for 6 from their allotted 20 overs thanks to good innings from both James Knowlson (31 not out) and captain Dylan Tribble (27 runs). In reply Billingham were restricted to just 64 for 2 from 20 overs thanks to some excellent bowling and fielding from the Aycliffe team with Nathan Parry the pick of the bowlers taking 2 wickets for just 5 runs. The under 15's team (photo above) made it a clean sweep of victories for the club's teams this week as they easily defeated Shildon at home by 9 wickets. Shildon batted first and were skittled for 42 after 16.5 overs with captain Josh Pearson in excellent form taking 4 for 8. In reply opening batsman Dan Bowmer smashed a quickfire unbeaten 29 as Aycliffe hurried to victory for the loss of one wicket after just 7.3 overs.

LOCAL SPORT

Aycliffe Tri Club



Graham Atkins, Diane Savage, Jen Bainbridge and Martin Sedgwick

Keswick was the fabulous setting for two races on Sunday 15th June. In the clear waters of Derwent Water with a good temperature of 19 degrees 3 Triathletes from Aycliffe Tri Club stepped into the lake to take part in the Keswick Short Race. The swim, bike, and run set in stunning countryside was a fast race with Graham Atkins first home for the club and also in 3rd place for his category in 1hr 19 mins. First lady home for the club was Jen Bainbridge in 1hr 36mins followed closely by Diane Savage in 1hr 41mins. Next up was the long race again with three Aycliffe Triathletes taking part. First home for the club in 2hr 40mins was Michael Scott, next was Gareth Elkin in 2hr 45mins followed by Martin Sedgwick in 2hr 50mins. A little closer to home on the same day Weardale Triathlon and AquaBike took place at Stanhope open air pool. The event hosted by Durham Tri Club is a Sprint Triathlon and new for this year an AquaBike (swim and run).

Vicky Howse was the club's only member taking part in the AquaBike which didn't phase Vicky as she managed to complete the swim and cycle in 55mins and came in 1st place overall. In the Triathlon David Greatorex finished the sprint race in 1hr 12mins giving him 3rd place overall and Melaine Rowland in 1hr 26mins. All the club's athletes had a fantastic day's racing in two stunning locations.

NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

New Clubs at Neville Parade Community Centre include Tai Chi every Thursday at 6pm and Karate at 7.30pm. Existing clubs for you to join: Art Club Wednesday 1-3pm and New Age Kurling Thursdays 10am-12noon. Thanks to all those who supported the Marie Curie Open Day last Saturday. It raised £100. We are looking for items to auction and raffle prizes for this event. Please contact Peter on 313924 if you can help. Can you organise a Table Tennis or Billiard Club? To volunteer please ring Peter.

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Students Join in Remembering WW1

County Council Chairman Cllr John Robinson is to lead pupils from County Durham, France and Germany in an act of remembrance for WW1 veterans on June 30 3.45pm at County Hall. It is the culmination of a link-up between County Durham and the twinned areas of Conty in the Somme region and the German university town of Tuebingen. Pupils aged 14 from Consett Academy and St John's Catholic Academy in Bishop Auckland, are being joined by the youngsters from across the Channel in a day of historical investigation at the DLI Museum and County Hall to research the lives of local men who served in the Great War. The 100 youngsters will use research and source

materials in French, German and English to create a memorial to a soldier from each of the regions. The day will end with the act of remembrance where the Durham County Council Chairman will be joined by the Honorary Consuls from France and Germany. Cllr John Robinson said: "By working with children from other countries, the young people will have a better understanding of the universal human tragedy of conflict. The project also allows the young people to put their language skills to good use and gives a strong purpose for effective communication." The investigation day runs from 9.30am to 4pm. The project, funded by a grant from the European Commission and overseas partners has been organised by the international office at Durham County Council.

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Concert in the Throne Room

The next concert in Bishop Auckland Music Society's 2014 season will take place in The Throne Room at Auckland Castle on Friday 11th July at 7.30pm when Jane Lindsay (cello) and Jennifer Hughes (piano) will perform works by Debussy, Mendelssohn, Beethoven and Brahms. Tickets: £12.50 (under 18s free) from Brian Varley (01388) 606075, Cameo Fine Art or pay on the door. Jane Lindsay graduated in 2012 from the Royal College of Music with a First Class Honours degree. She performs, as a soloist and also as a chamber and orchestral musician, using a 1746 cello made by Peter Walmsley.

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PCP in Top 20 for Provision of Health & Wellbeing Service

The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) is very proud to be one of 20, out of 420 organisations shortlisted for a GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Kings Fund Impact Award. The GSK IMPACT Awards, run in partnership with The King's Fund are seen as a mark of achievement in the not-for-profit sector. The award ceremony took place at the Science Museum, London in May and Carol Gaskarth, PCP Chief Executive and Lynsey Todd, Senior Programme Manager attended, pictured with one of the judges and broadcast journalist Fiona Phillips. Although we didn't win overall we received a donation of £3,000 and some very positive feedback praising the work of the organisation, our knowledge of local communities, our strong focus on equality and diversity and the impressive number of people we support each year. The assessor's specific

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Carol Gaskarth, PCP Chief Executive said "We are very proud to be nationally recognised and rewarded for doing excellent work to improve people's health. An independent assessor from GSK visited the Pioneering Care Centre and spent time talking to staff, trustees, commissioners and service

users about the work of PCP. I would like to say a huge thank you to those involved and to everyone who supports our work. This award is about looking at the impact the organisation has had on the local community, all of which is down to the hard work and dedication of our staff, Trustees and volunteers." For further information contact the Pioneering Care Centre, tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net website: www.pcp.uk.net

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Midnight Walk for Hospice Funds



On Friday 20th June, the 7th annual St Teresa's Hospice Midnight Walk took place at South Park, Darlington. After receiving goody bags containing glowsticks and fetching pink tiaras, the participants were led in an energetic zumba routine by staff from Lifestyle Fitness, Darlington to make sure everyone was properly warmed up before being led to the finish line. The marvellous midnight march was then officially started by His Worshipful the Mayor of Darlington Cllr Gerald Lee. As the town clock tolled twelve, confetti rained down on the crowds and the walk began. The route took participants on a 1.5 mile circuit of the park. As soon as they crossed the finish line, the wonderful walkers were treated to a hot drink and a breakfast bun. Hospice Director Jane Bradshaw said: "The Midnight Walk is always a wonderful night, and this year has been no different. We're incredibly grateful to all the wonderful people and organisations who support the Hospice through this brilliant event, and

Hospice, which provides free services and care for families affected by life-limiting illness in the Darlington and District area. As well as Lifestyle Fitness, the event was also supported by Sherwoods, Securitas, Morrisons at Morton Park, and 1st Stop Party Shop on North Road.

ART GROUP

The Newton Aycliffe Art Group meet every Wednesday from 1pm - 3pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Neville Parade. The fee is £2.00 and new members are always welcome.

Diamond Anniversary



Joe and Joan Spark of Wilton Court received a visit from the Mayor Wendy Hillary last week to congratulate them on their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 26th June. The couple came from Byers Green and Howden le Wear and first met at the Fir Tree Community Centre weekly dance where Joe politely asked Joan to join him in a "Fox Trot". That was the start of their romance and 18 months later they were married at St. Mary's Church, Howden le Wear. Joe was a miner at Brancepeth and Joan worked for clothing manufacturers Ramar in Crook who specialised in quality wear for Marks & Spencers. Joe left the mine to run two local pubs with his wife, The Welsh Harp Inn and The Vulcan. They were landlords for 8 years before moving to live in Aycliffe, after Joe got a job with Eatons and then Toledo where he worked for 26 years before reaching retirement age.

Joan worked for the Post Office for 27 years, first delivering mail and then working in the office. They have two daughters, three granddaughters and two great granddaughters which attracts sympathy for Joe as the only male in the family. Joe, a keen gardener has been a member of the Big Club for 31 years often serving as a voluntary barman. They have always supported their daughter Janet who runs the Durham District Roller Skating Club at Sunnydale Leisure Centre in Shildon. Joan is highly skilled at making costumes for the skaters and her granddaughter Jessica has just won the title of National Senior Figure & Free Champion. Joe and Joan wanted no fuss, but the Mayor's visit and the request for Newton News to tell their story were the first of many surprises organised by their loving family to mark this special occasion.

Greenfield Receive Educational Award



Left to right: Mr Ward, Mr Moffatt, Head Teacher David Priestley & Sue Williamson (Chief Executive of the SSAT)

Greenfield Community College received a SSAT Educational Outcomes Awards at a special celebratory event in Newcastle on Friday. The Outstanding Continuous Improvement award is for being in the top 20% of schools nationally, based on improvement in the percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades, including English and mathematics. Greenfield, among other schools from across the North East, was invited to receive its award at a regional celebration ceremony hosted by SSAT. Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT said: "These schools should be congratulated for their exceptional achievement. They have proved themselves to be leading the field in improving GCSE outcomes for their students." "These results are testament to the commitment and hard work of the students, teachers and leadership teams, and show what can be achieved when skilled teachers have high expectations and ambition for every young person". "I am proud that these schools are members of the SSAT network." During a visit to the school earlier in the day, Sue Williamson was highly impressed by the students and said that "the respect and attitudes shown by the students were some of the best examples I have ever seen". We are looking forward to welcoming Sue back to school for a follow up visit next year- well done Greenfield!

Congratulations

Ali Smith



Happy 18th Birthday "Our Special Girl"

Your Nana would be as proud as I am at the way you have grown up (most of the time!). Lots of love, Granda XX

Emily Ruth Mason



Happy 18th Birthday 27th June 2014

Best wishes on your special day. Love from Mam, Colin, Dad, Helen, Luke, Grandad and family xxxx

Ali Smith (Rugrat)



Happy 18th Birthday

You're a gorgeous young lady and a daughter to be proud of. Have a great party. Loads of love, Mam and Dad xxx

Gillian Bennett



Happy 40th Birthday "GOTCHA"

Love from Mam, Dad and Guess Who?

Carlos McDowell



Happy 50th Birthday

Love from Mum and Dad xxxxxxxx

Thank You

I WOULD like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers and kind donations received on the loss of my dear Wife, Mrs Agnes Hills, who lost her battle against cancer on 1st May 2014. All donations collected amounted to £311.46 and were donated in her memory to cancer research. I would also like to thank all the R.A.F.A. Club and Ann Noble for the catering I WOULD like to say thank you to my Husband Billy; my Sons, Paul and Gavin who were brilliant; Tony and Clair and everyone who attended my Surprise 60th Birthday Party on 21st June. Thanks for all presents and cards. How you all managed to keep it a secret I don't know. Love you all, Joyce RON YOUNG 4/9/1939 to 25/5/2014. The family of Ron would like to thank family and friends, near and far for the kind messages, cards, flowers and donations (£400) received at this sad time. Also thank you to Co-op Funeral Directors David Scott, The Rev. Pearson; The Navy Club and Don Walkers Butchers.

Obituary

JOHN BAXTER GRAHAM Peacefully in hospital on 19th June. John, Jack, missed and much loved by his Wife Sylvia and Sister Viki. Funeral took place on Thrusday 26th June.

In Memoriam

Jeff Clark

4th July 2002

Treasured and special memories of our dear devoted friend Jeff.

Forever in our thoughts.

Georgie and Joy-Marie

Paul Clark

Died 8th July 2009

Life long memories of our very dear friend Paul.

Always in our thoughts, never forgotten.

Joy-Marie and Georgie

Birthday Remembrance

WILLIAM LITTLE, Bill. 1930-2013. Your first birthday without you. Missing you very much. Till we meet again. From Nancy and family **DAWN ELLIOTT** 29-6-2014. We cannot send a birthday card, your hand we cannot touch. But God will take our greetings to you, the one we love so much. All our love, Kathy and Dad **DAWN ELLIOTT** 29th June. We never wish for miracles, but today just one would do. To leave our door wide open and see you walking through. Happy birthday Sis. With all our love always, Jacky, Darren, Louis, Owen and Maxi **DAWN ELLIOTT** 29th June. If roses grow in Heaven Lord, please pick a bunch for us, and place them in our Mother's arms and tell her they are from us. Tell her we miss her and when you turn to smile, place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for a while. Happy birthday Mam. We miss you every day. Love you always and forever. James, Ellice, Jack, Sophie and Grandson Jay xxxxx **DAWN ELLIOTT** 29th June. As we opened our eyes this morning, we looked up to Heaven above, we whispered "Happy Birthday" and sent you all our love. Miss you so much. Love always, Mam, Bill and Stephen

For Sale

BARGAIN BUYS Bosch washing machine to rent, £3.99 a week! No deposit, no more unwanted repair bills. Tel 321 678 **PRIVET** for sale in 12" black buckets. 3'6", £4 each (6 available). Tel 01325 320094 **3 WHEEL** mobility scooter, has a spare battery, in reasonable condition. £150. Tel 01325 317316 **MAPLE** extending dining room table and 6 chairs, upholstered in black fabric, matching unit with glass display cabinet and two lamp tables with glass inserts. Matching hi-fi unit. Modern design, all VGC, £400. Tel 07977 646886 **COMPUTER** desk and adjustable swivel chair, hardly used, immaculate condition, £75. Tel 07977 646886 **BRAND NEW** double divan with quilted Damask mattress. can deliver, £120. Tel 07789 113 343 **THREE PIECE** suite, green, top grade, soft leather, excellent condition. Cost £200 new, will accept £250. Can deliver. Tel 07789 113343 **ESKDALE** 10 man tent, unused, slight damage to one pole, easily repaired. £180 Tel Dawn 07741 084415 **COMPASS** 2 berth caravan, full awning and extras. No smokers, no pets, no damp. Immaculate condition, ready to go. £1250 ono. Tel 01325 321441 or 07968 083988



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Spartans Remain Top NEW FACES IN AYCLIFFE TEAM

Newton Aycliffe Spartans stay at the top of the British Baseball Federation Northern AA Division with a 9-1 record thanks to two convincing victories at bottom side Harrogate Cubs last weekend. In game 1, Harrogate kept the Spartans offensive quiet and held a 3-1 lead going into the 6th inning. But the Spartans exploded into life, scoring 7 runs in the 6th. Bryan Dunkel pitched well and claimed his 4th win of the season. In game 2, Spartans showed no

mercy as the home side gave several inexperienced players time on the field. Spartans scored 17 unanswered runs with Lee Hill, Jason Hill and Bryan Dunkel the main contributors to the run total. Spartans Player Coach Mike Holton pitched a complete game shut.

With the playoff schedule having been announced, Spartans know a top 4 finish will secure a place in those playoffs as Mike Holton explained 'We are aware of what we have to do to ensure a successful season. The top four sides qualify for the playoffs and a top two finish will secure home field advantage for the semi finals and that is certainly our goal from this point forward'.

The winners of the two semi finals will progress to the National Baseball Finals Weekend which will be held in September at the National Baseball Centre at Farnham Park, Buckinghamshire/ Spartans are next in action on Sunday 29th June when they face 5th placed Liverpool Trojans. Newton Aycliffe Spartans would like to thank the following Player Sponsors for the 2014 season. Their support is appreciated.

Acorn Lettings NE Ltd, Paterson's Partitions Ltd, Simpature Fisheries of Newton Aycliffe, Wienerberger Building Solutions, David Bean More information on the Spartans can be found at www.newtonaycliffespartans.co.uk

Newtonians are being offered the chance to follow their team on their pre-season warm-up game against Athersley Recreation for a knockdown return travel price.

Following last summer's successful trip to the Barnsley-based outfit – who play in the Northern Counties East League – Dan Mellanby is again bringing his side as they prepare for another assault on the Ebac Northern League.

Seats are available for the day trip, priced at just £10 return. The coach will leave Moore Lane Park at 10.30am and return from Barnsley at 7pm. Interested parties are asked to book their seat with Dan Lewis on 07581 784726.

The team returned to pre-season training last week with several new faces invited along to showcase their skills as Mellanby looks to rebuild the side following the high-profile exit of last season's top scorer Jamie Owens, who has joined Marske United. Mellanby will run the rule over several trialists in upcoming training sessions, as well as the club's friendly games which are detailed below.

Confirmed signings for the 2014-15 campaign include the retention of Stuart Owen for a fifth season,

PRE-SEASON FIXTURES

Saturday 12th July – Athersley Recreation (a) 2pm
Wednesday 16th July – Seaton Carew (a) 7pm
Saturday 19th July – Heaton Stannington (a) 3pm
Thursday 24th July – Tow Law Town (a) 7.30pm
Saturday 26th July – Northallerton Town (h) 3pm
Wednesday 30th July – Darlington RA (h) 7.30pm
Saturday 2nd August – Athersley Recreation (h) 2pm

and 20-year-old forward Tom Atkinson, who netted 15 goals for the club last term.

Joining Owen and Atkinson are attacking pair Lewis Wing and Denver Morris. Wing, a 20-year-old Newtonian, joins the club for his second spell having left the club in 2012 for Tow Law Town. He spent the end of last season with Seaham Red Star and Darlington 1883.

Morris is a 25-year-old winger who has been snapped up from Durham City, having impressed in both games against Aycliffe last season, scoring home and away.

The club have also made changes to their off-field team, with last season's Advertising and Sponsorship Manager Barry Waters moving on to pastures new. General Manager Dan Lewis heads

up a new commercial team, with lots of exciting packages available to potential suitors.

To find out what packages are available, contact the team on 07581 784726 or 07826 525907.

The club have announced a price freeze for the upcoming campaign, with kids aged 12 and under again going free at home games. Adult admission remains at £6 with concessions priced at £4. Season tickets are available, representing excellent savings. Adult tickets are priced at £100 (saving £38) and concessions £60 (saving £32). To purchase season tickets, contact John Gaskarth on 07590 925469.

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For further information please contact Marie Oswald, Community Development Co-ordinator on 01325 375482

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