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# NEWTON NEWS

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## NEW NEWTON NEWS WEBSITE LAUNCHED

[www.newtonnews.co.uk](http://www.newtonnews.co.uk)

Today is the launch of the new Newton News website, which Newton Press hope will become a centre of activity for all things "Newton Aycliffe". The site incorporates a few suggestions from readers and local residents and we continue to need your help

and input, We want you to be involved to grow the site into a useful tool for ALL.

**Special thanks to Design365 for the hard work they have put into this project.**

All the original information can still be viewed; such as photos of old and new Newton Aycliffe, Town Mayor and Local MP, Aycliffe Angels, Town Organisations, History of Newton Aycliffe, Noteworthy Events and of course an Archive of past Newton News editions dating back to 1948 (this is an ongoing project, but should be complete shortly).

A few of the new suggestions and ideas are as follows:



**VIDEO:** Peter Quest and Malcolm Singleton have volunteered their services to attend as many local events as possible and record them for posterity on the new site. Newton Press has also invested in a HD, broadcast quality video camera for the occasions when Peter or Malcolm are not available. So when organising your next event, don't forget to invite Newton News, or record your own footage and send the film or YouTube link to [paul@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:paul@newtonnews.co.uk)

**SHOPPING AREAS:** A map and list of Newton Aycliffe shopping areas. In this section you will be able to view all the retail outlets, you can also select a shop unit and find out more information about the business at this address. There will be more to come on this section over the next couple of months - watch this space!

**COTTAGE INDUSTRY:** We would also like to add small home-based cottage industries to the shop section. If you run a small home based business we want to hear from you. Examples of this are home made products (candles, soap, knitwear), handmade gifts or cards, crafts, patchwork, quilting, tatting, crochet, cushions, bracelets, paper craft or cake

Continued on page 2

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# Charity Rock Night at Shildon



Do you want to be "18 till you die?" or experience a night in "Heaven?" Or maybe you just want to relive that fabulous "Summer of 69?" Well for one night let's relive your youth and be "Waking up the Neighbours" because the "Kids Wanna Rock" Come along to Shildon Civic Hall and rock along with THE BRYAN ADAMS EXPERIENCE and help raise money and awareness for a well deserved charity close to everyone's heart,

Macmillan Cancer Care. The Bryan Adams Experience are from the North east but have played all around Europe and are well known as one of the best Bryan Adams tribute acts in the country. They bring the live experience to the night that can only be bettered by the Canadian Rock Star himself. Tickets are on sale now, but we are expecting a really busy night so book your tickets quick: Prices are: £6 in advance, £8 on the

door  
Limited to admission of 300 so tickets are available on a first come first served basis. Tickets are available by contacting Sandie on 07938 878438. Sue on 07824 153711 or Andrew on 01325 313363. Tickets also available at Shildon Civic Hall. So come and have a really Rock night and help a well deserving charity.

# NEW NEWTON NEWS WEBSITE LAUNCHED

www.newtonnews.co.uk

making and decorating. Send your information to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

**BUSINESS PARK:** A map of the business park is also included (which can be zoomed into), as well as a list of all the businesses on the estate. This section will also be extended shortly with an individual page for each business, giving information about the business, address, website and contact details.

**COMMUNITY BLOG:** This is your section where you can request help, ask for volunteers, make suggestions and comments or announce a forthcoming event. This is important if you are planning a major activity and do not want it to clash with another similar event on the same day. You can also use the site to recommend a local service or supplier.

**COMMENTS:** Each week the latest news stories will be published on the site, and Newton News offer readers

the opportunity to comment on news stories. (this section will be monitored for legal reasons).

**EVENTS CALENDAR:** A local events calendar or "date claiming" will also be shown for any school, club, church or organisation who plan on holding an event locally. Send your information to paul@newtonnews.co.uk If you are a sports club, why not send us your complete fixture list and they will also be added to the site.

**JOB VACANCIES:** We are keen to help residents looking for employment to find their perfect job. If you are an employer looking for staff, this is going to be a good place to advertise your vacancy. Send your information to us and we will help you search for the staff you need.

**ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE:** Another section which will be useful for locals as well as those looking to move to the town.

Send your accommodation information; whether it is a room for rent or a house . . . rent it via www.newtonnews.co.uk

**FACEBOOK, TWITTER & YOUTUBE:** Newton News is linked to Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. With over 4200 Facebook likes and a rising Twitter following, Newton News can be viewed on these Social Media sites. Our video footage (and yours) will be added to our YouTube channel "thenewtonnews".

**NEWSLETTER:** Sign up for our Newsletter for special local offers and other website updates.

**SEARCH:** A better search

engine will help you to find any story which has been uploaded to the site in the last two years.

**INFORMATION:** Other information which can be found on the website include Doctors, Pharmacies, Dentists, Opticians, Hospitals, Vets, Funeral Directors, Fire Police, Ambulance, Pubs, Clubs, Hotels, Churches, Town and County Councillors, Town Crest, Parks, Golf Courses, Cemeteries, Care Homes, Schools, Community Centres and Public Services. If you can think of anything we have left off, please let us know and we will add it for the convenience of all.

## FRIENDS OF WEST PARK MEETING

Friends of West Park will be having their September meeting at the Royal British Legion commencing at 7pm on 9th September. Updates and reports will be made on progress of cleaning the lakes, funding leads and partners offers to help. If you care about the future of the Boating lakes park or indeed

the development of Newton Aycliffe please come along as we would love to hear your views and thoughts. All welcome including the next generation who should be represented most as they will hopefully benefit from our endeavours. Ken Robson (Chairman) 01325 321471

## Methodist Church Merger



(Left to right) Revd. 's Graham Morgan, Ruth Gee, Emma Morgan & Keith Phipps.

Hundreds of people gathered together at Locomotion, National Railway Museum, Shildon on Sunday 31st August to celebrate the inaugural service of the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Methodist Circuit which includes Newton Aycliffe.

The Revd. Ruth Gee, Chair of the Darlington Methodist District and ex President of the Methodist Conference was the preacher and the music was led by Shildon Salvation Army Band. The Bishop Auckland and Shildon circuits have been

working towards this merger for some time bringing together a total of 15 Methodist congregations. Locomotion was the ideal venue particularly with its links to Timothy Hackworth who brought Methodism to Shildon and who was himself a Methodist local preacher

## RESIDENTS' MEETING

LAKES AND DALES RESIDENTS' Meeting on Wednesday 10th September 6pm at Silverdale House. Come and put your views forward about the plans to put up lower fences which will give the residents no PRIVACY and make the area look untidier than it is! We hope that LIVIN will attend to hear your views. Ring 01325 308094.

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**Saturday 6th September - "Beer Monkeys"**  
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**Saturday 13th September - "Gate Crashers"**  
**Saturday 20th September - "Sticky Fingers"**

For more information on bands go to  
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## Mock Auction

On Saturday 13th September a Mock Auction will take place at Neville Community Centre at 2pm - viewing at 1pm. We have a vast quantity of goods - all to be sold on the day. We are still looking for goods to be donated - please ring 313924 to arrange collection. Thanks to all who have given support.

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## Mayor's Stall Raised £500 at Great Aycliffe Show



To all those who kindly offered their small change for the Tuppenny Challenge at the Great Aycliffe Show, just over 116 metres of 2p pieces were achieved, raising a magnificent £90.40 towards the Mayor's Charities.

Together with the Mayor's tombola stall a total of £503.05 was raised over the two days. The Mayor, Wendy Hillary and her Consort Jed, would like to thank everyone for their kind support with special thanks to Sarah Iveson, Val Raw, Becky Thornton and Jonathon Short who ran the stall.

## Newton News Supports Durham Wildcats' Bid for League Superiority

Durham Wildcats are excited to announce an exclusive partnership with Newton News. The Wildcats are County Durham's top basketball team, competing out of Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. The team plays in the British Basketball League (BBL) the highest level of basketball in Britain. The Wildcat pack have gone from strength to strength in their three year history, qualifying for the play-offs for the first time in the 2013/14 season, and are looking to continue to reach new heights. The league may have grown to 13 teams for the 2014/15 season, but the pride of County Durham are determined to continue their relentless march up the BBL table and are targeting a top six finish.

With the support of an ever-growing fanbase the Wildcats will seek to turn Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre into a formidable Wildcat Lair across the 19 home-game season. Tickets for games are £7 for adults, £5 for children and guarantee you seat-gripping end-to-end action with the world's most popular indoor sport.

As a community focussed club, having a strong relationship with the local newspaper for Newton Aycliffe is incredibly important for the Wildcats, and we are delighted to be able to announce this partnership between Newton News and the Wildcats. Quentin Sloper, Wildcat's

Chairman said: "Newton Aycliffe has been central to the Durham Wildcats since before we were in the BBL, and we are delighted to be able to formalise an exclusive partnership with the Newton News. We know that this relationship will help to ensure that the public of Newton Aycliffe know that they are right at the heart of the Durham Wildcats."

Newton News Assistant Editor, Paul Howarth said "When I received a call from Durham Wildcats wanting to create a partnership with Newton News we were delighted to get involved in supporting another great local team. You can read about all the Wildcats games, home and away, first in the Newton News and view some of the action on our new website."

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## Celebration of Life for Ex Headteacher of Greenfield School

Thursday 28th August saw the funeral of Dave Tate, former headteacher of Greenfield School from 1977 to 2000. The private cremation was followed by a celebration of his life at St Mary Magdalene Church, Trimdon which was packed with family, friends, ex-colleagues and ex-pupils. Everyone who worked with Dave remembers his compassion and dedication. He believed in his staff and even more importantly gave them the confidence to believe in themselves. Many long and successful careers were launched under his leadership.



Colleagues have been reminding themselves about the many humorous anecdotes which typified Dave's time at Greenfield, including the now almost legendary story of how he supervised a group of boys overnight in his caravan at his home after they had inadvertently seen an exam paper! Others remember the fact that he always seemed to have time for everyone, often calling his staff in for a chat, making them feel special. But amongst all the personal memories and funny stories is a tribute to a man who believed passionately in education and who was often quietly at the forefront of educational change and innovation. It is not often there is the opportunity to be at a school from first opening and as deputy and later headteacher. Dave was able to establish an ethos and vision which still holds firm at Greenfield today. He firmly believed in an inclusive school which is at the heart of its community, one which supported not just pupils, but their whole family. He listened to families who said they could not get continuity of care and from this came the first discussions about full service schooling which led to the establishment of the REACH

team providing multi agency support. Dave also understood the importance of being at the forefront of developing educational ideas; he encouraged his staff to be part of the national picture, from writing drafts of the national curriculum, through leading on a joined-up approach to higher education, to understanding the importance of a creative curriculum to meet the needs of the 21st century. It was this latter belief which led to Greenfield's application for Arts College Status in 1998, one of the first in the country and certainly the first in the north-east and led to the building of Greenfield Community Arts Centre and Gallery. Dave also fought against, and won two attempts at closing Greenfield School. He led the campaigns, holding meetings, garnering support from parents and governors and liaising with government ministers. A packed public meeting with many hundreds of parents in 1983 demonstrated the support in the community for Dave's vision for Greenfield School. It is a huge testament to Dave, who retired in 2000, that his vision has endured and become embedded in the vision statement of Greenfield Community College today.

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## Aycliffe Village Church Wedding



Sean Mitchell and Debra Deery were married at St. Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village on Saturday 23rd August 2014. The reception was held afterwards at Redworth Hall Hotel. Sean is a site Manager for Wimpey Homes and Debra is a teacher in Darlington for children with special needs. They have been together 16 years and have a 6 year old son, Cory.

The Best Man was Darren Taylor, bridesmaids Dianne Deery, Angela Kamp, Hayley Kamp and Rebecca Coates. The groomsmen were Dean Mitchell and David Payne. The couple spent their honeymoon in Torquay and will begin their married life in Newton Aycliffe.

## Norman Cornish Exhibition Closes

This week we sadly said goodbye to the "Bishops Close Street" exhibition at Greenfield Arts – it has been a great success, and we have enjoyed hearing stories from all the visitors about life in Spennymoor and the surrounding area in the 1950s and 1960s.

The response to the exhibition has been fantastic – with more than 1500 visitors over the 2 months it has been open to the public. We would like to thank the Cornish family for organising the exhibition, and Northumbria University Gallery and Bishop Auckland Town Hall for their support, and we are now looking forward to our next exhibition opening Thursday 11th September in the gallery- "Community Art Project."

Don't forget that a memorial lecture to celebrate the life and work of Norman Cornish will be held at Spennymoor Town Hall on Sunday 14th September.

Cornish's biographers Bob McManners and Gillian Wales will speak about his life in Spennymoor and the development of his work as an artist, during and after his career as a miner.

The lecture will take place at Spennymoor Town Hall on Sunday 14th September 2014 at 4pm, and repeated on the same date at 7pm.

Tickets for the lecture are free and will be available from Spennymoor Town Council Offices, as well as limited numbers available at Northumbria University Gallery, Newcastle. Please contact Spennymoor Town Council on 01388 815276 or email enquiries@spennymoorcouncil.gov.uk to reserve a ticket. Please note that admission to the lectures is by ticket only as numbers are restricted. The Mining Museum and The Bob Abley Gallery at the town hall will be open just before and after the lecture for visitors, and Spennymoor Town Council's collection of Norman Cornish work will be available to view as well. Spennymoor Town Hall is fully accessible with ample parking at the rear. Information about the lecture can be found on [www.normancornish.com/lecture](http://www.normancornish.com/lecture)

## Left Unkept the Lakes are Smelly

Dear Sir,

I was very disappointed to learn that the cleaning of the boating lakes had to stop. The people who have cleaned them have full time jobs and do this in their spare time.

My family and I have helped because we believe the lakes should be clean as it is more healthy for the ducks and swans who now seem to use the areas that have been cleaned. It's also nice to see people use the clean areas to sail toy boats.

Surely the town council can see this will benefit everyone and we are not asking for money, just clean lakes as the smell when it's warm is horrid. It has not been as potent this year because of the cleaning process so I urge the council to get their heads in gear and let us continue the work that needs doing. We have a nice town centre so why not have nice lakes? Can you imagine how many people would come to this area to just sit and watch ducks, swans and people using toy boats?

I beg the council to give permission to start cleaning again as I am certain once its done the town would benefit from this by more people using this area.

The town council must listen to the people of Aycliffe that live in that area when the smell is bad. I would love to have nice clear lakes that people are going to use and not dump rubbish in.

Angy

## Ladies Evening Raised £9,000 for Air Ambulance



On 26th August glamorous ladies from across the region donned their most colourful hats and fascinators and headed to Sedgfield Racecourse for Roflow's Ladies Evening. The annual event combined all the thrills of the races, with first class entertainment, a best-dressed competition and coincided with fundraising for the Great North Air Ambulance with more than £9,000 being raised for the charity on the evening. Tom Robson, of Roflow Environmental Engineering, which sponsored the event, said: "The evening has become a highlight of the region's social calendar and once again the amount raised is a credit to everyone who attended."

There were a number of highlights from the evening which included the best dressed competition that saw immaculately presented women of all ages enter the contest but it was Mrs Robinson from County Durham who caught the judges' eye and scooped the £500 cash prize.

Helene Petch from Cockfield was one of the runner's up in the competition. Richard Bland, of Be Premiere Hair Salons which sponsored the competition had the difficult task of judging the outfits,

alongside fellow hairdresser and Big Brother winner Anthony Hutton, from Consett.

Mr Bland said: "It was a very tough choice as they all looked very glamorous but we felt that Mrs Robinson stood out from the crowds. We loved how her whole outfit was colour coordinated."

Jill Williamson, Executive

Director of Sedgfield Racecourse said: "A huge thank you must go out to all the lovely ladies in attendance on Tuesday parading their beautiful summer outfits in their hundreds."

The evening was a huge success and it felt fantastic to get back into racing after our summer break in June and July."

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## Diamond Wedding Party Feted Artist Joins the Team at Woodham

Olive lived in Shildon, and was 18 when she first met Cresswell Grisdale from West Auckland. After leaving school she took qualifications in shorthand and typing and became secretary to Frank Hiley, Finance Officer for Aycliffe Development Corporation. She was also in Shildon Youth Choir as a soloist and still enjoys singing today.

Cresswell worked at the ticket office at Shildon Station after finishing National Service in the RAF. He was a keen footballer and played for school and local teams. While in RAF he had trials for Blackpool and Preston during Stanley Matthews' time, but was told he was too short.

The couple met on a night out at the dance at Spennymoor Rink. They stood next to each other at the bus stop while waiting for the Eden bus to go home and got chatting, making a date to go to the Odeon at Bishop Auckland. All through their married life the love of dancing continued, attending local clubs every week.

In 1952 Cresswell gained a permanent post at Heighington Station and Olive moved to County Hall and at 22 became one of four personal assistants. She was PA to the Treasurer and took night classes and became a qualified tailoress. She used this skill to make family



Front: Town Mayor Wendy Hillary with Olive and Cresswell, Back: Karen and Christopher Walls, daughter and son-in-law, and Mary McKee, Entertainments Co-ordinator at Bethany House.

clothes.

Cresswell became Relief Clerk based at Middlesbrough area covering Cleveland, Co Durham and North Yorks. He bought a Royal Enfield motorbike so as not to go into lodgings. In 1954 they married at Shildon Methodist Church, living in Byerley Road. A year later Stephen was born followed by Karen in 1959. In 1965 Cresswell became Clerical Officer at Shildon "Shops" and worked there until 1985 when he took early retirement and was one of last people to work in the offices prior to the closure of the works. Olive went back to work and became secretary at Aycliffe Hospital, part-time,

then got a full time job as school secretary at Shildon County School, later moving to Shildon Sunnydale. In 1988 they moved into a bungalow in Woodham and during retirement spent winters abroad in Spain and South Africa visiting their son and grandchildren. Unfortunately Olive has developed Alzheimers and after a fall, breaking her hip in July 2012, moved into Bethany House where Cresswell visits every day. They have five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. On their special day they received a card from the Queen.

then got a full time job as school secretary at Shildon County School, later moving to Shildon Sunnydale. In 1988 they moved into a bungalow in Woodham and during retirement spent winters abroad in Spain and South Africa visiting their son and grandchildren. Unfortunately Olive has developed Alzheimers and after a fall, breaking her hip in July 2012, moved into Bethany House where Cresswell visits every day. They have five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. On their special day they received a card from the Queen.

Woodham Academy has appointed a feted artist to join its teaching team. Richard Gore, who was shortlisted for the prestigious BBC Wildlife Artist of the Year in 2012, is set to start at the school in the autumn months.

Richard, a native of the North East, has travelled to some of the most exotic locations on earth, including the Amazon rainforest, the Australian outback, the South Pacific Ocean and the Galapagos Islands.

Along the way he has survived a sting from a deadly Portuguese Man O' War, outstared an East Brown snake, got his teeth into piranha fishing, swam with sharks and hunted lions alongside the Masai in Kenya (with a camera). Richard has met a number of interesting and eccentric characters during his adventures - a Voodoo witch doctor who told his fortune with bones, a rodeo rider who



bragged about breaking all of his, and, (without making any bones about it) a giant Grouper fish going by the name of Elvis - to name but a few.

So, how will this home-grown character, who has painted in soil and wine, find the more mundane environment of an Aycliffe secondary school? He says he is rather looking forward to it, and is,

furthermore, hopeful that his own 'portfolio' of work and life-experiences will rub off on his students.

Richard uses his obvious talents to combine the two great passions of his life - wildlife and art. People, muses the painter who was brought up on a diet of Johnny Morris and Davis Attenborough, are supposedly the most intelligent of the animals, and in his own understanding this gives us a responsibility to understand and help those with whom we share our little planet: be that the lions and wildebeest of the African savannah or those jackdaws, magpies and sea-birds of the North East of England he so loves to paint.

No one is predisposed to produce great art, says Richard - who has been doodling since he could walk: most of the time, as with all other animals, we make our own world through hard work and practice. This is good

news indeed for Woodham Academy's Wildlife Club (also starting in the autumn), who have been in touch with their newest staff member to see if he would like to put his particular skills to work encouraging and protecting the flora and fauna of the neighbourhood ... and to see if he owns his own wellies. He, of course, does.



Shafto, St Mary's PACT meeting is on September 11th at 6pm at The Library on Central Avenue.

PCSO 7430 Gavin Laycock Tel: 673 2699

Email: gavin.laycock@durham.pnn.police.uk

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## REDWORTH VILLAGE 300th BIRTHDAY

Redworth Hall Hotel, in conjunction with Redworth Village Hall Association will celebrate the 300th Anniversary of the village on Sunday September 7th, 2014 from 1pm.

A barbecue will be served from 1.30pm, and later afternoon tea and cakes in the grounds of the Hotel. Activities for children will include crazy golf, Frisbee golf and a treasure trail. Entry by ticket only. £6 per adult, £3 per child under 15 with no charge for the under 5s. (£1 per adult ticket goes to charity)

Unlimited complimentary tea and coffee (courtesy of the Hotel). Licensed bar serving drinks at pub prices. Indoor activities in the event of inclement weather. Tickets from Steve Butterworth, 18 High Road, Redworth. (tel: 01388 772483)

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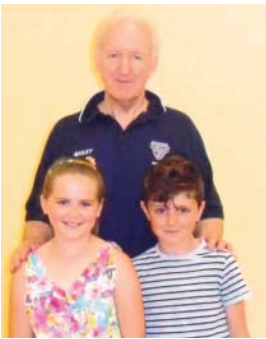
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# Town Council Super Summer Sports Skills Courses

During the summer break children have enjoyed the activities held at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex. The children have learnt new skills in Archery, Futsal and Squash. We also held Crafty Kids and Team Games sessions. There were also Mini Activity sessions for the little ones. As all the happy faces show a great time was had by all. Watch out for our October holiday courses, take part you could win a bike!



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## ACORN MEETING

Popular local residents association ACORN will be reconvening after taking a summer break during which they have been as busy as ever. From excursions to South Shields for the whole community, to an animal fun day on the green featuring miniature horses and ponies and the ever popular Farmyard Flyer bus. Residents and their families have enjoyed the summer sun by holding a Teddy Bears Picnic and a show by cheerleaders group Nemesis. ACORN will be meeting at the Royal British Legion on 11th September at 5.30pm commencing with a meeting of little ACORNS the junior section of the group who will be planning trips and events for the commencing season. At 6pm the main ACORN group will be discussing local issues with representatives of local and county councils. Light refreshments are provided. Come along, meet your neighbours and find out what's going on within our community, have your say regarding the planning of forthcoming events while enjoying a friendly atmosphere. Welfare Champions will also be available to signpost and give advice. Places are still available for our forthcoming Beamish Museum Trip on Saturday 20th September @ £8 adult or £3 for under 3 years old. Ken Robson Chairman ACORN Tel: 01325 321471

## Charity Shop Earring Theft

Dear Sir,  
Perhaps the person who stole a pair of gold earrings from the "Allsorts" Charity shop on 28th August would call back to collect the box and pay up!  
Or should I inform the Police who I can give a lot of information leading to their arrest?  
Just in case the culprit has forgotten - the shop is open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 10am - 1pm at the side offices of St. Clare's Church.  
With hope,  
Godfrey Bennett



## Aycliffe Resident Marks 100th Birthday



*Town Mayor Wendy Hillary with Mary*



Defoe Court Nursing Home kindly hosted a wonderful birthday party for family and friends of Mary Walton a resident at the home, born 27th August 1914, to celebrate 100 happy years. Mary, born in Shildon, often recalls the story of her father who fought in The Great War and died when she was only two, and so never knew him. Her sister, Rhoda, used to fight Mary's corner in any conflict as they grew up, and Mary has developed an unquenchable spirit of her own in her lifetime! She

and Rhoda used to trudge from their home in Shildon in all weathers the north-east could throw at them to work in Doggart's Offices, Bishop Auckland.

For many years past retirement age Mary worked at The Cubby often returning home in the late afternoon to make the next batch of scones for the next day's customers.

Mary was always one to travel and lived in Gateshead, Canada and Australia before finally settling in Newton Aycliffe.



*Mary's nephew, grand nephew and great grand nephew, George, James and Hamish Davison, travelled from Essex to join in the celebrations.*

# I WOULD LIKE TO PLAY AT PARK LAKE

Dear Newton News,  
My name is Stephen Robson and I am 12 years old. I ask for the boating lake to be cleaned of the weed. It was a nice lake, however this changed when the algae started to affect its appearance.  
I would like to be able to play with my remote control boat and I support the cleaning taking place by volunteers to make this possible.

# Bring Your Lunch to the Film Show

St. Clare's Church FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW will feature "MANDELA LONG WALK TO FREEDOM" on Tuesday 9th September. It is the epic true story of Nelson Mandela's life journey from a rural African village to his inauguration as the first democratically elected President of South Africa. Tea and coffee served at 1pm, included in the £2. The film starts at 1-15pm. A variety of chairs are set out for your comfort, with tables so you can bring a spot of lunch to eat while you enjoy a powerful and moving story of a man who rose to the challenge for his country and triumphed. Everyone is most welcome to join us and watch in friendly company. Further details from Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755

# Free Dance Class Taster

**NEW STREET DANCE, BREAKDANCE, POPPING & LOCKING CLASS!**  
Why not come along to Macadam Dance Studios on Wednesday 10th September & try our new classes for FREE!  
We have street dance with Emily at 6.10pm-6.55pm, followed by breaking, popping & locking with John at 7pm-7.45pm. Both instructors are from The Garage Urban Style who have just attended the UDO street dance world championships!  
These classes will be to try on the 10th so come along and have a go! For more info contact Diane on 07890 511243, or find us on Facebook, Macadam Dance Studio!

## Two Issues Related to Town Parks

Dear Sir,

Two matters in last week's edition of the Newton News have encouraged me to 'put pen to paper': The controversy over the voluntary cleaning of the West Park BOATING Lake and Have your say on smoke free play areas. Since matters are both related to Public Parks in the town I have chosen to address both together.

Calling the Town Council fascists over their mishandling of the West Park BOATING lake matter is inappropriate and factually wrong. Fascism was a right wing Italian political ideology. However, the Labour controlled Town Council's edict in this matter is more akin to that of a left wing, communist, single party state. In such a state, e.g. Soviet Russia, dissenters were confined to lunatic asylums/ banished to Siberia. The simple logic being

# Sugar Hill's Popular Headteacher Retires



Mrs Lynda Cumming, a well-loved stalwart of Sugar

## Artefacts in the Wear

On Wednesday 10th September at 7pm in Aycliffe Village Hall Gary Bankhead will give a talk entitled '800 Years in the River Wear'. Gary is a diver who has discovered many medieval and other archaeological artefacts over the last few years in the River Wear. He will speak about these and some of them will be on display. All are welcome members £1 and non members £3, including tea/coffee and biscuits. Tel: 01325 301093.

the Party is right and that anybody who disagrees must therefore be mad!

It would appear that the Labour Party have such a large majority on both the Town and County Councils that they can ignore both public opinion and the inescapable fact that the Lake was designed as a boating lake. Indeed, their predecessors commissioned the New Town Development Corporation to construct the Boat House. The Town Council's historical failure to properly maintain the lake and BOAT HOUSE does not give it the right to allow the lake to degenerate into an ecological swamp in the middle of a public park! The environment to be addressed by the "Environmental Officer" is 'Residential' and 'Public (play) Park'. Did the Town Council really need to go to the expense of employing an "Environmental Officer" to come to the wrong conclusion? Where was the "Environmental Officer" when the refuse collection strike and the 2 weekly bin collection service turned the town into a health hazard?

With regards to the Town Council's intention to allow algae and weeds to flourish, I trust that when the lakes degenerate into a breeding ground for midges and mosquitoes the Town Council will allow park users to smoke, as they will need to, if they are not to be eaten alive by the midges!

DCC 'Consultation' on Smoke-Free Play Areas.  
I accessed the web based 'consultation' and consider that it is not a consultation; it is a piece of political chicanery by the undemocratic, fanatical, anti-smoking lobby (of which there appears to be a preponderance among New Labour activists). A consultation should not pose questions as to the best way to implement the policy.

The proponents of this policy, the County Durham Tobacco Control Alliance, believe that, "by reducing children's exposure to smoking and making it less socially acceptable, children are less likely to take up the habit themselves". If they actually believe this, why are they not first campaigning for a repeal of the smoking ban in Public Houses which has resulted in smoking parents being required to indulge their legal habit at home in front of their children! This, presumably unwanted outcome of the Act was anticipated by New Labour's Minister, John Reid. However, the fanatics carried the day. They were not interested in 'passive smoking', that was only a smoke screen for their wish to demonise and isolate a substantial minority of the population who exercise their human right to choose to smoke and increase the Tax take of the Government.

When children reach the age of sixteen they have the right to choose whether to smoke or not. My own experience, as one of five siblings and as a parent of two, is that teenagers will do what they want, regardless of the example set by their parents (or by other parents in public parks). Stopping parents smoking in public parks will inevitably be counter-productive to the (stated) aims of CDTCA. Like the ban on smoking in Public Houses, it will increase the likelihood of parents smoking in front of their children at home and may well discourage parents who smoke from taking their children to public parks. The result of this may well be children losing out on the health benefits of play and/or parental supervision and protection while playing.

I caution against changing the status quo on the right of smokers to smoke in Public Parks on the basis CDTC's 'belief' which is not based on scientific fact (or the findings of centuries of parents) and question their right to deny parents and children their right to choose. Further, what right have they to interfere with how smoking parents bring up their children? Who are these people? Are they elected? Are they funded by the Council? We need to know the answers to these questions. Another (increasing?) substantial minority of parents apparently exercise their right to overfeed their children with no regard to the probable (proven) health issues. When are the health fanatics at CDTC going to concentrate on demonising them and leave off smokers?

Yours sincerely,  
Alastair P.G. Welsh



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# Autism Centre Family Fun Day

Local charity the North East Autism Society (NEAS) celebrated the end of the summer holidays with a family fun day, 'Fab Friday' at their North East Centre in Newton Aycliffe. Families enjoyed a range of activities including basketball, face painting, bouncy castles, arts and crafts, falconry displays, drama and dance workshops and trampolining. All funds raised from the day will go towards supporting the charity's Family Support Services. Working across the region, the Family Support team help more than 150 families by providing a wide range of positive activities for children and young people with autism during school holidays which includes residential short breaks. Victoria Wilson from Bishop Auckland, enjoyed the fun day with her daughter Kayleigh. "We've had a great day today. We heard about the event because we have been attending the Dance and Drama group here at the centre, it's a fantastic service that allows my daughter to run around and express herself in a safe environment where she can enjoy herself and relax. We're hoping to start the trampolining lessons on a Saturday morning that begin in September." Susan Tron, Trust Fundraiser for the charity explains: "Children with autism have a distinctively different way of processing information and of seeing the world. They have a need for structure and routine otherwise they may become stressed or anxious. As a result of their complex needs they can often become isolated from society and their peers. Children with autism therefore have restricted access to leisure facilities and new opportunities as choices are limited and parents can struggle to find suitable activities. Our Fun Day provides a safe supported environment in which parents can relax and children can enjoy doing what they like best. We have a huge sports hall and park with plenty of room to run wild! It is also a great opportunity to find out about all the other services we have on offer." For more information about the work of North East



Autism Society and their Family Support Services please contact them on 0191

410 9974 or check out their website at [www.ne-as.org.uk](http://www.ne-as.org.uk).

## Help Wanted for Macmillan Coffee Morning

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning needs your help! On Friday 26th September between 8.45 and 11am, for a second year, Aycliffe Village Hall is hosting a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. This year we are appealing for help from members of the public to bake cakes and organise the raffle. Please call Caren Edmead on 07780 992269 if you are able to help. Your support is very much appreciated

## The Neighbourhood Plan Needs Your Input

*You could also win £100*

You will be receiving a neighbourhood plan questionnaire which will be sent out in the next few weeks with your Newton News. This questionnaire is all about YOUR future, YOUR vision and how you would like to see Great Aycliffe develop over the next 20 years. The questionnaire will be asking for your comments on issues such

# NEW DRUG & ALCOHOL DETOX PROGRAMME IN AYCLIFFE

Life Church in Aycliffe is offering drug and alcohol detox to members of the community in the coming weeks using a groundbreaking new programme. Life Church has partnered with The KEYS Project, a newly registered UK charity, committed to supporting teams in churches seeking to help people towards freedom from addictions. The programme, KEYS Community Detox, has three main components, or 'KEYS'. The first 'KEY' is medical. Clients through their own GP liaises with The KEYS Project medical officer to prescribe the necessary medication for a detox. In the case of a patient already in treatment at a clinic for drug addiction, the KEYS team will work directly with the clinic staff. The second 'KEY' is spiritual support. The team will offer a Christian recovery programme using the 12-steps adapted from Alcoholics Anonymous. The team will use the well known and established 12-steps within a Christian setting to help the

## 'Rio' Film at the Flicks

Saturday Flicks continues on the 6th September in St. Clare's Church Community Hall. The film is the newly released RIO 2, come along early for a good seat, doors open 1.30 for a 2pm start. A well stocked, great value sweet shop will be available. Bring your friends, everyone is welcome.

client find healing from many of the issues which are at the root of addiction. Community Support is the vital third 'KEY' to the programme. Having the support of a loving community is a massive boost to anyone seriously wanting to make the lifestyle changes necessary for long-term freedom from drugs and alcohol. Life Church is one of six churches of different Christian traditions across the UK who will be piloting the KEYS Project, as they work together to help communities around them by offering free weekly sessions that combines one-

to-one consultations, group support and practical sessions that help clients examine issues at the root of addiction as well as looking at relapse prevention. Sheena Stephenson (Manager) and Alwyn White (Coach) underwent specialised training from The KEYS Project. A group of befrienders from Life Church have also been trained to offer community support. Sheena says "Life Church is waging war on the misery of alcohol and drugs by helping people through the KEYS detox programme. With more people facing narcotic and alcohol addictions, there is a real need for a

personal service that provides practical and emotional support for people. KEYS Community Detox is designed to do just this. On a personal note I've first-hand experience of watching a close relative struggling with drug abuse and the massive challenges it presents. As manager of the Keys Community Detox I am delighted to offer my full support and expertise to people struggling with narcotics and alcohol addictions". To find out more on the detox programme, e-mail [sheenastephenson@keysuk.org](mailto:sheenastephenson@keysuk.org) or telephone Sheena 07783 407961

# Care Home Staff Take the Ice Bucket Challenge



Staff at Aycliffe Care Home took part in the new craze "The Ice Bucket Challenge". Some of the staff had been nominated for the ice bucket challenge and when the residents were told about it they showed interest. The staff decided to do it at work so the residents could take part as well as watch.

Some of the residents also invited their family members to join in and help. We have chosen to donate to Macmillan Cancer Support. We in turn nominated Ayresome Court, another Akari Care Home to take the challenge. The following staff took part: Jane Mack, Home

Manager, David Murray Home Administrator, Julie Bialek Social Life Facilitator, Norma Leach Cook, Michelle Morley Care Assistant, Heather Taylor Senior Care Assistant. If anyone would like to donate, text "ICE" to 70550 to donate £3 to Macmillan Cancer Support.

# LACK OF COMMON SENSE?

Dear Sir, Nice to see lots of lively letters in the Newton News from very concerned residents of Great Aycliffe and there was a very good informative letter from Karyn Symms. When I first built a garden pond and populated it with fish and water plants, we did not have a problem with algae. That came when local farmers started to spray the fields with loads of chemicals. Now I have a continual fight with

algae and duck weed. Does anyone have any relatively easy natural remedies to control this problem? The environmental officer who started this commotion reminds me of other officers who seem to lack common sense. I can remember when environment and health & safety first came to light. Suddenly lots of so-called specialist companies appeared selling courses

with qualifications for environmental and health & safety officers. Who said these qualifications were valid or genuine? One can go on-line and get a qualification in just about anything, but I for one wouldn't acknowledge them. I qualified, before these experts were born, in environmental and health & safety from the school of life. Chris Palmer Gilpin Road

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# VILLAGE RESIDENTS MEET TO DISCUSS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

72 residents attended the Aycliffe Village Hall on 1st September to meet with Angela Corner to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan and the future development of the Village. The main issue of the evening was housing - including the site which has been identified at Congreve Terrace for 30 houses. The overriding concern raised was about poor access. It was agreed that Angela would contact the County Council and gather more information regarding the allocation of this site. The protection of the village identity was paramount for everyone in attendance. Protection of the green 'village type' areas was discussed as well as the need for a buffer zone to ensure it stays as a Village. Part of the evening was spent discussing 'potential development sites' and whether residents felt these sites should be developed on or protected. Angela Corner said "Whilst the residents were

concerned about protecting the village from development, it is important for them to consider the younger generations who may want to remain in the village. We now have Hitachi coming a University Technical College which gives future generations even more reasons to want to live locally." A large number of people were concerned about the speed of vehicles passing through the village on the A167 including the fact that some housing now had access onto the main road which was very dangerous. Ron Hogg Police Commissioner was in attendance and asked that anyone with an issue could contact his office. The next step for residents is to complete and return the questionnaire which is being sent through the Newton News in the next few weeks, Angela Corner will be arranging another Village meeting in November to discuss the findings from the questionnaire so keep an eye out for the date and time of that meeting.

# PCP Annual Meeting

The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) is holding their Annual General Meeting on Monday 29th September from 11.30 am until 12:30 pm at the Pioneering Care Centre. For over 16 years PCP has proudly delivered high quality accessible projects and activities aimed at improving the health, providing access to services and reducing social isolation. As well as managing the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe it delivers a wide range of projects across the North East supporting the Charity's mission of Health, Wellbeing and Learning for All.

If you would like to come along to discover the impact PCP has had locally and hear about some of the key achievements, or if you would like to become more involved in the work of PCP by becoming a member, please contact Kath Ferry on 01325 321234 or email: kath.ferry@pcp.co.uk no later than Wednesday 17th September. For further information about PCP contact the Pioneering Care Centre, tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net website: www.pcp.uk.net. Or find PCP on Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: /PCPandCentre

# Drinking in the Park

Dear Sir,  
I was at the Town Centre park last Sunday afternoon and on my way out at around 4pm there was a group of six individuals, a mix of English and Romanian adults who were very drunk and boisterous, drinking alcohol. As a young woman with two very small children I felt scared, intimidated and anxious having to walk past them to get out of the park. The park was full of families with children so I know I won't be the only one who finds it completely unacceptable for this type of behaviour to be allowed in a public place, used by families and children. Why weren't they removed? Why was this allowed to happen in one of the nice places we have to take our children on a Sunday afternoon? It is not a good example to set to our children and puts people like myself and also children that have gone to the park on their own in a very vulnerable position when this should feel like one of the safest places on

the town, especially with the security presence. I have sent a letter of complaint to the Council and urge others to do the same. Name and address supplied

# Messy Time

St. Clare's Messy Church on Saturday 13th September @ 4pm will be on the 'creation' theme. The session entitled 'What a wonderful world' will feature model making crafts, sand, water, animal mask making, fruit kebabs and much more. Beginning with story, song and prayers, and ending with a tea of hot dogs, curly fries, cake and juice. Registration opens at 3.30pm, so come early; we would like to be ready to begin at 4pm. All members of the family are welcome to messy church, mums, dads, grans, granda's, aunties and uncles. This is family fun church for everyone!

# Serving up Success with Free School Meals in Co. Durham

Durham County Council's 214 infant and primary school kitchens are now serving free meals to children. As well as being able to offer free meals to Key Stage 1 pupils in reception class and years one and two, each of the council's 214 schools is providing hot meals to any child, including those eligible under the current free school meals criteria. The free school meals initiative was announced by the Government in 2013 and will see every four to seven-year-old in primary schools across England eligible for free dinners. County Durham was part of a national free school meals pilot between 2009 and 2011, which showed that many children who benefitted from a daily, hot, healthy school lunch made more academic progress than those not taking part. It is expected that up to 85 per cent of eligible children will take advantage of free school meals this academic year based on figures collected



from the pilot scheme. The Government handed the council £1.1m to improve kitchen and dining facilities in schools in order to provide the free school meals. Some schools have contributed a combined £157,236 of their own finances to further upgrade their kitchen and dining facilities as part of wider building projects in preparation for the changes. Alison Young, health and wellbeing operational lead at the Council, said: "We are excited that once again we can deliver free school meals to some of our youngest schoolchildren. The success of the pilot between 2009 and 2011 showed that children achieved up to two months more academic progress than those who didn't receive free school meals. "We hope parents will take the opportunity for their children to access hot, nutritious school meals, which will also give children the chance to eat

together, try new foods and enjoy a more varied diet." Research shows that that having a healthy and nutritious lunch boosts concentration and speeds up learning. All school meals in County Durham are freshly cooked on site and meet or exceed national nutritional standards. Emphasis is placed on sourcing food from regional providers, quality assured and sustainably sourced. Special diets are also catered for. Every infant and primary school has a cafeteria-style service offering a full range of dishes, including traditional meals, deli and salad bars. Details of free school meals for reception and years one and two pupils, including example menus, are available on <http://www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=37> Details for other pupils who may be eligible for free school meals are available on <http://www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=4>

# The Burn as Bad as Lakes

Dear Sir,  
I wish to protest over changing the lakes to a nature reserve. The water is there for the people to enjoy as a recreational facility. We have nature reserves and ponds along with The Burn which has also been neglected by the council. It is filthy with overgrown weeds, and rotting trees - so dense you can't see the water running through! This is a Health and safety risk to children if they happen to fall in. Name & address supplied.

# Baby & Toddler Group Opens at Woodham

The 'Little Treasures' baby and toddler group is due to re-open on Tuesday 9th September after a break over the summer. The group meets in Woodham Community Centre each Tuesday from 10.15am to 11.45am and caters for all ages from newborn to 4 years old. Run by volunteers from Harvest Christian Centre, the group has a wide variety of toys and games, a baby area, craft activities, singing and refreshments. One of the organisers Helen Forster says "We were amazed at how popular the group was when we started in May. We welcome all parents, grandparents, childminders and other carers of young children. We have sadly said goodbye to a few children who

will be starting school or nursery this month, but we are looking forward to welcoming people back after the summer break and to meeting some new faces who are starting the group." The cost is £1.50 for a child, and an extra 50p for siblings. Please contact Helen on 07761 832715 for more information.

**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](mailto:syd@newtonnews.co.uk)

# Town Council Outraged by Letters on West Park Lakes

A large number of the general public squeezed into the Town Council Chamber on Wednesday night to observe the debate on the future of West Park Lakes. Councillor Arun Chandran's motion called for the park to be primarily a Recreation Amenity and to serve the public as an open space. He asked for the lakes to be kept clean and clear of algae. The Leader of the Council Bob Fleming was in broad agreement and subject to a slight amendment members resolved to seek expert advice on the control of the lake water. Counc Fleming however was very unhappy with the behaviour of the "Friends of West Park" who had stepped outside their agreement with the Town

Council which stipulated any work carried out at West Park should be under the supervision of the Environment Officer. The Leader also condemned the number of vitriolic letters sent to Newton News on the matter in particular one from the chairman Ken Robson who called the council "fascist" which he considered deplorable and libellous. Councillor Fleming went to great lengths to show how anti-fascist he was, recounting how members of his family, and other councillors, fought against fascist regimes. After the meeting Ken Robson told Newton News he regretted using the word and did in fact apologise in a subsequent letter. He also said he only meant it in an environmental context.

Another issue grabbing the Council's attention was the new man-made pond at Cobblers Hall. Counc Fleming explained it was constructed to deal with drainage of water away from the new housing estate and was far from being an environmental feature. The Town Council considered the pond to be extremely dangerous to life and knowing the current safety provisions could not take responsibility for its future maintenance. Officers were instructed to contact the County Council of the Town Council's refusal to monitor this area. Newton News attended the meeting and for the first time ever proceedings of the Council were filmed and the video footage added to the new website, launched this weekend.

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# Aycliffe Grapplers Win International Medals



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Newtonians Jack Roberts (15) and Lewis Parker (16) are both John Paul Cockrill and Dave Cunliffe's first ever students and have come out of their first ever grappling competition with a silver and gold medal!  
 The boys have been training hard over the last few months at various locations in order to keep their training levels high. Both John Paul and Dave travel the northeast to train with only the best coaches in wrestling MMA and BJJ. Jack and Lewis started training with them

and decided to enter the NAGA grappling tournament which is one of the largest in the world from America. This is the first ever UK event which had some of Europe's best grapplers. Both Newton Aycliffe lads were matched against very experienced opponents and had tough matches. They showed how well they had trained by winning medals in both their divisions which delighted their coaches. The boys hope to be entering more tournaments in the future and possibly competing in other combat sports which shouldn't be a problem with their dedication and mature attitude towards the sports. Well done lads you deserved the wins!

# Recording Business Wins Football Club Naming Rights

A young A-star musician is hoping a new sponsorship deal will help kick start his business. After winning a stadium naming rights competition organised by Newton Aycliffe FC, Tom Bussey has been given the chance to put his company name in lights.  
 The 18-year-old owns a small recording business in Newton Aycliffe, named Aux Audio, which aims to help local musicians record their music.  
 Aycliffe raffled off the naming rights to their ground, now called the AuxAudio.co.uk Stadium at Moore Lane Park, in a corporate stunt to drum up local business support.  
 "The sponsorship deal means loads to me," It has given me a boost in confidence in both myself and the business. I know that I can make this business happen with all the backing and promotion from the new sponsorship and I'm so pleased to have won," said Tom.  
 NAFC general manager Dan Lewis added: "We're delighted for Tom, we know he's a very talented musician and has high ambitions for his recording studio.  
 "The stadium naming rights was a great way for us to forge new links with the business community, with more than 20 names going into the hat for this, so from that point of view it was a very worthwhile exercise."  
 After attending Woodham Academy, Tom went on to study Music, Music Technology, Maths and Further Maths at Carmel College in Darlington and eventually set up his own recording business.  
 Tom has rehearsal rooms on site and can not only help you with recording an EPs but can also do the sound at your own gig and produce a



Aux Audio manager Tom Bussey (left) with Newton Aycliffe FC general manager Dan Lewis and local musician Lee Wright (back).

live CD.  
 With many local bands already showing interest, Tom would love to make a CD with songs from various local bands to show what Newton Aycliffe has to offer. In the future Tom would like to study Music Technology at Leeds College of Music, but for now his eyes are set firmly on developing and improving the business.

For more information you check out the website at [www.auxaudio.co.uk](http://www.auxaudio.co.uk), or you can call tom on 07935 245921 or email [tom@auxaudio.co.uk](mailto:tom@auxaudio.co.uk)  
 Businesses interested in getting involved with Newton Aycliffe FC can contact general manager Dan Lewis on 07581 784726 or email [djl@thesoccerfactoryltd.co.uk](mailto:djl@thesoccerfactoryltd.co.uk)

# Young Talent on the Wurlitzer

Young Organist Showcase on the Mighty Wurlitzer on Saturday 13th September at the New Victoria Centre, High St., Howden-Le-Wear, Nr. Crook.  
 The North East Theatre Organ Association encourages young people to play and learn the Mighty Wurlitzer and this show highlights the amazing talent of some of our young musicians today.  
 In the Showcase MATTHEW HADLEY the latest winner of the prestigious IAN SOUTHERLAND AWARD and his gifted sister Johaana on the pianoforte. Carle Heslop from Durham, Cathryn Howard, Chester-le-Street, Kelvin Kent from East Anglia and Adam Zair from Bishop Auckland all STARS of TOMORROW will appear to create a fantastic evening's entertainment.  
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## GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

**Wednesday 17th September 2014**

### Council Meeting

#### QUESTION TIME

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

With the exception of the Annual and Extra-Ordinary Council Meetings members of the public can submit a written question for the Council Agenda as long as it is submitted 7 clear days before a meeting.

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](http://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".

## Honest John Raises £2,445

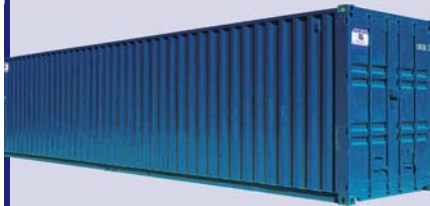
Honest John's Community Kitty has raised £2000 to share between five Newton Aycliffe Care Homes Residents' Funds with another £445 donated to "The Cubby" cafe.  
 fundraising now begins for the town's Roller Skating club. A big thanks to all those residents who donate goods to sell to help local organisations.

## Disgust at Martin Story

Dear Sir,  
 I write to show my disgust at the article regarding Howard Martin. I find it unbelievable you could be so insensitive to the families involved in the murder investigations. For them to see his face staring out of a local paper is appalling and at the end of the day the General Medical Council stripped him of the title of doctor and struck him off the medical register, but that wasn't mentioned in your article.  
 I know a lot of people who were very upset by this and I think in future you should consider people's feelings before making news.  
 Irene Hewitson  
 Rowan Place

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## Aycliffe Fall Short After Battling Display

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club put in an excellent performance against Durham and Northumberland Division 2 side Barnard Castle in the first round of the Durham Junior Cup. Barnard Castle have strengthened their team in the close season and are expected to feature strongly in the division above Aycliffe and so this was a tough challenge. On a beautiful afternoon, Aycliffe began nervously, making uncharacteristic errors and looking shaky in defence. After 3 minutes, Barnard Castle took the lead with a penalty goal. Gradually, Aycliffe fought their way back into the match with their forwards proving themselves more than a match for the opposition. The rucking was excellent and the scrum, with Andrew Littlefair playing his first ever match at hooker, achieved dominance. Just before the half hour mark, Aycliffe were awarded a penalty when Barnard Castle killed the ball close to the line. The quick-thinking David Judge took a tap and went over near the posts. Luke Tinkler's conversion gave Aycliffe a 4-point lead. Aycliffe remained the better side as half-time approached and extended their lead with a silky piece of running by Dave Gibson which resulting in him scoring the try. Another Tinkler penalty left the score at

the break 14 - 3. As the second half began, Aycliffe attacked again, but a loose pass was picked up by the visitors and, quick as a flash, the ball found its way out to the wing for a well taken try. The conversion was good and two minutes later, the recipe was repeated. After 5 minutes of the half, Aycliffe now found themselves 3 points behind! Not downhearted, Aycliffe attacked again and Warren Parsonage was unlucky to be denied a try when the Barnard Castle scrum was destroyed from a 5-metre scrum. With just over 10 minutes to play, there was still only 3 points between the teams. Tiredness and injuries however, saw the Aycliffe back line unable to hold out the visitors as two tries and a penalty saw them score 15 points to run out winners by 32 - 14, a scoreline that did not reflect the closeness of the match. A case of 'what might have been' for Aycliffe, but also a source of optimism for the upcoming season. Aycliffe's next game on 6th September sees another tough game as they host newly-relegated Whitby in the first game of the Durham and Northumberland Division 3 season. Kick-off is 3pm at Moore Lane. Thanks go to club sponsors, Whitehouse Funeral Services and S Cars.

## SPARTANS EDGED OUT IN PLAY-OFF THRILLER

Newton Aycliffe Spartans lost an epic play-off game against Bolton Robots of Doom last weekend at Shildon, by a score of 12-9. Having secured the AA Northern Division title a few weeks earlier, Spartans were favourites to progress to National Baseball Championship weekend. With the disadvantage of not having played Bolton during the regular season, due to fixture postponements, there was a sense of uncertainty about what was to come. The visitors were first to put runs on the board, taking a 3-0 lead by the 4th inning. However the Spartans found their offensive groove thanks to some impressive hitting from Mike Holton and Steve Rixon and by the 7th inning had clawed back the deficit to take a 4-3 lead. The lead was extended into the 8th inning with the Spartans adding 5 more runs thanks to home runs from Damian Valdez and Steve Rixon. With a healthy 9-3 lead and the end of the game looming, the Spartans were undone by an amazing rally by Bolton. With starting pitcher Bryan Dunkel taken out of the game, having pitched superbly for 8 strong innings, Bolton knocked in 6 runs in the final inning to tie the game and force extra innings. Bolton added 3 further runs in the 10th inning meaning the Spartans had to equal or better

this. The Spartans found this to be one step too far and it was the Lancashire side who progress to the finals, this weekend in Slough. Head coach Mike Holton was in a reflective, yet positive mood after the game "Obviously we were gutted to lose the game, especially when we were so close to winning, but you have to take defeats on the chin. It has been an outstanding year and I could not be prouder of the way the team have come of age. This time last year we were bottom of the league and if someone had told us we would be League Champions, we would not have believed them." Spartans will now start planning for the 2015 season with a short break, then start the winter training schedule. Many of the squad have been with the club since the club's formation in 2011, most having not had any exposure to playing the game previously. The club is looking to run a short 4-6 week beginner class, to give anyone who would like to try baseball. They hope from this they can add to the squad for the rest of the winter training and hopefully be able to play for the team next year. The ultimate goal is to have teams in both the AAA and AA Northern Leagues. Anyone interested is invited to email mikeholton@hotmail.com www.newtonaycliffespartans.co.uk

## AYCLIFFE UNDER 15's TEAM WIN CUP FINAL



Newton Aycliffe's victorious under 15's team won the DCB league cup final at home to Sunderland in the most dramatic of circumstances. The visitors were on 85 and needed only 2 runs to win from the last over with 3 wickets in hand, they managed to score a run off the 1st ball to tie the match. They then incredibly had three run outs in 3 balls to hand the trophy to Aycliffe by virtue of losing few wickets. Earlier in the game Aycliffe scored 86 for 6 in their 15 overs thanks to a brilliant unbeaten 44 from captain Josh Pearson and a useful 14 runs from Dylan Tribble. In reply Sunderland looked to be coasting to victory as they reached 64 for 1 after 9 overs. The visitors only required 23 runs from 6 overs with 9 wickets in hand, but the Aycliffe youngsters fought back with some brilliant bowling and fielding to dismiss the visitors for 86 to take the trophy for the first time in their short history. Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team team, sponsored by Franks The Flooring Store, got

back to winning ways with a comfortable 8 wicket victory away at Sedgefield 2nd XI in the NYSD 2nd division. Electing to bat first, the home side were blown away by some excellent fast bowling from Aycliffe's Matty Atkinson (5 for 14), Colin Myers (3 for 18) and Sean Morgan 2 for 18 as they were dismissed for just 79 after 32.4 overs. In reply, opener Joe Haines carried his bat for a chanceless unbeaten 30 and with good support from captain Chris Palmer, who remained unbeaten on 25, Aycliffe romped to an impressive win after just 16.2 overs. The 2nd team, playing their penultimate game of the season, recorded their seventh

win of the campaign when they easily defeated Blackhall 2nd team at home by 6 wickets in the 3rd division of the NYSD. After being asked to bat first, the visitors were bowled out for just 90 runs after 39.4 overs thanks to some tight bowling from medium pacers Jack Slatcher (4 for 17), Neil Bancroft (3 for 6) and Tom Wickins (2 for 20). In reply opening batsman Darryn Bancroft got his side off to a flying start with a quickfire 31. However four wickets fell for just nine runs, before Neil Bancroft (33 not out) and 14 year old Dan Bowmer (9 not out) steadied the ship and then eased their side to a well deserved win after just 26.5 overs.

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## Improvements to Woodham Golf Course Appreciated by Players



Woodham Golf Club staff are shown here cleaning out the lake nearest the 18th Hole as part of the ongoing work to improve the course. It is a mammoth task with the removal of over 200 tonnes of sludge and weeds. As at every water hazard on a golf course, numerous lost golf balls are being found and the intention is to clean them and sell them in aid of charity. The owners report much progress is being made to the course and the clubhouse. They thank golfers for their kind comments and hope all the improvements being made will make their golfing experience at Woodham more enjoyable.

### Situations VACANT

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# Local Services Can be Taken Over by Communities

An invitation to groups and communities in County Durham to get more involved in or even take over some local services has resulted in enquiries ranging from libraries to Streetscene services. The 'Ask' campaign was launched in February by council Leader, Cllr Simon

Henig, and has generated interest and questions from communities, the voluntary sector and local town and parish councils. The initial offer was made via presentations to these interested groups, via the authority's 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) and County Durham Partnership Forum, as well as online.

Initial expressions of interest were requested by the end of June and these are now being studied by the council to see how they might work. In addition the 'Ask' offer will now remain open for the foreseeable future and a framework for supporting groups or organisations wanting to take over local services or assets is being developed. Potential funding streams are also being explored.

It's an approach the council has significant experience in, having successfully

transferred five leisure centres in 2011/12. Then in 2012/13 an ambitious review of community buildings saw the authority invest £2.2m and provide a support network enabling dozens of community hubs to be transferred into local ownership.

Cllr Henig says it's an approach that offers real benefits at a difficult time: "Delivering and defending frontline services while making savings of £224m means we must consider new ways of working in partnership with communities."

"However it is also crucial this is approached in a sensible and managed way so that it results in services and buildings which are affordable, cost-effective and sustainable."

"I am pleased to see the range of responses we have had and to extend the offer to talk to us for the foreseeable future. There are real benefits to both residents and the council in pursuing this approach."

The next steps will be to progress the expressions of interest which have been received and to develop a supporting information pack for all those groups and organisations wanting to find out more.

Funding options will be pursued and updated presentations will be made via the AAPs, to interested town and parish councils and to voluntary sector organisations.

Cabinet members will be asked to note the scheme's progress when they meet at The Glebe in Murton next week.

## RECOGNITION FOR HONEST JOHN?

Dear Sir,  
There are many individuals who have contributed - in their own quiet way - to make Newton Aycliffe what it is today. Individuals such as Bob Fleming, whose wisdom, tenacity and foresight, is the prime reason why our green, open areas were saved about eight years ago from the clutches of a housing association and will remain free from housing developments; an environmental heirloom for future generations to enjoy.

In any history of our town, the contributions of such as Bob will be writ large, yet there are others, past and present, from our town, those unsung heroes, who weave their own weft and warp into the fabric of the town's social cohesiveness. Currently, one such individual is Honest John. His generosity of heart and spirit is quite remarkable to behold. In a world very much of Me! Me! Me! - John's devotion to raising money for good causes, throughout Newton Aycliffe, is without parallel. There can hardly be a cash-strapped organisation, large or small, that has not benefited from his unceasing money raising efforts. All of the cash that he raises - apart from his weekly donation to The Cubby, where he is ensconced - goes 100% to worthy causes, within our town.

Yet John is trenchant in the view, that his work is merely a reflection of, a channelling of the generosity of you, in donating unwanted items for him to sell. Some say that there must be a catch. There is not. I know that John hopes to reach a milestone, in his fundraising, sometime later this year. Honest John seeks no plaudits nor back slapping; the act of giving, the grateful smile of appreciation is what keeps the coals burning within his heart. John's health is not particularly robust and at times it is a struggle.

Now, I have a question for you, our townspeople. How can we all show our collective gratitude to him? Sometimes, just thank you, is not enough. But - and yes, there is always a but! We all come with baggage; something, some mistake or issue in our past that we would rather forget, or had not ever happened. And I include myself in this. As the Bible says, let him who is without sin, cast the first stone. Many years ago John, misguidedly, joined the BNP. He even stood as a candidate for this odious entity. After several months, his eyes were opened to their ways and he resigned, bitterly regretting this aberration. But there are still those with hard hearts who will never be able to forgive his mistake "... the evil that men do, lives on, the good is oft interred with their bones".

My hope that in the fullness of time, John's remarkable contribution to the life of our town will be recognised with some sort of award. I would like to think that it would be before he is resting in his grave. What do you think? Is it time to forgive and forget?

Derek G Atkinson  
Denham Place

**Editor:**  
*I can confirm that Honest John has been denied recognition due to his five month connection with the BNP by senior politicians blocking his nomination.*

## Holiday

**FLORIDA** 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom villa available for holiday rent. Check availability on www.villafloirida.biz

## Tuition

**ENJOY LEARNING** Guitar, Bass or Drums at home. Tel Roger 01325 321 444 - Friendly, Experienced, Local.

## Public Notice

**St. ANDREW'S CHURCH**  
**AYCLIFFE VILLAGE**  
Host  
**Billingham Choral Society**  
**on Friday 5th September**  
**at Aycliffe Village Hall**  
7.30pm, doors open 7pm  
£5 on the door  
includes light refreshment  
*The Grand Summer Raffle will be drawn during the evening.*  
*Tickets still available*

**DONATIONS** needed of Bric-a-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring Honest John 316 630  
**RSPCA North Tees & District** cats and kittens for adoption, fee applies to cover 1st and 2nd vaccination, also neutering and ID chip. Please Tel 311 215

## Autos

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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  
**PROPERTY EXCHANGE ESTATE AGENTS**  
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ARLA registered agent

## HOUSE TO LET

2 bedroom  
in Faulkner Road  
£105 per week  
£400 Bond  
**07814 022301**

**2 BEDROOM** houses to let in Kenny Walk and Bowes Road. Bond and References required. Tel 07546 226608

**DOUBLE ROOM** to let in shared house. Quiet private estate. Ample parking, £90 per week all bills included. Please contact 07703 069290

**3 BEDROOM** semi-detached new build property for rent in old part of town. Good size lounge and modern kitchen diner. Newly fitted bathroom and downstairs cloak. Off road parking and enclosed rear garden. £550 pm. Ring Rachel 07970 106393

**2 BEDROOM** house, Carr Place, Newton Aycliffe. Nice, private garden. Rent £425, references and bond required. Tel 07708 322474. Available from 7th September

**2 BEDROOM** house to let in Kenny Walk. Bond required. Tel 07546 226608

**1 BEDROOM** sheltered accommodation flat, fully refurbished in Woodham Village. Over 55 or disabled. Rent £400.30 per month. Bond required. Tel 07747 004991

**3 BEDROOM** house to rent in Scott Place. Redecorated throughout, £450pcm, £450 bond. Tel 01325 319842 or 07970 201841

**3 BEDROOM** flat, excellent condition, old part of Aycliffe. £395, will accept bond over 5 months. Tel 07866 622243

## House To Let

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**or Rob 07973 695 253**

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# Livin & Mears Provide Work Experience for 50 Young People

Livin and Mears are celebrating providing over 50 work experience placements for school and college students. The aim of the placements was to give young people a positive employment experience and for them to gain a clear picture of what it is like to work for Mears. It is important for young people to consider their future careers and to gain an understanding of what they enjoy. The work placements gave them the opportunity to learn first-hand and consider their career options. Livin Employability Co-ordinator Helen Johnson said: "The work placements have been a fantastic success and the young people have enjoyed themselves. Mears were able to provide a range of work experience opportunities and have helped the students to understand what will be required of them in a work environment. I'm sure this will enable them to plan for the future and decide on suitable careers."

Work placements have also been provided for students from the Percy Hedley College. The college helps disabled people to secure work experience with the aim of increasing their confidence and enhancing their workplace skills. Jill Morrison, who recently completed a work placement at the Sedgefield branch said: "The experience was wonderful and my confidence has definitely improved. Being given the opportunity to work in a professional environment was important to me and I learnt new skills which will help me in the future." In addition to providing work experience Mears also runs an empty homes programme aimed at supporting long term unemployed people in Sedgefield. Helen recruits for this programme and works with the local job centre to identify people who would benefit from the course. The programme runs for 12 weeks and after induction and basic training the students spend three days a week with Mears and one



day in college. Students work on site with the Mears team to bring empty properties up to standard and ready for tenants to move in, they learn new skills and gain experience which can help them in finding employment. Alan Small, Mears Group Partnership Manager said: "This is a fantastic

achievement and I'm delighted that we have provided so many people with valuable work experience. It demonstrates the commitment of the Livin and Mears team not only to delivering an excellent service but to the wider community as a whole."



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# WEST PARK VOUNTEERS OFFER CHEAPER OPTION

Dear Sirs, Observing the progress of the work by the Friends of West Park and reading the numerous letters published in the Newton News, prompted me to attend the Council Meeting last Wednesday evening. From the outset it was clear the council had carefully prepared their response which was delivered in a statement by Councillor Fleming. He described the reasoning for the construction of the West Park Lakes as a Flood Protection Measure; with the need for shallow water on the grounds of child safety. He also talked about maintaining

water levels in hot dry weather by allowing plant growth to reduce evaporation. I have lived in Beechfield for nearly forty years and something I have noticed, recently, is the frequency of flooding of the park and its pathways after heavy rainfall. In winter the Canada Geese have a wide choice of swimming pools. Such flooding did not occur when the lakes were regularly drained and the detritus removed, which begs the question; should the drainage work be resumed or does the council accept a cheaper option and leave the task to the West Park Volunteers? Yours faithfully Ian Cutter, Beechfield Resident

## Obituary

**STEELE**, Kathleen Audrey of Newton Aycliffe. Peacefully on the 31st August, aged 86 years. Much loved Mam, Nanna, Great Nanna, Mother-in-Law and a much loved Sister. Family and friends please meet for Service at St. Clare's Church Newton Aycliffe on Tuesday 9th September for 1.15pm. Followed by Interment at the West Cemetery, School Aycliffe  
**BYERS**, Rita, of Rose Lodge Care Home, formerly of Butler Road, Newton Aycliffe, died peacefully on Tuesday 2nd September. Beloved Wife of the late Ted; devoted Mother to Susan and the late Ken; doting Grandmother to Stephen and Sarah; Much loved by Son-in-Law, Stan and Daughter-in-Law, Judith. Funeral Service to take place on Thursday 11th September in Darlington Crematorium at 11.45am. All welcome.

# Baby & Toddler Group Opens at Woodham

The 'Little Treasures' baby and toddler group is due to re-open on Tuesday 9th September after a break over the summer. The group meets in Woodham Community Centre each Tuesday from 10.15am to 11.45am and caters for all ages from newborn to 4 years old. Run by volunteers from Harvest Christian Centre, the group has a wide variety of toys and games, a baby area, craft activities, singing and refreshments. One of the organisers Helen Forster says 'We were amazed at how the popular the group was when we started in May. We welcome all parents, grandparents, childminders and other carers of young children. We have sadly said goodbye to a few children who will be starting school or nursery in September, but we're looking forward to welcoming people back after the summer break and to meeting some new faces who are starting the group.' The cost is £1.50 for a child, and an extra 50p for siblings. Please contact Helen on 0776 1832715 for more information.

## Birthday Remembrance



**Thomas Tomlinson**  
7th September 1973  
Too many birthdays have gone by without you. So party with the angels and eat lots of chocolate and cheesecake. We'll love and miss you forever. Mam and Dad  
**Happy Birthday**  
3rd September. To our dear Dad on your birthday. We never ask for miracles, but today just one would do, to see the front door open and see our Dad walk through. All our love, Sharon, Tony, Lyn and Grandchildren Rebecca, Leanne and Paul and all your Great Grandchildren xxxx

**SHEILA TWOHIG** - Remembering my Wife on her birthday, 1st September. Always in my thoughts, Mike xxx  
**SHEILA TWOHIG** - remembering my Mam on her birthday, 1st September. Our birthday wish must be a prayer, God bless and keep you in his care. Carol and family xx  
**ENID SHEDDEN** (6th September). Sadly missed and forever in our hearts. Jock, Elaine, Ian, Emma and John-Paul xxxx  
**THERESA ELLEN BRETT** 2nd September. Another birthday without you. Time passes, but memories never fade. Love, Husband Peter, Andrew, Anthony and families  
**FLORENCE HARRIS** 2nd September. Another birthday without you. Sadly missed. Love, Peter, Andrew, Anthony and families

## For Sale

**BARGAIN BUYS** Bosch washing machine to rent, £3.99 a week! No deposit, no more unwanted repair bills. Tel 321 678  
"ALLSORTS" selling anything and everything for Charity. Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10am to 1pm at St Clare's Church.  
**COLLECTION** of 33 ANDY MCNAB books. Some hard and some paperback. £20 ono. Money donated to Dogs Trust. Tel: 01325 311126  
**BRAND NEW** 6' wide superking orthopaedic mattress, still wrapped, can deliver, £160. Tel 07789 113343  
**BRAND NEW** double divan with quilted Damask mattress, can deliver, £120. Tel 07789 113343  
**NEW RECARO** Monza child seat with Isofix speakers in the headrests, black and silver, £60. Tel 315541  
**2 WOOL** and cashmere jackets, one deep pink, one camel. Suede blue coat. All size 14/16, £40 each, new condition. Tel 317299  
**ROCKING** crib £35; Moses basket £7; Changing mat £2; Microwave sterilizer £1 (all ono). Tel 01325 730065 for details  
**SINGLE** Rabbit hutch, excellent condition, £15, can deliver. Tel 07814 428544

## Congratulations

Jed Leonard

Happy 21st Birthday Son  
5th September 2014  
Love from Mam, Dad, Smitty and Olly

Jed Leonard

Happy 21st Birthday  
Jed  
Nana, Mike, Uncle Allan,  
Aunt Sarah, Sean and Katie

Abbey Clark

Happy 18th Birthday  
7th September 2014  
Lots of love from  
Mam, Jordan,  
Grandma and Waggy

Rosie Elvidge

Happy 13th Birthday  
6th September 2014  
Happy birthday from Mam,  
Dad, Megan and all your  
friends and family xxx

Congratulations

Sarah and Craig  
on your Wedding Day 30th  
August 2014. A perfect day.  
Love and best wishes from  
Sarah's family xx

**MATTHEW ATKINSON** Happy 21st birthday on 4th September 2014. Happy 21st Matt. Love from Nan and Grandad  
**MATTHEW DIXON** 9th September. Happy 18th birthday. Love from Mam, James, Chloe, Erin and family xxx  
**JED LEONARD** 5th September, 1993. Happy 21st birthday little brother. Lots of love, Mel, Nick and Poppy  
**LAING - ANDERSON** Congratulations to my Grandson Christopher and his Wife Ashley on their Wedding Day, 9th August. It was a lovely happy day, enjoyed by everyone. Welcome home from your Honeymoon in Italy. Love from Gran and all your family and friends  
**JOSEPH THOMPSON** Congratulations on passing all your Exams with Distinction. Proud of you. Love, Nana xxx  
**PAULA BRUCE** Happy birthday, "The Big 50" on 4th September 2014. All our love, Stuart, Carl, Rachel, Matty and Jess xxxxxxxx

## Weddings

**CLASSIC WEDDING CARS** offer a superb collection of cars for your special day including Rolls-Royces, Bentleys, Jaguars, Beaufords and Daimler Limousines. View our cars at our Aycliffe showroom. www.classic-wedding-cars.co.uk 01325 789 291 (Aycliffe) mob 07721 771 113.

# Heron Staff Take the Ice Bucket Challenge



Members of Heron staff in the town centre took the Icebucket Challenge last Saturday. The store raised just under £300 and would like to thank customers for their support and nominations for the challenge in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust. The ladies who took part were Claire Williams, Maiden Hudson, Beverley Bling, Curtis and Paula Saunders,,

## Lost & Found

**FOUND** Lock of baby's 1st haircut in a money bag and dated. Please contact Savers



# Aycliffe Hit Crook for Five Wildcats Sign New Players

Newton Aycliffe FC broke their duck for the season at the AuxAudio.co.uk Stadium, as they smashed Crook for five on Saturday. In the process of registering their first home win of the season, they also staged something of a goal of the season competition in the second half.

Boss Aidy Webster again made several changes as he looked for a winning combination. And having won at Crook two weeks previously, the game had something of a must-win feel about it, even with the season so young. Aycliffe made the perfect

start with just 3 minutes on the clock when Paul Broom robbed the Crook defence before slipping the ball to Tom Atkinson to finish right footed.

Just 4 minutes later and it looked as though Aycliffe were going to cruise to victory. Something of a collector's item from Captain Stuart Owen, as he rifled home a right footed volley!

Atkinson missed a glorious chance for a third, as he headed wide unchallenged from Webster's cross, before Aycliffe were forced into a change with Martin Young limping off with a calf injury. Crook moved more into the game as the half progressed. On 25 they were offered a lifeline, as the lively Pinkney powered home from the edge of the box. On 38 the linesman ruled Thexton off-side as he slid the ball home, but then with just 3 minutes until half time they were level. A misplaced Langthorne pass was seized upon by Brazauskas, who calmly placed the ball under Johnson.

In the second half it was the visitors who pressed for the lead. Pinkney had two shots narrowly wide of the post, whilst strong claims for a penalty as Johnson took out

the forward were turned away.

Broom had 2 good chances for the hosts, who saw Lowes and Boagey replace Webster and Atkinson.

With 11 minutes remaining, Scott Oldfield scored a beauty. Running forward from the left back position, he moved to the edge of the box before arrowing a left footed shot into the top corner.

Five minutes later and the game was effectively over as a contest. This time it was Broom with the high class goal, cutting in from the right wing before dinking the ball over the advancing Graham in the Crook goal.

But as the game moved into injury time, new signing Zac Boagey scored the goal of many a game. Surrounded by several defenders, he broke clear before lifting the ball over the keeper and into the net. It was a goal of the highest quality, as be-fits a player with recent Football League experience.

With Newcastle Benfield facing an FA Cup replay on Wednesday, Aycliffe's scheduled game there has been postponed; meaning the next action for the Royal Blues sees them take to the road as they look to progress in the FA Vase. The Club have arranged a bus to take supporters to Daisy Hill, near Manchester. Seats can be reserved by emailing djl@thesoccerfactoryltd.co.uk. The cost of return travel is just £10.

Aycliffe: Johnson, Storey, Oldfield, Langthorne, Clough, Hinchley, Young, Webster, Broom, Atkinson, Owen.

Substitutes: Lowes, Farley, Boagey, Butterworth, Williamson

Durham Wildcats Head Coach Lee Davie has been extremely busy this summer, signing several new additions to the Wildcat squad ahead of the 2014/15 season. The leader of the Wildcat pack, Ralph Bucci, returns for a 4th season as captain and second season as assistant coach. Bucci will be joined by 'big men' John Puk and Tom Knight, point guard Chris Jones, and, we can exclusively announce, guard David Buchberger.

Dave Buchberger joins the Wildcats from Slovenian side GA Grosuplje, having previously played 4 years at Lehigh University, and is relishing the opportunity to continue his basketball career in Europe; "The opportunity to play basketball in Europe not only seemed like a natural progression from my growth and success in college but a great adventure as well. To be able to continue playing in Europe was a unique opportunity that I felt like I had to take advantage of if I could. The BBL offers a good brand of basketball and I am excited to be a part of it." Buchberger is known as a tough competitor, who takes pride in his hard-nosed defensive play, and long range shooting. Wildcat's chairman, Quentin Sloper, was particularly pleased to have secured Buchberger for the team; "We're delighted to be finally welcoming David to Durham, after 18 months of discussions. We're convinced that he will have a massive positive influence on our programme."

Tom Knight joins the Wildcats pack from the prestigious University of Notre Dame, where he was renowned for his cunning play around the basket. Following a very successful Senior year in which Knight forced his way into the starting five, the 6'10 forward was named 'most improved player' for 2013. Having completed undergraduate degrees in management consulting and psychology, Knight will continue his education at Durham University where he will combine studying for a postgraduate degree with playing basketball in Britain's highest league.

Explosive 6'1 point guard Chris Jones will bring a wealth of European basketball experience following stints in Slovakia and Germany.



Jones graduated from NCAA Division 1 College Prairie View in 2010 where he made 55 starts, averaging 6.2 points and 4.88 assists per game. Jones will join the Wildcats following their most successful BBL season, and the energetic guard from Texas can't wait to show the fans what he can bring to the team; "I believe I can make a big impact in Durham and I'm so ready to compete and prove that I belong in the top league. I love the game of basketball and this opportunity was far too good to turn down".

John Puk will be looking to impress in his first season outside of America. The 6'10 Albany graduate is renowned for his strong defensive game and he made an impressive 113 blocks and pulled down 506 rebounds in an outstanding college career that saw him named to the America East All-Defensive Team in his final season. With pre-season games imminent, the big man from Iowa is raring to get going with his new club; "I am very excited to play in the BBL as I have heard only good things about the league. It's refreshing to start playing in a different competition and I can't wait to get started with my new club". Durham Wildcats will be in action this weekend as they travel to neighbours Teesside

## RUNNING RESULTS

Durham City Summer Cross Country Relays took place recently held on the University Race Course Sports Field and Aycliffe Running Club had an entry of six teams.

The heavy rain didn't dampen the spirits and the "A" team led by Dez Fielden finished a creditable 14th out of 70 teams. Results are as follows but due to a changeover mix-up some individual times weren't given.

**Senior Men "A"** Team: Dez Fielden 10:52, Richard Campbell 11:24, Mark Wade – 10:53, 14th.

**Senior Women "D"** Team: Kelly Smith 14:00, Shelley McCormack, Kat Aspey, 65th.

**Veteran Men "C"** Team: Steve Smith 13:03, Jason Dixon 13:52, Graeme Miles 12:27, 31st.

**Veteran Men "B"** Team: Trevor Needham 13:38, Simon Robinson 16:25, Steve Smith 13:13, 57th.

**Veteran Mixed "F"** Team: Penny Johnson 15:01, Elaine Morgan 18:45, Alan Wilks 14:24, 69th.

**Veteran Women "E"** Team: Michelle Dixon 16:36, Angela Barrett 15:14, Judith Porter 15:29, 66th.

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During the trip the coach calls at a reasonable priced restaurant for your Sunday Lunch paid for by yourself. These trips have been running every first Sunday for the past five years and are most enjoyable especially through the long months of Winter.

Come and join us. We also have a weekly club on Tuesday 2pm until 4pm with Line dancing, Armchair Aerobics, Bingo, Quizzes entertainment and

various other activities. Ring 01325 308094 for further details.

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