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£10m University Technical College for Aycliffe

FIRST IN THE NORTH EAST

The Department for Education has approved the establishment for the North East's first University Technical College (UTC), which will be based in Newton Aycliffe.

The college will open in 2016, and accommodate up to 600 youngsters. It will specialise in advanced manufacturing and engineering training for students aged 14 to 19 from across South Durham and the Tees Valley supported by the University of Sunderland, Hitachi Rail Europe and Gestamp Tallent Automotive.

Professor Gary Holmes, pro-vice chancellor at the University of Sunderland has been the prime leader in the bid for the new college and last month addressed the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe stating how excited he was at the prospect of



Professor Gary Holmes

bringing the UTC to Aycliffe Business Park.

When questioned on the impact the UTC would have on the two senior schools in Newton Aycliffe Gary said the college would serve the whole of South West Durham and only take those students intent on an engineering or hi-tech career. He thought the intake from Aycliffe would not be damaging. The UTC curriculum however will include maths, English,

sciences, IT and business enterprise.

Gary said: "We are delighted that the bid has been successful, it's fantastic news for all those involved and testament to the support we've had from employers and from the local community."

"The vision of the South Durham UTC is to create a college which makes a significant contribution to the economic development of the region. It will prepare local young people for successful careers in the engineering and manufacturing sectors. Many of our graduates will go on to University to study in technical and scientific areas - many others will go directly on to skilled employment here in our region."

"We will deliver a first-class education in an outstanding school. Expectations will be high and the pace will be brisk - we need to ensure that every student achieves their highest potential in all they do with us".

What you Want for Aycliffe is Important

Help Plan the Future of our Town

Angela Corner was at the 'Fun in the Park' this week and also at Horndale Residents Association asking people for their initial views for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Angela has met with many other local organisations this week to promote the Neighbourhood Plan including Greenfield College, Active Aycliffe, Sure Start and the Territorial Army.

The steering group had its second meeting, where the Town Wide questionnaire was high on the agenda and it should be finalised this week. Angela Corner said "The questionnaire will be sent out to all households in

Great Aycliffe within the next month, if residents want to have their say on what should change in Aycliffe they need to take 10 minutes out of their day to complete it"

Next week Angela will be at the Fun in the Parks. If your organisation would like her to pop along to see how she could work with you, your staff or service users to get as many people involved as possible, please contact her by telephone 01325 300700 or email angela.corner@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

FRIENDS OF WEST PARK

The next meeting is Tuesday 12th August, 7pm in the upstairs lounge at the British Legion.

The main item will be Cllr John D. Clare, Chairman of the Environment Committee, Great Aycliffe Town Council, hopefully covering the main issue on some peoples minds the Control of the flow of Water through the lakes (or lack of it).
Everyone welcome to attend.

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Firemen Visit School Club



The children and staff at Woodham Burn Out of School Club had a very busy 2nd week of the summer holidays with a visit from PC Gavin Laycock on Monday and the Fire and Rescue Service on Thursday. PC Laycock talked about his role in the community, stranger danger and staying safe. The children had the opportunity to look inside the police van and ask lots of questions.

During the visit from the Fire and Rescue Service the children were split into two groups' one discussed the role of the fire service, fire safety in the home and the importance of checking your smoke alarms. The other group had a tour of the fire engine and the fire fighters explained about the appliances on the fire engine and how they are used to rescue people. The children sat inside, looking at helmets, oxygen masks and protective uniforms and had a turn using the hose. As the fire fighters left the children listened to the siren and waved goodbye.

Thank you very much for two fun and educational visits. We hope you like the cards and posters we made for you.

WBOOSC gained outstanding in their most recent Ofsted inspection. To find out more information about the oosc club, arrange a visit or to book a place for your child during term time (before or after

school- transport available to/from local schools) or in the school holidays (7.45-6.00pm) please do not hesitate to contact Kendra on 01325 300080 or visit www.woodhamburnoutofschoolclub.co.uk

Family Fun Day at the Cubby



The Cubby held another Family Fun Day this week. Professor Nincompoo entertained the children and a bouncy castle was also available. Honest John and other stall holders all made for a great occasion. Thanks are given to all who attended and to the stall holders who braved the rain.

Messy Play Sessions at Greenfield Arts



We've been enjoying some fantastic Messy Play sessions at Greenfield Arts this Summer! Local artist Jilly Greenwood has been leading these great creative play sessions, designed for younger children but suitable for all ages.

We have exploded paint, painted with hands and feet, made silly putty and play dough, blown bubble pictures, made masks, made

mono prints and more. It's been truly messy but great fun for all involved.

Thank you to all the families who have joined us for the past three weeks, and a big thank you to Jilly for her hard work making them so much fun for all!

There are still places on a few of Greenfield Arts workshops for the rest of the summer - contact us on 379048 to find out more.

Letters from the Trenches

Dear Sir,
I would like to thank Ric Hargreaves for the excellent display, in remembrance of the beginning of World War One, at St. Clare's Church. It was a very moving experience, especially watching a DVD called 'The Last Voices' of survivors of the war, recounting their experiences, (sadly they have since all passed away) and reading examples of poetry and letters written from the trenches.

The list displaying the number of casualties and deaths from all countries caught up in the conflict really brought home the horror of this war and the debt that we owe those who fought and died.

Judith Donald

We will remember them.

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Saturday 9th August - "Skinflint"

Previous review from the Turbinia: "Skinflint's first blast in the Tub last night, and what a first blast! I love Skinflint, cos they've got the only two guys I know who get their hair out more than me!! Absolutely ace! Everyone has said how good the lads were, and with an alternative venue just over the road having a band on again, some of the folk who came over from there said they were well pleased they had done so!! The lads had the sound bang on for us, they sounded excellent! (I loved "the soundcheck song"). Opening tune was Paranoid, swiftly followed by For Whom The Bell Tolls. Thin Lizzy's Cold Sweat was top notch as was Cat Scratch Fever, I heard that one at Crook and it's fast becoming one of my faves! Chris Isaac's Wicked Game and Ozzy's Bark At The Moon were followed by Rosalie, (which took away one of our lads' shout for his encore straight away!) AC/DC's Whole Lotta Rosie removed Keith's second encore shout so he was stuck for what to shout for when the time came! Bit of Foo Fighters and Sabbath, The Cult's L'il Devil had me and some of the lasses on the floor with the hair out, (nowt new there) and Status Quo's Sweet Caroline rocked! Whisky In The Jar totally ruined Keith's chances of shouting for anything at all for an encore, Highway Star and Smoke On The Water, and the lads rounded off with my all time fave Rebel Yell, which guaranteed me whiplash this morning! Saw these guys at Stormin' last year, was looking forward to them coming to the Tub and they did themselves proud. I hope they enjoyed the gig as much as the punters did, and look forward to them coming back for another round!"

Saturday 16th August - "Whole Hog"

Saturday 23rd August - "Avatar"

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JOHN DONATES £1,169

Honest John's Community Kitty has donated £300 to the Friends of West Park, £500 to the Rugby Club and £369 to The Cubby. Fundraising now in progress for the Residents' Fund for each of four Newton Aycliffe Care Homes, Rose Lodge, Defoe Court, Lindisfarne and Aycliffe Care Home. Many thanks to everyone who supports the stall in the Cubby. You make it work!

234 ENTRIES IN LOCAL DOG SHOW



The annual Dog Show held by K9 Pursuits on the Business Park was once again well supported by local people and also people from as far as Redcar and Newcastle.

The activities included fun agility and fastest recall as well as all the fun classes such as Prettiest bitch, Most handsome dog, Waggiest tail and many more.

Everyone had a great time and the dogs that attended were all very well behaved. The 1st prize winners of each class went on to compete for the Best in Show trophy.

This was judged by Sara Burgess from Oscar Pet Foods and was awarded to Archie a 2 year old Labrador owned by Lesley and Phillip Neal from The Causway in Darlington. As well as the trophy he was presented with lots of prizes and a large sack of Oscar dog food.

The Most Appealing eyes class had 38 entries and was won by Alaina Bullock with her beautiful rescue lurcher called Indie. They live at Herrington Court, Woodham, The class was judged by a representative from The Dogs Trust.

The show was well attended with 234 entries. Gill and Andi send a huge thank you to the staff and helpers for helping to make the day a success.



Best in Show



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Re-Launch of Town Support Group



Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group is re-launching with a new location and a special guest to officially open the club. This group is for anyone affected by cancer who could be the patient, carer or relative.

The most important thing is you don't have to tell others about your cancer if you don't want to or until you are ready. We've had two fantastic day trips and the photo shows some of the group at our trip to South Shields.

The trips help members gain their confidence back as some lose theirs after their hair, eyebrows are lost through treatment. Also it is a very lonely place when getting diagnosed, and some family members or their partners simply just don't know what to say, avoiding the patient and

the subject.

Sometimes the only person that the patient sees is their doctor or nurse then they go back to an empty house where some will be so tired that they don't even cook themselves a meal.

That is why these trips are vital so we are trying to raise funds continuously. The group now meets at NEVILLE PARADE COMMUNITY CENTRE from 4th SEPTEMBER at 6-7.30pm then the 1st THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

At the re-launch night our guest speaker is from Carers Support. As well as that we have freebies from Clarins Make up. There will be refreshments and nibbles and a raffle. If you would like to help or need some more information ring Allison 0776 2258696 or email allisonwhite75@yahoo.co.uk

Single Contact Number to Complain

A countywide contact number will make it easier for people to report a range of neighbourhood issues, including littering, dog fouling and anti-social behaviour.

Durham County Council is introducing a single telephone number for its neighbourhood warden service across the whole county from Friday (August 1).

The number – 03000 261 000 – is already used by the majority of residents who wish to report problems such as littering, flytipping, dog

fouling, stray dogs and anti-social behaviour.

Between August 1 and October 31, people ringing 03000 261 018 will hear a recorded message advising them that the number has changed to 03000 261 000 and that their call is being automatically diverted.

During the following three months, until 31 January 2015, anyone ringing 03000 261 018 will hear a recorded message advising them of the change of number and asking them to re-dial.

Cllr Brian Stephens, Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, said: "A single telephone number for the whole of the county will make it easier for residents to get in touch and report environmental crimes and anti-social behaviour."

"Residents can be reassured that only the telephone number is changing – the service will continue to operate in exactly the same way as it does now."

The neighbourhood warden service is provided seven days a week. Further information is available at www.durham.gov.uk/neighbourhoodwardens. Incidents that require urgent warden assistance should be reported to the police on 101 or by calling 999 if the situation is an emergency.

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Also collecting donations of dog food, tinned and dry and other dog related items for our rescue centres in Romania.

Many thanks in advance.

Keep the Kids Happy this Summer at the PCP



If you're looking for something fun and different to do with the kids during the summer holidays that doesn't cost a fortune, there's plenty going on at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe.

New Age Kurling and Boccia Bowls - Fun activities that all the family can enjoy, every Thursday in August, 2 - 3pm. £1.50 per adult and £1.00 per child, including refreshments. Delivered in association with Nouveau Dance and Fitness.

Kids Dance - A mix of street dance and hip hop on Wednesday 20 and 27 August, 10 - 11am and 11am - 12 noon. This fun class is only £1.00 per child and refreshments are included. Why not drop the

kids off and give Zumba Gold a try? Classes run at the same times and involve a low impact version of the popular Latin American dance and social exercise; it costs £3.50 per adult. Delivered in association with Nouveau Dance and Fitness.

Felt Banner Making Workshop - Drop the kids off or join in with this free activity for all ages on Friday 22 August 10am-1pm. Children and young people are invited to assist in the creation of 2 felt banners which depicts music from the ages. Once complete, visitors to the Pioneering Care Centre will be able to view the banners which will take pride of place in the Mall

Coffee Shop conservatory. The workshop includes a free summer snack box per child. Delivered in association with Aycliffe Youth Council.

Please call 01325 321234 to book or email enquiries@pcp.uk.net

Special thanks to the year 9 tutor group at Woodham Academy who raised the funds which are sponsoring these activities. Why not call today to find out more or book your place at the family sessions.. Pioneering Care Centre, Carers' Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF or visit the website: www.pcp.uk.net. Or find us on Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: /PCPandCentre

Survey on Children's Centres JOB AD

Parents, carers and people providing childcare services for the under-fives are being asked to help shape a new approach to early years support designed to improve the lives of some of the county's most vulnerable youngsters.

Proposals for the future of Children's Centres in the County are now out for public comment and would see the emphasis shift from specialist buildings to community venues, in a drive to reach the families which need help most.

Earlier this month Durham County Council's Cabinet agreed a 12 week consultation on the recommendations which are designed to ensure under-fives, particularly in the more deprived areas of the county, are ready for school life. A paper outlined how despite some successes the current reliance on Children's Centres had failed to deliver the improvements hoped for.

As a result and following a review of Children's Centres it's proposed that taking the services to the communities focussing on places families already go, rather than expecting people to travel to fixed specialist venues, will be of greater help.

It's an approach backed up by the council's Early Years Strategy (<http://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s39331/Item%2012%201%20Early%20Years%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>) which aims to ensure that those children and families

living in the most deprived areas get the help and support they require to prepare youngsters for their school life.

Under a national framework (Early Years Foundation Stage) the emphasis is on delivering a broad set of skills and understanding necessary to prepare very young children for their journey through school. It aims to ensure they can learn and develop, are kept safe and healthy.

In 2013, 52 per cent of children achieved a 'Good Level' of Development across England; however in County Durham the figure was 41.7 per cent.

Historically contact with the most vulnerable families has proven a challenge in the county and the council has introduced a wide range of services to address this including Think Family, Family Pathfinder Services, Family Intervention Teams and the Stronger Families programme. This approach is already delivering results.

The proposals would see the council retain 15 specialist fixed venue Children's Centres, with the remaining 28 centres either transferring to schools and nurseries or being used for alternative purposes. No closures are proposed. By reducing spend on buildings, the council will be able to maintain its investment in family worker posts and ensure people continue to receive services. Anyone wanting to have their say can read

the proposals online at www.durham.gov.uk/childrenscentreconsultation and then use the link provided to take part in the consultation.

Alternatively copies can be collected from your local Children's Centre during focus groups or activities.

You can also write to us at: Children's Centre Consultation, FREEPOST, NEA 10933, County Hall, Durham DH1 5BR.

Dear Sir,

Just what planet are Great Aycliffe Town Council on? Their silly job advertisement last week for "Appointment Of Casual Staff", stated that a minimum of 4 GCSE's including English and maths are required along with previous experience of working within a customer care environment. All of that needed for a £6.46 per hour job.

COME ON!
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Councillors for Shafto, Central and Neville Ward will also be in attendance.

NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Art & Craft sessions are held each Wednesday from 1 - 3pm and cost £2 including tea or coffee. Just turn up with whatever you are working on and receive a warm welcome.

Table Top Sale in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre (thanks to Bryan Haldane) on Tuesday 19th August from 8am - 4pm. You can bring equivalent to two paste tables for £8. To book ring Peter on 313924.

New Age Kurling for beginners every Tuesday 1 - 3pm. Admission £2. to show an interest ring 3123924. Hall available every Saturday and Sunday for Parties. To view the facility ring above number.

Wanted - donations of goods to auction on Saturday 13th September at 2pm. Ring the number to arrange collection.

Aycliffe Fire Engine Limo Promotes Disney Film

Newtonian Martin Norris started the Blazing Squad Fire Engine limousine business in 2003.

He has lived in the town most of his life attending Woodham Burn Infants and Juniors before moving to Woodham Comp.

He started work at Tallent Engineering and left there in 1999 to pursue a career as a professional nightclub DJ retiring in 2009 due to damaged hearing.

He now works for the County Council as a driver. he is single and lives alone with his two Springer Spaniels.

The Dennis Sabre was purchased in January and in poor condition. Martin was asked to loan the vehicle to promote the new Disney film "Planes 2, Fire and Rescue" which starts in cinemas on August 8th.

A lot of late nights were put in getting the paintwork repaired and tidied up before its journey down south to Canvey Island for the final preparation and kitting out ready for the tour.

The DENNIS logo on the front was changed to DISNEY and inside the crewcab a 50 inch TV was installed for children to sit and watch the trailer for the new movie. All lockers were stripped out and presentation frames built for a further three 50 inch TV's.



The Disney tour began at the International Royal Air Tattoo in Gloucestershire on the 13th July followed by the gala screening at the Odeon in Leicester Square, London the following week before Martin brought it back for the Sunderland Air Show recently.

It was then taken back to London to appear at the Camp Bestival Show in Dorset on 2nd and 3rd August before appearing at the Lollibop Festival in Bristol on the 9th

followed by the Blackpool Air Show on the 10th.

It is booked at a few Toys r Us stores in London before going back to Canvey Island to be stripped of the Disney decals and equipment. It will then be modified inside the cab and once the water pump is repaired will go into service as a Fire Engine Limo which is the purpose it was originally intended.

If you require more information please call Martin on 07725 892369.

News from the Village

This Saturday the 9th the usual Aycliffe Village Hall breakfast club team are having a well earned rest. The morning will be hosted by the lovely ladies of the village WI. True to form things will be a little bit different and be a Brunch Club from 10am until 2pm. In addition to the usual butties there will cakes & scones for sale, with a number of stalls selling local produce, veg, plants, jams etc.

The school garden will also be selling produce which the children have helped to grow throughout the year, with proceeds going to the school fund. So please come along and support three local community groups. aycliffevillage@btinternet.com

Year 9 Students Visit Durham University

On Tuesday 15th July four Year 9 students from Woodham Academy visited Durham University as part of the Dux Award Scheme 2014. This is the 2nd year that Woodham Academy has been involved in the scheme, which is organised through the Department for Education. The aim is to raise aspiration of students and to provide students, who have the potential to progress onto higher education, the opportunity to attend and discover what university life is like. The students, who were nominated by their Head of Year, started the day with a welcome talk from the Future Scholar Award Scheme Directors at Durham. Students then participated in a variety of subject taster sessions and also had the opportunity to look around the University and talk with undergraduate

students. Ruby Knowles commented "I enjoyed the day. It was very interactive and informative. It made me realise that I definitely want to go to university and would consider Durham as an option".

This is one of many opportunities for students at Woodham Academy to find out about higher education and opportunities post 16. Mrs McGinnety who is the lead teacher for Careers Education, Information and Guidance commented "During the last academic year all students left the academy entering into employment, education or training. Many of them opt to follow higher level qualifications. This is something that we are really proud of and a testament to all the hard work that goes into supporting our young people".



Great Service

Dear Sir,
Our TV made a funny noise and went off completely on Monday night.

Tuesday morning we phoned Aycliffe TV & Video Services, a lovely man came an hour later and took the TV away. He phoned us with a quote that we were very happy with and had our TV back working perfect within a couple of hours. You couldn't ask for better service. Thank you very much from two happy pensioners.

Name & address supplied

In Memory of Anne

A keen walker and Bishop Auckland resident, Andy Jakob, is set to walk the 26 mile Hadrian's Wall Trekathon 2014 in aid (and to raise awareness) of Macmillan Cancer Support.

The marathon Trekathon takes place on August 16th and along with hundreds of similarly motivated individuals, he will be walking the entire distance between Brocolitia Fort (above Hexham) and Lanercost Priory in Brampton.

Many will remember Andy as a member of the Aycliffe Fellwalkers Club (AFWC) and still more will be aware of his work as a musician and committed instrumental music teacher of local schoolchildren for Durham Music Service.

Andy's Sister, Anne (1964-2005), received incredible support from Macmillan nurses at the Royal Marsden Hospital, London, so it is her memory that will motivate him throughout the challenge. We all know someone who has been touched by the work of Macmillan Cancer Support. If you would like to donate to this cause, please

go to the website www.justgiving.com and simply type in the name Andy Jakob in the search bar at the top of the page to access his fundraising page.

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LORD LIEUTENANT BACKS CREDIT UNIONS

The Lord Lieutenant of Durham, Sue Snowden, has given her backing to an innovative scheme run by the Diocese of Durham to get more people involved with their local credit union.

The Lord Lieutenant joined the Prince Bishops Community Bank in Stanley during a visit she made with the Right Revd Mark Bryant, Bishop of Jarrow to highlight the work of the bank and its collaboration in the Diocese of Durham's 'Why Wouldn't You?' campaign. The campaign launched in November 2013 aims to promote church members joining their local credit unions / community banks and use of their facilities.

The Prince Bishops Community Bank is a not for profit organisation whose membership is limited to people who live or work



within the boundary of County Durham, which means that money saved by members

benefits local people in the form of easily accessible and affordable low cost loans. This is particularly valuable for those who have difficulty borrowing at affordable rates of interest from mainstream financial providers and who might otherwise turn to loan sharks or other doorstep lenders.

Prince Bishops Community Bank is supported by other organisations in providing its range of services including home goods via its 'The Store' - offering affordable weekly payment retail purchases, Debt Support, Household Contents Insurance and a range of other allied services. Sue said: "It has been fascinating and invaluable to find out about the diversity of work being done. It is amazing the way they support people who may have problems managing their finances.

"This is all part of an education process. Why would you not get involved? It is an example of people looking after people and that is important. It is vital work. People working together can achieve and what I am seeing is people working together to improve life for people. So much can be achieved by working together and this is a prime example." Bishop of Jarrow, the Right Revd Mark Bryant, who invited Sue, said: "It is wonderful that the Lord Lieutenant visited because it is her endorsing what we are doing.

"There is a growing sense that credit unions and community banks have a key role to play in communities where life is tough for people. Some people are finding it harder and harder to make ends meet and credit unions can help."

Credit union manager Lesley Richardson said: "It has been a great pleasure to have the Lord Lieutenant to visit. The support of people like the Lord Lieutenant, the Bishop of Jarrow and Churches helps open up avenues that had not really been open to us."

The visit also highlighted the recently launched work of national network of churches, communities and credit unions, which is backed by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Task Group on Responsible Lending. The Church Credit Champions Network aims to create a network of people who will bring together churches, communities and responsible lenders.

Bedroom Tax Hitting People Hard

Cleveland and Durham's Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) have expressed growing concerns over the financial pressures the current bedroom tax system is having on households across the region. The analysis of the Government's recent report on the spare room subsidy - or bedroom tax - has revealed that nationally, a staggering 59% of tenants affected have been unable to meet their basic housing costs since having their benefits reduced. Durham's Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Hogg said:

"We predicted that this tax would cause massive problems for some of the most vulnerable in our society. With more welfare reform yet to be implemented the situation will only get worse.

"Many in our communities will struggle to put food on the table or pay their utility bills. As these financial pressures grow we would encourage the use of credit unions and urge those affected to seek trusted financial advice"

SAYING 'NO' COST THE NORTH EAST £BILLIONS

Speaking at the first gathering of the newly formed North East Party (NEP) in Durham the Party Chairman Hilton Dawson drew upon research from the House of Commons to demonstrate the widening funding gap between devolved Wales and a non-devolved North East.

Hilton said: "Wales is very similar to the North East with a similar size population, large rural areas mixed with major cities, an economy recovering from the demise of coal mining and a rich cultural identity. In 1979 the people of Wales emphatically rejected devolution in similar terms to the North East but 18 years later thanks to the political pressure exerted by a campaigning National Party a further referendum produced a narrow victory for self determination. A recent UK Government sponsored Inquiry concluded that devolution has been a considerable success and that this should now be developed further by increasing the powers of the Wales Government.

Underpinning all of this is the public funding provided by the UK Government. NEP has obtained figures which show that every woman, man and child in Wales has £350 per head more spent on them per annum than every person in the North East. Multiplied by the 2.5 million population of the North East this shows that we

are worse off by £875 million per annum. Over the ten years since our failed referendum we have had £8.75 billion less than Wales.

This is a colossal amount of money which should have been spent to improve accountable public services in the North East. Expenditure on this scale, if wisely used by an elected regional government could have transformed the services and the lives of North East people.

Those who campaigned for a 'No' vote back in 2004 have a great deal to answer for. The North East is a wonderful region with some of the best communities and finest people in the world however we have been let down by London.

Our high levels of unemployment and poverty, our increasing status as the

poor relations to the rest of England and the underfunding of our public services are all the evidence we could possibly need that those who urged us to vote 'No' may have won one referendum but over the last decade they have lost the argument.

The North East Party (NEP) says 'Yes' to North East England, 'Yes' to dealing effectively with the real issues of people's lives and 'Yes' to devolution - taking the big decisions ourselves.

NEP is standing up for North East England and with the unveiling of our first two Parliamentary candidates, with progress on policy and development of strategy our first Gathering will take the North East's newest political party, only one month old, a great step forward.'

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Barry Chapman sent this photo of a scene at West Park Lake taken four years ago when he said there was no algae problem and the water was clear.

Check the Water Filtering at the Lake

Dear Sir,
On Sunday I had a ride round to my friends and happened to go by the Boating Lakes. I stopped to talk to a gentleman dressed in waders cleaning all the green sludge off the surface of the lake.

A task similar to painting the Forth Bridge, I would imagine, as fast as it is cleaned off it is back again. I pass the park often and it is beautiful. What I don't understand is why the inlet and outlet are no longer in use? I grew up around 'The Dandy Cart' area, and it didn't have the algae problem, but then the inlet and outlet were in use so it wasn't still water.

The park itself is looking lovely, and very well presented, I just think that the time spent cleaning all the sludge off the top could be better spent doing something else. Surely it would be beneficial for the ducks etc living on the lake to have moving water.

As kids the 'boatie' was emptied and cleaned regularly and I was informed this has not happened for 10 years. West Park is great amenity in our town and could be made 100% better if the lakes were managed properly.

The group are doing an amazing job looking after and improving the area, so why are the council not doing its part by allowing fresh water to enter the lakes and exit on the other side - it would be common-sense.

The lakes would look attractive and the ducks etc would have a much healthier

environment to bring up their babies. My grand-daughter was entranced watching two ducks with their clutch of babies, one of 10 (well done mummy duck) and another with 7. Come on powers that be, help this wonderful group make the park the place it truly can be.

Jacqui Cunliffe

Fun and Crazy Games for Bored Kids

Bored? Nothing to do? Aged 8 to 15 years old? Why not come along to the Young Entertainers Wacky Workshops at Sunnysdale Leisure Centre on Wednesdays 13th and 20th August, from 10am to 3pm. A spokesperson for the events said "These are a full 4 hours of nothing but Fun, Crazy Games and Music that young people enjoy.

Apart from having a great time the young people meet new friends and in some cases they are encouraged to work as a team or in pairs which helps their confidence and creativity skills. All this whilst having a crazy day of enjoyment.

The cost is £1 entrance to the Leisure Centre and we ask that you bring a packed lunch. Bring a friend or two, but bring a smile too.

For more information ring 0774 7826324



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For further information please contact Michelle on 07986 856166

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Call for Christmas Choirs

Are you in a choir? Do you love to sing? St Teresa's Hospice would love to hear from you!

The Hospice Christmas Cracker Concert (the only way to start Christmas!) is taking place in December 2014, and the charity is looking for choirs to perform at this wonderful evening.

The concert is described by Musical Director John Forsyth as "a gift from the musicians of Darlington to the people of Darlington", and is a splendid night of music from some of the most talented performers in the Darlington area.

The event raises money for St Teresa's Hospice, and is the perfect way to kick-off the holiday.

If you are a member of a choir and would like to take part, please call Supporter Services on 01325 254 321.

REGISTRATION AND REGULATION OF PRIVATE LANDLORDS

Sedgefield Residents Federation a group representing residents of the former Sedgefield Borough area are building support for the registration and regulation of private landlords in County Durham and beyond.

Complaints to councils, police and other representative groups are growing, of unruly behaviour by improperly vetted tenants and the running down of properties with scruffy gardens etc.

Of course the prices of housing being relatively low in the North East makes purchasing a property to rent in the region very attractive to anyone with a pot of cash to invest.

Where many problems arise are with landlords living many miles away who do not inspect their properties regularly and basically couldn't care less about neighbours in adjacent properties who often have to put up with disturbance and deterioration of the area due to neglect of gardens etc.

Unfortunately where landlords and private tenants refuse to act

in a responsible manner there appears to be very little the authorities can act upon apart from cleaning up rubbish and charging for the service.

Often respectable and responsible people have to move to get away from the problems caused by disrespectful and abusive tenants who have moved into adjacent properties. The timescale for dealing with problems of this ilk may take years with financial and health effects on neighbours distraught by the disruption to their lives.

Of course the majority of tenants are law abiding and peaceful members of society but those bad apples who are the exception can cause mayhem. With the prevailing Klondike attitude of Developers who

will build on virtually any open space available and the financial restraints on Councils who appear to be plugging holes in their budgets by selling land it is conceivable that much of the new build property will be buy to let.

As a group the resident's federation are asking for support from our elected representatives and senior council officials to set up a compulsory licensing scheme which would ensure problems are overcome efficiently and quickly.

The Residents Federation meet in St Clares church vestry on the 3rd Monday of the Month at 6.30. Please come along for a warm welcome, a cup of tea and some lively chat.

Note the group are on holiday in August.

Mayor's Sunday



Dear Editor,

On the 27th of July it was "Mayor Sunday" for the Mayor and Mayoress of Darlington, Councillor Gerald Lee and his wife Ruth. Gerald as a rural Mayor wanted a Service to be held in his home village of Heighington. The Service took place at St. Michael's church and was attended by fifteen Mayors and their consorts from all over the North East. Bishop Mark of Jarrow attended and took part in this special occasion. The church choir sang an anthem Non Nobis Domine, accompanied by Richard Powell on the trumpet. Janet Walke, mezzo, sang the 23rd Psalm and Alleluia by Mozart. The children's choir also took part. After the Service guests and congregation enjoyed light refreshments in Heighington Village Hall.

The "Mayor Sunday" was a great day, one to remember by all in Heighington Village and we thank our Mayor and Mayoress for making it happen.

The attached picture shows the assembled dignitaries on the Village Green.

Anne Linton
Heighington Parish

DOG SEEKS NEW HOME



Lovely Inga is a 2-3year old Romanian Shepherd X, she is in the UK (NE area) and needs her forever home, or a foster home until she finds that special person who wants to adopt her.

She is a medium sized dog, cuddly, fluffy, playful, adorable and very friendly. She has a passport, microchip and is fully vaccinated.

Adoption fee to our non-profit charity applies, but fostering costs just your time and love. A home check would be required, which is just a formality.

Please get in touch with Pam for all the details on beautiful Inga, 07504 235658 or Sarah-Jane on 07834 614659

Fostering or adopting a Rescue dog is so rewarding, please try and help if you can.

Oak Leaf World War 1 Collage



Please find below a list of people that contributed to our commemorative banner:

Marian Dryden - Poppies (knitted)
Allison Conlon - Zeppelin
Lynn Dryden - Poem
Helen McEneny - Medal (knitted)
Ted Storey - Poppy (painted)
Peter Stoddart - Photo's & soldier records

Hannah, G aged 12
Dylan aged 9
Charlotte aged 9
Libby aged 11
Grace, C aged 9
Alex aged 10
Keira aged 8
Katie aged 10
Elsie aged 10
Stacey aged 10
Lauren aged 8
Bridget aged 8
Grace, P aged 9
Anna aged 9
Oliver, H aged 4
Calum aged 6
Olivia aged 6
Lucas aged 5
Harry aged 4
James aged 6
Declan aged 7
Olivia, S aged 5

Joseph aged 7
Georgia aged 8
Rhys aged 5
Naomi aged 5
Adam, S aged 5
Emma aged 4
Evie aged 6
Kenzie aged 6
Stan aged 6
Mackenzie aged 11
Adam aged 5
Hannah
Jadyn aged 6
Julia aged 7
Rebekah
Charlie aged 4
Ellie aged 9
Coby aged 3
Phoebe
Theo aged 5
Luke aged 6
Claran aged 7

To commemorate 100 years since the beginning of World War 1, the customers of OakLeaf Sports Complex put their many craft talents to good use, creating a collage of many different forms.

We would like to thank them for all their hard work. The collage is on display for anyone wishing to view it at the Sports Complex.

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PCP Joins Breastfeeding Friendly Scheme

The Pioneering Care Centre in has recently joined the County Durham Breastfeeding Friendly Scheme showing that they are committed to supporting families to breastfeed. They have signed a pledge to:

- Hold a staff awareness session to understand and support the Breastfeeding friendly scheme

- Respond sensitively if inappropriate comments are made about breastfeeding in their venue

- Provide a clean, comfortable and where possible private environment to breastfeed in – this will not be the toilets

- Offer breastfeeding mums a glass of water without charge

- Where possible staff members will offer to take food and drink orders over to breastfeeding mums so they don't have to interrupt their baby's feed, if feeding in the Mall Coffee Shop

- Display the breastfeeding friendly window sticker so families can recognise the Centre as being part of the scheme

Carol Gaskarth, PCP Chief Executive said "Many new mums visit the Pioneering Care Centre to meet with friends or to use hydrotherapy pool. The Centre also houses various NHS Clinics a GP surgery and pharmacy. Breastfeeding provides lifelong health benefits for both mother and child. By helping to make it easier for women to breastfeed, we will be making a positive

contribution to the health of people in our community."

For further information contact the Pioneering Care Centre, Carers' Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net website: www.pcp.uk.net.

Or find us on Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: /PCPandCentre

In Defence of Staffie Dogs



Dear Sir,

I am fed up of all the bad press on Staffie dogs recently. I would like to come to their defence as I have a 10 year old Staffie and I have had him from a puppy. He is a little star, loves kids and other dogs and has slept with my 13 year old daughter most nights since she was three years old. I believe it is the owners who make them bad. The dogs don't want to harm anyone.

Name and Address Supplied

Woodham Academy Goes Royal



On the 9th July Michael Nelson, Head of Technology at Woodham Academy, gave a thirty minute presentation at the Royal Academy of Engineering in London.

Michael is the North East Regional STEM Teacher Coordinator and was asked to present to delegates from across the country describing all the projects that he has set up for schoolchildren in the north-east.

The STEM Teachers Programme creates a network of support for teachers across all of the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects, ensuring they have the knowledge and confidence to engage a greater number and wider spectrum of students in STEM.

He has built a network of over 20 schools, since he became a Teacher Coordinator for

the Connecting Teachers Project at the start of the 2012 academic year, and has consistently provided STEM teachers in his local schools with networking and continuing professional development.

Michael clearly understands the importance of providing students and teachers in his network of schools with an understanding of the world of work and, specifically, routes into engineering and manufacturing careers.

AFTERNOON TEA EVENT FOR LADIES

Butterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland invites you to attend their Ladies Afternoon Tea event at Redworth Hall Hotel on Wednesday 13th August 2014.

Doors open at 1.30pm and you are invited to browse our stalls and enjoy some retail therapy.

Our guest speakers include Alison Mason from "The Woolly Workshop" in Durham City. Alison has an Aladdin's cave of the finest spun yarns and wools in every colour that you could imagine. Exquisite dyed Marino, Alpaca and local spun finest wool, as well as birch knitting needles, crochet hooks, felting and rug making. Alison will tell us about the exciting workshops that are staged throughout the year to encompass the absolute beginner to the more accomplished hobbyist.

Our second speaker Julie Robinson will tell of her exploits to China & Hong

Kong to purchase the finest freshwater and teardrop pearls. Some of the most beautiful pearl and gemstone jewellery will be on sale with both simple and stunning bespoke designs at a price range to suit everyone.

Tea will be served to each individual table on stylish slate platters with home baked scones with Chantilly cream and local preserves as well as a mouth-watering selection of finger sandwiches on farmhouse bloomer bread and sumptuous cakes and pastries. Places must be booked in advance by completing the enclosed booking form or book over the telephone on 01388 603003 and request to speak to Lynn Albury. Payment accepted via credit/debit card.

Last year's event was a sell-out, may I advise that you book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets are priced at £18.00 per head.

WOODHAM HEAD OF DEPARTMENT RETIRES

August sees the retirement of Pip Wells, the Examinations Officer at Woodham Academy.

Mrs. Wells joined Woodham in 1977 as a member of the Mathematics Department. For a period in the 1980s she left to raise her young family.

She rejoined Woodham in 1990 and as Head of Department for several years, during which time much progress was made by the department and many students went on to study the subject at university.

In recent years Mrs. Wells has brought her organisational skills to the management of exams which have been conducted faultlessly.

Ian Bickerdike, Deputy Headteacher, said, "Pip has been a great colleague to work alongside. Many thousands of the town's residents will have benefited from her teaching. She has always had young people at the focus of all she has done."

We all wish her well in the future."

Summer Holidays 2014 Places available for our Workshops!

We still have places available on our fantastic workshops for Great Aycliffe Show: "Quercus Live!"

Help us prepare for this year's Great Aycliffe Show finale in the arena: a fantastic community performance. Over the three workshops we will be making and creating flowers, leaves and acorns which will form part of the performance. Join us at the show itself for FREE drop in activity before the performance.

Each workshop will be different and the work in progress will be displayed in the Arts Centre.

Sessions at Greenfield Arts will take place on:

Wednesday 13th August 2014, 10:30am - 12pm, FREE

Friday 15th August 2014, 10:30am - 12pm, FREE

Friday 22nd August 2014, 10:30am - 12pm, FREE

Join us at the Great Aycliffe Show on Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th August, 11am - 4pm. The "Quercus" performance will take place in the arena at 3pm on Sunday 24th August.

Sessions are suitable for all ages, children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Booking essential for the sessions at Greenfield Arts, activity at the show is drop in.

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- 1st, 5th, 8th, 19th, 22nd Aug

How to register:

To register your interest please contact Theresa Arrowsmith on 01325 328080 (ex 118) or email theresa.arrowsmith@ne-as.org.uk

The sessions will be held at: North East Centre for Autism (Sports Hall), Cedar Drive, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 6UU



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Have Your Say on Wheelchair Services

Registered wheelchair users across County Durham and Darlington are being asked to share their experiences of using the NHS wheelchair service as part of a review aimed at improving the service.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), the organisations responsible for planning and purchasing the majority of health care services on behalf of their local populations have launched the review to gather feedback that can be used to develop the service for patients.

Sarah Burns, on behalf of the CCGs in County Durham and Darlington said: "Our main focus is maintaining patients' independence for as long as possible and this service plays a key role in not only doing that, but avoiding unnecessary admissions to hospital or residential care."

"Through this review, we aim to improve and develop the service into a fully integrated service for our patients that reflects advancing technologies and is sustainable in light of growing demand."

Users or their carers can complete an online survey, which can be accessed via www.surveymonkey.com/s/WheelchairServices2014. Paper copies are available from Gail Whitehead on 0191 374 4167 or via email at gail.whitehead2@nhs.net. Please make sure that your comments and feedback reach us by Friday 29 August 2014

St. Mary's Church Commemorate WW1



To commemorate W.W.1. the sewing group at St. Mary's Catholic church in Newton Aycliffe fashioned a large banner to be hung behind the altar. A memorial book for parishioners to inscribe the names of family members who fought in the war was made available and displayed in front of the altar. Finally a large collection of family memorabilia from W.W.1. was on display including the remains of a badly burned figure of Christ from a crucifix which hung in the Cathedral at Ypres rescued by the Grandfather of parishioner Terry Wise after the Cathedral was destroyed.

The church will be open on Monday August 4th from 10am until 4pm for people to pay their respects and to remember and give thanks to all those who fought and those who made the final sacrifice that we might live in peace.

Summer Fayre at Rose Lodge Care Home



Rose Lodge Care Home hosted their Summer Fayre on Saturday 26th July. There were a variety of stalls and attractions including beauty treatments, children's entertainer, balloon modelling, Bouncy Castle, Psychic Readings and cake and scone making. They raised a grand total of £280 from the day which will go to the residents' fund.

Rose Lodge Manager Karen Frew-McGill said: "We had an absolutely fantastic day and luckily the weather stayed beautiful all day so we could hold the fayre outdoors."



Rose Lodge specialises in residential and dementia care for the elderly. For more information please phone 01325 304156.

Praise for Prince's Trust

Dear Sir,
Once again I write to express my appreciation for the work done at St Clare's Church by the young people from the Prince's Trust.

Not only did they work some weeks ago to improve the appearance of the Church hall, and grounds, but when they heard that we were holding an exhibition to commemorate the outbreak of W.W.1 they returned and gave their time serving teas and refreshments for the visitors to the exhibition. They also provided refreshments to parishioners following a religious service, at which they presented us with a donation to be divided between the work of the foodbank, and St Clare's Church.

It is refreshing to know, that with so many young people receiving bad publicity, there are so many willing to give up their time and energy to help others.

Ernie Temple.
Parish Warden
St Clare's Church

PATHETIC PARKING



Dear Sir,
I took the above photo of two cars parked opposite each other recently, with no one sitting in either one. I had to pull up onto the pavement and round on the grass just to get past them as I couldn't drive between them.

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WOODHAM SPORTS ACADEMY CELEBRATE

Hardwick Hall was the venue for Woodham Sports Academy annual awards evening on Monday 7th July. An audience of four hundred students and parents were entertained by guest speaker, George Courtney a retired head teacher and world class referee who has spent the majority of his refereeing days travelling the world in some of football's biggest games.

Mr Courtney started refereeing school games in and around his area of Spennymoor in 1961. He later carried out duties for the Northern League before becoming a Football League referee in 1976. Despite only being in his second year as a football league referee, George was appointed to the decisive match for the League title in which Liverpool staged a dramatic recovery beating Wolverhampton Wanderers to win the league.

In 1979 he took charge of the FA Cup final between West Ham and Arsenal, and in 1983 took charge of the League Cup Final. In 1979 he made the FIFA panel of referees and was England's representative at the 1984 European Championships, followed by the FIFA World Cups of 1986 and 1990. His message of "Grasp every opportunity with both hands and be ambitious" was an inspiration.

The 228 members of the Woodham Sports Academy including dance, gymnastics, football, cricket, softball, American football, table tennis, swimming, basketball,

handball and water polo, were all awarded certificate of achievement.

There were seven special awards: The Individual Achievement of the Year Award was won by Ben Stephenson, a talented water polo player. Ben joined Sedgefield water polo club in January 2011 being coached by George Carpenter. He has had major success in the pool with the club and has won two gold and three bronze medals at the National Waterpolo Festival and ASA National water polo championships.

He was selected at the age of 12 to join the north east under 16 regional squad and as a result Ben attended trials for the Great Britain squad and has now been chosen to attend the GB water polo training camp in August this year. To cap off a remarkable three years, Ben has been selected to represent the under 15 North East team at the BWMF water polo cup in Andorra this September.

Woodham Sports Academy Recognition of the Year Award WAS won by Keera West, someone who has embraced the sports academy since its development in 2012. She is a key member of both dance and gymnastics academies. This year Keera has completed in the national gymnastics finals in Stoke on Trent. She has played a major part in the dance performances at the Durham Gala Theatre, great British dance off in Leeds and Woodham Academy dance show case.

Keera has also taken a lead role this year in assisting Miss Minervini with the girls' and boys' gymnastics academies. Her help and knowledge has made her a fantastic role model for our younger students.

The Contribution to Sport Award was awarded to Haydn Maclean for what he has done for Woodham Sport in his 5 years at the Academy. A very talented performer across a range of sports, Haydn was always one of the first names down when picking sports teams. He represented the Academy in football, basketball, athletics and table tennis teams. However it is in basketball where he has seen his greatest success, representing Newcastle Eagles, Regional and the North of England sides.

Team of the Year was awarded to Woodham Gymnastics Academy who had a very successful year. This year Woodham competed in many competitions, which started with the Milano competition, where 2 teams of 4 performed both a floor and vault routine, and three members of the team performed a trio routine. In this competition one of our teams came in first place and went on to represent the north at the National finals, where the regional combined scores resulted in them coming third place. The next competition was the sports acro and tumbling competition held in Birtley. The girls won, qualifying for the National Finals. The gymnastics



academy also performed at the Woodham Dance showcase earlier this year.

Woodham Sports Academy Young Performer of the Year was awarded to Joshua Bayne who is part of the football, table tennis and handball academies. He has had a remarkable two years since joining Woodham Academy in September 2012. He has been involved with Sunderland AFC since the age of seven and this year has had the opportunity to captain Sunderland against Newcastle United at St James Park. In recent years Joshua has played in competitions in the UK and Europe and recently played in a tournament in Spain against Europe's elite clubs. Due to his performances for Sunderland, Joshua has been approached by the Scottish FA asking if he would consider representing Scotland in any future International games.

Woodham Sports Academy Performer of the Year was awarded to Ryan Harris for his role in the success of Woodham Basketball in the past 12 months. Ryan is a relative latecomer to basketball, having only be playing seriously for just over a year and a half. He has progressed very quickly and is now attending North East regional practices. Ryan was selected to represent the North East in the National Championship at the Wildcats Arena Nottingham where he was the mainstay of the side, the leading point scorer and most influential player. More recently, whilst in year nine, Ryan's performances have been an instrumental factor in the year 9 team winning all competitions they have entered this year. It is likely that Ryan will again represent the North East region at National Championships in September of this year. The Mark Bulman Award winner was Harry Condren. This award was very special and personal to Liam Clough, Director of Woodham Sports Academy and other senior

staff members, being awarded in memory of former student, Mark Bulman, who died of cancer in 2010. This award symbolises everything students should aspire to. Through hard work, resilience, a positive

mind-set and fight you can achieve anything in life, no matter how hard it becomes. Woodham Sports Academy Director Liam Clough says "Again our students have gone above and beyond what I have

expected of them this year. We now have students performing at regional and national levels regularly and this is making Woodham Sport stronger.

There are now 228 students involved within the Academy and I am confident this number can continue to grow. Tonight was about celebration and how through sport people can achieve remarkable things, not only in sport but through their education.

This was evident in last year's exams results where 89% of Sport Academy students achieved 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE including English and Maths. The Sports Academy has had success that I did not believe was possible so early on, and that is down to the hard work, dedication and desire of students and staff".

Woodham Sports Academy will introduce two additional academies, leadership and girls' football, for September. Dance, gymnastics and swimming provision will also be extended to meet demand.

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Are You Getting Married?

If you or your partner live or lived in Newton Aycliffe or the surrounding villages and are planning to get married, **Newton News** would like to record this special day, using your photo; to let our readers know about your happy occasion and recording the event in print and on our website.

Contact Paul or Syd on 01325 300212 to find out how

Slimming World Helps Cancer Research



Slimming World as a company are passionate in not only helping people lose weight and change their lives but for helping raise awareness for charities and the local Slimming World groups in Aycliffe, Bishop Auckland and Shildon gathered recently to help raise money for Cancer Reserch UK. Over 100 members, friends and family turned out at Shildon race track to complete the Slimming World Race for Life 5k and it was an amazing day with tombola, raffle, name the bear and penalty shoot out for the children. One member said ‘the Slimming World Consultants really made a

huge effort to ensure everyone had fun and it was great to get some healthy exercise in there too’. From donations and sponsorship, they have currently raised £339.90 with money still coming in. Jo Mackintosh a Consultant from Shildon was blown away by peoples generosity. ‘Members really did us proud with participating and donating some amazing gifts. Some members walked further than they had in years and it was inspiring to watch’. For further information on your nearest Slimming World group, go to SlimmingWorld.com

Hog Roast at Brafferton Village Fete

Brafferton Village hold their annual Fete on Sunday 10th August from 4pm with competitions for adults and children including photography, poetry (1st World War Theme) and a single bloom contest. Stalls include, plants, tombola, Body Shop, Butchers, Tuck Shop. On the green there will be a Snail Race, Chuck the Chicken and many more. Hog Roast will be on sale £5 adults and £2.50p for children. Further details from Heather on 312161.

LOCAL SPORT Free Trampoline Lessons at NEAS



Families across the region have benefited from free trampoline lessons this summer at local charity North East Autism Society site in Newton Aycliffe. This was made possible from the Benfield Motors CharitableTrust who donated £1000 towards the sessions. The charity recognise it is often difficult for families of children with autism and additional needs to access services during the summer holidays. Theresa Arrowsmith, Co-ordinator explains: “Families use the summer to meet new people and enjoy new experiences, but many children and young people with autism rely heavily on a routine and the change can be disorientating. Some children and young people find coping without their normal routine frightening and upsetting. We focus on adding structure to the holiday, building up a routine so the whole family can relax and enjoy the break. In providing the right safe environment, we can use the experience to support the young people to be included within society.” The trampoline sessions have been open to children and young people with special needs and have been a fantastic resource for families over the summer holidays. The charity hope to run the sessions again in the autumn. For more information about North East Autism Society, visit www.ne-as.org.uk or call 0191 410 9974.

Ineos Captain’s Day



Even the threat of downpour, spirits weren’t dampened on what can only be called a fantastic day for the Ineos Golf Club. The event was a great example of how golf can help local charities with members donating items to make up food parcels for the unfortunate people struggling in our area. Pictured above is Stephen Howlett who won the 9 hole Stableford Competition with Dan Harrison 2nd and Robin Charge 3rd. Others winners on the day were Graham Donelly, Dave Molyneux and Fred Clement. Many thanks also go to the people who helped make the day a great success.



Rugby Season Starts

The countdown for the start of Newton Aycliffe’s Rugby Club 2014 - 2015 season has started with the first match a pre-season friendly away to Yorkshire 3rd team Northallerton on Saturday 23rd August. This is followed by a County Cup game to kick start the season off officially against Barnard Castle the following Saturday at home. Aycliffe Rugby Club will be increasing the training tempo as from next week, starting 5th August to Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7pm as well as Saturday at 1pm. It is not too late for any potential new players to join the club, whether new to the game or experienced. Please contact head coach Peter Ryans for training details 0779 6172599

Want to Play Badminton?

The Commonwealth Games in Glasgow has seen British Badminton enjoy a lot of success over the past 2 weeks with Team England exceeding their target of 3 medals by winning 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals. The stand out performance of this was the Mixed Doubles in which Chris & Gabby Adcock made history becoming the first husband and wife pair to win Commonwealth Gold in badminton beating team mates Chris Langridge & Heather Oliver. In addition to these performances, in the Mens Singles Rajiv Ouseph who just missed out on a medal finishing 4th as did Chris Adcock and Andy Ellis in the Mens Doubles. The other British Medal was won by Scotlands Kirsty Gilmour (a Silver Medal in the Ladies Singles). If anyone has enjoyed watching the badminton and wants to try the sport Aycliffe Badminton Club play every Friday evening from 7.30 - 9.30 at Aycliffe Leisure Centre with new members and guests always welcome. For more information visit <http://aycliffebadminton.webs.com>

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COMPETITION FOR FREE ENTRY TO WRESTLING MATCH

American Wrestling comes to Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Saturday 30th August and there are three lots of four tickets to be won by answering the simple question of *How many men will there be in the Royal Rumble*. See Advert above for more details.

ANSWER

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GIVING COLD CALLERS THE COLD SHOULDER

Residents are getting help to give cold callers the cold shoulder as trading standards officers join forces with Durham Constabulary. People will be getting stickers to warn unwanted callers to stay away and signs

are going up on lampposts to warn them that they are not welcome. Residents will also get handy booklets detailing useful tips on dealing with rogue callers. Joanne Waller, head of environment, health and

consumer protection, Durham County Council, said: "Residents need to be on their guard against bogus callers and aggressive salesmen who won't take no for an answer. These schemes will help to reassure householders and send out a clear message that cold callers are not welcome.

"Working in partnership with the Police we are keen to help residents take control of dealing with unwanted callers at the door. Where traders are found to be breaking the law, this will be taken up with them." A cold caller awareness zone was launched in Ouston, Chester-le-Street, at the

start of June as part of an on-going rolling programme throughout County Durham. The booklet is available by contacting trading standards at Durham County Council on 03000 261 016. For further information on consumer rights please contact the Consumer Helpline on 03454 040 506

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



We thank reader Bill Cooksey for sending in this lovely photograph of waterlilies on the Nature Park along from the Blue Bridge. Send your photos to syd@newtonnews.co.uk

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Helen Brischuk married Alan Gaskarth on the 28th June 2014 at All Saints Church, Hurworth followed by a Reception at Croft Spa Hotel. The couple both live in Ross Walk in Newton Aycliffe.

The Bridesmaids were Stacey Worth and Clare Brischuk. The Flower Girls were Fearn and Hannah Bruschuk.

The Best Men were Alan Gaskarth Snr. and Cole Gaskarth, the Groom's Son. The Usher was Mark Brischuk.

Families and friends of the couple wish them all the happiness they deserve for the future.



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 Bill Amos, Woodham

In Memoriam

Brenda Scoones



24/7/1936 to 13/8/2013
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Coast to Coast Achievement

OPEN EVENING TO DISCUSS TOWN FESTIVAL FOR 2015



Well done to the Aycliffe bikers who completed the Morecambe to Saltburn Coast to Coast ride on 2nd August in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Despite the inclement weather they all arrived safely even though they were a bit wet, dirty and bruised. The support team they had on the way has to be congratulated as well for keeping spirits up with plenty of food and water. Thanks also to the families who turned up to welcome them at the finishing line. Photo: left to right - Peter Russell, Jeff Masson, Arran Fuller, David Patrick, Chris Patrick, Lee Bannister. All the lads live in Newton Aycliffe and work locally – Jeff, David and Chris have been friends since school days and despite holding down full time jobs have still managed to train on weekends and evenings. The coast to Coast was 103 miles long which took them 11 hours to complete (including breaks). Jeff said

Infrastructure Spend £5,426 per head in London, Only £223 in the North East

London receives more spending per head on infrastructure than any other English region, according to a new report published today by the think tank IPPR North. IPPR North analysis shows infrastructure spending, where public money is involved, is:

- £5,426 per head in London
- £1,248 per head in the North West
- £614 per head in the East of England
- £581 per head in Yorkshire & the Humber
- £502 per head in the South East
- £474 per head in the South West
- £438 per head in the East Midlands
- £389 per head in the West Midlands
- £223 per head in the North East

The report says that the regional imbalances in infrastructure spending are the result of London having big, high-value projects such as Crossrail, Thameslink. The average value of a project in London is over £1.2 billion compared to £83 million in the North East. The report says that large-scale infrastructure projects can have a transformative effect on the local and national economy. It says that the North must come up with its own ideas for a range of major projects which could transform the northern economy. IPPR North is currently running a competition to find new projects which address existing and future infrastructure needs of the North of England. The Great North Plan competition is looking for ideas to rival major infrastructure schemes which currently exist in London and the South East. The competition will be open to people aged 25 or under and there will be a £1000 prize for the winning entry. Ed Cox, Director of IPPR North, said: "Effective infrastructure is the bedrock of an effective and efficient economy. Transport connections, flood defences and high-speed broadband networks all allow people and goods to move quickly from place to place and for business to flourish. It is widely recognised that the North of England loses out as government spending on infrastructure is continuously skewed towards London. The One North plan published this week provides a vision for the North, and

An open evening is to be held at the Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre, Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe on either Monday

11th or Thursday 14th August at 6pm. The open evenings are to provide information about the Festival and gauge the interest of the local organisations. It is hoped that the outcome of the meeting will be that groups will give further consideration or agree in principle to providing a community event during the timescale of the Festival. The concept of the Festival

is to involve as many Aycliffe groups, businesses and voluntary organisations as possible, encouraging them to organise an 'event' within the timeframe of the Festival. It is anticipated that the 'events' organised by the local community will provide a wide variety of experiences for children and adults and will hopefully deliver a range of activities throughout the Parish. If you are unable to attend on that date, but would be interested in receiving further information when it is available, please contact us and we will add you to our Festival mailing list. If you intend to come, it would be appreciated if you could telephone 300700 or e-mail festival@great-aycliffe.gov.uk to book your place. You can also visit Aycliffe Fest on Facebook

Birthday Remembrance

Wilf Foster
(Painter - Aycliffe Development Corporation)



8th August
Thinking of you Dad on what would have been your 100th birthday. Love and miss him always. Family and Friends

BRIAN DUNN 9th August. Our beautiful memories are treasured forever, the love and happy times that we shared together. Always in my thoughts, your loving Wife Margaret xxxxxxxxx
BRIAN DUNN 9th August. The best little Dad and Granda in the world!!! Thinking of you Dad and Granda on your birthday, wishing you were still here, remembering you with a mountain of love and an ocean full of tears. In our hearts, love from all your Bairns and Grandbairns xxxxxxxx

Thank You

AMY VIGGERS would like to thank all of her family for the wonderful surprise party on her 90th birthday. Also, thank you to all family, friends and neighbours for the lovely cards, gifts and well wishes. God bless you all.
MRS MARGARET (PEGGY) STEELE Norma and families would like to express their gratitude for kind words, comfort and also the ongoing support. Please know that your kindness during this hard time has meant so much to our families. Special thanks to Pam Lovelass who conducted a wonderful Service, The Reverend Chris Pearson for his presence, Defoe Court who treated Peggy with dignity and cared for her during the last few weeks of her life, Sally Parkin her neighbour, who showed such love and devotion during her stay in Defoe Court and the carers from Dale Care. Thank you to the Ladies of St. Clare's who served the buffet, to John Whitehouse and Bryan Shepherd the Funeral Directors who carried out my wishes, nothing was too much trouble, Bryan walked Peggy the entire way from my house to St. Clare's . . . What a gesture. Lastly to everyone who sent wonderful cards and messages and generously supported the Roof Fund for St. Clare's, the amount of donations received so far total £537.01. Thank you, and to a very special Lady, I say "Good night and God Bless you, Love You.

Congratulations

Brooke Alice Atkinson

Happy 8th Birthday Sweetheart
Lots of love from Granny and Grandma xxxx

John & Freda Jones
(of Aycliffe Village)

Emerald Wedding Anniversary
(55 years) 8th August
Best wishes from all your family and friends

AMELIA DUNN Happy 1st birthday to our special Daughter Amelia on 13th August. Love you millions from Mammy and Daddy xx
AMELIA DUNN Happy 1st birthday to our Granddaughter Amelia on 13th August. Love you lots, Gran and Grandad Thompson xxx
AMELIA DUNN Happy 1st birthday to our little Sister Amelia. Love you. Love, Cameron and Bradley xxx
AMELIA DUNN Wishing our beautiful Granddaughter Amelia a happy 1st birthday. Lots of love from Grandma, Granda and Emma xxx

In Memoriam

SHAUN HARPER As another year passes, always remembered. Glen
DOT POSKETT Died 6th August 2005. Treasured and special memories of a dearly loved Mam, Grandma and Great Grandma. Sadly missed by Daughter Susan, Michelle, Kevin, Lisa and families xxxxx
DOROTHY POSKETT Died 6th August 2005. Treasured memories of a loving Mam and Grandma. Loved and remembered always. Sandra, Michael and Gemma xxx
LESLIE GORDON RAW Died 4th August 1996. Remembered always by Wife, Family and Granddaughters
BRIAN RICHARDSON Sadly passed away on 6th August 2013, aged 75 years, after a short illness. Dad, we can't believe a year has gone since you left this Earth and joined Mam in Heaven. We miss you so much, you were the best Dad a girl could have. Love you always, your Daughters Val and Christine, Son-in-Laws Mark and Richard and Grandchildren Philip, Theresa, Cathy, Daryl, Shawn, Paul, Lyndsey and Brandon; also Great Grandchildren and your Brothers Ken and Colin. God Bless xxxxx

John & Margaret Harrison

Golden Wedding Anniversary
Love from Julie, Garry, Jack, Daniel, Andrew, Jane and Girls, Neil, Linda and family xxxxx

Harrison Gray Taylor

TWO YEARS OLD
13th August 2014
Happy birthday Harrison. Hope you have a great birthday party. Lots of love, Mam & Dad, Nana & Grandad Gray, Grandma & Granda Taylor and all the family xxxxxxxx

Jack William Shearer Davies

18 AT LAST!
Happy birthday Jack. Love, Mam, Dad, Tom and Paige xxxxx
Happy 18th Birthday Jack
Lots of love, Grandma and Grandad xxxx

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Charlotte Icton's puppy Max helps load the dishwasher

New Electronic Scoreboard for Town Cricket Club



Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club have unveiled their new electronic scoreboard which has been purchased with the aid of the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) and local County

Councillors Mike Dixon, Sarah Iveson, Joan Gray, Eddy Adam, Kate Hopper and Jed Hillary. The scoreboard, pictured being unveiled by Councillors Jed Hillary and Joan Gray along

with GAMP representative Adam White, replaces the manual scoreboard that has been in use by the cricket club for many years and required somebody to change the score at the end of each over.

Also pictured is Club Chairman Ian Palmer together with Club Secretary Lee Weldon, second team captain Adam Gittins, Under 11 and Under 13 coaches Joe Haines and Michael Howe and members of the junior academy.

Ian said "This is another tremendous step forward for the Cricket Club. The installation of the scoreboard, to be used at all levels from under 11 through to senior games, will enhance the match day experience for players and spectators alike who will now have instant access to scores including individual batsman's scores. We as a cricket club have made great strides in recent years, both on and off the field, with over 50 junior members playing cricket from age 9, as well as fielding two senior teams with talks ongoing about possibly fielding a third senior team sometime in the future. Since we made the decision to join the North Yorkshire and South Durham League GAMP have been great supporters of the club, providing funding to improve facilities, enabling us to strive to achieve the success that a town like Newton Aycliffe deserves.

We would also like to thank members of the business community who have supported the Cricket Club particularly Frank's the Flooring Store, who are the main club sponsors. Innovations, who are match ball sponsors, and all the organisations who advertise around the ground". Anybody who is interested in sponsorship or advertising packages can contact Ian on (01325) 312086.

AYCLIFFE RUNNERS IN DERBYSHIRE

On the 25th and 26 July hundreds of athletes descended on Catton Park in Derbyshire to take part in the Adidas Thunder Run 24hr event - an off road relay race against the clock, run solo, pairs, or teams of five or eight. Aycliffe entered 3 teams of eight.

The name of each team, position finished and total time is entered below, followed by individual names, total times and laps



CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team team, sponsored by Franks The Flooring Store, were thwarted by the weather after putting themselves in with a great chance of victory against the NYSD division 2 leaders. After being asked to bat first, Aycliffe blasted their way to an impressive 225 for 8 with excellent innings from Michael Howe (45 runs), Ross Dixon (41 not out), Sam Telford (41 runs) and Chris Palmer (36 runs) when the rain forced the game to be abandoned after 42.4 overs.

The 2nd team were desperately unlucky not to win away at Billingham Synthonia 2nd XI in their NYSD division 3 clash. Aycliffe elected to bat first and totalled a useful 184 for 9 from their allotted 50 overs thanks to Joe Haines, who top scored with 44, Darryn Bancroft (31 runs) and a useful score of 32 from captain Adam Gittins. In reply, despite some good bowling from medium pacers Jack Slatcher (3 for 49) and Neil Bancroft (2 for 35), the home team batted out the overs to finish their innings on 142 for 9 after 39 overs with Aycliffe unable to take the last wicket, which would have given them a deserved victory.

The under 15's finished their league programme with a home defeat to Bishop Auckland by 67 runs. The visitors smashed an impregnable 167 for 3 in their allotted 20 overs, with Ryan Patrick the pick of the Aycliffe bowlers taking 2 wickets for 18 runs. In reply opener Dan Bowmer got his side off to a flier with a typically aggressive 20 runs. 13 year olds Jack Lowery (42 not out) and Adam Lamb (26 not out) both batted well for Aycliffe, but the winning target was just too much for the youngsters as the innings closed on a respectable 100 for 1 from their 20 overs. The under 11's lost away at Wolviston but the Aycliffe captain Lucas Pilling deserves praise for an excellent score of 18 not out during his team's innings.

completed.
ARC ANGELS 8x - Position 30th _ Total time 24:35:05
Dez Fielden - 2:42:41 - 4 laps,
Lee Wren - 3:02:13 - 4 laps,
John Burnside - 3:42:26 - 4 laps,
Steve Smith 0:56:47 (retired injured),
Naomi Kellett - 3:39:59 - 4 laps,
Graeme Miles - 3:32:43 - 4 laps,
Penny Johnson - 2:55:42 - 3 laps,
Clare Rose - 4:02:34 4 laps.
NOAH'S ARC 8x - Position 78th - Total time 24:48:32
Dave Blewitt - 2:40:14 - 3 laps,
Rob Nicholson - 2:44:35 - 3 laps,
Michael

Scott - 3:33:11 4 laps,
Matthew Bell - 2:18:13 - 3 laps,
Dean Barclay - 2:54:44 - 3 laps,
Alan Dodshon - 3:03:42 - 3 laps,
Kat Aspey - 3:46:32 - 3 laps,
Yvonne Williams - 3:46:41 - 3 laps.
DARC DESTROYERS 8x - Position - 129th - Total time 24:00:56
Alan Pollock - 4:05:10 - 4 laps,
Michael Smith - 1:18:36 - 1 lap,
Iain Lee - 2:00:24,
Jason Dixon - 2:49:13 3 laps,
Laura Knox - 3:29:20 - 3 laps,
Michelle Dixon - 2:58:48 - 3 laps,
Phil Tomelty - 3:25:48 - 3

laps, Shelley McCormack - 3:54:01 - 4 laps.

On the 17th July six members of the club competed in the 5k trail race at Ropner Park.

This was the latest in the Summer Tees Trail races and was once again by fine summer weather.

Dave Blewitt was first home for the club, 26th in the excellent time of 20:54, followed by Steve Smith, 41st 22:09, Trevor Needham, 53rd 22:59, Simon Robinson, 91st 26:35, Yvonne Williams, 116th 29:37 and finally Michael Smith, 129th 32:08.

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