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The Last Year for Great Aycliffe Show



Great Aycliffe Show brought its run of more than thirty years to a triumphant close last weekend, drawing hundreds of visitors from the parish and further afield.

A wide variety of arena entertainment drew laughter, cheers and applause from the spectators, with Jason Smyth's spectacular motorcycle and quad bike stunt display of 30ft high jumps amazing everyone. Equine duo Billy and Maggie, known as Big 'n Little, delighted both the young and the not so young with their routine of tricks and antics, while rousing musical entertainment came from the Newton Aycliffe Pipe Band, with their pipes and drums. The North East Strongest Man Competition demonstrated an impressive show of strength from the participating athletes, to gasps from the crowd. Even some rain on Saturday did not dampen enthusiasm, with Aycliffe Dance Academy staging a flash mob dance. New for this year, and with sponsorship from Great

Aycliffe Town Council and Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership, was a performance of dance, music and drama from Quercus Live. The showfield also hosted a range of other activities for all the family to enjoy - from a vintage vehicle parade to the ever-popular Punch and Judy show and face painting. The handcraft and horticulture competitions were well supported, with 743 entries in an impressive display of home produce, art and craft, in addition to vegetables and some stunning flowers for visitors to admire. Livestock also played its part in making the Show a success, with competitions being held for rabbits, poultry and pigeons. Young sport lovers enjoyed the opportunity to take part in the Five-a-Side Football Knockout Tournament, with great support from spectators on the sidelines, while the Golf Tournament catered for both skilled and less experienced golfers. Great Aycliffe Show has

come to an end, but the Town Council is now looking forward to its replacement, Aycliffe Festival, which will take place from 3rd to 12th July next year and involve a host of community-led events taking place at many different locations throughout the parish. If you or your group is interested in organising and providing an event at this time, please contact Great Aycliffe Town Council on 300700.

More photos on Page 7

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CALLING ALL AYCLIFFE VILLAGE RESIDENTS

Is the Village important to you? If so what would your priorities be for the Neighbourhood Plan? Is it housing development, protection of the environment or sustainability of the Village?

If you are a resident of Aycliffe Village, you may be interested in attending the Neighbourhood Plan meeting in the Village Hall on 1st September 7pm – 8pm. Angela Corner, Community Neighbourhood Engagement Officer said “This is the residents’ chance to have their say in what planning

policies should be put in place for their village, it is the first step in consultation where residents can tell us their issues and priorities”

There will be a short presentation by Angela Corner and a chance for questions and answers, the remainder of the meeting will be to gather the residents’ views on what should be the priorities for the plan. If you require any further information please contact Angela Corner on 01325 300700 or email angela.corner@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Multi £Million Order for Aycliffe Cable Company

Tekmar Energy, the leading cable protection specialist based at Aycliffe Business Park has been awarded a multi-million pound project with Statoil and Statkraft on the Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm for the supply of its patented technology TekLink®.

As part of the cable contract VSMC will be procuring the TekLink® Mechanical Latch Cable Protection System which will be installed for the protection of the subsea power cables into the J-tubeless monopile foundations. Additionally, Tekmar’s



bespoke polyurethane bellmouths will be used on the offshore substation foundation, protecting the interface of platform and export cables.

This marks some significant milestones for Tekmar as this is the 15th project to be working closely with installation contractor VSMC following the recent joint success both parties have experienced in Germany on Meerwind and on-going installation with Butendiek. This also marks the 30th offshore wind project Tekmar Energy has been awarded and follows the recent announcements of Cape Wind in the USA and Luchterduinen in the Netherlands.

James Ritchie, CEO at Tekmar, said: “We are pleased to be working with VSMC again on another prestigious project. Following our initial design work with the client, Statoil, it shows a strong trend towards the benefit of j-tubeless technology in monopile foundations. We believe that cost and risk in array cabling has been reduced and track record and trends like the above support that. Further, this project will be manufactured within our new state of the art production facility in the North East

of England following the exciting expansion Tekmar is undergoing.”

The project supports Tekmar with its ongoing expansion and investment plans such as the new 75,000 sq foot production unit in Newton Aycliffe, North East of England.

John Tweedie, Operations Director at Tekmar added: “This announcement is fantastic news for all of the staff here at Tekmar. We are approaching the completion of the fit out of our new production facility and look forward to fulfilling the Dudgeon contract from that location. Winning this project will also provide the opportunity for further employment from within the local community.”

The Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm will be located in water that is between 18-25m deep on a 35 km² site located 32 km [20 miles] off the coast of the seaside town of Cromer in North Norfolk.

With over 25 years’ experience, Tekmar is a market leader in the design, manufacture and supply of subsea cables, umbilicals and flexible protection systems for the renewable energy and oil & gas industry.

ZooLab Visits Care Home



Defoe Court Care Home residents enjoyed a very interesting visit from Rob at ZooLab. Both residents and staff found the wide range of somewhat unusual and interesting pets, with snakes, spiders and salamanders. The more unusual reptiles provided a stimulating talking point and left us with some memorable moments.

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Lacking Consultation

Dear Sir,
We have lived on the town for many years and our family who are married with children of their own enjoyed many happy hours at West Park.

They took boat rides and played in the water and when the swans came in 2003 the area was even more popular.

We agree with the Friends of West Park who wish to clear the water and bring back boats etc. As ratepayers we have never been consulted on any decision to change the lakes to a nature reserve.
Mr & Mrs D. Forbes
Phillipotts Walk

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High Flying Students at Woodham Academy



It was a delight to again see so many Woodham Academy students achieve the highest GCSE grades. Over a quarter of students gained 3 or more A* to A grades and 26% achieved English Baccalaureate recognition. This is a combination of GCSE subjects across the curriculum and shows a breadth of curriculum knowledge. Amongst this

years high fliers with the highest grades were Haydn MacLean with 12 A*/A grades, Chloe Farley 9½, Alex Chaudhary 8, Daniel Fiandra 7, Amy Gittins 7, Chris Hoare 7, Callum Smith 7, and Casey Scott 6. Deputy Headteacher, Jonathan Lumb said "We are delighted that so many students achieved the top grades".

"Quercus Live" - A Fitting Finale to Great Aycliffe Show



Last weekend saw the culmination of months of hard work by local people to create "Quercus Live!" the finale to this year's Great Aycliffe Show. The performance went off without a hitch, including co-operation from the weather, with everyone involved and watching having a fantastic time. On Saturday and Sunday Greenfield Arts and two great local artists filled the "Quercus

Live" marquee with lots of creative activity to prepare for the performance making leaves and flowers and also providing shelter from the bursts of rain – more than 400 people helped us create fantastic props to add to the performance. We were also joined by the King of the Boggles, who spent the weekend visiting the show, speaking to the people of Aycliffe and promoting "Quercus Live" a

big thank you to Daniel for playing the part of the King! A big thank you to all of those involved for making "Quercus Live" such a success: dancers Stepping Out Dance School, aerialists from Circus Central, musicians from Brassy B, production by Bravura, making and production by local Cree volunteers, development by Greenfield Arts, funded by Great Aycliffe Town Council and GAMP AAP!

We are looking forward to next year's Great Aycliffe Festival and hope to continue to develop community projects and performances!

Heron Visits West Park



Richie Bainbridge took this photo of a heron which along with its partner is seen often at both lakes at all times of day.

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Student Cancer Victim Obtains all the Right Results

Amidst the celebrations at Woodham Academy on GCSE results day, there were tears of joy for one student and her mother. Kimberley Hall nervously opened her envelope to find that she'd passed every subject, with Grade A's in English, English Literature and History. Two years ago, Kimberley was diagnosed with cancer. She spent a full year undergoing treatment and was too ill to attend school throughout the whole of Year 10.



Having been given the all clear by her doctors, Kimberley returned to Woodham Academy at the start of Year 11. Not yet strong enough to cope with a full school day, Kimberley attended lessons in the school's Learning Centre. Amazingly, she managed to complete the two-year GCSE course in one year, achieving a first-class set of results. Kimberley is now able to fulfil her ambition to take A levels in Sciences and History at Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College in Darlington. After this, she hopes to realise her childhood dream of becoming a nurse. Kimberley says "I would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported me over the last two years." Her mother, Chris, says "I'm so proud of her and what she has achieved."

PUBLIC MEETING

The next meeting of the Residents' Association will be held on Thursday the 4th of September at 6.30pm in the coffee lounge of Simpasture Court. We will be discussing future projects for the group and all local residents and interested parties are cordially invited. Angela Corner from Great Aycliffe Town Council will be our guest speaker and will take questions on the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan. If you have any questions please contact: Alan Lowe on 07754 094946, John Clark on 07972 170190, Derek Atkinson on 01325 301395 or email: waspsresidents@gmail.com

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CONCERN OVER GREENFIELD MERGER

Dear Editor
As a teacher of a local school, which has recently merged with another school. I am writing to express my alarm and concern at Durham County Councils plans of merging Greenfield School with Sunnydale Community College.
My first concern is that in the last Ofsted report, Sunnydale was rated as "inadequate and said to have serious weaknesses", where as Greenfield was rated as "Good". A school can be classed as inadequate for a number of reasons, one being a poor standard of teaching. My concern is what will happen to the inadequate teachers situated at Sunnydale? Will they move to Greenfield in order to learn from 'better teachers' or will the 'better teachers' from Greenfield move to Sunnydale? Either way, surely this will have an effect on the standard of teaching in Greenfield?!
Secondly, as I have experienced personally, the merging of two schools is NOT all it is 'cracked up to be'. If Mr Prestley is to be executive head of both schools, his eye will be taken off the ball at Greenfield School - It's only natural as he will focus his attentions on trying to drag Sunnydale from the gutter. If staff are to be 'shared' amongst

both sites, this will lead to a 'them and us' mentality, where (if results don't reach expectations) staff will blame the one another. This is a personal concern to me as, my child is about to enter year 6 and my family and I have a big decision to make on the next step in their education. The merger could help persuade me to look at other options for their future education!
Name & address supplied

Probation Service Improve the Environment

Dear Sir,
I am pleased your reader is satisfied with the clearance work that's been undertaken along the side of the A167 from the 'Head' to Aycliffe Village High Street and then on towards the entrance of the Business Park at St Cuthbert's Way. The footpath and the overgrown bush at the junction of the A167/Durham Road were reported to me by Cllr George Gray and I asked the Highways Department at County Hall to undertake the work, along with other problems passed on during the Aycliffe Village PACT meeting, including overhanging trees



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Call for Apology

Dear Editor
The article written by Ken Robson, the Chairman of the Friends of West Park, saddened me. His reference to our environmentally fascist ruling Council elite was totally inappropriate and a public demeaning of our hard working Council Leaders. I therefore request

that he makes a sincere public apology for his ill considered remark.
I was at the meeting where Councillor John Clare explained GATC policy regarding the Lakes. This was politely delivered and questions were answered in detail. Unfortunately some present were not intent on listening carefully to the points that he was making. The letter sent by the Town Clerk to the friends of West Park was both courteous and to the point. It simply stated that no more weed was to be removed from the top lake, following a concern made by the Environment Officer. The Friends of West Park have a unique opportunity to develop a first class environmental project in partnership with GATC. This was my motivation for becoming a member. I am not interested in the debate being solely focused on boats as there is a far bigger picture to be taken into consideration. The Friends need to refocus on developing a plan that can be agreed by GATC that will enable them to move forward with their project, based on sound environmental advice.
Chris Wheeler
Deputy Chair
Friends of West Park

VOLUNTEERS SHOULD FEEL APPRECIATED

Dear Editor,
I appreciate the anger expressed by the Friends of West Park, they have clearly worked hard to make the lakes clear and recreationally useful. It is always good to see local volunteers at work and every effort should always be made to ensure volunteers feel appreciated – we need more!
However, I feel that last week's Newton News was rather one-sided in it's coverage. Personally, I support the fact that the lakes have become environmental, rather than recreational. West Park is a beautiful facility which hosts a range of wildlife. By allowing the plant life to grow in the lake we encourage that wildlife. The ducks, after all, eat weeds and algae that grows in the lakes, as well as the insects.
This issue is clearly already divisive, but it would make sense to gain a full understanding of public opinion. The Friends of West Park do not represent all views. In fact, my own experience and my awareness of other residents views prior to this furore was that there was a greater appetite for further environmentalism and hopes for the building of islands and duck nesting areas.

I will enjoy the unfolding of a sensible debate where a true reflection of the public's feelings can be counted – make yourselves known!
Peter Davies
Hawkshead Place
Editor:
The coverage was a true expression of public opinion and our policy remains the same in printing all letters for and against any topic. We should also make it very clear that the letter contents do not mean they carry the editor's personal view or support on the subject. As always Newton News is here to give readers a voice and a means to air their views.

Lakes are for Public Use

Dear Sir,
We wish to protest against changing the boating lake to a nature pond as we already have these on the town. The lakes were provided for the public to use and enjoy. It is not for a single-minded councillor to tell us what should happen and we should thank the volunteers who have worked so very hard to clear the mess from the lakes.
Mr & Mrs Payne
Taylor Walk

HAVE YOUR SAY ON SMOKE FREE PLAY AREAS

Should children's play areas in County Durham be smoke-free zones?
Residents, community groups and parish and town councils are being asked for their views on plans for a voluntary code banning smoking at outdoor play areas.
A public consultation on the proposal by the County Durham Tobacco Control Alliance, which includes Durham County Council, is now underway and will run until Friday, 17 October. The alliance believes that by reducing children's exposure to smoking and making it less socially acceptable, children are less likely to take up the habit themselves.
Cllr Lucy Hovvels, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for safer and healthier communities, said: "Children are influenced by what they see, and research shows that young people are most at risk of becoming smokers if they grow up in communities where smoking is the norm.
"The most effective way to prevent young people from becoming smokers is to encourage adult smokers to quit and to remove young people's exposure to smoking. "Making our play areas and play parks smoke-free is one of the ways in which we can change that social norm and hopefully prevent young people from taking up smoking."
If the proposals are agreed, 178 play areas owned by the county council would be declared smoke-free, with posters and stickers being put up to encourage people not to smoke.
The owners of the remaining 129 play areas in the county would be asked to sign up to the voluntary code.
To take part in the consultation, visit www.durham.gov.uk/consultations

Concern Over New Housing at Travellers Green

Dear Sir,
Residents are concerned over the proposed housing Development on Travellers Green of 80 dwellings by Gleeson Homes and possible development by Livin of a further 19+ dwellings on Travellers Green which combined would be in excess of 100 new dwellings.
I was first alerted to this issue by articles in Newton News. A small number of residents have been formally contacted, with the remainder finding out by word of mouth.
A considerable number of residents would be directly affected by any proposed development as would the larger population of Newton Aycliffe. I have logged onto the Durham County Council's planning website and looked at the proposals with particular scrutiny of the Transport Statement prepared for Gleeson Homes.
Gilpin Road is already congested with parked cars and Travellers Green/Clarence Chare has similar parking problems as well as them all being on bus routes.
An added difficulty is a lot of cars avoid the speed bumps on Shafto Way by using these roads to access the Business Park. By far the greater concern for the town as a whole is the fact that Travellers Green/Clarence Chare feeds onto St. Cuthbert's Way, the main road through the Town to the industrial area and Darlington. Also feeding onto this road is traffic from Finchale Road, Greville Way, Sheraton Road and Emmerson Way and Bewick Crescent which backs

up to the mini roundabout by St. Clare's Church.
One can only imagine what a bottleneck the Blue Bridge area could possibly become without creating an alternative access route to the proposed development. We are constantly being told how good things are going to be, employment wise, with the arrival of Hitachi and any possible spin-offs from that which is of course good news for the town, but without the right infrastructure we could be facing massive traffic and environmental problems.
I highlight two points in particular from the Transport Statement - 4.5.3 - "the proposed development is in a sustainable location where need to travel by private car would be far from necessary"! - is everyone able to walk to their destination? and 5.3 - "the proposed development would have an insignificant effect on the highway network in the vicinity" Do these planners actually live here or try to get around our roads which are becoming increasingly congested with inadequate off-road parking provided?
This proposal should be looked at again in more detail with respect to alternative access to and from the development and also the off-road parking issue for existing residents whose properties border these new houses.
I would urge people to consider carefully the long-term repercussions of this ill thought out proposal and make your views known before once again we are ridden over rough-shod. Where do our

local and county councillors stand on this? Let's hope it's not the usual place 'on the fence'. I have contacted my Councillors and await their response. I hope more of you do the same.
Kath Allen
PS: I would hope that the Newton News would take this matter up and look into it more closely. Residents look to your paper to promote the needs of the town so that the lunatics don't take over the asylum!



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STUPID DECISION TO STOP VOLUNTEERS

Dear Sir,
I have just read the articles in Newton News and I am totally disgusted at the fact that the cleaning has been stopped at the boating lake. Who is the stupid nameless person who made this idiotic decision! He obviously doesn't have a clue what he's doing. The people of this town WANT and NEED that lake to be cleaned to enable

them to use it for what it was originally built for. Children and adults should be able to use it to paddle, sail boats etc and generally enjoy it. I hope that everyone protests at the stupidity of this decision and fights to let the volunteers continue to do what they are doing to clean the lake at no expense to the council.
Roberta Ferguson

Biological Argument on the Lakes

Dear Sir,
After reading the shocking and rather alarming response to the West Park lake cleanup I contacted my daughter who is an Ecologist and Conservationist. Below are a couple of links she has sent me on the subject of eutrophication which contradict the Environmental Officer's strange argument for the welfare of the eco-systems in and around the boating lake.
<http://www.water-pollution.org.uk/eutrophication.html> and
<http://www.nature.com/scitable/knowledge/library/eutrophication-causes-consequences-and-controls-in-aquatic-102364466>
The scientific evidence shows that algae has a detrimental affect on wildlife:
"This bloom of algae disrupts normal ecosystem functioning and causes many problems. The algae may use up all the oxygen in the water, leaving none for other marine life. This results in the death of many aquatic organisms such as fish, which need the oxygen in the water to live."
Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further research or support with your continued and well placed project, restoring West Park Boating Lake.
Karyn Syms

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Last Letter Post - 9am!

Sir,
I write to inform readers of changes being implemented by Royal Mail apparently 'in the interests of efficiency'. From the middle of September, the latest time for posting letters at many post boxes around the town to guarantee they are collected that day for onward processing will be 9.00am, yes 9.00 in the morning !! At present the last collection time at many post boxes, including the one on our estate, is around 4.45pm. Apparently the mail will be collected from the post boxes sometime during the day but to guarantee collection, you have to post your item(s) by

9.00am.
Clearly this is a huge deterioration in service which we pay through our noses for. A first class stamp is 62p (12/6p in old money !!) for which we now have to post by 9.00am. Royal Mail do say there is a later collection at the main sorting office but that is 2 miles away. Our estate post box no longer has a metal 'day' plate to indicate whether the post has been collected or not so one must assume that 9.00am is the deadline. Can anyone in authority please explain how this 'efficiency improvement' benefits Joe Public.
Name and Address supplied

Council Neglected Lakes

Dear Sir,
We must write in support of all those people who have been cleaning out all the gunge and filth from the lakes on West Park. As most people know by now, they have recently been told to desist from this work as they may deplete stocks of weeds in the lakes and could presumably affect the ecological balance. What a load of poppycock, the truth is, before these volunteers started cleaning, it was a health hazard, common sense tells you that. I think Great Aycliffe Town Council, have lost track of the fact that it is ultimately they who are supposed to be looking after the lakes keeping them clean and maintained. In this they failed abysmally. After all they are supposed to be providing a service to the people of this town young and old alike. It may have

escaped their notice, but that's what we all pay our council tax for, in which we get very little return. The truth is the council have been guilty of neglecting and ignoring this issue for a great deal of time and could it be they see these volunteers doing something properly and in their conscience know they in turn have not? Are they now on some kind of guilt trip? I can remember years ago, when I could go to the lakes with my children to paddle in the water or go on the boats; then it was well looked after by the council. Sadly we can't do that with our grandchildren. What have they to look forward to? I refer to other services too which are supposed to be doing well on this town which have fallen by the wayside.
Mr & Mrs R McNeal
Two Very Angry Residents

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 10th September 2014

Policy Committee
Resources Committee, 7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

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

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

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Romania Dog Appeal

Dear Sir,
Thank you to all who helped by donating cages to help transport dogs safely and to everyone who donated food, dog beds, toys and treats which are now in Romania helping our rescuers feed them and keep them as comfortable as possible. It really is greatly appreciated and we are still collecting food for our next run at the end of September. We also need plastic dog beds, as autumn/winter is now approaching. If you can help please contact me on 07834 614 659 (after 4.30pm weekdays or anytime on weekends). Thank you all so very much, SJ.


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Summer Holidays at Greenfield Arts



After 6 weeks of activity and bustle, Summer is over at Greenfield Arts. We've had a great time with local young people, families and adults, learning new skills, getting messy and having fun! Messy Play sessions have given younger children a chance to enjoy being creative and messy at the same time, exploding paint, creating flubber, play dough and bubble painting. We've made sculptures, kites and decorations for Room 13. Families have worked with Season to Taste to create delicious meals – including chocolate courgette cake.

We've watched family films and studied for Arts Awards – it's been a truly fantastic Summer, which was finished off with "Quercus Live" at the Great Aycliffe Show! Thank you to all the great artists, workshop leaders and families who have helped make this Summer so great! Now that Summer is over, it's time for a new term of courses – with Art Club and Room 13 drop in for young people, and a range of courses for adults. Contact us via our website (www.greenfield-arts.co.uk) for a course guide – or pop in and see us!

BOATING LAKE MISINFORMATION

Dear Sir,
It appears that some on Great Aycliffe Town Council are under the impression that the Friends of West Park group has differing views on the issue of the Lakes. We wish to dispel this by making abundantly clear the policy of the Friends on the BOATING lakes . . . It is not the intention of the Friends Group to discourage Swans, Ducks and Geese, they are welcome as are small fish, but we don't want dirty green water covered in weed.

The long term aim of the group is to clear and clean the lakes out, refill with fresh water and put boats back on the lakes for recreational purposes. We have many ponds around Newton Aycliffe suitable for wildlife and pond life, so HANDS OFF our BOATING LAKES Park which we want to be used for picnics people and recreation. The lakes are only a small part of the plans which we hope to develop in West Park, but they are important. As a voluntary community group we intend to apply for funding for new play equipment to supplement that already in place, we are hoping to plant flora and fauna to encourage butterflies and birds, extra seating and a viewing area to overlook our pristine recreational lake.

How can you help?
We need your support to keep our park beautiful, help us by picking up litter, come along to our meetings to tell us your ideas, lobby your local and county councillors to support our work and above all remember we get the town we deserve. Ken Robson Chairman and Spokesman, Friends of West Park voluntary group.

Getting Rid of Ants Quickly & Cheaply

Dear Editor,
Ants are one of the most successful creatures of our time, but we are invaded by black ants of near plague proportions. Some suffer red ants which are worse because they bite. These insects are not invincible and are easily killed. A chemical will kill ants on contact, but the safest most effective and cheapest is washing up liquid in water. The ratio of soap is similar to when washing dishes. Insects breathe differently to humans they use holes in their thorax and if soapy film blocks them they die. I use a hand sprayer with a squeeze trigger on the cap. I favour the haze lock version available from Boyes for 50p. The nozzle is adjustable



APOLOGY FROM CHAIRMAN OF FRIENDS OF WEST PARK

Dear Sir,
As Chairman of the Friends of West Park group set up to improve and beautify this most lovely of our parks using voluntary workers and external sources of funding.

I was dismayed and annoyed to receive the letter from our Town Clerk demanding that the group stop work on cleansing the lakes. Many man hours of hard smelly work were put in by VOLUNTEERS to carry out this work and the thought that it was to be returned to its previous sorry state was upsetting not only to myself, members of the Friends group but also to members of the public who have turned out to support the aims of the group.

As a result of that anger I wrote a letter to the Newton News for inclusion in last week's issue during which I used the word "Fascist" to describe those people on our council who are predominantly interested in environmental issues and are determined to have nature ponds all over our Town. Although no one has mentioned it to me personally it would appear that others have complained about the use of the word. I, therefore, apologise for using that word to those who are upset and would like to perhaps substitute it with over-enthusiastic or fanatical which, in retrospect is a better description. The BOATING LAKES are, only a part of the work that the Friends wish to pursue in the park. From litter picking, providing play equipment and sourcing funding for trees and shrubs is also the intention of the friends to make the park a centre for recreation in our town. Therefore, I cannot apologise for the fact I love my town, and would be prepared to stand down as leader of the Friends group should members feel that my comments have brought the group into disrepute. Ken Robson Chair of Friends of West Park tel 01325 321471

Kind & Caring

Dear Sir,
On Friday 22nd August I had a nasty fall outside ALDI in Newton Aycliffe town centre. To the ladies who came to my assistance and called the Ambulance service, many thanks for your all your help and for being so kind and caring. Also a big thank you to the Ambulance men who took me to the Hospital and looked after me. Margaret Darnell

Great Aycliffe Cancer Support

The group is now at NEVILLE PARADE COMMUNITY CENTRE from 4th SEPTEMBER from 6 - 7.30pm
Our Guest Speaker is Sam from the Carers Support who will explain what help and support carers can receive. We also have a bag from Clarins with sample goodies in from Skincare products to Make up. We will have refreshments and nibbles and also hold a small raffle. BRING A FRIEND. If you would like to help or need some more information ring Allison 07762 258696 or email allisonwhite75@yahoo.co.uk

Flower Demo

The next meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club will take place on Monday 1st September at 7.30pm at Shildon Civic Hall when Area Demonstrator, Christine Ogle, from Morpeth will present an evening of flower arranging entitled 'A Touch of Glass'. Free to members - Visitors £5. Members are reminded that the annual subscription of £26 is now due for renewal, together with magazine subscriptions of £11.80 to The Flower Arranger where applicable. Payment can be made at the meeting on 1st September.

WELL DONE EMILY



Emily Yau, 16, of Newton Aycliffe has managed to achieve a staggering total of 13 GCSEs from Durham High School for Girls. She managed to achieve 12 A*s (of which Chinese was achieved in Year 7, and Spanish in Year 10), and a further A grade, totalling 13 GCSEs altogether. Emily has now secured a place at the Royal Grammar School in Newcastle and looks forward to the transition.

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Tel: 07980 063898

THURSDAY
St. Clare's Church Newton Aycliffe
11am, 1pm, 5pm & 7pm with Debbie
Tel: 07980 063898

TUESDAY
R.A.F.A. Club Newton Aycliffe
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Jubilee Fields Community Centre Shildon
7.30pm with Jo
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The Horticultural Show was kindly sponsored by the Gregg Little Testing Centre and a portable Television was presented to the winner of the Leek Section by Emma Douthwaite who was in attendance representing the company.

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Greenfield Celebrates Above Average Results

There were happy tears, smiles, hugs and high fives at Greenfield Community College on Thursday 21st August as students opened their GCSE results.

Once again Greenfield was above the national average for both Maths and English. Record results in English, at a time when results dipped nationally, saw 35 students achieve A/A*, with almost 90% achieving C+ against a national average of 66%. Results were strong across the board with teachers from all subjects celebrating success with the students. In particular A/A* results in RE were outstanding. Our specialist subjects, Science and the Arts once again achieved high results. We are delighted to have sustained such a high standard against a volatile picture nationally and we continue to be placed amongst the top performing schools in the county.

Special congratulations to Sophie Bennett, Megan Cross, Francesca Moody, Aicha Krasik, and Tanisha Waters who celebrated an incredible 51 A/A* grades between them and to Harry Heaton for achieving A* grades across the core subjects of English, Maths and Triple Science.

Other students made exceptional progress in English with more than half the cohort achieving beyond expected progress, 21 of them achieved an exceptional 5 levels of



progress. Belinda Farn, Tino Lewis, Jack Travis and Jacob Young deserve special congratulations for their hard work leading to an incredible 6 levels of progress.

David Priestley, executive headteacher, said "Governors and staff are delighted to celebrate these excellent results which will enable all of our students to move to the next phase of their lives.

We wish them all future success."

Ofsted Recognise Local Training Provider as "Outstanding"

A LEADING training provider in the region is celebrating an 'outstanding' Ofsted inspection report following a year of dedicated improvements.

South West Durham Training (SWDT) in Newton Aycliffe, was given the stamp of approval under the Further Education and Skills inspection report in July and has attributed the result to the hard work and commitment from all its staff.

The training provider offers intermediate and advanced apprenticeships in engineering in Newton Aycliffe and the North East. It has recently launched an Employer Pledge campaign, which aims to promote the value to companies of employing an apprentice and has secured a prestigious contract to work closely with Hitachi, who are building a plant in Newton Aycliffe.

SWDT was given the top grade in all four areas: overall effectiveness, outcomes for learners, quality of teaching, learning and assessment and effectiveness of leadership and management.

The training centre, which is a registered charity, is the first member of the Group Training Association of England ever to have received an outstanding grade across all areas of provision.

The report stated that "SWDT has made considerable progress since the last inspection in 2013 and outcomes for learners are consistently high" and that "the quality of teaching, learning and assessment is now outstanding and learners receive particularly helpful guidance and support from vocational tutor assessors".

The Ofsted inspectors were so impressed with the centre's practice in the use of data and the teaching of English and maths that these are to be recognised as two areas of best practice for providers across the country to learn from.

Trevor Alley, chief executive of SWDT and part-time Ofsted inspector, said: "Having spent the past 10 years as an Ofsted inspector, I knew only too well what was required to improve the training environment at SWDT - I'm thrilled that the inspectors recognised the hard work and commitment shown by not only our staff but also the learners. I was particularly pleased that the report commented that leaders, managers and staff at SWDT are passionate about what they



contribute to the success of their learners and apprentices." "It's a tremendous achievement for any training provider to receive an outstanding report and I'm delighted the team's hard work over the past year has paid off to make a complete turnaround." "We have a long-term vision for South West Durham Training and that is to raise aspirations and attainment among our learners and produce highly skilled engineers who will excel when they leave us. Substantial progress has been made over the past year and we hope to continue this great work and build on the momentum." Ofsted reinforced this vision, stating that, "Very good development plans are in place to sustain and improve provision further."

Durham County Carers Support

Charity Summer Ball

18th September, 7pm to 11.30pm
Hardwick Hall Hotel Sedgefield

Carers support loved ones who cannot manage alone due to disability, illness, mental ill health or addiction. They are vital to our society and without them the health and social care system would not cope with the demand for services. Whether caring for a Husband with Parkinsons Disease, a Wife with Dementia or a child with a disability, DCCS offers support, advice and practical help with things like filling in forms and finding a way through the maze of information to get the help needed. We currently have over 10,000 Carers registered with the service.

This year we are holding our first Annual Fundraising Summer Ball at Hardwick Hall Hotel Sedgefield. It is

being compared by Chris Lloyd Deputy Editor of The Northern Echo and entertainment includes:

- Sue Sweeney comedienne and BBC Newcastle presenter
- Live music from Alice and Emma Jordan
- A performance by KDANZ from Newton Aycliffe.
- Buffet, Disco and Raffle

Many local businesses have donated raffle prizes and some have sponsored the event. All proceeds will go to developing the service and directly supporting Carers. Tickets are £30. If you would like tickets or have any questions please contact Joanne Jones 01325524605, joanne.jones@dccarers.org or Susan Garrett 01915006030 susan.garrett@dccarers.org

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The article referring to the Tree Planting event at Aycliffe Village makes an invitation to refreshments provided by "The County" afterwards.

Unfortunately due to the numbers involved this is not extended to members of the general public and only offered to invited guests of the society.

The planting is to commemorate World War 1 and is on Sunday 7th September at 3.00pm.

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ACORN Teddy Bears Picnic

Making an event better than the previous one has become a trademark for popular Residents Association ACORN and this week's Teddy Bear's Picnic was certainly no exception. Children appear from every entrance when local Pied Piper of Fun Professor Nincompoop is leading the show for ACORNS most popular annual summer event. Dancing, magic, balloons, teddy bears and laughter are the order of the day while entertainer Gary supported by Harry Potty maestro of face painting descend onto our local green with hilarious results. This year's Teddy Bear's Picnic was bigger, brasher and more fun than ever before with 4 inflatables 2 roundabouts. A visit from PCSO Chris representing our local beat team who locked up naughty and curious children in his Police Van. An exhibition by cheerleading group Nemesis who held an assorted audience spellbound as they demonstrated



their flexibility, poise and balance whilst performing a myriad of manoeuvres to a delighted crowd, thanks ladies for a great afternoon's entertainment. Once again ACORN Residents were astounded by the generosity of people who supplied items for the popular tombola and got involved in stewarding the event, painting nails and running Hook a Duck. Popular local Dentist Burgess and Hyder, ever concerned with preventing dental problems for children,



kindly donated a molar protection pack including a toothbrush and toothpaste kit for every child. The atmosphere at ACORN events is always fantastic because the emphasis is on making people of all ages happy without charging for everything. Thanks to all who attended for your support! Ken Robson Chair ACORN

COMPETITION WINNERS

Lots of entries for our latest competition to win a family set of four tickets to see the wrestling at the Leisure Centre on Saturday 30th August. The lucky winners are Nicola Luke, Kirkstone Place; George Smith, Stephenson Way and Kath Wall of Brawton Grove, Darlington. Congratulations to all the winners, we hope you have a great night out.

Getting Ready for Senior School

Last week 17 children eagerly waiting to become Greenfield students on September 2nd enjoyed a week of opportunities, learning new skills and making new friends hosted at Greenfield Arts. They experienced several different aspects of the curriculum, applying their literacy and numeracy skills to create a "Play in a day" with the support and expertise of Ruth Johnson. Parents supported this event and were entertained by their children who were transformed from



caterpillars to butterflies as they evolve to the next phase of learning. They then went onto enjoy a day at Preston Park, made great use of Room 13 and "The Shed" at Greenfield Arts, where they produced mugs and magnets and finished the week with a morning of cookery skills and an afternoon of circus skills with Circus Central. As the week progressed the children grew in confidence and took on many challenges which they found exciting as well as being fun. They also embarked on their Bronze "Arts Award" qualification under the direction of Anna Cole. Melanie Stubbs, Assistant Head who co-ordinates the Summer School said "This is a government initiative that has allowed us to run this transition programme for the last three years. It is extremely worthwhile, allowing those

children who may be anxious about moving to a much larger school the opportunity to become acquainted with the environment and make friends with children from other Primary schools. We have had a fantastic week and the children have developed and learned so many new skills which they will apply across the curriculum as Year 7 students. I feel confident that these young people will settle very quickly." The Summer school activities were led under the direction of Katy Milne and her enthusiastic team at Greenfield Arts, alongside specialists in different fields. Thanks go to them all for their hard work and commitment, as always Greenfield continues to place the child's needs first and aims to raise their aspirations. Well done to everyone involved.

Newtonian Publishes Second Book

Aycliffe author, Steven Corner, has published the sequel to his first book, 'A Dream from the Somme'. The new book, entitled, 'The Whispering Pegasus' is for lovers of horseracing and people who would go to any lengths to get their hands on National Hunt's probable, greatest ever steeplechasing horse ranking alongside Red Rum, Arkle and Desert Orchid.



Former England football captain Steve Brennan owns the horse and needs the help of his ex SAS brother, John Brennan, to safeguard his prize possession. The blade's military training is tested to the full in the book that takes readers through the highs and lows of owning race horses with an unexpected twist in the tale from his first book. This is Steven's second novel and is based on his passion for National Hunt Racing. In this book he tries to capture the pride, joy, disappointment, and sometimes sadness of owning, training and following steeplechasing horses. Steven Corner is an electrical engineering lecturer at Darlington College, and also a Royal Marines Commando trained Army Reservist in his spare time. Currently, there is no race horse in training that bears the unique name of 'The Whispering Pegasus', and the author has contacted the offices of illustrious jump trainer, JonJo O'Neil, to inquire if one of their future 'jump stars' will be given the name of 'The Whispering Pegasus'. JonJo O'Neil Racing is backed by the wealthy construction magnet, JP McManus and retains the services of 19 times champion jump jockey, AP McCoy. The author's real question is : can the eventual real horse match the deeds of his fictional horse? Mr Corner has contacted Coral Racing and requested odds that a horse, bearing the name of 'The Whispering Pegasus', will win the Aintree Grand National within the next 10 years. Corals have accepted the bet at odds of 200/1, and Mr Corner has placed a stake of £20 on the bet. The betting slip is now in a frame hanging on a wall in the author's house. Time will only tell if his dream comes true. The paperback and eBook are now available from www.lulu.com book publishers. Enjoy your reading.

Councillors' Surgeries

A Ward Surgery will be held in St. Marys Meeting Room on Saturday 6th September from 11am-12noon *Councillors for Shafto, Central and Neville Ward will also be in attendance.*

Ex Aycliffe Doctor Reaches 80th Birthday

Former Newton Aycliffe doctor, Howard Martin, celebrates his 80th Birthday this month and although living in Wales frequently visits the town where he first established a surgery. He was born in Cheshire and has a twin sister. He was educated in North Wales and married in 1957 to Sheila Quirk a trainee nurse in Liverpool. He had a brilliant career in the Army after qualifying at Liverpool Medical School. He reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, serving in Malaysia and Germany before being posted to Belfast where he heard the first shot fired by the IRA in the late 60's. Howard then served in Nepal for a year, moving to Catterick before leaving the Army and becoming a General Practitioner. There he was often called to do locum work in Newton Aycliffe, covering for doctors here, absent from work. In 1979 he took over Dr. King's practice and grew the patients list from 2,400 to 9,500 allowing him to bring in four partners. Following a dispute with the partners in 1992 a resulting court case split the practice with Dr. Martin



and his daughter Dr. Luder setting up a new practice in Cobblers Hall which was equally successful. However it was during this time that Howard Martin was accused of murdering four patients. After long protracted proceedings he was found not guilty and retired to North Wales.

Bar Donation

Aycliffe Care Home apologise for the error regarding the donation of their new free standing bar which was donated by Fiona the Granddaughter of the late Selina Dawson who was a resident.

FUNDRAISER




Join us for a fundraiser in support of **Jack Mason**, to purchase a new Terrier Trike.

Saturday, 6th September from 7.00pm
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For further information please contact Michelle on 07986 856166

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Greenfield Teachers Move to Posts in China



Two teachers from Greenfield College took global learning to a new level at the end of the Summer term as they and their family left the peace of Weardale and their positions at Greenfield for the bustle of Shanghai and

an international school established by Dulwich College. Gareth and Karen Ann Matthews-John were part of the team at Greenfield for many years – Karen Ann led the Art department for 23 years before reducing to part time after her second child to pursue her other interests as an artist and author. Gareth was head of Geography for 8 years, establishing regular field trips for students and becoming known in the department as “The Guru.” The family are now experiencing a very different life in China! Whilst they will be missed by all at Greenfield, we are looking forward to seeing more of their lifestyle and hope to develop further links to them and their new students in China via social media and Skype.

Newton Aycliffe WI

A lot has been happening at the Newton Aycliffe WI in recent months, visits to Wensleydale Cheese Factory at Hawes and another day trip to the Lake District. At our July meeting our speaker was Steve Cooper, Great Aycliffe Town Council, Environment Officer. He gave a slide show on what is around Newton Aycliffe, from woodlands, nature reserves to park areas. Steve spoke about war time, the Darlington & Stockton Railway Line and the Simpature Line. He said there are number of friends groups always looking for volunteers to give a hand! At the August meeting our president Lyn Swift demonstrated how to make a bookmark using cord and beads. We all went home with a finished bookmark, very proud, that we had learned yet another craft.

Newton Aycliffe WI were privileged again to have the cake stall in the Federation marquee, at the last Great Aycliffe Show. We sold out by Sunday mid-day, thanks to all our ladies who made cakes etc and a big thank you to all who bought. Three members of Newton Aycliffe WI placed entries in the Craft Section Exhibition at the show and each went home with smiles on their faces along with Certificates and Prizemoney! Well done ladies you must be very proud and you have also made our WI very proud. Our meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.15pm at St Clare’s Church Hall, and we look forward to greeting our members and always welcome new members. For further information please contact Lyn on 01325 314805.

Woodham Skills Programme Continues

Woodham Academy is pleased to announce the continuation of its work skills programme into the next academic year. Acknowledged for its innovative practice in the area of careers education by the government in April 2014, the school has established a unique and highly personalised work skills programme for a number of students in the final years of their academic career at the school. The aim of the work skills programme is to equip young people not only with the appropriate qualifications to move on post 16, but also the necessary employability skills. Woodham Academy is

once again working with Gregg Little Ltd who will employ two students in the coming academic year. Paul Bradshaw, who has just completed the first year of the programme, will be joined by Brooklyn Chapman. Both budding car mechanics are thrilled to be part of the scheme “The past year has been a real life changing experience for me. I have learnt so much and it has helped me realise what my next steps are going to be when I leave Woodham Academy.” said Paul. Woodham Academy students have an outstanding post 16 record. 100% of last year’s Year 11 are in education, employment or training, with 54% following a traditional A level programme and 9% apprenticeships with training.

County GCSE Pupils Score High

Early indications suggest that young people in County Durham are maintaining the high standards of previous years with best entry GCSE results showing that 63 per cent of pupils have achieved five A*-C grades, including English and maths. This is a very pleasing achievement against a backdrop of significant changes in the examination system, which now mean that local authority averages will be determined by pupils’ first entry results and not their best results. This means that only the results of the first exams sat by pupils after September 29, 2013, are taken into account and any subsequent re-sits, where a pupil might achieve a higher grade, do not count towards a local authority’s overall average. As a result County Durham’s average will be reported nationally as 59 per cent of pupils achieving five A*-C grades, including English and maths. Caroline O’Neill, head of education at Durham County Council, said: “We are delighted that young people have worked so

hard to achieve overall best entry results of 63 per cent. Although the national average is not yet available it is likely that this will once again place County Durham

above the national average. These excellent results reflect the continuing hard work and commitment of all staff and pupils in County Durham’s schools.”

School Summer Fair

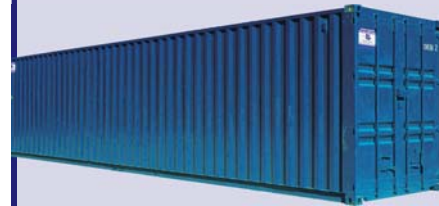


On Wednesday 16th July Stephenson Way Community Primary School held a Summer Fair to raise funds for the school. The event was very well attended and much fun was had by all as children enjoyed go karts, teacups, mega slide, a bouncy castle, face painting and much more. Thanks to everyone who helped and attended the fair which raised over £700! All items on the tombola and raffle were donated. The school would like to thank Lindsey Kell, Happy Hounds, Playshack, Tanya Fleet, Subway, Louise Woodfine, CLS Spa Hire, Debbie Wilson, Hair We Go, Planet Leisure, Foto-scene and Andy Thompson for being so very kind with your contributions.

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P.A.C.T. Meeting
Police And Community Together

WEST WARD

A PACT Meeting will be held at the Methodist Church, Burnhill Way on Thursday 4th September from 6.00pm. Please come along to hear updates and have your say on local issues. PC Mike Welch & PCSOs Nicola Shaw & Chris Noble are your Community Police Officers. Local Ward Councillors will also be in attendance. For more information on what’s going on in your area visit www.durham.police.uk

HORNDALE

At the Evangelical Church Ladybower off Meadowfield Way on Wednesday 3rd September 6.00pm (please note the new start time). Please come along to hear updates and have your say on Local issues. PC Michael Welch and PCSO Mike Hutchinson will attend (duties permitting). Neighbourhood Wardens, Park Wardens and Councillors will also attend.

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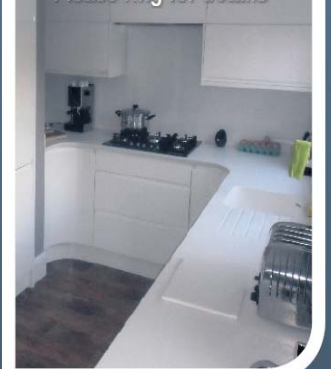
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Green Mess Returns to Lakes



Why would the Council tell volunteers to stop work on the boating lake when it was making so much progress and was looking so nice. Look at it now - it is awful and I'm ashamed to say it is part of Newton Aycliffe. The council need to be paying these kind volunteers not stopping them. Jolene

MAIN COMES TO DURHAM

MAIN exists to offer advice and services tailored to individuals and families living with Autism Spectrum Conditions to raise aspirations, empower, and to have the confidence to 'wear the T-shirt with a smile'. Our ambition is to change society's perceptions of Autism Spectrum Conditions, and to increase understanding of the challenges and opportunities that living with Autism brings. MAIN has been operating in the Tees Valley for 13 years and has gone from strength to strength. MAIN now prides itself on working not only with children and families, but also with recognising that there are adults who need support too. MAIN has responded by successfully creating employment and business development opportunities, support towards managing independent living

and social networking opportunities. Whilst retaining our principal focus on autism spectrum conditions, we have begun to use our expertise to help with attention-related conditions and other types of special needs. In May 2014 MAIN grew even bigger when our services in County Durham opened their doors! As well as having children's short break services in Easington and Sedgfield, MAIN offer support to adults over the age of 16 who are undergoing or who have been diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Condition. Support centres around 5 areas: Understanding and managing your diagnosis; Independent Living; Health and Wellbeing; Socialising and being an active member of the community and Employment and Volunteering. Staff work with individuals



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Weekly Squash Drop In Sessions

Please note as from September 2014 there will be the following changes to our weekly squash drop in sessions.

Tuesday

4.15pm - 5.00pm
5 - 7 years
£2.00 members £2.50 non members

5.00pm - 6.10pm
8 - 15 years
£2.00 members £2.50 non members

Don't worry if you haven't played squash before, all are very welcome and equipment is provided if you don't have your own



Find us on Facebook



Befrienders Wanted

The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) is looking for volunteers to help with a project aimed at improving the health, wellbeing and quality of life for local people. The Health Buddy scheme is funded through the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership and offers flexible, short term assistance to people over 50 years of age from trained volunteer befrienders. As a Volunteer Befriender/Health Buddy you will develop a trusting relationship with clients, help them with shopping or attending medical appointments, encourage them to engage with social activities or groups and access services, or simply take the time to listen over a cup of tea. This regular chat provides a vital link into the community to those who can be socially isolated because of restricted mobility or because their family and friends don't live close by. Health Buddy volunteers encourage people to get out and about - even if it's just to the end of the garden - and to stay active. If you know your community, are patient and reliable then this could be an ideal opportunity for you. A full training and support package will be provided by PCP and volunteers can give a minimum of 2 hours a week. Gayle Parker has volunteered as a Health Buddy for the scheme; and says "I wanted to volunteer in an area which helps other people. I am studying for a Foundation

Teacher Retires After 21 Years Service



Sandra Greaves, Assistant Headteacher, retired from Greenfield College at the end of the summer term. Sandra taught at Greenfield for 21 years, and was Head of Maths before becoming Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for curriculum planning and the timetable. During this time she used her expertise to support thousands of students through their maths qualification as well as being an integral part of the leadership team. She was a very popular member of staff with both colleagues and students who appreciated the fact that she would always go the extra mile to achieve the best from those she worked with. A calm and consistent presence in the classroom, Sandra instilled confidence and belief in young people as she guided them towards their examinations. One of Sandra's innovations was establishing a peer mentoring maths group where able mathematicians shared their skills with other students to reinforce their learning. Sandra has taken early retirement and will continue to use her skills on a consultancy basis, whilst taking time out to pursue a number of personal projects, many based around the Lake District. It was lovely to see her return last Thursday to share for the last time the success of her students' hard work. We wish her a long, healthy and happy retirement, and hope to see her back at Greenfield at some stage in the future.

Applications Open for Commissioner's Fund

Ron Hogg, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has launched the second round of this year's Community Safety Fund, available to partners and organisations, including the voluntary and community sector. Applications of up to £20,000 will be considered that support the PCC's policing priorities, including:

- To tackle anti-social behaviour
- To tackle the harm caused to communities by alcohol and drugs
- To reduce the impact of domestic abuse
- To reduce the impact of hate crime
- To improve road safety

Mr Hogg said: "My Community Safety Fund is now open for bids and application forms can be downloaded from my website www.durham-pcc.gov.uk or by calling my office on 03000 264629. "I particularly encourage bids for this round from the voluntary and community sector and all applications must be received by Monday 1st September 2014." Further information about Mr Hogg's policing priorities and the Community Safety Fund are available on his website, or can be provided using the contact number above. Follow your PCC on Twitter for updates: @RonaldHogg1 or @DurhamPCC, or search for 'Durham Police & Crime Commissioner' on Facebook.

Town Baseball Team in Playoff Action

Newton Aycliffe Spartans will this weekend, attempt to reach the National Baseball Championships Finals Weekend when they host Manchester A's at Sunnydale Leisure Centre on Sunday 31st, with the first pitch at 12pm. Having secured the AA Northern Division title a few weeks ago, the top seeded Spartans who ended the season with 15 wins and just 1 loss, will be favourites against a Manchester side who finished 4th in the regular season standings. The two teams have met already back in May, when Spartans beat the A's twice, by scores of 9-5 and 13-5. However Head Coach Mike Holton expects the previous results between the two sides to be largely irrelevant as the Spartans find themselves in unfamiliar territory. "We expect a tough game on Sunday, Manchester have playoff experience whilst the playoffs are a new experience for our club. In addition we will be playing one 9 innings game, so the margin for errors are diminished and we need to be prepared to adapt to situations that we perhaps will not have experienced during the season" Spartans preparations have been hampered by the British weather which has seen their last few regular season games postponed. "It's not ideal game preparation in the fact that our last competitive game was back on July 20th, but we know that we have the players who can make step up and make a difference and we will be giving 100% to ensure we can represent Newton Aycliffe and North East baseball at the National Finals in a week's time". Spartans have no injury or availability issues, so a full strength team will try to overcome the Manchester A's and book a trip to the new home of British Baseball, the purpose built facility at Fareham Park near Slough, taking on the best sides from the Southern Division and a chance to be crowned 2014 AA National Champions. Come on down and support Newton Aycliffe's latest sporting success story. More information on the Spartans can be found at www.newtonaycliffespartans.co.uk

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Fun Football Class for the 4 to 11 year old Boys & Girls - a 6 week course starting Tuesday 2nd September from 6-30pm to 7-30pm. Places still available so to book your child's place, ring Dale Anderson on 07411 009487 for full details or to register ring Ron on 07749 236853.

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Free Course to Help Household Finances

Life Church ("Helping Hands") wants to help people manage their budgets. They are about to run more free sessions to help people in Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas get on top of their household finances. Members of Life Church in Newton Aycliffe wanted to help their local community to best handle the economic climate so underwent specialised training. Now they are offering the very easy to follow short course

aimed at putting the joy back into money by teaching people how to chart their household income and take control of their expenditure. Money Coach Lyndsey Nicolls, who will be leading the sessions said: "With households feeling the squeeze on their disposable income, we've all got to get a bit more clever with our money to get through these tough times. If you know how to save and budget effectively, it can have a

hugely positive impact on the whole family." The course has been found to be useful for Helping Hands service users, newly retired people, soon-to-be students, mums dealing with mounting bills, families saving for a wedding and everyone in between. She added: "We hope that we can help people, quietly and confidentially, take control rather than relying on guess

work so they can plan for the future and weather the storm."

The course takes place in our office in Newton Aycliffe, starting on 9th September 10am-12pm then 16th & concluding on 23rd September.

For more details or to book your free place on the course phone or text 07936431262 or emailing lifeline.action@googlemail.com

WOMEN PRISONERS RESPOND TO NEWTON NEWS APPEAL



A mystery parcel arrived at Newton Press offices last week from the prison for "Long Stay Women" at

Peterborough.

The box contained beautiful hand knitted garments for new born children in Africa who are described as "Fish and Chip" babies.

This name comes from the fact that when delivered by the midwife they are wrapped up in newspaper and handed to the mother who, being so poor, rarely has any clothing for her new born child.

Former Councillor, Dorothy Bowman, started an appeal last year and has so far sent over a 1000 knitted vests and hats from Newtonians to keep the babies warm. We can only assume the women prisoners read the appeal in our on-line version of Newton News and decided to help.

We thank them for their fine gesture and assure them their work is much appreciated.

Lost & Found

FOUND child's bag in Tesco car park about 2 weeks ago. Contact 311920

FOUND black and white queen cat in the Cobblers Hall area. Tel 01325 303119

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Discover Hidden North-East History with Heritage Open Days

From Pebble Safaris to WW1 Roadshows and medicinal gardens, the North East reveals its historic secrets as part of the Heritage Open Days 2014 weekend.

This year, Heritage Open Days is celebrating its 20th anniversary, and there are plenty of ways to join the party before the weekend itself. Log on to www.heritageopendays.org.uk/news to enter the Cake Bake or Selfie Challenge, or simply plan your weekend by choosing from guided tours, family-friendly themed events, fairs and festivals.

Over 300 free events are taking place around the North East, and just by visiting you play a role in keeping local history alive.

Thursday 11th – Sunday 14th September

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Bowes & Gilmonby Parish Hall & Village Tour, Bowes
The boarding schools in Bowes village provided the inspiration for Dickens' 'village of Dotheboys' in Nicholas Nickleby. Several buildings are still standing, including Dotheboys Hall itself. Bowes' other claim to fame is the early 18th century Edwin and Emma story, a real-life Romeo and Juliet romance which ended with the lovers buried in the same grave under. David Mallet, a contemporary of Samuel Johnson, wrote the famous ballad some years later. Join a walking tour and see photos and information in Dotheboys Hall.

Saturday-Sunday 9am-6pm, Walks 11.30 & 3.30pm

Dunston Staiths, Gateshead

New for 2014, Visitors will be able to walk on Dunston Staiths for the first time in over 20 years. Opened by the North Eastern Railway company in 1893, Dunston Staiths on the River Tyne is believed to be the largest timber structure in Europe. At the height of its usage, 5.5 million tonnes of coal a year were taken by rail from the Durham coalfields and loaded from the Staiths onto ships waiting by the river. It is currently on the 'Heritage at Risk' register and there are plans to make this iconic structure into a sustainable visitor attraction.

Friday 12-4pm, Saturday/Sunday 10.30am-3.30pm

Pebble Safari, Seaham

New for 2014, this family event gives an insight into the geography of the coast around Seaham and its industrial heritage through its beach. Each session begins with a general hunt for interesting pebbles, using a 'shopping list'. Pebbles placed on trays are then identified by activity leaders, who will tell the stories behind both industrial materials and geology. Pebbles will be tested for relative hardness, followed by games and pebble art. There will be a prize for the most perfect pebble!

Saturday 11.30 & 13.30, Sunday 13.30

Dilston Physic Garden, Corbridge

Explore this medicinal herb garden with over 800 plants and learn about their wonderful healing powers. See, touch and smell hundreds of different medicinal plants, find out which medicinal plants (or compounds in them) are proven to work and discover their different eols - from folklore & magic to medical herbalism, chemistry, biology & medicine. See health-related artistic sculptures collected by the Physic Garden or relax on one of the few chamomile lawns in the country.

Sunday 11am-4pm

Hidden Hexham Concert, Northumberland

Alistair Anderson will lead Hexham Village Band and the Jazz Jammers in a special Heritage Open Days performance of his composition "Hidden Hexham," in the north transept of Hexham Abbey. The concert will also include recently-written songs, from material discovered during the Hexham Archive project, about some of the more notorious of Hexham's characters from the 17th to 19th centuries. An opportunity to see the newly-opened Hexham Abbey Visitor Centre.

Saturday 11.45-3pm

Hylton Castle, Sunderland

Hylton Castle is the remains of a 14th century fortified country residence built by the Hylton Family. The Gatehouse forms the main building where visitors gain access to the inside. The 13th century structure of St Catherines Chapel is also sited within the castle grounds and was the original burial site for the Hylton Family. The Castle is normally closed to the general public, therefore, this is your chance to gain access to the inside of the building

Saturday/Sunday 10am-2pm

Teesdale WW1 Roadshow, Middleton In Teesdale

This will be a general introduction to the First World War and how it affected the lives of the local population. Visitors are invited to bring along personal memorabilia that directly relates to the local area, WW1 or that era. Experts will be on hand to give advice and information them about their items, and each item can be recorded by a photographer and stored on a database. There will be an exhibition in November of everything we find, and people will be invited to display their items.

Saturday/Sunday 10am-4pm

Cells at GOTH, Gateshead

New for 2014, visitors are invited to come and experience the atmosphere of Victorian police cells! East Street Art members based in studios at GOTH are installing work in the cells, ranging from textile pieces to projections, all linked to the history of the building and the area. Historical information will also be available on everything from the cells themselves to local police, crime and dignitaries!

Thursday-Sunday 10am-4pm

LGBT Walking Tour, Newcastle upon Tyne

Lesbian and gay history has often been overlooked, forgotten or lost but times are changing and (at least in Britain) the past lives of lesbians and gay men are being researched and recorded. Join this theatrical walking tour to learn about the social and legislative frameworks that have surrounded lesbian and gay lives from the beginnings of urban life. The tour uses performance, recordings and film to imagine what gay life in Newcastle might have been like from the 16th-21st centuries.

Saturday Tour 11.00-12.30

Tommy's Story, Houghton-le-Spring

Space 4 and Houghton Heritage Society present Tommy's story, a First World War story of a North East soldier and his brother, told in photographs and documents. Exhibition to be launched in Space4, on the ground floor of the Houghton library building. The exhibition will be complemented by music and refreshments and other people's stories in words and pictures are welcome to be added to the display.

Friday/Saturday 12.30-1.30 Sunday 10.30-11.30

Dante String Quartet



Krysia Osostowicz (violin), Oscar Perks (violin), Yuko Inoue (viola), Richard Jenkinson (cello) will perform the final concert in Bishop Auckland Music Society's 2014 concert series in the Throne Room at Auckland Castle on Friday 5th September at 7.30pm.

They will be performing Haydn's Quartet in B minor, op 33 no. 1, Faure's Quartet in E minor, op 121 and Schubert's Quartet in D minor, D810 'Death and the Maiden'.

Tickets: £12.50 (under 18s free) from Cameo Fine Art, Brian Varley (01388) 60607 or pay on the door.

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Obituary

WILLIAM TROTTER

Bill of Spennymoor (formerly of Shildon), died peacefully on 21st August, aged 89 years. Adored Husband of Edith; beloved Dad of Trudi, Billy and Susan; respected Father-in-Law to Barrie, Susan and Steve; Brother-in-Law, loving and devoted Grandad of Beverley, Kurtis, Wesley, Helena, Cameron, Rachael, Paul and Samantha; dearest Great-Grandad, also a dear Brother. Funeral Service was held at St. John's Church, Kirk Merrington, on Friday, 29th August at 3.45pm, followed by a private cremation. No flowers by request please, donations in lieu of flowers may be given in aid of the Bishop Auckland Butterwick Hospice.

Birthday Remembrance

Thomas Tomlinson



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

THOMAS TOMLINSON 3rd September. Close to my heart you will always stay, loved and remembered every day. Love you Tot. Your loving Wife Ann xxx

DEMI HESLOP 01-09-2006. Today is your 8th birthday Demi and like every day I wish we could be together. Until that day comes and you are in Mammy's arms forever, all I can do is look to the sky and tell you how I love you. Happy birthday baby girls. Love you all the world and back again. Miss and love you always. Mammy xxxx

DEMI HESLOP 01-09-2006. Hip Hip Hooray out little Sis is 8 today. We can't all be together but in our hearts you will stay forever. We miss and love you so much. Love you all the world. Love, Shannon, Daniel and Megan, woofs and licks from Lola

DEMI HESLOP 01-09-2006. Thinking of you on your 8th birthday. You will shine forever in the memories that we keep. So fold our love around your heart and rest in Heavenly sleep. Love and miss you always, Grandma and Grandpa xxxx

DEMI HESLOP 01-09-2006. Thinking of you on your 8th birthday. Love always, Great Gran

DEMI HESLOP 01-09-2006. Happy 8th birthday to a special Angel in Heaven. Lots of love, Auntie Glennis, Uncle Bill and Uncle John xxx

DEMI HESLOP 01-09-2006. Thinking of you today Demi, like we do every day. Happy 8th birthday. Love always, Auntie Annette and Uncle John xx

JULIE REED Happy 40th birthday, aged 25 years. Another birthday another year. Wishing that you were still here. All our love, Mam and Dad xxx

THOMPSON, Margaret Rose. 27-8-2014. Though we miss you always, each and every day it seems to hit us even more. Because it's your birthday. We send wishes up to Heaven, carried to you upon a prayer to the place where you are now with sweet tender love and care. From your loving family

In Memoriam

KARMEN 30th August 2005.

Your memory is our keepsake, with which we will never part. God has you in his keeping, we have you in our hearts. Love you always. Mam, Nadine, David, Daniel, Owen, Ronnie, Karen and family

KENNETH INNES 13th June 1936 to 28th August 2006.

Loving memories of a dear Husband, Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. Remember you always, forget you never. Your loving Wife Brenda and all the family

JOHN PHILLIPS 21st August 1938 to 28th August 2013. "Simply the Best". God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be, So he put his arms around you and whispered "come to me". With tearful eyes we watched you, we watched you fade away. Although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands now rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best. Always loved and missed so much. In our hearts forever, Lil and family

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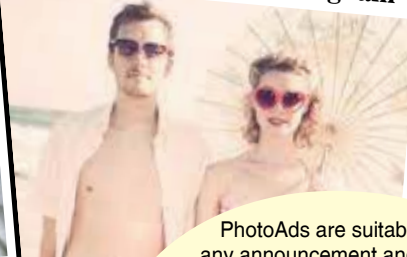
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Happy 21st Birthday 10-10-10

to our beautiful Daughter on your 21st birthday. Lots of love from Mam & Dad xxx

Bonny and Clyde Cunningham



Golden

ations Mar on 1st Jan ters, Gra.

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We are currently working on an archive site which will bring you ALL the past issues of the Newton News as far back as 1948!

Aycliffe Cyclist on 300 mile Fundraiser

Newtonian Anthony Cox is cycling the 300 miles from London to Newcastle in just 24 hours on Sunday 30th August 2014 in memory of Mark Bulman, a Newtonian who passed away from cancer at the age of 21. 23-year-old Anthony will take part in his biggest challenge yet to raise money for Teenage Cancer Trust along with 300 other cyclists. "Although this is a huge challenge, it is nothing compared to the battle young cancer suffers have every day. "Every day six teenagers hear the words "you have cancer" so lets raise as much money as possible for this amazing charity" says Anthony. Inspired by the determination to complete his biggest challenge yet, Anthony trains an average of 250 miles a week and has taken part in big charity fundraisers each year for the past 5 years. Last year Anthony, a trainee

PE teacher at Carmel College in Darlington, raised over £1600 for Macmillan Cancer when he cycled from London to Paris in three days. London to Paris was around 300 miles, the same distance as London to Newcastle but the timing is decreased massively from three days to 24 hours meaning that this will be an incredibly demanding task. He has also taken part in a Coast-to-Coast Cycle Route and ran in two Great North Runs for various other charities. His JustGiving total currently stands at £1059.00 and you can donate here: <https://www.justgiving.com/Anthony-24hours>



Woodham Dance & Gymnastic Students Audition at RADA



Students of the Dance Academy and Gymnastic Academy at Woodham were selected to audition at the prestigious RADA studios in London recently. This was a fantastic opportunity offered to the students due to their excellent performances throughout the year. These have involved performances at Leeds Town Hall, the Gala Theatre in Durham and also at Woodham Academy's first dance showcase. The audition is to be one of seven entertainment acts

for an awards evening in London 'Celebrating Success'. The students involved have shown great commitment, determination and talent throughout the year and took full advantage of the opportunity of performing at RADA studios. All students performed with passion and were fully committed to the performance throughout. Although they couldn't give too much away, the judges were very complimentary about the performances and also commented on the professionalism of the Sports

Academy students.

After the audition, as some of the students had never visited London, staff took them to see some of London's most iconic monuments. These included Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Downing Street, Trafalgar Square, Hyde Park and Buckingham Palace. To see all these places was a great experience for all students, however getting the chance to visit and perform at the highly regarded RADA institution made the day an unforgettable occasion.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team team, sponsored by Franks The Flooring Store had a disastrous weekend losing both their league games to fellow promotion rivals Darlington and Barnard Castle. On the Saturday the 1sts lost away at Darlington by 9 wickets with Chris Palmer's patient 38 the only bright spot as Aycliffe were skittled for just 86. On Bank Holiday Monday, the first team had a much improved performance, but still lost at home to league leaders Barnard Castle by 4 wickets in the 2nd division of the NYSD. Asked to bat first, Aycliffe were thankful to a brilliant innings from opener Luke Telford, who scored a season's best 80, as they were bowled out for a below par 163 after 29.1 overs.

The visitors eased to victory after 39 overs despite some good bowling from Colin Myers (4 for 35) to further strengthen their position at the top of the table. The possibility of a 2nd consecutive promotion has now all but disappeared for Aycliffe as they sit in 7th place in the table, 41 points behind the promotion places with only 4 games to go.

The 2nd team battled hard to earn a deserved draw in their home game against Bishop Auckland in the 3rd division of the NYSD. The visitors were in dominant form with the bat racking up a huge 250 for 6 declared after 43.1 overs despite some good bowling from both Darryn Bancroft (2 for 22) and Jack Slatcher (2

for 30). A superb unbeaten 47 from Aycliffe's Danny Weldon and an equally good unbeaten 26 from Jack Slatcher helped to see their side safely to stumps and thwart Bishops in their quest for victory.

On Bank Holiday Monday, the 2nd team had a fantastic 5 wicket victory away at Yarm 2nds. The home side were asked to bat first and were restricted to 146 for 7 from their allotted 50 overs thanks to tight bowling from Jack Slatcher (4 for 36). In reply opening batsman Darryn Bancroft top scored with a season's best 68 and with useful support from captain Adam Gittins (24 not out) and then Slatcher (18 not out), Aycliffe reached their winning target with 5 wickets and 3.2 overs in hand.

The U15's team made it through to the league cup final for the first time in their short history when they defeated Burnmoor at home in the semi-final by 34 runs. Batting first Aycliffe scored an imposing 93 for 4 in their allotted 15 overs thanks to good innings from both Adam Lamb (34 runs) and Daniel Bowmer (33 not out).

The visitors were bowled out for just 60 after 13.3 overs with George Slatcher the pick of the Aycliffe bowlers taking 3 for 17 from his 3 overs and there was good support from Nathan Parry who took 2 wickets for just 3 runs. Aycliffe's under 15's entertain their Sunderland counterparts in the final next Monday 1st September at the Sports Club.

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Rugby Team Show Promise in First Game

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club had a promising pre-season game with a narrow defeat at Yorkshire division 3 outfit Northallerton. The game saw the debut of Niall Kelly and returns to the club for Dave Gibson, Jonny Stevens, Neil Morgan, and Andrew Parkin. Aycliffe began the match in good style with their backs showing pacing and a cutting edge. The hosts, however, began to use their larger forwards to gain the lion's share of the possession. Back rows, Drew Gibson, Warren Parsonage, and Michael Welsh all put in a fine shift of work in the loose. The Aycliffe defence was good and it was they who took the lead just before half-time with a penalty kick from Luke Tinkler.

The second half saw Aycliffe having to defend more and more against constant Northallerton pressure and Dave Gibson, Tinkler and Adam Gascoigne all put in excellent tackles, with notable contributions from Mikey Dunn and Ben Stevens as well. Finally, with 10 minutes to play, a moment of magic from the Northallerton fly-half saw the gain-line broken and they were able to cross the whitewash for a try. Despite a final flurry from Aycliffe, the final score remained 5 - 3. This was a good display against

a team that looked stronger than anyone that Aycliffe will face in the league in the coming season. Aycliffe next game on 30th August sees them at home to Durham and Northumberland Division 2 side, Barnard Castle in the first round of the Durham Junior Cup.

The rugby club like to thank Whitehouse Funeral Services and S Cars for becoming the new main sponsors for the club. Also the club wish to thank The Mortgage Advice Centre for donating to the family funday barbeque that took place on Sunday. A good time was had by all!

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