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Rockantics Move to New Stiller Construction on Business Park Builders Discover World War Memorabilia

The former Presswork Metals derelict factory on Durham Way South on Aycliffe Business Park, has been closed since 2008 and plans are in place to convert the building into a new leisure facility with indoor rock climbing as the main attraction. The 70,000 square foot facility will include one of the biggest climbing walls in the country, standing 20 metres tall to stage national tournaments. It will also be used by the British



John Finley (left) with Rockantics directors John Crooks and Vicky Postgate

team for training. Local construction firm Finley Structures purchased the site two years ago and a mixed-use licence was granted by Durham County Council. Finleys are spending £600,000 on building the new facility.

It will be leased to Rockantics, which has been operating from Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre for the last 20 years. The huge steel frame has already changed the skyline and it's hoped the new Rockantics will be open for the 2015 Easter holidays. Rock climbing is one of the fastest growing sports in the country and Rockantics managing director John Crooks said: "This is a really exciting time for us and we can't wait for the new facility to open. We get around 15,000 people a year using Rockantics and we're expecting that to top 20,000 in this new facility. We're still looking at what else to put in, hoping to include a

Continued on Page 2

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Rockantics Relocate

Continued from Front Page

'clip-and-climb' facility which is proving a popular sport." The new premises will include changing rooms, a cafe and private function rooms, and other attractions are being considered for the rest of the building. The building is one of the original World War Two munitions factories and during the re-construction there were a number of interesting historical discoveries. John Finley said: "We wanted to preserve as many of the original walls as possible, and as we scraped some of them back to the original brick we

found a lot of old signage relating to the War effort. "One wall had a sign saying '3.5 shells' and another: 'this is your air raid shelter'! "We also discovered an old railway line when we were digging the bases out, and we're assuming these would transport the ammunitions from the factory to the main national railway line. "It's really interesting and we feel it's important we preserve this important piece of Aycliffe heritage, so we're planning to create a permanent tribute to the munitions workers to be incorporated within the leisure facility for visitors to enjoy."

Aycliffe Tekmar Win Major Windfarm Contract

Market-leading cable protection specialist, Tekmar Energy, has been awarded a major contract by VBMS to supply its latest innovation, TekTube®, to the prestigious Westermeerwind near-shore windfarm project in the Netherlands. The contract award comes less than three months after the company demonstrated TekTube at the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult's (ORE Catapult) National Renewable Energy Centre in Blyth, Northumberland. Tekmar will be supplying cable installation contractor, VBMS, with 92 of its systems next summer to protect the cables into the 48 j-tubeless monopile foundations for the Siemens' EPC (engineering, procurement and construction) project. TekTube is the latest in subsea cable protection systems and was specifically designed as a solution for future projects to continue to help drive down cost reduction, improve offshore installation rates and ensure cable integrity for the service life typically 25 years. James Ritchie, chief executive officer at Tekmar, said: "We are most pleased to be working closely with VBMS on our 16th contract together. The project also marks a key business milestone as it will be the first time we supply our new patented technology TekTube and it will be assembled within our new facility in the north east of England which was launched earlier this year."



Westermeerwind represents the 32nd offshore wind project that Tekmar has worked on to date, supplying its patented solutions to the market since 2008, and follows a string of recent wins on the UK's Dudgeon wind farm, Cape Wind in the USA and Luchterduinen in the Netherlands.

With more than 28 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. TekTube has been designed for installation onshore rather than offshore. The system is then transported to the offshore wind farm site to be secured to the turbine foundation, sealed and prepared to be received by the cable installation vessel. The work before TekTube is deployed offshore offers significant savings on installation vessel time and, ultimately, costs. For more information about Tekmar, please visit - www.tekmar.co.uk

Which PANTO?

For your convenience Newton News has put together a selection of Pantomimes for the coming festive season:

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Sunderland Empire Theatre - 0191 566 1040
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Friday 12th December to Sunday 4th January 2015

ZUMBA FUN WITH CORRINN IS BACK



Corrin Chambers taught Zumba in Aycliffe Leisure Centre a few years ago and her classes were very popular, sometimes reaching as many as 90 plus in its hey-day! Corrin had a baby a year ago, but is now back teaching Zumba at the Youth & Community Centre every Monday night from 6.30pm until 7.30pm with each class costing just £3.50. Corrin's classes are high energy and set to great music but most of all they are lots of fun. We laugh a lot and don't take ourselves too seriously, but everyone gets a safe and effective workout by a certified Zumba instructor. Corrin offers a loyalty card for her customers so that when you pay for nine classes you get your 10th class free. Corrin said even if you have tried Zumba before come along and give my class a 'wiggle', I'm confident you will leave tired but with a smile on your face.

Aycliffe Church Prepares Xmas Hampers for the Needy

LIFE Church in Aycliffe are already preparing Christmas Hampers for families in difficult circumstances in our community. This initiative, known as 'Christmas Lunch on Jesus', will be led by LIFE Church hoping to feed an extra 250 people on Christmas Day. If more funding comes in from people's generosity then more will be delivered. We already know of many people who will spend Christmas Day locked in their homes with little food and no friends. Our hope is through his distribution of Christmas Hampers it will demonstrate that love is more than a word. LIFE Church is also fully supporting the Helping Hands Christmas Day Lunch at Woodham Golf and Country Club but these hampers will go to people who would rather eat in their own homes and it's good that people have a choice. Ornaiser Alwyn White said "We are extremely excited packing the hampers with Christmas goodies including a turkey, stuffing, carrots,



brussel sprouts, potatoes, gravy, Christmas pudding, chocolates and non-alcoholic wine. Each box also contains a booklet about the real meaning of Christmas. They will be given free of charge to people in our community - those on benefits, income support and pensioners. Our research shows that four out of five people taking out payday loans do so to buy food and the loans create spirals of poverty that people really struggle to get out of. The high interest rates and charges push people into desperate situations and increase their poverty. We are hoping this new initiative will prevent a lot of this happening. **We need your help!** Are you or do you know of someone who needs one of these hampers? Would you like to make a financial donation towards the hampers or the Christmas Day Lunch? To find out more, contact:

lifeline.action@googlemail.com / Telephone or text 07936 431262 or visit our web http://lifelinecommunityaction.co.uk



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Schools Help Care Home's Remembrance Garden



It seems everyone has heard about the Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red at the Tower of London but now Newton Aycliffe has its own, albeit smaller version of the hugely successful poppy installation. The ceramic poppies in London totalled 888,246 and filled the Tower's famous moat, one for every fatality during the war. When Woodham Academy was approached by Defoe Court Nursing Care Home in October to produce some 3D artwork to brighten up their new remembrance project in the grounds of the care home the Art Department simply couldn't say no. The staff and residents at the home had been busy knitting their own poppies which they have been selling to raise money for the poppy appeal. The vision was to create a space where residents at the care home could go to

remember the fallen soldiers of war without leaving the grounds of the care home. Residents and care workers were over the moon with their new installation of 35 poppies hand crafted by the students during their lessons in the last few weeks of term. The acrylic poppies looked fantastic swaying in the breeze despite the rather cold and wet weather conditions when the poppies were unveiled. Woodham Academy Head of Art, Lynsey Tait, says "It is always great for students to work on external projects and it was especially nice to see all the people we were doing it for when the home invited us to a celebration morning on the 7th November." Students and staff from Woodham Burn Primary school who had also produced artwork for the home were also present when the Reverend

Christopher Pearson came to bless the garden and lead a small service for the residents before the main candle lighting service planned for Remembrance Sunday.

Xmas Fair

Dear Sir,
I am hosting a Charity Christmas Craft and Gift Fair at Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Shildon on Saturday 22nd November from 10am till 2pm raising money for "Soldiers off the Street" (registered charity number 1137594) and University of North Durham for a cold cot for stillborn babies. Admission is 50p per adult with children free. There will be over 20 stalls selling gifts and crafts - perfect for Christmas gifts, with refreshments available. Sarah Bowman

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£360 Raised for Air Ambulance

Brian Nichol wishes to thank all who supported his Hallowe'en Night of Horrors at his home and garden in Sampson Place. His effort raised over £360 for the Great North Air Ambulance Service and he is now turning his garden into a "Winter Wonderland" for Christmas. Brian is grateful to McColls Shop at the Parsons Centre for their help in providing free sweets for the children.

Flower Lady Retires

Cynthia Scott, Founder President of both Shildon and Sedgfield Flower Clubs, performed her final flower demonstration, to great acclaim, at the AGM of Shildon and District Flower Club recently. A former exhibitor at Chelsea Flower Show, her career in the flower world has been meteoric. One time President of NAFAS, Cynthia has been invited to demonstrate internationally, is a judge for Northumberland in Bloom and continues to teach flower arranging at Greenfields Arts. Although retiring from demonstrating professionally, Cynthia's love of flowers and belief in the pleasure they bring will ensure her continued support for the local flower clubs she founded. She will most certainly be attending Shildon and District's Open Night on Monday 24th November at Shildon Civic Hall at 7.30pm when National demonstrator, Tom Hodge from Southport, will present an evening's entertainment with the enticing title of 'Boom Boom Bos' Cynthia will be there to welcome past and present friends

RAISING CASH FOR CHARITY IS A PIECE OF CAKE

Year 7 from Woodham Academy raised £383.45 for Macmillan Cancer Support by organising a giant bake-sale at school. This amount beat all previous records and is, by any standards, a lot of dough! Not only did youngsters bake, beat, blend, fold, drizzle and pipe their way to this impressive result - they were also responsible for promoting the event too; so, for a while before hand, brightly coloured posters and cleverly worded endorsements and slogans

could be seen pinned to notice boards and classrooms about the premises. Given the level of creativity and sophistication widely on display, it would be hard but admit that activities such as these are a very resourceful way of encouraging school students to put newly acquired skills to practical uses. On the day, students took over their main assembly hall and filled it with piles of confectionary. There were cakes of every conceivable



size, shape and variety; there were coffee cakes, strawberry cakes, coconut cakes, chocolate cakes and even a Coca Cola cake (which tasted much better than it might sound); there were cupcakes, loaf cakes, butterfly cakes, Victoria Sandwiches, flapjacks muffins and scones in every colour under the sun ... although luminescent green seemed the tone of choice. Some cakes were plain and some were adorned with sparkles, or sprinkles, or transfers of ghouls, goblins and Disney princesses; many pupils had grasped the opportunity to express their artistic side - with spirals of fluffy piping being everywhere apparent. The choice was overwhelming, as was the buzz when doors finally opened and the public was admitted. It would not be over egging it to say the students' produce sold like hot cakes. Speaking to staff it was hard not to feel the pride they themselves felt in the achievements of Woodham Academy's youngest pupils. One such staff member, Christine Warburton - a Geography teacher whose own tutor group, 7CW, were involved in the activity, was almost lost for words - although the one she uttered most often was undoubtedly 'wonderful': all-in-all, beamed Mrs Warburton, it was a wonderful event, a wonderful effort and a wonderful example of how schools can engage with the issues of the world around them.

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Work Experience for Budding Chef



Kieran Reid who left Greenfield in 2103 is the latest work experience volunteer at The Cubby. He completed a 1 year Catering Course at Bishop Auckland College and while looking for a full time job is working at the Cubby preparing food for regular customers. Kieran is following in his Dad Shay's footsteps who was a Chef in the Navy serving on Submarines.

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Film Show

Greenfield Students In Liverpool

St Clare's Church FEEL GOOD FILM will feature "THE UNSINKABLE MOLLY BROWN" on Tuesday 25th November. Debbie Reynolds plays the role, which got her a Best Actress Oscar nomination, of the backwood's heroine who survives the Titanic and the snobbery of Denver society. Astronauts Gus Grissom and John Young liked the film so much that they named their Gemini 3 spacecraft Molly Brown. Tea and coffee served at 1pm, included in the £2. The film starts at 1-15pm. A variety of chairs are set out for your comfort, and tables too so you can bring a spot of lunch to eat. EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME to join us and watch this real feel good film in friendly company. Further details from Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755



A group of Year 8 students from Greenfield Community College visited the International Slavery museum in Liverpool last week. They learnt about the horrors inflicted on enslaved Africans by white Europeans and Americans, and the legacy that leaves today. It was a moving and informative trip for these students as part of their history studies. The students said "It really brought to live the horrors of the Middle Passage (journey across the Atlantic), the subsequent slave auction and plantation life that was to follow".

One student found the hidden resistance of the Nigerian punishment masks particularly interesting; another was moved to tears

when she found out about a slave escape, and the punishment - to have their child taken away from them. The students were appalled at the treatment of the slaves, and the children in particular. Despite the horror, the students found the visit useful in a historic context, to find out more about this period in time, one said: "It was great to hear about things which we wouldn't necessarily hear about in the classroom." Overall it was harrowing but very interesting experience that greatly enhanced the understanding of slavery for both teachers and pupils alike. Educational visits like this form an important part of teaching and learning at Greenfield. This is an example of the many that have taken

place this term, with more planned for the new year to continue to enrich the learning experience of Greenfield students.

Rev Julie Wing Returns to St. Andrew's

St. Andrew's Gift Day is on Saturday 29th November in the village hall from 10am - 2pm. Come and support your local church, relax, have a cuppa and mince pie. A piper will play in the morning and all donations will be used for the upkeep of the church and churchyard. There will be a Patronal Service on St. Andrew's Day, Monday 1st December at 6pm. The Revd Julie Wing will be preaching. All welcome.

Reminder for Aycliffe Village

A quick reminder to Aycliffe Village residents about the meeting on 25th November 2014 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Angela Corner and Christine Walton will be there to give residents an update on the Neighbourhood Plan and discuss emerging priorities from the first round of consultation.

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SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITION

Dear Sir,
I wish to thank the Rev Christopher Pearson for hosting my Painting WW1 1914 - 1918 at St Clare's Church for the last couple of months.
The comments received have been tremendous and beyond my expectations that this powerful and emotive painting has created a massive reaction and been the subject of many discussion and debates. Anyone who didn't get to see it, the painting will next be exhibited at the Station Gallery Richmond in the New Year.
Artist John Palliser

Wilko's Help School's Conservation Project

Family-owned Wilko's is helping a conservation organisation, so they can continue improving the natural environment for everyone in the locality.
Literacy worker Mr Heaven set up Woodham Academy Wildlife Club in September to encourage students to become involved in conservation projects, but had been struggling to collect enough tools and materials to keep club members busy; until, he received a phone call from Wilkinson hardware store in Newton Aycliffe.
He had visited the store in the summer to price tools and materials he might need to put his ambitious plans



Hand committee member Richard Tarbutt, and his manager Selema Lee. Richard is a keen gardener, so it is not surprising he is keen to support the Wildlife Club - particularly as they are to host a Big Dig at the school and planting 450 Woodland Trust trees on the site; trees which, coincidentally, have been part paid for by Wilkisons. Richard is clearly happy to put his skills at the disposal of his local community - and by the 'family ethics' Selema says are at the heart of his employers' business plans.
When asked why the Helping Hands committee chose to help the Wildlife Club Richard was eager to mention the fact that the project 'caught his eye' as it benefits young people, and because the natural environment is something he feels is of importance to everyone.

into practice. Whilst there he chatted to a staff member and was handed a leaflet and asked to apply for the Helping Hands organisation run by employees of the company.
A couple of months and a

delighted Mr Heaven is outside the main entrance of the store taking possession of armfuls of gardening equipment.
Also present at the hand-over was Wilkinson Customer Service Assistant and Helping

PRESENTATION OF YEAR 11 EXAM CERTIFICATES

Woodham Academy hosted its annual Year 11 Examination Certificates Presentation Evening last Thursday. The event marked the final chapter for all of the year 11 students. It was an opportunity to meet so many successful students again and present them with their final exam certificates.
Deputy Headteacher Jonathan Lumb said "it was fantastic to celebrate the students' achievements. So many of them have now gone on to further education or training and are utilising their many talents and have already got fantastic futures ahead of them."
Three students in attendance on the night are now studying



at Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form Centre, Darlington. Haydn Maclean is now studying A Levels in Maths, Chemistry, Biology and PE and wants to study Applied Dentistry at University before going into the army.
Chris Horn is studying Maths, Biology, and Psychology and wants to study Clinical Psychology. Alex Smith is studying PE, History, Psychology and Applied Sciences and is hoping to realise his dream of becoming a physiotherapist.
Woodham Academy would

like to wish all of our ex-students success in their continued studies

Tax Rebate Scam Letter

Readers are warned to watch out for a scam which purports to come from Inland Revenue with a sizeable tax refund. This is just a ruse to get you to provide your personal details and HMRC and the Police say you must not respond!

COUNTY NEWSBITS

compiled by County Councillor John Clare

- Durham Wildcats basketball team; home game Sunday 23rd v. London Lions at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre (4pm)
- DCC Cabinet has approved the merger of Greenfield and Sunnydale schools: bit.ly/DCCGreenfield-Sunnydale
- Economy: Local unemployment down 3.4% last month (47.3% on year); but South Durham has 3005 people on JSA and 14,035 (15.5%) workless
- Economy: DCC has set up an inward investment task force: bit.ly/DCCinvest
- Livin and the Aycliffe County Councillors have co-funded a debt advice service, Monday-Wednesday-Friday at venues to be agreed; watch out for details.
- A Durham Landlord Accreditation Scheme is to be rolled out across the county: bit.ly/DCCLandlordAccreditation
- DCC is launching Operation Stop to crack down on flytipping: bit.ly/DCCFlytipping
- Aycliffe's County Councillors have helped fund a van to collect and deliver for the County Durham Foodbank. Demand for the foodbank seems to be flattening off (at c.3750

days-worth of food per month) - but the month after Christmas always sees a rise in the number of users.

- DCC keep 1055 miles (45%) of the county's roads gritted in winter, more than any other County Council. It takes 250 tonnes of salt and costs £28,000 to grit all the roads, once. bit.ly/DCCSnow
- What do you think of pharmacy services in County Durham? Please complete the quick online consultation at bit.ly/PharmacySurvey
- Have you forgotten to book your DCC £20 green waste collections next year: bit.ly/DCCbrownbin
- Aycliffe's Pioneering Care Centre won an award in this year's County Durham Environment Awards, in the 'Climate Change' category, for its sustainable practices.
- A company has applied for planning permission to build a five-year project to film a TV series about Beowulf.
- Keep up with local Aycliffe Council issues on Cllr John D Clare's facebook page: bit.ly/JDClare

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- Breakfast Club 7.45am start
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Ofsted 2014 Report: "All parents who responded to Parent View believe their children are safe, happy and well looked after"

School places currently available in all year groups. For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact the main school office. Telephone 01325 300324

School Website: www.swcps.co.uk

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Dance Till Dawn

Sunderland Empire Theatre
Thursday 19th February 2015
£42 inc. show ticket & coach travel
Show Starts 7.30pm

Calamity Jane

Sunderland Empire Theatre
Thursday 5th March 2015
£36.50 inc. show ticket & coach travel
Show Starts 7.30pm

Oklahoma!

Newcastle Theatre Royal
Wednesday 24th June 2015
£52.50 inc. show ticket & coach travel
Show Starts 7.30pm

Annie

Newcastle Theatre Royal
Thursday 16th July 2015
£58.50 inc. show ticket & coach travel
Show Starts 7.30pm

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www.jandccoachesitd.co.uk
www.facebook.com/jandccoaches.newtonaycliffe

Tesco Invest in New Department Store Look What's Happening at Elmfield School Site?

Tesco have just completed a major investment in it's Newton Aycliffe store. The improvements are part of its 'Building a Better Tesco' programme which will see it refurbish many stores across the UK this year.

They have transformed the general merchandise and clothing departments to create a modern and improved shopping environment for customers. Shoppers will be able to enjoy a stylish F + F boutique as well as the new shop layout focusing on home living, cook and dine and new digital browsers which enable customers to order and purchase any of the 1000's of online products for either home delivery or pick up at the store. The popular Phone Shop has been improved with a warmer look and feel environment offering great deals across most networks and smartphone contracts from as little as £7.50 a month.

Store Manager Martin Butcher said "I am very proud of the work and effort my team have put in these last couple of months to bring our customers a much improved Non Food shopping environment.

The New look in all departments has been received extremely positively by our customers with some great comments. We have included some new product ranges throughout the store which I hope our customers will love".

The store's transformation has allowed it to make better use of some of its non food space and to focus on new popular products. Tesco Aycliffe have created 25 new jobs along with a further 26 temporary Christmas jobs to support this new investment and improve their customers' shopping experience.



Dear Sir,
The site of the former Elmfield School has lain dormant and unused for over 10 years now with various factions expressing a view over its future and nothing apparently being done. The time has come for the public to express their views. What do you think as a resident of Newton Aycliffe.? Having been involved with the Friends of West Park (Boating Lakes) group, naturally one

thinks the areas adjacent to the park are worthy of consideration in regard to regeneration of the whole West Ward. One idea proposes that the land be kept for educational purposes yet our County Councillors maintain that sufficient places are available within the current system. An alternative proposal is for the Elmfield site to be developed for housing and/or

a community facility. Much preliminary work would appear to have been carried out in the exploration of this concept. Surely it cannot be feasible for the site to remain in its present condition for another twenty years? Hopefully through our local newspaper, Newton News, other residents will express their views about what the public want.
Ken Robson



FOOD BANK COLLECTION

Volunteers are needed to fill the rota for the Food Bank collection at Tesco's Newton Aycliffe on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday the 27th, 28th, 29th of November. If you can give an hour or so it would be much appreciated. Please contact local organiser Ernie Temple on 313449

DISCO NIGHT 3 Tickets: £2.50
£3 o.t.d. (limited spaces)
@ The Big Club 29 November 2014

Tickets available from:
Over 21's only The Big Club
7 - 11pm Mollie: 07742 189619
DJ: John Melvin Debby: 07842 946743
Music: 70's till now Debbie: 07977 585399
Facebook: Paula Hill



www.frankstheflooringstore.com



Collection this Sunday 23rd November in Tesco's from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Please give generously.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?
We are always interested in local news stories. We like to feature good news and interesting items on achievements & community service
Tel: Syd 01325 300212
or syd@newtonnews.co.uk

More Car Parking Space for Busy "Work Place"

Since opening in September 2008, The Work Place at Newton Aycliffe has proved popular with both the business and education sectors, providing conference facilities and learning opportunities. Due to increased business the car park has recently been extended to provide a further 50 overflow spaces to the rear of the building. This is great news and means the conference centre can accommodate larger conferences and events in future. The Work Place is a perfect environment for conference, meeting and corporate events, providing comfortable, spacious accommodation including a lecture theatre, high spec pods and a relaxing



Angela Wilkinson in the new overspill car park

refreshment area. With a range of flexible room and catering options for up to 200 and in a good location with onsite parking and good public transport access, the centre is convenient for the whole of the North East. Please contact 01325-375900 or tracy.henderson@twpa.org.uk for more information or visit www.twpa.org.uk. The Work Place also continues to offer training opportunities providing high quality courses to industry and individuals in: First Aid, Paediatric First Aid, Health & Safety and Food Safety. During the month of November Durham Fire & Rescue Services are delivering their

annual Safety Carousel Event to approximately 5000 Year 6 pupils from across County Durham and Darlington. The pupils take part in a range of workshops including Electricity Safety, Gas Safety, River Safety, Internet Safety and Fire Safety. Some of the pupils were asked to help plant trees in the new parking area. Photo: Dave Cuthbertson, Durham Fire & Rescue Service, Neil Blakelock, Brambledown, Angela Wilkinson, The Work Place with pupils from schools in Co. Durham

Eagle Query

Dear Sir,
Many thanks to Mrs Hunter who solved the puzzle of the Eagle as the emblem of Vane Road School. I appreciate her taking the time and trouble to answer.
John Williamson

Why is it a Bald Eagle, a North American species which, except in zoos, does not occur in Britain? We have two resident eagles; the White Tailed Eagle (largest European), sometimes called the Sea Eagle and nick-named the 'Flying Barn Door' because of the size of its wings; the Golden Eagle (second largest European Eagle). We also have a summer visitor, the Osprey, which comes over from Africa to breed in Britain in ever increasing numbers.
Pete Thompson

AYCLIFFE AUTISM SCHOOL SUPPORT CHILDREN IN NEED

Staff and students dressed in onesies to raise funds for Children in Need. The School actively supports other local, national and international charities on an annual basis. Pupils choose relevant charities to support; they plan and participate in a wide range of events and activities. These events raise pupil's awareness of the needs of others. The school raised a fantastic £66.60 from donations and a bake sale. One of the students Georgia Hutchinson, aged 14 baked cakes to sell on the day. Karen Ferguson, Head Teacher said; "The students are so positive about Children in Need. It is an event they look forward to and talk about for weeks. It's important for our students to be involved in the appeal and raise awareness for such a worthy cause."



I'd like to commend all our staff who work hard every day caring for our students, they are always enthusiastic to getinvolved in fundraising activities." For more information about the North East Autism Society visit www.ne-as.org.uk or call 0191 410 9974.



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



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2014

21st November 2014

MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As I begin this seasonal message I am conscious of how proud I am to represent and work for you, the people of Great Aycliffe.

I have, in the first six months of my year in office, met many of you through various activities, from personal family events of 100th Birthday celebrations and a Diamond Wedding Anniversary, to the more sombre collective remembering to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Great War, commencing with a tree planting in Aycliffe Village and the wonderful turnout on Remembrance Sunday, to the gathering in the Town Centre on Armistice Day.

I have taken great delight in meeting the children and young people of the town at events held in schools and nurseries, or Fun in the Parks during the warmer sunnier days of 2014.

I felt it would be fitting that the Civic Christmas Card should be designed by a young resident of Great Aycliffe. From all the delightful pictures submitted, we had the very difficult task of selecting just one. I am sure you will agree that the design chosen is both seasonal and representative of Aycliffe, bearing in mind the thought of so many future developments happening around our town and in the industrial park... from little acorns grow great Oaks...

My chosen charities, Durham County Benevolent Fund, and Cruse Bereavement Care are benefiting from the support given to various events held to raise funds, and I must extend my thanks to The Newton News for raising awareness when fundraising activities are up and coming. The advertising has been appreciated.

Thanks are extended to the staff of Great Aycliffe Town Council who maintain the appearance of our town, and the smooth running of the Oakleaf Sports Complex. Their collective endeavour enabled our Fireworks Display to be the resounding safe success that it was.

Finally to you, the people of Great Aycliffe, I extend warm wishes to you all for the coming season of goodwill and hope you all have a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Wendy Hillary



Councillor Wendy Hillary
Mayor of Great Aycliffe
2014 - 2015

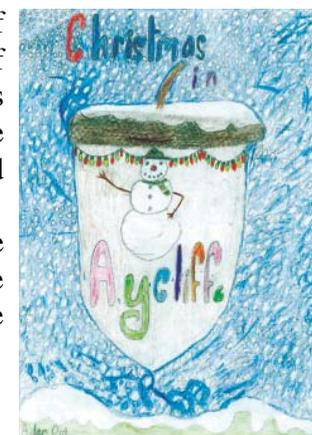
MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS CARD

Councillor Wendy Hillary, Mayor of Great Aycliffe, would like to thank all of the children who entered the Christmas Card Competition to design a Card to be used as the official Civic Christmas Card this year.

We had an excellent response and the decision was not an easy one, however the Mayor has chosen the following picture by Adam Ord to be used this year.

The results of the Competition were:-

- 1st Adam Ord - Year 7 at Greenfield School
- 2nd Ellie Gibson - Greenfield School
- 3rd Mark Chapman - Year 2 at Stephenson Way School



SANTA'S COMING

Check **Newton News** issue 19th December for routes and times of Santas visits, also **Newton Press Website** or **Great Aycliffe Town Council / Oakleaf websites (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)** from mid December. Please remember, because Santa and his helpers don't know how many people will be out to see him, these times are only a guideline.



Santa will soon be touring our streets,
 Ringing his bell and giving out sweets.
 Sadly, some roads are a 'no-no',
 So be ready and waiting to hear his ho-ho
 At the corner if you can -
 Listen for the music from his van.
 Tell him how you've been good all year,
 As that's the news he likes to hear.

Whisper the gifts you'd like to receive,
 With any luck he'll deliver these.
 His reindeer friends will be having a rest,
 So a truck he will use, as that's next best.
 Rudolf and co will be out later that night
 With sleigh piled high, what a wonderful sight!
 Our Santa teams wish you all the best
 Be happy, keep safe, at this Christmas fest.

We are looking for some new volunteers to help Santa in the mammoth task of touring the streets of Newton Aycliffe. If you would be interested in taking part in this magical event, please contact Rachel Goddard on 01325 300600 for further information.

LETTERS TO SANTA

Children in Newton Aycliffe and Aycliffe Village have a special postal service so that the children can send their letters to Santa and get a reply in time for Christmas.

Santa's elves will be putting out Santa's special post boxes on Monday 1st December and will take them back to Greenland on Thursday 18th December.

Unfortunately, every year Santa receives lots of letters that have no name or address on them so he is unable to reply. **Parents are asked to make sure that the child's name and address is clearly marked on the letter** as the parents might be able to read their child's writing but Santa's eyesight is not so good these days!



Boxes will be placed at:

- Ⓢ Post Office in Beveridge Way
- Ⓢ Post Office in Neville Parade
- Ⓢ Redhouse Post Office
- Ⓢ Woodham Post Office
- Ⓢ Joy Marie Hairdressers Aycliffe Village
- Ⓢ Simpature General Store

To save the elves extra work collecting all the letters from the post boxes, Santa also has a temporary e-mail address this year, so if any child would prefer to e-mail their letter, please use santa.northpole@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Further information can be obtained from Great Aycliffe Town Council, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe. DL5 6QF. Telephone 01325 300700, e-mail info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

OFFICE CLOSURES

THE COUNCIL OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON:

Thursday and Friday, 25th / 26th December 2014.

Thursday, 1st January 2015.

Councillors & Staff wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

2015/16 BUDGET SETTING UPDATE

“FUNDING CUTS AND SPENDING PRESSURES LEAVE THE TOWN COUNCIL WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO INCREASE THE COUNCIL TAX NEXT YEAR”

The Town Council is currently in the process of setting its 2015/16 Revenue and Capital Budgets and the Council considered and agreed the draft budgets in October.

The Council's finances are currently in a strong position and in the short term the outlook remains fairly positive with a balanced budget in place, savings continuing to be achieved, and healthy levels of balances and reserves.

As a result, the Council will not need to make any reductions to services next year and the draft 2015/16 Revenue Budget has therefore been prepared in a way that maintains existing levels of service.

However, the Council must also keep a close eye on what is likely to be an increasingly challenging future, and try to plan ahead now, for the difficulties that lie ahead.

The Council is currently reliant on Council Tax Support Grant funding paid by the Government, via Durham County Council, of over a quarter of a million pounds and which amounts to nearly 20% of its Revenue Budget. It has been confirmed that this funding will be cut in the coming years by between 10% and 15% a year, and there remains a risk that it could be withdrawn altogether. The Council is also facing a number of significant spending pressures including the increasing move towards the payment of a 'living wage' for council staff, pension and national insurance reforms, and inflation on running costs.

Unfortunately, in order to maintain services, and absorb the cuts to funding and increases in costs faced over the longer term, the Council has been left with no choice but to consider making a small increase in the Town Council Tax next year.

This decision has not been taken lightly, particularly in light of the on-going cost of living difficulties being faced by local residents, and following on from the four year freeze in council tax delivered by the Town Council between 2010 and 2013.

However, by agreeing, in principle to limit the proposed rise to 2% next year, the increase in the Town Council Tax Bill at Valuation Band A would be limited to less than £3 per year or 5p per week.

This increase will ensure that all of the important services provided by the Town Council to the community of Great Aycliffe can be protected and maintained for at least another year.

Finally it is important to point out that it is still very early in the budget setting process and much could change between now and the final budget being set. The Council will need to keep a close eye on any further developments and respond to these as necessary.

The Council is due to set its 2015/16 Precept and the Town Council Tax in January and I will keep local tax payers informed of future developments via the Council website and in the local press.

Councillor Bob Fleming

Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee and Leader of the Council

NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING CIVIC EVENT

MAYOR'S CHARITY CIVIC BALL

Friday, 20th February 2015

Redworth Hall Hotel, Redworth

Arrangements have now been made for the annual Charity Civic Ball to be held at Redworth Hall Hotel, Redworth. Entertainment from Mr Dave Lynn and Dance Music by John Melvin will commence after dinner and conclude at 12 Midnight.

Tickets are on sale from the Council Offices and are priced at £28.00 each.

Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Mayor's nominated Charities: - Cruse Bereavement Care and County Durham School Benevolent Fund.



Aycliffe Festival

Application forms for the very first Aycliffe Festival are now available from the Council Offices or the website at www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk.

The concept of the Festival is to involve as many local groups, businesses and voluntary organisations as possible, encouraging them to organise an 'event' within the time-frame of the Festival.

Help is available for anyone who would like to organise an event for the Festival, whether it is just a quick telephone call to the Festival Coordinator to answer questions, or assistance to complete the forms. Additionally, training in Risk Assessments and Durham Safety Advisory Group (SAG) process have been organised for those who wish to organise an event.

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. 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.

If you have any queries, or for further information and application forms please ring Marie Robinson, Festival Coordinator on 01325 300700 or e-mail festival@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

ST. OSWALD'S AND WOODHAM BURN PRE-SCHOOLS

“WHERE LEARNING IS FUN FOR EVERYONE”

IMMEDIATE VACANCIES

St. Oswald's and Woodham Burn Pre-Schools are Ofsted registered, providing full and part time nursery places for children from their 3rd birthday. Nursery Educational funded places are available the term after a child's 3rd birthday.

Until funding is available the cost is **ONLY £3.50** per 3 hour session.

For further information please call into the Pre-Schools (no appointment needed),

contact Jackie Swainston on 01325 319880 or visit our website at

www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/pre-schools



Still confusion about the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan!

Although there has been large amounts of publicity surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan it appears there is still some confusion about what the Neighbourhood Plan is and why we are doing it.

In a nut shell there is National Planning Policy which the whole of the country must follow. Then each district/county or borough will then have a local plan, in our case the County Durham Plan, which is in the final stages prior to adoption and considers the whole of County Durham. Then there can be Neighbourhood Plans which are very specific to an area. The Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan is concentrating on planning matters which are specific to our area. We must be in 'general conformity' with the County Durham plan and cannot say NO to development.

Therefore the Neighbourhood Plan is a PLANNING document which contains planning policies for land and business use for the next 20 years for the Great Aycliffe area. For example: if we write a planning policy about allocating a certain piece of land for a Community Building. The plan DOES NOT make that development happen, however it DOES make it an attractive option for developers to build here as the planning rules for that site have already been set.

Finally; the plan must be community led and backed by evidence. The town wide questionnaire is the first round of consultation and is where the plan begins. The vision for the plan is yours, the objectives for the plan are yours, the steering group and working groups will endeavour to turn your vision and objectives into planning policies. The final plan will be checked by an independent examiner, if there is not a clear thread from consultation to vision, to objectives and finally planning policies then this plan will NOT be valid.

Angela Corner states "While I have been engaging with the community and analysing some of the early responses it has become apparent there is confusion over the services which the Town Council provide. There have been a lot of issues raised which are the responsibility of Durham County Council but as they are both generally referred to as 'The Council' I believe this is where the problem begins"

The Town Council ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE for

- Taking away garden waste and the proposed new charge for this service
- Recycling
- Emptying refuse bins
- Running the Waste Transfer Station (Rubbish Tip)
- Enforcement (litter or dog fouling)
- Education (other than the Pre-Schools at Woodham and St. Oswald's)
- Housing
- Town Centre
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre
- Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre
- Community Facilities
- The Library
- Health Services
- Street lighting (other than when on Town Council land)
- Road repairs
- Traffic Enforcement
- Providing bus services
- Highways
- Schools

We understand that's a lot of 'the Town Council don't do' BUT what we are trying to do is plan for the future of Great Aycliffe so whilst we might not be 'responsible' we may be able to help improve things for the residents of Aycliffe"

The Town Council ARE RESPONSIBLE for:

- Special community events – Fun in the Parks, Santa Tours, Fireworks Display, Senior Citizens' Excursions, Christmas Lights, previously Aycliffe Show now Aycliffe Festival
- Assisting and supporting other event organisers – 10k race, 3k Fun Run, Remembrance Parade, Junior Cross Country, Annual Indoor Bowls Competition and Community Enhancement Awards
- 8 excellent parks, all with play equipment
Town Park, West Park, Moore Lane Park, Simpasture Park, Byerley Park, St Oswald's Park, Woodham Park, Aycliffe Village Park
- Additional play areas at Scott Place, School Aycliffe, Oakfield Sports Complex and Horndale
- 6 Football Pitches, Mini-soccer and six-a-side pitches
- A Skate and BMX Park
- 4 MUGA pitches
- An environmental centre at Moore Lane
- An Environmental Officer who works with Communities and Schools to encourage an environmental interest
- 214 allotment plots. 5 allotment sites with pigeon and poultry facilities
- Ground Maintenance and environmental management to:
Great Aycliffe Way, North Agnew Plantation, Cobblers Hall Plantation, Woodham Burn, Simpasture Railway walk, Butterfly Meadow at Rail Halt, School Aycliffe Wetlands, Millfields/Bickford Terrace, Aycliffe Village Greens
- 2 pre-school play settings with 'Good' Ofsted ratings
- Maintenance of Aycliffe Angels Memorial Garden and War Memorial and flagpole
- Public seating in many locations
- Bus shelters with litter bins (not ones with adverts)
- Civic Events
- A Civic Pride Team
- Youth Council
- Community Empowerment – Customer Panel, Consultation and Open Days
- Grants – small grants to local voluntary organisations

If you require any further clarification contact Angela Corner 300700 or email angela.corner@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

AYCLIFFE YOUTH COUNCIL 2014 - 2015



Aycliffe Youth Council elections were held in October and created lots of interest. The Town Council is happy to report that 17 young people were given the chance to be elected to the position of Youth Councillor.

The Youth Councillors this year are a great mix of existing youth councillors and new representatives. This certainly helps with the work of the Youth Council, particularly in the continuity of projects, with the existing members helping the newly elected ones find their feet.

Don't forget Aycliffe Youth Council have a small pot of money available to give grants to local youth or children's groups within the Great Aycliffe area.

If you would like to apply, please state the name and activities of your organisation, how much money you are requesting, what you are currently doing to raise funds yourself and what the money will be used for. The Youth Council will also need to see your recently audited accounts and/or most recent balance sheets.



The Grant Guidelines are available on the Town Council website - <http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/info/council-and-democracy/community-engagement/aycliffe-youth-council.html>

Please put your requests in writing to Aycliffe Youth Council, c/o Great Aycliffe Town Council, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6QF.

ALLOTMENT WATCH SCHEME

The Council has recently joined the Allotment Watch Scheme which is an initiative supported by Durham Police to help reduce crime on allotment sites and deter criminal activity.

Each allotment site under the scheme will be allocated a colour and all allotment tenants are encouraged to spray their gardening equipment in the identifying colour with paint supplied by the scheme.

High value items will be covertly marked with DNA Smartwater

solution which will then be registered on the Police Smartwater database. This makes items less attractive to steal and also easily identifiable if stolen allowing items recovered by the Police to be identified to a particular allotment site and tenant.



PCSO Mike Hutchinson and Tenant's at the launch of the scheme at St Oswald's

ALLOTMENT ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Allotments Meeting took place on Wednesday, 12th November 2014 at the Council Offices. The meeting was well supported with tenants from all allotment sites in attendance.

During the meeting trophies were presented by the Chairman of the Environment Committee, Councillor J.D. Clare to the Best Allotment Garden on each of the Council's sites – results were as follows:-

Finchale Road - Mrs. C. Clarke
Clarence Chare - Mr. K. Cooper
Byerley Park - Mr. G. Cherrie
Aycliffe Village – Mrs. G. Wooster
St. Oswald's – Mrs. V. Hickson who also received the 'Angela Fleming' Memorial Trophy.

The Overall Winner of the 'Best Allotment Garden' and the winner of the 'Ken Woodhall' Trophy was Mrs. V. Hickson plot No. 41 at the St. Oswald's Allotment Site.



Mr. Turgoose

This year the 'Edward Hubery' Memorial Trophy has been donated for the Best New or Most Improved Allotment and this has been won by Mr. P. Turgoose from Byerley Park Allotment Site.

THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS . . .



WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CUSTOM IN 2015.

Sports Complex Christmas and New Year Closures
The Complex will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Years Day.

BRING THE CHILDREN TO OAKLEAF COMPLEX FOR A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS PARTY!

on SATURDAY 20th DECEMBER between 1.00pm-2.45pm

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PARTY GAMES, SEASONAL MAKE & DO ACTIVITIES AND MUCH MORE

ALL FOR ONLY £4.00 PER CHILD

Age 4-7years (Parents must stay in the building)

Tickets available from Oak Leaf Reception and places are limited, so collect yours soon!

Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve - QUIZ NIGHTS

? Tickets £2.00 - See Bar Staff for Tickets - On Sale 1st December

Hot Meat Sandwiches and Quiz included in ticket price ?

Food will be served at 8.00pm - Quiz starts at 8.30pm

1st and 2nd place prizes plus spot prizes

Come & join the fun!

(Tickets are limited so get yours now!)

Oak Leaf
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01325 300600
www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Traditional Christmas Lunch

On Sunday 14th & 21st December we will be serving Christmas Lunch in the Function Room between 12noon and 2pm.

Two Course Menu

for only £10.50 per adult £7.50 per child (main meal and dessert)

Waitress Service, Please Pre-Book, Payment Required on Booking

Main Meal

Choose from the following;

Roast Turkey with all the Trimmings
Roast Beef - Roast Pork - Nut Roast

Dessert

Choose from the following;

Christmas Pudding - Ice Cream
- Mulled Berry Crumble

We will be creating a festive atmosphere with Decorations, Table Cloths and Christmas Crackers

Relax
Celebrate
And
Enjoy



We Have
Christmas All
Wrapped Up
For You

Normal Sunday Lunch will still be served in the Bar on these days. A warm friendly welcome guaranteed.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ENHANCEMENT AWARDS

The Town Council wishes to receive nominations from local residents within the Great Aycliffe area for the awarding of Enhancement Awards for residential Christmas Lighting displays which portray the spirit of Christmas.

Please return this nomination form to Great Aycliffe Town Council, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6QF or e-mail the details of your nomination to: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk.
Closing date for applications: - Monday, 15th December 2014.

I would like to nominate the house below for a Christmas Lights Enhancement Award for its display of Christmas Lights 2014.

Address

.....

Householder Name.....
(if known)

Christmas Garland Workshop – Sunday, 21st December 2014

Great Aycliffe Town Council is again providing a free environmentally themed festive activity to celebrate the Christmas period.

Christmas is a time for all the family so we have organised a garland making workshop on Sunday 21st December at 10.30am to 12 noon at Moore Lane Eco Centre. The workshop works best as a family group as the willow needs to be moulded into shape which is best done by adults; the children enjoy being creative and helping to make something that visitors to their home can admire over the holidays. Adults are of course more than welcome to attend if they do not have children.

These events are always popular so booking is essential as materials and space are limited. Please contact the Town Council on 01325 300700 to secure your place.



Volunteering in your Countryside

Great Aycliffe Town Council operate a weekly volunteer programme when local residents can get a chance to help improve and maintain the local countryside and green spaces around the town.

Volunteering on practical countryside management tasks gives volunteers the opportunity to learn new skills, meet new friends, keep fit and help to look after one of the most important assets the town has at the same time.

The group welcomes people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. Volunteers will need a reasonable level of fitness, be enthusiastic and not mind working in most weather conditions.

The group meets weekly, generally on a Tuesday and Thursday. Participants can be picked up and dropped off at their houses if they live in Aycliffe, volunteers are supervised at all times and suitable tools and equipment are provided.

To find out more please contact Great Aycliffe Town Council on 01325 300700 or e-mail steven.cooper@great-aycliffe.gov.uk



Cubby Fayre

A Christmas Fayre will be held at the Cubby on Wednesday 3rd December from 9pm - 12 noon. On sale will be Christmas Hampers, Baking sets, and children's sweets all beautifully presented. Come along and enjoy a warm welcome and wonderful food at affordable prices.

LITTLE TREASURES CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Little Treasures Toddler Group are holding a Christmas Fayre at Woodham Community Centre on Saturday 29th November to raise money for the group, which meets at the community centre each Tuesday morning, and also for a children's home in

Darjeeling, India. The Fayre will run from 10am to 12.30pm and there will be a wide range of Christmas gifts, crafts, decorations, cards, books, beauty demonstrations and treatments, face painting, children's games and a cake stall. Group Leader Helen Forster said, "We hope that this will attract a large number of people from the community. It's a great way to support local businesses and the local toddler group as well as helping those in need." Entry is £1 for adults including refreshments and free for the under 12's so come along and enjoy the fun!

Students Create Healthy Treats at Greenfield



For the past 5 weeks a group of

Year 6 students from Chilton Primary School have been busy with Greenfield College's Technology department - visiting the specialist classrooms at Greenfield each week for an afternoon as part of the new curriculum in technology. The group of students have been creating healthy home made "fast food" with our food technology specialist Emma Curran, making their own versions of chicken goujons and burgers amongst other things. The children have really enjoyed their time at Greenfield, and despite being sceptical at first they loved their healthy food! Many of them have been practising the recipes at home. After their food sessions the group have been working with textile specialist and subject leader, Janet Ward, using smart materials and textile processes to make creatures of the rainforest. We are now looking forward to welcoming a Year 5 group from Chilton to the Technology department this week, as part of a larger programme of activity Greenfield is delivering to support local primary schools.

Christmas Party with Billy Black Band



Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre will host its first

Christmas Party Night on Saturday 20th December with a three course meal, disco and live music from The Billy Black Band. Billy Black has an amazing and unique voice. His soaring vocals create a truly electric atmosphere with a dynamic party rock set, which includes breathtaking versions of songs by Guns n Roses, AC/DC, Robert Palmer, Bryan Adams, Van Halen, Aerosmith, Kings Of Leon, Journey, Bon Jovi, Foreigner, Led Zeppelin, Darkness, Whitesnake, Def Leppard, Ozzy Osborne etc. A three course meal will be provided by Ramside Catering and Paul Gittins will be in charge of the decks playing all your favorite Christmas songs and requests. Tickets costs just £19.99 and are selling fast! Tickets and menu choice need to be booked no later than Friday 12th of December. Places are limited so get yours now from the Leisure Centre reception. For further details contact Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, call 03000 266446 or email wendy.bake@durham.gov.uk

Lighten Up!

Dear Sir
As a resident of Malvern Way for 8 years, I have noticed the street looking so depressed during the Christmas season!. In all honesty, I am slightly hypocritical as I haven't put any lights up for a while but I will do this year, and I urge other residents to embrace the season!. It only happens once a year, why waste the feel good factor? Ho! Ho! Ho!
Kane Shaw

TABLE TOP / BOOT SALE

Family event in aid of Wecan Parent Group

Saturday, 22nd November, 2014
11.00am to 3.00pm

Elm Road Working Men's Club, Shildon

50p Entry for Adults - Children Free
To book a table (£8.00) please ring 07534 117693

Fancy Dress Competition for Children (25p entry)
Plus a visit from children's favourite characters



The Village Pharmacy

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Pharmacist: Alisdair McConnell MRPharmS

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www.thevillage-pharmacy.co.uk

OPENING TIMES

Monday-Thursday 8.30am-5.30pm
Friday 8.30am-6.00pm
Saturday 9.00am-12.00noon
(Closed 1.00pm-2.00pm for Lunch)

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Please do not hesitate to contact Alisdair and his friendly staff who are always available to speak with anyone who would like help and advice.

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Please Dial Carefully

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To set up an account please visit the surgery
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Newton Aycliffe
Leisure Centre presents

A little CHRISTMAS Sparkle

With live music and a three course meal from
Ramside Catering, celebrate the festive season in style at
Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre.

Saturday 20th December

Doors open 6.30pm until Midnight
Tickets: £19.99

To avoid disappointment book your ticket today
at reception or by phoning 03000 266446 or
email leisure-newton-aycliffe@durham.gov.uk

For £19.99 enjoy this fantastic event that includes;

- A three course meal
- Live music from Billy Black Band
- Disco

Over 18s Only, Licenced Bar

Newton Aycliffe
Leisure Centre
Beveridge Arcade
DL5 4EH.

Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre is available for private hire and functions.
Please ask reception for more details. *Terms and conditions apply

STEPHENSON WAY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

"This is a good school." - Ofsted 2014

All comments are from the Ofsted 2014 report

"All groups of children make good progress."

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

DECEMBER 2014 OPEN DAYS

We will be holding OPEN DAYS on Friday 5th and
Saturday 6th December between 10.00am and 12noon.
Tours of the school will start at 10.05am and 11.05am, with an
opportunity to ask questions afterwards. No booking necessary

For more information or to arrange a visit at a
different time, please contact the Main Office

Telephone: 01325 300324

School Website: www.swcps.co.uk

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Aycliffe Village School Christmas Fair

The PTA is once again working hard behind the scenes to bring an evening of seasonal fun for all, with their annual Christmas Fair. The event, running from 6pm until 8pm on Thursday 4 December, will have hot food and refreshments available throughout the evening. There will be stallholders with goodies ranging from Silver Splendore's hand crafted silver jewellery to Children's books and crafts, as well as the popular glitter tattoos and a chance to visit Santa in his grotto. You can try your luck on the children or adult tombola or buy a ticket for this year's raffle which has a whole host of prizes, including hotel stays, shopping vouchers and a family ticket to Darlington's Outdoor Ice rink, courtesy of Distinct Darlington. Raffle tickets can be purchased from the school office and will also be available on the night. And be sure to tell your children to keep at look out for a special visit from Frozen's Anna and Elsa! Everyone Welcome

Inner Wheel Sunday Lunch



P.C.S.O. LAUNCHES ALLOTMENT WATCH



The popular annual Sunday Lunch organised by Newton Aycliffe Inner Wheel club was held at St. Clare's last Sunday and received the usual good support from regular attenders. They all know this event is a nice social occasion with great home-made food prepared by the members. All profit from the meal and the raffle goes to charity and the current President Maureen Howe thanked everyone for attending

The scheme was set up to deter thieves and prevent allotment crime. It will be run by PCSO Mike Hutchinson and Great Aycliffe Town Council and include all allotment sites. Middridge will also be involved. Each site is given a unique colour and items will be painted in this colour. If items are recovered by police, they can identify which site the item belongs so it can be returned to the owner. Higher value items will be forensically marked with Smartwater which will also be registered to each individual site. If anyone has any questions regarding the scheme or about the security of their allotments they can get in touch with Mike via 101 or speak to Great Aycliffe Town Council on 01325 300700.

Pre-School Learning Centres

We provide a high quality service, where every child feels safe, is happy and has fun in safe and secure learning environments. Both Pre-Schools offer affordable childcare including flexible hours (depending on capacity) to meet your individual needs. We provide the Early Years Foundation Stage, with stimulating environments where all children make steady progress in all areas of learning. Early Years Educational funding is available, to all children the term after their 3rd birthday. This means your first 15 hours are **FREE!** If you child is not yet eligible for funding the cost would be **£3.50** for a three hour session.



ST. OSWALD'S PRE-SCHOOL is located in St. Oswald's Park, Wren Close, and is open from 8.45am to 3.30pm Monday to Friday, during school term time.

A full day at St. Oswald's costs £15.00 with funding and £18.50 without.

WOODHAM BURN PRE-SCHOOL is located in Woodham Burn Community Primary School, Humphrey Close, and is open from 8.45am to 3.15pm Monday to Friday during school term time. At Woodham Burn we work closely with the Out of School Club, (under separate management), to enable children to access care and education from 7.45am to 6.00pm. A full day at Woodham Burn cost £14.00 with funding and £17.50 without. The Out of School Club charge £3.50 for before school (7.45 to 8.55) and £6.50 for after school (3.15 to 6.00pm). Additional hours (in excess of the first 15) are available in both Pre-Schools at a cost of £4.00 per hour.



Why not come along and see what we can offer you and your child?
For further information please call into either Pre-School (no appointment needed) or contact
Jackie Swainston on 01325 319880

M.P. at Wheatley Hill Remembrance Sunday

Dear Sir,
This year marks the centenary of the beginning of the 1st world war. It is a very important year and all across the country there have been activities commemorating this significant milestone in world history and I have been taking part in some of these activities. On Remembrance Sunday I attended the Wheatley Hill Service on the morning and Aycliffe Village on the afternoon for their ceremony. I have requests to attend Services across the constituency, but this year I chose Wheatley Hill where over 500 people from this village and the surrounding villages lost their lives in the war. As the years between now and the first-world war increase, there is a risk that the heroes of this war being forgotten and I hope this is never the case. By attending these events, and remembering the fallen we will hopefully ensure that those that gave their lives for our country will be honoured for many generations to come. Phil Wilson, M.P.

**(WHINBANK ROAD, NEWTON AYCLIFFE)
(TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2014**

The Council intend in not less than 7 days from the date of this notice to make an Order under Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, as amended, to close to vehicular traffic a 560m length of Whinbank Road between its junctions with Gurney Way and Whitworth Way, Aycliffe Industrial Estate, Newton Aycliffe to be undertaken. The maximum duration of the temporary closure under the Order is 18 months and is required 7.00 am on Thursday 04.12.14 and for the duration of the works anticipated to be 16 days. However, on rare occasions, alternative dates for closures may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly. **Alternative route:** from the northern side of the closure from Whinbank Road westerly on Horndale Avenue, continuing west onto School Aycliffe Lane and southerly onto Preston Road and continuing southerly and easterly to the junction with Whinbank Road to the southern side of the closure, and vice versa. A local diversion is available using Gurney Way, Hilton Road, Redworth Way, Burtree Road, Durham Way onto Whitworth Way.

Dated: 21 November 2014

Durham County Council

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

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 3rd December 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)

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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

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Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6UJ

Telephone: 01325 304432

Opening Hours:

Mon-Fri 8am-5.30pm; Saturday 8.30am-2pm

Attendance Awards



Two very excited boys enjoyed an afternoon out of lessons last week. Adam Ketley (Year 1) and Hayden Harrison (Year 5) were awarded a well deserved treat after achieving 100% attendance in the Autumn term.

Many other boys and girls at Sugar Hill Primary School also managed to gain 100% attendance and their names were placed into a hat and the two winners were drawn out during celebration assembly. The boys' reward was a £20 gift voucher which they spent in store accompanied by Mrs McCormick. Both took time to choose the gifts they wanted and then enjoyed a snack in the store's cafe. Tesco staff commented on how happy they were to have these two excellent "attendees" in store. Let's see who wins next term's prize!

Heighington Xmas Fair

St. Michael's Church at Heighington hold their Christmas Fair on Saturday 29th November in the Village Hall from 10am - 2pm. The Mayor will officially open the fair at 10.30am. usual stalls and refreshments available. Father Christmas will be in attendance and would like to see lots of children. Admission is 50p - children Free!

Aycliffe Come Out on Top in Derby Game

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club travelled to neighbours Sedgefield for the latest Durham and Northumberland Division 3 fixture. On a murky and damp afternoon, Aycliffe were able to select a team from a squad of 23 players. These local derbies are always hard fought affairs, and this game was no different. Sedgefield began strongly and the game was less than 5 minutes old when they crossed for a converted try. As the game wore on, Aycliffe

gradually found their feet and Luke Tinkler narrowed the scoreline with a penalty kick; Jonny Griffith, despite being a newer member of the team, was showing that he can be a potent runner. Aycliffe then found themselves temporarily down to 14 men due to a sin-binning, but far from going on the defensive, they attacked the opposition to such effect that they scored two tries whilst short handed. First some slick work saw Chris Richards cross the

whitewash and then, just two minutes later, Deryk Cairns scored from a lineout. With Tinkler adding the conversion, Aycliffe led 15 - 7 at half time. In the second half Aycliffe were the first to score as Andy Littlefair went over from short range. Sedgefield scored a converted try of their own to keep the game alive. The game was entering its last 15 minutes when Cairns added his second try to gain the bonus point and another Tinkler conversion seemed to have settled the game as Aycliffe led by 15 points.

Sedgefield had other ideas though and they threw caution to the wind and scored a converted try and, soon after, a penalty goal to get them to within a try. This season has seen Aycliffe lose out at the

end of the game a number of times and the large visiting support were getting very nervous.

If the players were afflicted by nerves they did not show it as good handling saw Richards able to cut through the defence, and Tinkler's kick finally made the game safe as the visitors ended 36 - 24 to the good.

Hopefully, Aycliffe, with players coming back from injury, will now begin to make their way up the table. There is no league game on 22nd November, but it is hoped that a friendly match can be arranged. Details will be found on the website at <http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/newtonaycliffe/>.

Aycliffe Rugby is sponsored by WHITEHOUSE FUNERAL SERVICE and S CARS.

SPORTS CLUB HIT WITTON FOR 10!



Newton Aycliffe Sports Club bounced back from last weeks penalty shootout defeat to hammer bottom of the league side Witton Victoria 10-2, their largest margin win in the league so far this season. An early scare in the first ten minutes, which saw Victoria hit the bar was enough to wake up the travelling Aycliffe side. Anthony Campbell, starting up front again after last weeks man of the match performance, opened the scoring with a pile driver from just outside of the box. Strike partner Connor Hughes then doubled the lead just moments later after missing an easier chance earlier in the game. A defensive error and lack of communication saw the home side grab a goal back on 22

minutes, but just 3 minutes later Hughes grabbed his second and Aycliffes 3rd. It was on the half hour mark that Hughes grabbed his hatrick as the away side started to dominate the half. Another lapse in concentration though, saw Victoria grab a second goal, but all hopes of any comeback were dashed when David Teders long range effort flew past the keeper to make it 5-2 going into the break. The second half was completely dominated by the Sports Club. Anthony Campbell grabbed his second goal, five minutes in and with Connor Hughes in devastating form, grabbing his fourth and the teams seventh - the home sides hopes of any comeback were quickly dashed. The Sports Club back three of Craig Barrigan, David Hall and Craig Hannant had little to do with the home side not applying any real pressure and tiredness taking them over.

Connor Hughes (Left) and Anth Campbell - 7 goals between them in this game Both wing backs, Carl Robinson (making his Club debut) and Darren Bossomorth were causing the home side no end of problems and slick passing from the midfield, controlled by Paul Cook, soon helped carve an 8th which was converted by Connor Hughes on the floor from a cross from the right hand side. It was Paul Cook who hit the ninth goal of the game after missing two earlier chances to get on the score sheet and it was substitute Chris Jones who finished off the scoring with the tenth and final goal of the game.

Team: Andy Hartley, David Hall, Craig Barrigan, Craig Hannant, Carl Robinson, Darren Bossomworth, David Teder, Paul Cook, Gareth Boyes, Connor Hughes, Anthony Campbell.
Subs: Chris Jones, Tom Postle, Tommy Young
Next Week: Away Bishop Lacey's (League Game)

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<http://greenfieldschool.net>



CASUAL COMMUNITY SPORTS & ARTS ASSISTANT
Grade 1 Pt 5-11 - £6.44 to £7.71

Greenfield Community College is seeking to appoint a pool of enthusiastic Community Sport & Arts Assistant for casual part time work. The successful candidate will be flexible to work some evenings and weekends as and when required, to work in a community led environment, to manage enquiries, bookings and administrative tasks.

Please contact Mrs Susan Mouyiassi on 01325 300378 or email susan.mouyiassi@greenfieldschool.net for further information and an application pack.

Only applications submitted on the school's application forms and completed in full by the specified date will be considered.

Greenfield Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of sex, race, marital status or disability

The school is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and require all staff to share this commitment. All posts are subject to satisfactory DBS clearance.

For further information in relation to the post please contact Miss Katy Milne on 01325 379048 or e-mail katy.milne@greenfieldschool.net

Closing Date: 12 noon Friday 5th December 2014
Interviews will be held on 22nd December 2014
All appointments are subject to medical clearance

Your place of work will be Greenfield Community College. The school is part of the Aycliffe and Shildon Schools Education Trust (ASSET) and you may be required to work in any of the school sites within the Trust.

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POLICE COMMISSIONER TACKLES CRIME AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

Ron Hogg, Police Commissioner, has set up the first ever external Rape Scrutiny Panel in County Durham and Darlington. This panel is a key priority in the regional Police and Crime Commissioners' Violence against Women and Girls Strategy. It aims to provide independent oversight of rape investigations to identify best practice and opportunities for improvement. Panel volunteers were welcomed by Mr Hogg at the induction meeting last Friday. Mr Hogg said: "This is a unique opportunity for us to introduce external scrutiny in police investigations. I want this panel to examine the way cases have been handled, so that we can learn lessons and improve investigations, provide better support for victims and improve the community's confidence." Mr Hogg hopes that by

shining a light on the investigation process for cases of rape, ultimately conviction will improve. Volunteers will challenge cases in a constructive way and provide invaluable feedback to the police, CPS and external agencies, helping them to improve how they respond to this type of crime. Deborah Barker, newly-appointed Chair of the Panel and CEO for the Rape & Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre (the Rape Crisis Centre in County Durham), said: "Opening up cases for external scrutiny shows a real commitment to improve performance and provide a better service to victims and the community. It is encouraging that the welfare of victims throughout the investigative process is a major aim of the Panel and I feel confident that this independent Panel will work hard to achieve this aim."

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Macmillian Coffee Morning Raised £800

Last half term children from Stephenson Way Community Primary School were busy raising money to donate to Macmillan Cancer Support, with the final total now being confirmed at £800.

As well as hosting a coffee day, the children learnt about why it is important to support charities and how donations of time and money are used. The event was organised and run by Y6 pupils and they fulfilled many roles to ensure the day was a success.

The work of Macmillan is now an integral part of the Y6 curriculum and children have benefitted from learning about how and why it is important to offer to support to others. Key learning tasks linked to the day included formulating adverts, generating fund raising ideas and planning an event.

Throughout the coffee day parents enjoyed hot or cold drinks and had the opportunity to choose from a wide variety of cakes; the majority of which were donated by staff members or parents. The event was extremely well supported and visitors gave generously to the charity. To ensure the day ran smoothly, the Y6 children

were on hand to greet visitors and help serve cakes and drinks to other children. In addition to the cakes and coffee on offer, the pupils ran a stall selling loom bands that had made and donated. The Year 6 children also held a competition where guests were invited to guess how many coffee beans were in the jar.

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specialist Southdale is planning for growth in its North East business after moving into larger premises.

The firm, which is on target for a regional turnover of £30m in the current financial year and to be active on at least 12 sites in the North East, is aiming to expand its presence into the North of the region.

Southdale has agreed a lease on new offices in Parsons Court, on the Aycliffe Business Park, which will allow it to grow from its current 30 employees to 50. The Gladman-owned office offers 2,500 sq ft over two floors and sits at the heart of an area of the estate which has been highlighted as one of the county's growth hot spots.

The company specialises in constructing high quality, affordable homes, as well as technically demanding public buildings, including extra care accommodation, medical facilities and community centres. Southdale first moved into the North East in 2010 and has completed projects for a range of registered landlords across the region. Craig Knowles, Operations Director for the North East, said: "We have plans for sustainable growth in the North East, and that includes a significant increase in staffing and a broadening of the geographical area in which we operate."

"These new offices will allow us to grow and give us a base which is very easily accessible for all parts of the region, and we are looking forward to being at the heart of a vibrant business park." http://www.southdale.co.uk

NEW MANAGER AT ROSE LODGE CARE HOME

Rose Lodge Care Home, Carers Way, have appointed Nicola Wheatley as the new Care Manager.

Far from a new addition to the team, Nicola will have worked at Rose Lodge for seven years in January having initially started as a part time Care Assistant before being promoted to Senior Carer and then Deputy Manager before taking over the Care Manager role.

Nicola has over 15 years experience in the Care Sector and has lived in Aycliffe for 20 years after moving to the area at the age of 13. She will oversee the running of the 54-bed care home which specialises in residential and dementia care.

Nicola said: "I am delighted to be taking over the Care

Managers role. Rose Lodge is like a second home to me and I am looking forward to continuing to build on its excellent reputation for providing high quality care and building strong relationships with our local community."

Upcoming plans for the home includes refurbishment work in the main lounge, a new beauty room and newly refurbished coffee shop. Rose Lodge Care Home is owned by Countrywide Care Homes, part of the Maria Mallaband Care Group, which recently was awarded Global Care Home Operator of the Year at the 2013 UK Over 50's Housing Awards.

Regional Director Stephen Young said: "I am pleased to announce the appointment of Nicola Wheatley to the Care Manager role.

She is passionate about care and with her experience, skills and history within Rose Lodge



I know she is the right person to build on the already high standards."

The home adopts an open door policy and Nicola invites anyone wishing to visit the home or speak with her to call in at any time.

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There has been an amazing response for the Sale of Preloved Baby and Children's items with over 20 sellers booked and more requests still coming in!

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Christmas Craft Fair and Family Day

PCP's annual Christmas Craft Fair is taking place on Saturday 29 November from 10am-2pm in the Pioneering Care Centre, Newton Aycliffe. This craft fair has something for everyone and captures the community spirit of Christmas. Enjoy a relaxed shopping experience where you'll be able to pick up unique gifts to delight your friends and loved ones. Have a seasonal snack in the Mall Coffee Shop and decorate your own Christmas biscuits with the kids. Confirmed exhibitors include jewellery, handmade toys, textile gifts, Herbalife skin products, wood turned gifts, Disney Frozen gift items, natural Aloe Vera products, hand painted candle jars and edible gifts.



Santa Claus will be visiting on his sleigh between 11am - 1pm, chestnuts will be roasting and carol singers will be

For Sale

BARGAIN BUYS Bosch washing machine to rent, £3.99 a week! No deposit, no more unwanted repair bills. Tel 321 678

"ALLSORTS" selling anything and everything for Charity. Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10am to 1pm at St Clare's Church.

BOXED Black Nintendo 3DS £70; Boxed Cosmic Blue Nintendo 3DS £70; Nespresso Lattissima+ coffee machine. £60. Tel 07789 502173

MODERN design 3 piece suite with full recliner action on brown bonded leather, slight wear, £300 ono. Tel 07890 282710 (days), 01325 310026 (eves)

G-PLAN one large armchair, pale green leather, excellent condition, pet and smoke free home, only £75. Tel 01325 313989 (after 6pm)

THOMAS and Cranley deluxe action road and rail train set, with many extras, £45. Tel 07756 298453

CLASSIC (70's) ladies touring bike. Falcon Black Diamond (19" frame). Offers. 01325 315835

NATIONAL Geographic Magazines - free to good home. 01325 315835

ANTIQUe pine dining table, round, extending to oval and four upholstered chairs. £50. Tel 01325 313406

BRAND NEW double divan with quilted Damask mattress, can deliver, £120. Tel 07789 113343

UNDERBENCH fridge, good condition, as new, £35, can deliver. Tel 07754 261443

4ft FRIDGE freezer, small freezer, good condition, £45, can deliver. Tel 07754 261443

A LARGE quantity of men's, women's and children's socks, tights, underwear and gloves etc for sale. Value £2000 at wholesale, estimated £4000 at retail being offered for £950 o.n.o. Too much to list individually so please call 07913 952174. Ideal for car booters, market traders or onliners.

LUXURY wooden rabbit hutch by "Lazy Bones". 3 storey, built in run, 2 sleep areas, easy clean inserts, 51" long x 18" wide x 54" high. Cost £169.99 (from Julie's Pets), bargain at £70. Tel 01325 321689

LARGE indoor rabbit hutch, 22" wide x 42" long x 18½" high. £10. Tel 01325 321689

Talent Show for Children in Need

St Francis' hosted a talent show today along the lines of Britain's Got Talent. The whole show had been designed and organised by the Children's Council as a fundraising assembly for Children in Need. Eight acts had been shortlisted for the final show by the Children's Council. Acts included musicians, singers, footballers and dancers.



There was a large audience made up of friends and family as well as the rest of the school. The acts entered the hall nervously as they realised the size of the audience.

All the acts performed very confidently. Jennie sang with so much emotion that Mrs Grey to reach for a whole box of tissues. Next Ella Grace sang beautifully and even managed to make Emma feel festive! Amy bent her body in ways totally unimaginable during her dance and was followed by Elaine who sang with clarity and confidence demonstrating the wide range in her voice. Tony-Alan and Connor amazed us with their confidence to sing, rap and dance and we can't wait to hear more from them. Next up was Poppy who sang a capella - we know how hard that is after watching X-Factor! After that Alfie and Robert showed us some football skills and to everyone's amazement, danced in hold around the hall together!

Finally Michael took to the stage with his Melodica and played a fantastic tune.

All the children made it really hard for the judges and we deliberated for a while before reaching our decision. Third place went to Michael for his musical flare. Second was awarded to Amy for her daredevil dancing. First place went to Jennie for bringing the house down and causing floods of tears with her emotional singing.

A special thank you to the two presenters Taylor and AJ who kept the show running, supported the acts and made us all giggle.

It is fantastic to see the Children's Council organising events for their friends and I know they will want to thank Mrs Ball for the break times she has spent helping them to get everything ready.

Appeal for Children's Christmas Toys



child should go without opening at least one present on Christmas Day. For most of the children we help these presents may be the only ones they can hope to receive this Christmas. Please get in touch - For all enquiries or to find out more, contact: [lifeline.action@googlemail.com](mailto:action@googlemail.com) / Telephone or text 07936 431262 or visit our web page <http://lifelinecommunityaction.co.uk>

It won't be long before excited children will soon be receiving their special Christmas present, thanks to kind-hearted Newton News readers.

Helping Hands are now running a Christmas appeal to collect money and new toys for the town's less-fortunate youngsters in the lead up to Christmas. This year we know we'll have another overwhelming response to our appeal because it's already starting to gather momentum.

Alwyn White said 'We try to plan well in advance so we can make sure they all go to the right homes. With that in mind, can you think of any worthy children for some of the toys? We like you, believe that no

Thank You

THANK YOU to the family who helped my Wife and I back to our home in School Aycliffe on Saturday morning, 15th November. S Robinson, Eastfields, S/A

Birthday Remembrance

WILLIAM WILSON REID 50 on 26th November 2014. Look around your garden Lord, you'll see him sitting there, put your arms around him and tell him we still care. Love from Mam and family

JEAN PARKER 25th November 1933. Missing a special Mam and Nana on your birthday. Lots of love, Kay, Mike, Michael, Sean and Zoe xxx

JEAN PARKER 25th November 1933. Birthday wishes for a special Mam. Love and miss you, Mandy xxx

Obituary

MARY KELLY of Newton Aycliffe, Suddenly but Peacefully on 10th November aged 59 years. Much loved Wife of Brian; dearly loved Mother to Leanne, Sarah and Angela; dear Daughter of Helen and Grandmother to Tia and Isla. Funeral Service took place at St. Marys Catholic Church (Newton Aycliffe) on Friday 21st November at 1.15pm. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu if so desired to the Bobby Robson Foundation.

WARREN 12th November, peacefully in Darlington Memorial Hospital. Sylvia, aged 75 years, of Woodham, dearly loved Wife of David; much loved Mother of Karen and Derek and adored Grandma of Alex, Harriet, Andrew, Matthew and James. The funeral is on Wednesday 26th November and friends are invited to meet at Wear Valley Crematorium at 2.00pm and afterwards to join with the family for refreshments at Woodham Golf & Country Club. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu will be much appreciated for Save the Children Fund, and for which a plate will be provided at the crematorium

Congratulations

JOHN HANNAH Time to put your feet up and do all the things you have'nt had time to do, take your time instead of rushing about. Wishing you a very long, healthy and happy retirement on 25th November, you deserve it. All my love, Pat, Karen, Simon, Lisa and Justin xxxxx

THOMAS ALLAN DAVIES Happy 21st Birthday Son, Love Mam & Dad xx

THOMAS ALLAN DAVIES Happy 21st Birthday Tom, Love Paige xx

THOMAS ALLAN DAVIES Happy 21st Birthday Tom, Love Jack & Sian xx

THOMAS ALLAN DAVIES Happy 21st Birthday Thomas, Love Grandma & Grandad xx

JESSICA ROBERTS Congratulations on passing your Driving Test. Very proud of you. Lots of love always, Mam xxxxx

JESSICA ROBERTS Well done on passing your Driving Test. We are so proud of you "Love you". Dad, Sam and Nora xxx

Acknowledgement

ROY BRENNAN - Beryl and the family of the late Roy Brennan would like to thank you all for the many lovely cards, flowers, donations to the Marie Curie Nurses and messages of support received during their sad loss. Special thanks to Dr. Pringle and staff at the Bewick Crescent Surgery. Caroline (Roy's carer) and friends Chad and the girls and Wayne for the great help Roy received, also all the family for their kindness and help. Also Jan Carr from St Clare's for the lovely Service. A big thank you to Brian Shepherd from Whitehouse Funeral Service - you all made us very proud. Thank you all so very much. Beryl and family

In Memoriam

BOBBY MORRELL 26th November 2009. The pain I felt at losing you will never go away, but knowing you are in my heart helps me through each day. When you were here I always felt that nothing could go wrong, but you are still my inspiration and your memory keeps me strong. But among my tears and heartache, there's one thing that makes me glad, that you chose me to share with you all the precious years we had. Your loving Wife, Agnes xxx

BOBBY MORRELL 26th November 2009. Forgive me Dad if I still cry, why was it that you had to die? Others have lost their Dads I know, but you were mine and I love you so. Missing you always. Love, Roberta and Reggie xxx

BOBBY MORRELL 26th November 2009. Treasured memories of a special Grandpa, so dearly missed. Years may pass and fade away. Loving thoughts and memories forever in our hearts. Lots of love, Robert, Hayley, Anne-Marie, Andrew, Adele and Orin xxx

BOBBY MORRELL 26th November 2009. Love and miss you Great Granda. Love, Kaitlyn, Jodie, Jack, William, Rhys and Ava xxx

BOBBY MORRELL 26th November 2009. Dad. Those we love don't go away they walk beside us every day. Love and miss you. Love, David and Bronn xxxxx

KATH HALL (nee Ward). 20th November 2001. Another year passes by without our much loved Mother, Wife, Sister and Best friend. It may have been 13 years Mam, but our thoughts of this day back then, are still very raw. However, our memories of many wonderful, loved and happy years fill our hearts with joy and happiness. Miss you always and love you forever Mam. Julie, Edward, David, Ali, Kim, Glenda, Billy. Love you always Nanna, Shaun, Natalie, Rachael, Ben, Alfie, Janelle, Matthew, Dan. To a great Nanna who will be missed always. Kate, Bailey, Evie, Joey, Jazmin, Harry and your new Great Granddaughter Rose

COLIN WOODWARD We are missing a true friend, never far from our thoughts. You will always be remembered and sadly missed by Ronnie, Mags and families

JULIE REED In loving memory of Julie died 8th November 1999, aged 25 years. No farewell words were spoken, no time to say goodbye, you were gone before we knew it and only God can tell us why. Love you forever, Mam and Dad xxxxx

Births

Congratulations



Madison Jackman and John Dean

on the birth of your Son JC. Very proud of you. Born 16th November 2014 at 2.17pm by Caesarean section at Darlington Memorial Hospital weighing 5lb 10½oz. Thank you for giving us the precious gift of a perfect gorgeous little Grandson. All our love Mum & Dad xxxxx

Madison & John



would like to announce the birth of their beautiful Son John-Cayden on 16th November 2014, weighing 5lb 10.5oz at 2.17pm by caesarean section. Thank you everyone involved at Darlington Memorial Hospital including Katie Cunningham.

Madison & John



Thank you Madison & John for our wonderful Great Grandson John-Cayden born on 16th November. Lots of love from Nan & Davy, Grandad & Rose & Grandad Jackman and a beautiful Great Great Grandson for Grandie Miller & Nan Burns xxx

"John-Cayden"



Welcome to the world John-Cayden. With lots of love from Uncle Mac and all the dogs xxx

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Under 8's Team Show Respect



Newton Aycliffe Under 8 Falcons paid respect by wearing poppies and holding a one minute silence before their game on Remembrance Sunday which they won.

Wise Drive for Woodham Students

Recently a group of Year 10 students from Woodham Academy had the opportunity to take part in a 'Wise Drive' event at The Work Place. This was a driving safety awareness course for young people delivered by Durham Constabulary. The workshops covered

a variety of issues which impacted on driving accidents, including alcohol and drug use, speed, seatbelt use and distractions for the driver of a car. Students also learned about the aftermath of driving accidents and heard some real life stories, which were very

shocking. The students also had a chance to test their reaction time on an emergency stop simulator, which was very exciting. Some of the students bravely volunteered to experience the force of a 5 mile an hour crash! It was a very informative and emotionally stimulating day where all the students, and staff, learned some important driving safety lessons. Our thanks to everybody that took part, especially Durham Constabulary for organising such an excellent event.

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THRILLING LAST SECOND WIN FOR DURHAM WILDCATS

Big time players make big time plays at the right time, and that is exactly what Ralph Bucci did on 16th November. With the game tied at 67, the ball left the seasoned veterans fingers from the three-point line, only two seconds left on the clock and everyone in the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre holding their breath. The ball splashed the bottom of the net, snapping the Wildcats' three-game losing streak and the exuberant crowd nearly snapping the roof off the arena. Durham's thrilling win ended a frustrating string of three losses, the first of which coming when the Manchester Giants visited back on 26th October. Bucci's buzzer beater improved the Wildcats to a 4-5 record.

Filling more drama to this wild game was the fact that Durham was missing the help of two of their top three scorers. Odira Attah and Panos Mayindombe were unable to perform and were taken off the active roster due to injuries they suffered in Saturday's training session. Durham's captain stepped up and led the charge with 16 points, 13 rebounds, five assists, one steal and one block. Making an impact in the paint was Fran Urli who again led the team in scoring for the second match in a row with 18 points and he had 10 rebounds and two assists. These performances earned Bucci and Urli a spot on the BBL Team of the Week.

Chris Jones was honoured on the BBL's Off the Bench team with his contribution of 15 points, nine rebounds, seven assists and two steals. The hero of the night however had nearly handed the honour to a Manchester player after a late turnover by the Durham captain allowed the Giants to attempt their own moment of triumph.

The game was tied 67-67 with 45 seconds left to play. Jones took the half court inbound pass from David Buchberger and carried it to the right wing. Bucci ran off a John Puk screen set low in the paint and popped up to receive the ball at the top of the three-point arc. Bucci drove left and was met by a couple of defenders, leaving Puk open a few feet away.

Bucci saw him, jumped and attempted to feed the big man the ball. But the long arm of Manchester's Ben Eaves anticipated the pass, deflecting the ball to his teammate Stefan Gill who led the charge down to the other end, setting up Manchester's offence with just over 25 seconds to go.

Manchester's co-leading scorer Callum Jones had the ball and was looking for some options. He eventually found a small bit of space at the free throw line. His shot rattled off the left side of the rim and into the waiting hands of Durham's Jones.

With about 10 seconds left in the game, Jones took off, cutting across the court. Jones crossed paths with a Manchester defender who made significant enough contact to stumble Jones. He was able to keep his balance and his dribble and continued on towards the key, four seconds to go. Jones found Bucci awaiting outside the three-point line, off centre to the right.

Bucci pulled the trigger, the ball finding nothing but net. The captain ran with arms spread wide and he and his squad court met their mates on the bench for a frantic celebration.



Bucci said of the final sequence: "Chris had the ball, and I saw that much of the defence was collapsing on him, so I tried to find a little opening. Luckily, Chris saw me, and I was due to make one. Fortunately, the shot went in." He added that it was planned to not call a timeout after the final Manchester shot so they could set up their own final play. "It was one of those times where it was best not to run a set play." Buchberger came back to action for the first time since 19th October and contributed with crucial three-pointers in the first half and two steals in the second half. He finished with six points. Puk contributed eight points to the winning total whilst Joel Madourie had four and Sam Martin nailed a three-pointer. Not much separated the two teams throughout the match. Durham's largest lead came

midway through the second quarter with the score 33-24. Manchester's briefly held a six point lead in the third quarter. There were 11 lead changes during the night. Durham again won the rebounding battle, snatching 41 boards to the Giants' 32. The Wildcats did lose in

turnovers, finishing at +8 with 20 turnovers to Manchester's 12. The Giants gained 14 points from Durham's turnovers.

The Wildcats will now look towards a double-header this weekend, first on the road and next at home. Durham will travel to face the 1-8 Leeds Force on 21st November. The Wildcats dominated Leeds in their home opener back on 28th September with an 80-46 victory.

On 23rd November the Wildcats will return to Newton Aycliffe to take on the London Lions during Durham's Community Basketball Day. The BBL match will be preceded by a central venue league tournament competed by local primary school and academies in the area. Eight teams will compete on the home court of the Wildcats beginning at 12:00pm on the 23rd. The championship match of the tournament will take place during halftime of the Wildcats-Lions battle. Tickets are now available on godurhamwildcats.com

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