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Another Royal Visit for Newton Aycliffe

Second Visit by Royalty this Month

DISC (Developing Initiatives for Support in the Community) welcomed HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO this Tuesday 25th November to celebrate 30 years of life-changing work helping people realise their potential across the North of England. The Duke unveiled a plaque commemorating the 30th anniversary of the organisation watched by Chief Executive Mark Weeding, Board



The Duke, accompanied by Lord Lieutenant Sue Snowden, meets Town Clerk Andrew Bailey after talking to the Mayor of Great Aycliffe Wendy Hillary and her consort Jed Hillary.

Members and staff at the charity based at the IES Centre near the Blue Bridge. From small beginnings in 1984, DISC has developed into a nationally important

charity that operates at over thirty bases across the north of England, with over 400 staff employed in delivering cutting edge services for those members of society that need help the most.

The development of the charity has meant that each year, over 10,000 people are helped to achieve their goals, transforming lives and making communities stronger.

The Duke of Gloucester was given a tour of DISC's headquarters in Newton Aycliffe talking to staff and guests.

Presentations on individual service areas allowed the Duke to view displays from various DISC projects, the history of DISC and on its Social Enterprise activities, with service users and staff talking and discussing issues with him.

Mark Weeding said: "This was a proud day for everyone associated with DISC. His Royal Highness saw projects that illustrated the innovative nature of our organisation which have a really positive effect on individuals across the

continued on Page 2

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Newton News Front Page Error

Newton News apologise to Finley Structures Ltd. for the wrong headline on our front page story last week when we referred to the new Rockantics building as a Stiller Construction. This was a mistake which can only be put down to human error and we are very sorry. Newton News website was immediately changed when the error was pointed out. Fortunately, elsewhere in the story, the correct information was printed, clearly stating the development was the work of Finley Structures Ltd. the very successful steel construction company based on Aycliffe Business Park. Finleys are noted for their construction of the new Hitachi Factory and other major developments

in the North East. Their improvement of former old factory units at Aycliffe is well received, bringing new industry and jobs to the Business Park.

DISC Royal Visit

Continued from Front Page

region.

I am sure he was impressed by the presentations and the warmth of the welcome he received."

DISC's Chair of the Board of Trustees, Mr Jim Black, added: "Modern and inspirational service delivery allows the very best outcomes for our service users. By continually investing in the services we provide, we aim to continue our growth and look forward to celebrating further successes in the next 30 years. This Royal visit was a memorable occasion for all involved."



The Duke received a book of poetry from Zara Hardy whose poem he recited.

FUNDING FOR PROJECTS

Schemes aimed at supporting children and young people could get a kick-start with up to £7,000 funding available for each one.

The money is available from the 4Together Area Action Partnership (AAP) for projects in Bishop Middleham, Chilton, Ferryhill or West Cornforth or projects that directly benefit these areas.

Funding between £5,000 and £7,000 is available for each project. Applications forms, to be returned by Friday 19 December, are available from fouraap@durham.gov.uk or ringing 03000 267 210.

Final decisions will be made after the year with new projects expected to start by May 2015 at the earliest. The AAP is one of 14 AAP's set-up by Durham County Council in 2009 as a way of engaging with local communities.

Aycliffe Songstress Performs at Sedgefield

SEDGEFIELD Racecourse has opened its Grotto early to offer families and adults the perfect opportunity to enjoy a day out whilst finding that unique Christmas gift for loved ones. This fun packed day on Saturday 29th November, had hundreds of stalls selling different gifts, afternoon tea



Mermaid Theatre, 500 at Manchester Trafford Centre, a festival in Leicestershire and lots of local gigs in the North East. She will be performing at the Rotary annual Christmas Community Concert in the Leisure Centre on Tuesday 16th December which starts at 2pm with free admission.

£300 for J.A.M.

JAM Club members and leaders wish to thank Councillors Sarah Iveson and Jed Hillary for their kind donation of £300. The money makes a huge difference and allows us to take twenty young people away for a weekend in May.

Thanks also to those who supported our Auction held with JAFFA for the British Legion.

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Plus the brilliant voice of "Paula Best"
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Saturday, 6th December, 2014
back by popular demand
'UK Legends'
Plus music from Mr B Disco
£3 admission payable on the door

Friday, 5th December, 2014
'Mr B Disco Night'
Free Admission

GREENFIELD BOOK BUZZ

A group of year 8 pupils from Greenfield Community College have been involved in an exciting opportunity aimed at raising aspirations and encouraging reading for pleasure.

Their English teacher and writer Eileen Wharton was challenged to motivate a group of reluctant and/or struggling readers. Not an easy task. How could she give young people the gift of the love of reading? How would she inspire them to want to pick up a book and get lost in its pages? Who better than the school librarian, Dawn Botham to help her take up the challenge.

In an attempt to create a 'buzz' around books and reading, they decided to take a group of year 8 pupils to Seven Stories, National Centre for Children's Books on Thursday 20th November. Pupils spent the whole day celebrating children's literature, immersed in the pages of various children's books, from Mary Norton's 'The Borrowers' to Lewis

Carroll's 'Alice in Wonderland.'

Seven Stories, which was opened in 2005 by Children's Laureate Dame Jacqueline Wilson and author illustrator Nick Sharratt, brings books to life and helps to foster a love of children's literature. Pupils explored the exciting new 'Moving Stories' exhibition, which showcases innovative and influential film and television adaptations inspired by children's books, before engaging in a creative writing workshop inspired by the innovative, prize-winning picture book and short film 'The Lost Thing' by Shaun Tan.

They then visited the Independent Bookshop, which has been recognised by the Booksellers' Association as one of the biggest and best independent children's bookshops in the country. Pupils excitedly chose a book they'd like to buy. Judging by the animated chatter and laughter filling the air, it was clear that the aim of the project had been met.

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Tony Blair Back in Aycliffe

Tony Blair was back in the North East celebrating the achievements of young people who have been part of his Sports Foundation (TBSF), now in its seventh year. Part of his tour took in Woodham Academy and everyone was delighted to see the former Prime Minister and Aycliffe MP, back in the constituency. Tony was his usual ebullient self, mixing well with the students and staff, playing indoor tennis, presenting certificates and giving an inspirational speech

at the school assembly. He was met at the school by MP Phil Wilson and Head Teacher Christine Forsyth. Tony was joined by popular sporting paralympian Stephen Miller and his wife Rachel. Stephen received the Sports Foundation certificate from Tony to mark the partnership between their Community Interest group "SMILE through Sport" and the Tony Blair Foundation. Tony Blair said: "I'm proud of what people in the foundation have built over the last seven



years. I did not expect such a demand for coaches, but more than 4,400 coaches and officials have come through the programme. This is hugely important, because in the North East we have the facilities, but need coaches

to give kids better access to sports. I've been amazed by the numbers of people going through the programme. It's a tribute to the great people who work for the Foundation." The Tony Blair Sports Foundation, launched in the North East by the former Prime Minister, aims to get more young people involved in sport by recruiting, training and placing more sports coaches

and officials into grassroots sport for the benefit of children in our communities, whatever their sporting ability. Since 2007 TBSF has recruited and qualified over 4,400 volunteer coaches and leaders in athletics, basketball, cricket, cycling, rowing, tennis, football and gymnastics. For information about the Foundation: www.tonyblairsportsfoundation.org

Horndale AGM

We are holding our A.G.M on the 3rd December at 6pm with Christmas refreshments at 5.45pm at the Evangelical Church, Ladybower. We will take a look back over the last fantastic year and discuss plans for next year which looks like being a busy one with lots of events planned. We will also vote for next year's Committee; anyone wishing to stand for the committee or just want to help is more than welcome to come along. In attendance will be our new Livin Community Co-ordinator Allison Lonsdale also Police and local Councillors. This is a good opportunity to meet the above people and gives you a relaxed atmosphere to speak with them and discuss issues or ideas. Our meetings are open to everyone and the only thing we insist on is you bring a smile and a laugh. Please come and join us and help make our good neighbourhoods better places to live. Philip Clark Chairman

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Organ Event

North East Theatre Organ Association Concert at New Victoria Centre, High St., Howden-Le-Wear, Nr. Crook, DL15 8EZ on Saturday 13th December 2014 at 7.00pm. Sunday 14th December 2014 is SOLD OUT!

Mighty Wurlitzer Traditional Christmas Concert with International Organist David Lowe and North East top soprano Rachel Orr. Tickets £7.00 Telephone 01388 762467

ACORN Debate Merits of Aycliffe Retail Park

Local residents group ACORN held their November meeting on Thursday 13th November at the British Legion Club. Commencing with a well-attended meeting of the junior group little ACORNS, discussing events and trips over the festive season. Also in attendance were guests representing livin and GATC Neighbourhood Plan. Full marks for Angela Corner Neighbourhood Plan Officer for seeking the children's views on the future of our

town. Youth coordinator Keith Lovejoy announced trips to an Aycliffe Football match and free tickets to the Nemesis Cheerleaders Show at Greenfield School. ACORN Chairman Ken Robson opened the main meeting and introduced Angela Corner to the assembled members opening up a debate on a possible future out-of-town retail outlet which certainly gave the subject a good airing as pros and cons

were considered. Local PCSO Chris Noble followed with a report on neighbourhood crime, humour is a popular aspect of Chris's presentation along with the more serious aspects. Attended by livin representatives the meetings are a popular way of addressing local issues in a friendly and comfortable environment. County Councillor Kate Hopper was in attendance to represent the views of the County and offer support and advice to those who need it.

Also in attendance were local West Ward Councillors George Gray, Arun Chandran and Dan Summers who between them bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the group. The ACORN meetings are characterised by the friendly open group atmosphere and a warm welcome to anyone with an interest in our great town to come along. Speakers are particularly welcomed from other local groups, or residents who need advice. Ken Robson Chairman 01325 321471

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Rotary Club Collect £500 for Ebola Appeal



The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe were in Tesco's last Sunday collecting for the Ebola Appeal and £500 was raised thanks to the generosity of townspeople.

Club President David Anderson wishes to thank all who donated cash with special thanks to the management and staff of Tesco for hosting the collection. "Once again Tesco showed their community involvement by allowing the Rotary Club to use their store to collect for a good cause," said David.

In December the club will be in the store again making their annual Christmas Collection to provide hampers for the town's needy families.

The club is currently planning its Christmas Tour of the streets and looks forward to bringing Santa round to meet the children.

Shed Heads Exhibition



After 7 months as artists in residence in "The Shed" at Greenfield Arts, three of our Shed Heads are showing their work in an exhibition in The Greenfield Gallery, which opened last week. Anna Cole, Vicky Holbrough and Nicola Golightly have been experimenting with creative digital equipment Greenfield Arts has in "The Shed" since May 2014. This includes sublimation printing, large format, digital embroidery and experiments with Greenfield Community College's laser cutter. The equipment and the space has supported and enhanced their current practice as artists, examples of which will be show in this new exhibition. The show includes cyanotype prints, digital embroidery,

sculpture, digital prints and photography, paper quilts and video, capturing and showcasing the artists' time in The Shed this year. As the three artists have different focuses to their practice, their work covers a range of subjects and media, creating an interesting and stimulating exhibition. Greenfield Arts are pleased to be able to support local artists and creative practitioners, and this exhibition is a fantastic example of the success of this support. The exhibition is open Monday to Thursday, 10am - 9pm, and Fridays 10am to 4pm until Thursday 18th December 2014. More information about the exhibition and The Shed visit our website at www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

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Groovy Christmas Dance & Cabaret

By popular demand, local cabaret show Groovy Street are swinging their way back to the Newton Aycliffe Big Club on Friday 19th December, with their new and improved Christmas Show, featuring songs from Tina Turner, Elton John, Blondie, Donna Summer, The Bay City Rollers, Gloria Gaynor, Abba, Suzi Quatro, Sweet, The Village People, Dolly Parton, The Real Thing and many more. The show is a real spectacle with their resident DJ Lionel Vinyl keeping you entertained until the show explodes onto the stage. With state of the art sound and lighting, resident dancers, authentic costumes and far too many wigs to mention, it is sure to be a fantastic way to groove the night away before Christmas. So dust off your platform boots and come down for a fun night singing along to your favourite music from the groovy era of the 70's. Fancy dress is optional but your dancing shoes are not! Tickets are available from behind the bar at The Big Club priced at just £5.00 each, doors open at 7pm. For further

information please contact Neville on 07966 898322.

Xmas Fair at Aycliffe Village School

Don't forget to come along to Aycliffe Village Primary School on Thursday 4th December from 6pm - 8pm for an evening of festive fun and a chance to see Santa in his grotto. Refreshments will be available, plus tombolas and a raffle with a host of fantastic prizes including four hotel overnight stays, meals out and shopping vouchers. Raffle tickets can be bought on the night. We will have some great stalls including Christmas crafts, books, jewellery, accessories, sauces & jams, homemade chocolates, & skin products plus a special visit for the children from Frozen's Anna, Elsa & Olaf! Come & Join in the fun! Everyone Welcome

Middridge Village Improvements



On Saturday 22nd November County Councillors Joan Gray, John Clare and Mike Dixon, along with Adam White, Project Officer from the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership joined members of Middridge Parish Council, Middridge Village Association Committee and the Allotments Committee, at a 'Thank you Celebration' at the Village Hall. With grants and advice from Councillors and G.A.M.P. - improvements have been carried out to the entrance of the Allotments, allowing better

access. The War Memorial has been cleaned and refurbished, along with a framed Roll of Honour which now hangs in the Hall and the Village Hall has been rendered and painted. The Councillors unveiled a plaque to commemorate the occasion and refreshments were provided afterwards in the Hall. Anne Clarke, Chairwoman of Middridge Parish Council, said in a short address that the successful completion of these varied projects was a great example of working in partnership to benefit the whole community.

Parish Christmas Memorial Service

Christmas is approaching, and although we think of our past loved ones every day, this is a chance to come along and spend a quiet time of remembrance. The Parish of Great Aycliffe will be holding a Memorial Service in St. Clare's Church on Sunday December 7th at 4-00pm. Everyone is warmly invited to come along on this special day. There will be the chance to write a message on a "Christmas Star", and hang it on our tree in church. Also during this Service there will be carols, short prayers and a time for you to light a candle in memory of your loved ones. Afterwards you are invited into the church hall for light refreshments. There will be an opportunity to look at our memorial book in the library, and have your loved ones name entered in it for a small charge. This name will be displayed every year on the date of your loved one's death, and you can come along and sit in the peaceful surroundings of the library. More information by ringing Pam Lovelass on 316841.

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Xmas Gift & Craft Fair at the Leisure Centre

On Sunday 7th of December Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre will be hosting its first Christmas Gift and Craft Fair. There will be an array of stalls to visit selling Jewellery, Books, Speciality Gifts, Christmas Decorations, Candles, Health Products and many more items that are unique and hand-made. The Leisure Centre will be selling hot and cold refreshments, mince pies and cakes whilst offering somewhere to sit and chat after you have perused the stalls and bought those extra special Christmas gifts that aren't available in the shops. One of the stalls "just for you gifts" will be taking orders on the day for personalised gifts, if you would like to pre-order gifts to be ready for collection on the day you can check out her website www.just4yougifts.co.uk and place your order direct. Other stalls on the day will include ChazyBluePaws, Pebbles Jewellery, Catching Dreams, Scentsey, BodyShop, Nutty Bearer, Usbourne Books and much, much more. Following the fair Durham Wildcats will be playing against Surrey United so why not make a day of it, tickets are available from www.godurhamwildcats.com

The Christmas Fair will be open 10am - 4pm and entry is free.

Film Show

St Clare's Church FEEL GOOD FILM SHOWS will feature "OLIVER" on Tuesday 2ND DECEMBER. Starring Ron Moody, Oliver Reed, Harry Secombe, Shani Wallis, Mark Lester, Peggy Mount, Leonard Rossiter and Hylda Baker, this musical adaption of Charles Dickens's classic tale has everything. Songs such as "Consider Yourself", "As Long as he Needs Me" "Food, Glorious Food" "Reviewing The Situation" and "Where is Love" helped to earn the film an Oscar for Best Score, and it took another 5 Oscars including Best Picture. 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

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Belford Way Newton Aycliffe

Modernised 2 bedroomed terraced bungalow, unfurnished, recently refurbished & in good condition. Entrance hall, lounge/diner with feature stove-effect gas fire, fitted kitchen, inner hall, bathroom/WC with overhead shower, 1 double & 1 single bedroom, conservatory. Gas CH, front & rear gardens (rear South-facing), parking. Rent £495 pcm



Sheraton Road Newton Aycliffe

Recently modernised 3 bedroomed terraced house within walking distance of town centre, easy access to M1. Hall, downstairs WC, lounge with feature fireplace, kitchen/diner with glazed door to garden, 2 double & 1 single bedroom, bathroom/WC with overhead shower attachment. Unfurnished with carpets, curtains, fitted oven & hob. Gas CH, gardens & parking. EPC rating 'D'. Rent £550 pcm



The Cottages Rushy

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AUTO EXPRESS PRODUCT OF THE YEAR 2013

Woodham Concert

Rehearsals are well under way at Woodham Academy for this year's Christmas Concert, which as usual will feature performances from a wide variety of talented students from years 7 through to 11. Woodham Samba Band, Jazz Band, Instrumental Group, and Woodham Sound are all preparing Christmas-themed performances, and audience members will also be entertained by instrumental and vocal solos from many other students from across the Academy. Woodham Dance Academy will also be making more appearances, showcasing

the work they have done with both Woodham students and primary children. The concert will take place on Wednesday 10th December at 7pm in the Main Hall. Tickets will be priced at £3 for adults and £2 for students and concessions. Tickets are available from Woodham Academy; please call 01325 300328 for further information and to order tickets. Unable to attend the Christmas Concert? Not to worry, you can still see Woodham students in action during the Christmas period. We will be taking part in the Newton Aycliffe Community Christmas Concert, which will take place in the Leisure Centre on Tuesday 16th December. This event is a Christmas-themed celebration which brings together people of all ages from across the community, and Woodham students are delighted to have been invited to participate once again.

Grand Sale

25 sellers are booked in for the Sale at St. Clare's on Sat. 29th November with a huge range of baby items for sale including toys, clothes, maternity wear, equipment, books etc. All tables are now booked and I want to thank everyone that has helped promote the event, including the Newton News, as the response for tables has been overwhelming. Doors open at 11am and the sale will be on until 2pm.



GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 10th December 2014

Council Meeting

QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

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".

HITACHI FACTORY SIDINGS



Railways Sidings being installed next to the Hitachi Factory spotted by reader John Wilkinson

TWENTY IS PLENTY NEAR OUR SCHOOLS



Ron Hogg outside Sugar Hill School

"Watch out and slow down" is the key message from the top police boss, in support of National Road Safety Week. Ron Hogg, Durham's Police and Crime Commissioner, is in favour of introducing 20mph speed limits in the vicinity of local schools, to help keep more young people safe on the roads. Mr Hogg said: "It is well known that road traffic accidents are the single largest cause of death for children and young people aged 5-25. There is growing evidence that the 20mph pilots that have been introduced around the country are showing marked reductions

in deaths and casualties. "I have urged support from Durham County Council in this matter as I am convinced that it would be a hugely effective and relatively cheap method of reducing road casualties around our schools. We need to do more to keep our young people safe." Improving road safety is one of the policing priorities Mr Hogg has tasked the Chief Constable to deliver. He is also working with partners to tackle other road issues that matter to communities, including speeding, dangerous driving and illegal and inconsiderate parking.

AGNEW

Monday to Friday - Aycliffe Day Nursery 7am to 7pm Ring Jane for full details 07761 818514

Monday: Aycliffe Spiritualist Church - 7pm to 9pm
Tuesday: Art Class - 1pm to 3pm Andy on 0191 3732485 - ASD Football session 6-30pm to 7-30pm contact Dale 07411 009487

Wednesday: Art & Craft Workshops for 5 year olds and above 4pm to 6pm contact Val 07786 564461 & Tai Chi 6-45pm to 8pm contact Brett 01325-320239

Thursday: Evenings available for hire, Hall and most times in the day/evening the Meeting Room.

Friday: Possible Dance School in 2015.

Saturday: PK All Stars Youth Club for 7 to 11 year olds. Alternate weeks starting November 8th from 10-30 to 12noon. Contact 07749 236853 Weekends available for Birthday Parties. Bookings ring Manager on 07749 236853.

As the Agnew Centre is now the new headquarters for Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership please ring 01325-321504 to contact the Secretary of that organisation, Joan Clark The Centre is also a collection point for Food and other suitable items to help those in need in the Newton Aycliffe area.

Crossfit Charity Workout



Left to right, daughter Claire, husband John, Mandy Turnbull and daughter Emma. Photo by EyeDream Photography

Dear Sir,
May I thank Terry and Vikki Anderson from 'Crossfit All Out' and all the members who took part in the charity workout in November for "Against Breast Cancer". I had breast cancer 8 years ago and recently had a double mastectomy and currently having reconstruction to reduce my chances of cancer returning from 50% to 3%. My husband John donated

prize money for the workout and the second charity workout will commence in December to determine the winners. £127 was raised from donations to enter the WOD (Workout of the Day) and a further £200 from selling pink "Against Breast Cancer" Crossfit hoodies.

I hope everyone who took part will also do the second round, and good luck to all. Mandy Turnbull

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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

Oily Murs

Metro Radio Arena - Sat 18th April 2015 £56 Coach & Concert Ticket (£12 Coach Only)

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Fireworks Poster Winners



We had a wonderful response to the Poster Competition this year, over 150 entries were received and the Mayor Cllr Wendy Hillary had the difficult task of judging the posters on Bonfire night. The presentation took place on Saturday 22nd November at Oak Leaf Sports Complex where the winners were awarded their prize and certificate, by the Mayor Wendy Hillary and her consort Cllr Jed Hillary.

Thank you to everyone who entered from 'home', Walworth School, Woodham Burn Out of School Club and GATC Pre-Schools. Well done to all of you - don't forget to try next year!

Pre-school/Reception: 1st Mila Burnett, 2nd Alfie Spensley, 3rd Holly Taylor
Year 1/Year 2: 1st Eloisa Thornton, 2nd AJ Wild, 3rd Ava Burnett
Year 3/Year 4: 1st Alanna Reece-Clement, 2nd Layton Park, 3rd Lewis Edgar
Year 5/Year 6: 1st Millie Sunley, 2nd Shane Gaskin, 3rd Taylor Snowball
Year 7 plus: 1st Charlotte Icton, 2nd Curtis Stoddard, 3rd Chloe Patterson

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LITTER PROBLEM

Dear Editor,
I read with interest Durham County Council are tightening up on "Fly Tipping" and rightly so, but I think that they need to tighten up on litter. I refer in particular to the Greenwell Road land near Tesco and Argos.

From the town park down to Aldi is an utter disgrace. Back in July I reported this to DCC nothing was done I then asked the Town Council to offer support which was done. However, having spoken with local councillors and DCC officers they keep telling me it is not their land.

I consider this to be a cop out, because under the environment control act the County Council has the power to ensure enforcement action. My concern is what is in the rubbish and the danger to members of the public who use our centre, including mothers with young children. Can you give support to ensure that this issue is dealt with and get people to take a walk from the Town Park towards the Dalton Way end and see the amount of litter thrown around.

It is only a short time ago that I got Cllr Brian Hall and Joan Gray to get the road adopted. I would have thought the County Council would also include in that adoption the paths and edges.

Vince Crosby
Editor: Newton News tackled this problem last year and it was discovered the area in question should be kept litter free by the County Council.

Work Place Staff Raise £300 for Charity



The Work Place staff organised a spectacular fund raising day for Children In Need. Starting with a 'dress down day' and donating £1 there followed a massive car washing service which was set up by Craig Liddle who gave up his own time to wash cars in the rain and cold! At just £10 per valet it was well worth it! There was a fun game of



'guess how many sweets in the jar' and Pudsey's 'Guess the location of the celebrity bake off'. For a little extra fun there was a 'Lemon Challenge' set up on reception to test the skills of the staff, this was harder than it looked! For the main event a 'Bake Off' for staff following the Children In Need 'Be A Hero' theme which were then judged. This was great fun and much cake was consumed! The winner of the competition was Client Liaison Officer, Tracy, who has worked at the The Work Place for 6 years. Her fireman cake was amazing and tasted even better than it looked. The Work Place raised a fantastic total of £305!

NHS at Work

Dear Sir,
I was visiting my sister for the weekend when on Friday 21st November had a bad pain in my ear which started to bleed. I managed to get an appointment at Bishop Auckland Hospital that evening and I would just like to thank the staff for getting me booked to see a doctor that evening at such short notice. I live in Wakefield and am grateful to the hospital. Keep up the good work you are a credit to the NHS. Thank you so much. Maureen Gowans

Town Schools Perform in Christmas Concert

Community Event - Free Admission

The town's Rotary Club have changed the day of the annual Christmas Community Concert at the Leisure Centre to a Tuesday to allow more Schools to take part.

This year Alice Jordan who has broken into the local entertainment scene in a big way will be taking a solo spot and is guaranteed to impress the audience.

Alice is only 15 and suffers from Autism, but she is rather special and her voice has to be heard to be believed. Schools performing include Greenfield, Woodham, Sugar Hill, Vane Road, Aycliffe Village, Byerley Park and St. Joseph's with a rich variety

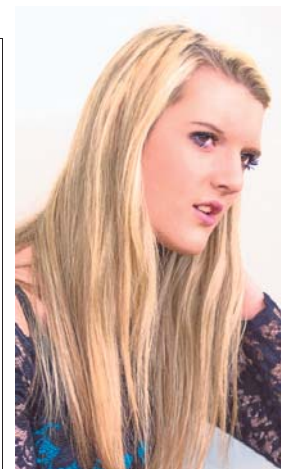


of singing, dancing and band music. In between the musical items the audience will join in favourite carols and songs.

John Melvin will provide the sound system and the Concert on Tuesday 16th December starts at 2pm concluding at 3.30pm.

A special invitation goes out to the care homes in Newton Aycliffe to bring their residents for a pleasant afternoon's entertainment among young people.

Admission is free and a warm welcome is extended to everyone to join in this wonderful pre-Christmas event.



Alice Jordan

WILL NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SWAMP MIDDRIDGE VILLAGE?

The issue of changing the Middridge Village boundary is closer than everyone thought following a planning application by Persimmon to build a large housing development within what is currently their area.

There is a move by Great Aycliffe Town Council to bring the site know as Eldon Whins into their boudary as any development will be closer to Aycliffe than this small village on our outskirts.

It would seem obvious that any new residents will align themselves to Aycliffe and its facilities rather than Middridge and it was always intended that Eldon Whins would be part of

the Aycliffe Master Plan.

The intention was to get the boundary changed before houses are built but it now depends on getting the necessary 2,000 signatures on the petition quickly, signed by Newton Aycliffe residents.

Middridge Parish Council seem to want the huge estate as part of the village even though it will change its character and make up. It has been stated that Middridge are only interested in the extra income they receive from rates.

A few people in the village have objected to building new homes at Eldon Whins, but the area has already been designated for development.

Some are unhappy that the residents of the new homes will outnumber and take over the running of the small village, with its traditions and ancient character lost.

Readers can visit the County Council website to view the location of the site and read comments of those opposing the plans. If you wish to sign the petition to bring Eldon Whins into Aycliffe call at the Town Council Offices.

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COUNTY NEWSBITS
compiled by County Councillor John Clare

- The Fire and Rescue Service needs to save £3.6million by 2018; see their proposals at bit.ly/FRSplan and do the online consultation at bit.ly/FRSconsult - closing date 1st December
- Tuesday 2nd December is 'Giving Tuesday'
- Saturday 6th December is 'Small Business Saturday' - free parking in all DCC and on-street car parks from 10am
- On Monday, 15th December, 5:30-8:00pm at the Xcel Centre, there is an exhibition about the proposal to site a 20-acre solar farm at School Aycliffe.
- Is your car fit for winter? Get a while-U-wait health check, £26 at DCC's fleet depot, Chilton Ind. Estate, phone 03000 266247
- The proposed NETPark expansion will create 10,000+ jobs - see the video here: bit.ly/NETParkvideo
- All three Aycliffe Doctors' surgeries got a clean bill of health (Band 6) in the CQC rankings: bit.ly/AycliffeGPs
- DCC is to introduce a 'Durham Living Wage' for low-paid Council employees: bit.ly/DCCLivingWage
- DCC Woodlands Task Group: bit.ly/DCCWoodlandsGroup
- Vote for County Durham Furniture Help Scheme in the People's Millions: bit.ly/rural-refurb

Substantial Progress at West Park Lakes

Once again our meeting was well attended and discussed issues appertaining to the progress of the project. We appear to be still highly focused on the future of the park. Commitment is demonstrated by members physically involved in planting and litter picking the park. Amenable discussions with GATC staff Don Thompson and Steve Cooper are resulting in substantial progress.

A group of volunteers including schoolchildren, Friends Of West Park members and council staff were involved in planting bulbs and trees despite heavy rain on Wednesday.

It is pencilled in for a joint operation to clear part of the lower lake of leaves and debris on 9th December with Friends and other volunteers invited to come along and join in.

The effort made this year in the park has been Herculean in

nature and future objectives will result in a colourful amenity for all to enjoy. Facilities for seating around the park will surely encourage picnics and allow those less mobile to be able to enjoy the beauty of this wonderful park.

The next meeting of the group will be held at the Royal British Legion Club on Macmillan Road commencing at 7pm December 9th.

It was agreed that we have a collection at future meetings to maintain funding levels for the group and Alf and Margaret Tomlin kindly donated items to be raffled at the next meeting. The Friends group welcome the input from anyone in the Great Aycliffe area and as such would love to see you at our meetings or your comments on our facebook page.

Ken Robson Chairman
Friends Of West Park

Spring Colour for West Park



Local children as part of the community have come together to help with a small project to provide some much needed spring colour to West Park. As part of a partnership between Livin Housing Association and Durham County Council 5000 crocus bulbs and six standard flowering cherry trees were donated to Great Aycliffe Town Council. Great Aycliffe Town Council have provided an additional 8000 crocus bulbs and further native species such

as snowdrops and bluebells which have been planted around the park. They will also be planting further additional trees in the area to complement this task in the coming months. The Friends of West Park and members of the public helped during a series of planting sessions with children from the House of Eden Nursery - Stephenson Way, and both Stephenson Way Nursery and Primary School coming along to help. Great Aycliffe Town Council's

Environment Officer Steve Cooper said "This small project has shown that by everyone working together really positive things can be achieved. The donation from Livin and Durham County Council will significantly enhance the already considerable effort that Great Aycliffe Town Council have provided and will produce some much needed early spring colour in 2014." He added "I hope that all the children who have been involved with the planting will bring their families to West Park to proudly show them what they have been involved with in the spring - the blossom of the flowering cherry is quite early, and so should complement the bulbs nicely".

Kidzflicks at St. Clare's

The Snow Queen is the latest film inspired by the mega movie FROZEN. Featuring a heroic girl on a journey to save her brother from the spell of the Snow Queen. This movie is packed with entertaining characters and is suitable for the whole family to enjoy. KIDZFLICKS, film club will be showing this festive film on Saturday 6th December at 2pm.

We have a great value tuck shop selling drinks, sweets and crisps from 10p and it only costs £1 to sit in our cosy movie hall and enjoy this film. The film will end at 3.30pm, hope to see you there! (St. Clares Main Hall, opposite the Thames Centre).

THE GENESIS OF AYCLIFFE RUGBY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT?

It has been several years since Newton Aycliffe have seen rugby union played competitively at youth level. The town has chiefly been a footballing community where youngsters are concerned. Lots of other sports are available to the youth of today, unfortunately rugby union has been elusive thus far. However, things changed slightly last Tuesday evening, when Aycliffe rugby club hosted a match at Moore Lane between the town's senior schools, Greenfield and Woodham.

The match was witnessed by several Aycliffe club players and was overseen by the schools respective PE teachers and Rugby World Cup winner Tamara Taylor, of England Ladies and Darlington Mowden Park Ladies RUFC.

Tamara who represents Rugby Football Unions Community Rugby, with the help of the headteachers and the PE teachers, has persuaded both schools to re-introduce rugby union into the schools PE curriculum.

The aim was to introduce as many pupils as possible to try the sport, and ultimately create school teams and play competitive matches against other schools in the area. Head coach from Aycliffe Rugby club Pete Ryans is also involved with coaching sessions at the schools. The club has created a youth development training night on Monday evenings for students to develop more knowledge and skills of the game. The recent training sessions at the schools created a lot of interest in the game. For this reason Aycliffe Rugby organised the fore-mentioned match and both schools were admirably represented by keen students.

The match itself showed scoring prowess within the ranks of the Woodham players who scored most of the tries but Greenfield showed a lot of potential in tackling techniques and more importantly both teams enjoyed the game. Considering most of the players had only trained a few times over

the recent weeks during school PE time, those who watched were amazed how everyone enthused about the game of rugby. Well done to both teams! After the match the players were treated to Aycliffe Rugby Club's traditional food and drink (soft drinks only) hospitality. Both teams expressed a keenness to continue developing in the sport and a return match will be held early in the New Year.

Aycliffe rugby are hoping that more students become interested in the sport. The club is initially inviting any student living in or near the town from year groups 10 and 11 to come down training on Monday evenings for 6.30pm start. Floodlit pitches are available, with several CRB approved coaches on hand to pass on their skills as well as help potential players get fitter,

and some training sessions may take place indoors during bad weather. The idea is to give students an opportunity to learn and play rugby on their doorstep, rather than venture to other alternative venues like Bishop Auckland, Darlington or Durham.

However any young ladies wishing to take up the sport the nearest ladies development club

is Bishop Auckland. In time providing there is enough interest then younger age groups can be introduced which would be an exciting prospect for the club and the town as a great community project.

For any parent or student who would like more information on the clubs development ideas please contact Head Coach Pete Ryans 07796172599

HALLOWE'EN RAGE

Dear Sir,

On Halloween I had lots of callers, trick or treating and I gladly gave them all some goodies. At 9.00pm I was surprised to hear my doorbell being pressed constantly, nine times in total and I did not answer the door due to the late hour.

I was most surprised to then find that the callers had ripped my door bell off!

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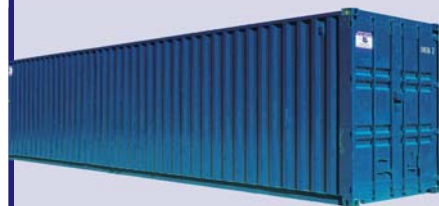
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Finley Raffle Raised Over £1,118.00

Finley Structures of Aycliffe held a raffle in aid of Children in Need with fantastic prizes given. They also sold Homemade Pea and Mint Soup followed by Scrumptious Lemon Drizzle and Coffee & Tia Maria (not for the faint hearted) Cakes.

The Bay Horse at Heighington also placed a collection bucket on the bar on Friday Night. In total this raised £1118.77, with Finley's adding the final £300.00.

We received generous gifts from Newton Press, The County, Redworth Hall Hotel, Woodham Golf Course, Beanies, Lox of Love, The Bay Horse Heighington, Siesta Blinds, Gregg Little Testing and Glen Office Supplies Darlington.

We wish to thank all the companies who made this worthy fundraising possible, and of course our staff, friends and families for their generosity.

Pudsey sent a message saying: "Your donation will make a real difference to the lives of the most disadvantaged children and young people in the UK".



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Pitstop Cafe Pulls into Pole Position

Under new management and raring to go, Debbie from Aycliffe Village has recently bought Pitstop Cafe located on Durham Road in the Business Park.

A qualified chef, she has been looking at local venues for the last year and when the Cafe came up for sale she knew it was her chance to get back in the kitchen. 'I have such a passion for cooking and pleasing people with my homemade food and since opening, the feedback I've received has been overwhelming'. She has lots of different customers to please, being located right in the heart of the estate, so her menu includes; hot and hearty dishes such as chicken pie with parmesan potatoes and fresh vegetables, mince and dumplings with mash as well as a range of more healthier options for her calorie conscious customers. Some of their favourites

are; Piri Piri chicken and salad served in a wholemeal pitta, omelettes, pulled pork sandwiches and cheese and onion tart.

One of her customers, Rebecca Summerill, pops in most mornings for her breakfast or for one of their tasty cakes for an afternoon treat. Pitstop has also started a delivery service for those customers who pre-order for their office or factory. It's early days and Debbie understands the importance of the feedback she is receiving. 'It's all been positive so far which is great news but I need to keep the ideas flowing as it is helping to shape future menus.'

The daily specials are posted on facebook everyday and watch out for special events such as a forthcoming American themed evening. If you want to hire the cafe for meetings or parties after it closes at 2 pm, then get in touch.



The Big Woodham Dig



They called it the Big Dig - and so it was: about twenty people answered an appeal by Woodham Wildlife Club to help plant 450 trees around the perimeter of the school. Amongst those braving the freezing fog and muddy puddles were pupils, parents, staff members and volunteers from Wilkinson's Helping Hands committee. Many arrived carrying their own spades, and wellies were definitely the fashion accessory of the day. Despite the weather participants were excited by the prospect of being part of something which could potentially last a lifetime, and longer - considerably longer - in some cases.

The trees were donated by the Woodland Trust as part of their annual nationwide tree planting campaign. The club stored them in a shed in the school's outdoor classroom (a specially

landscaped courtyard where students can relax as they learn), and had been anxiously keeping an eye on the weather since their delivery. The trees came packed 150 to a box and looking at these fragile specimens it was hard not to admire both the trees and the Wildlife Club members for their optimism.

The recipe for happy trees is fairly straightforward: take one tree, one plastic cover (for protection from rabbits) and one cane (for support); combine ingredients and set-aside until well risen which, in the case of an oak tree might be several hundred years. When ready you should have something that not only provides food and shelter for a wide variety of insects, birds and mammals, but which, ultimately, provides the oxygen we all depend upon for our survival.

The trees are all native and include, holly, beech, wild rose, crab apple and hazel. They have been chosen for the task because (unlike many of the imported conifers which cloak our hillsides) they provide the best range of support for Britain's indigenous animals. The holly, provide all year round protection for songbirds from crows and magpies which stalk the school; others, such as hazel, blackthorn and crab apple provide much needed

food for pollinating insects and birds. It is also hoped that increasing the tree cover on the site will create a wildlife corridor for mice and voles etc., as well as providing over-wintering opportunities for hedgehogs, frogs and toads.

It took three hours to get all the trees in, and by the time the task had been completed the volunteers were looking tired, but satisfied. The Big Dig may have been over, but the pupils still had more tasks ahead of them as they continue with their ambitious plans to give their school a wildlife makeover.

Over the winter they will be busy installing bird boxes and feeding stations, as well as hedgehog homes and a number of other such hibernacula. Before you know it, the first shoots of spring will be visible and Woodham Wildlife Clubbers and their community supporters will be out in force once again, laying the first of their wildflower patches.

Lee Green Dance School

Students from Lee Green Dance Centre were in Blackpool recently competing in the IDTA Nationwide competitions having qualified for the finals earlier this year. The dancers were very successful with Emily Halford being awarded first place in the Classical Sequence and Runner-up in the Under 12 Modern Sequence section.

Hananh Tate was Runner-up in 6/8 Rosettes and Mia Wilson 4th in the same competition. There was also success for Annette Hewitt who came 3rd in the Adult classical Sequence.

Brenda and Bryan congratulates all those who took part - too numerous to mention individually. "Many made the Quarter finals and we are very proud of you all - thanks for a lovely weekend of dancing".



Shine Choir at Coffee Morning

On Saturday 6th December St. Clare's Church, opposite the Thames Centre, will be hosting a Festive Coffee Morning with singing from SHINE Choir who will be joined by local schoolchildren. Come along and get in the festive mood, share a cuppa and bacon sandwich with friends and buy some seasonal goodies. There will be lucky dips for the children, wrapped gifts, tombola and cakes, jams and ginger wine! The morning begins at 10am and everyone is most welcome. All proceeds for church funds.



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

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

Durham County Council

Remembering Loved Ones

A Memorial Christmas Carol Service is being held in St Cuthbert's Church in Darlington Market Place on Tuesday 9th December. The Co-operative Funeralcare would like to extend an invitation to the Newton Aycliffe community to attend the service which begins at 7pm and will include Christmas readings, carols, candle lighting and the opportunity to place a memorial message on the Christmas tree in church. Refreshments will be served after the service.

The Co-operative Funeralcare will again have memorial Christmas trees in each of our funeral homes throughout December where tributes to loved ones may be placed please call in at our funeral home in Macmillan Road in Newton Aycliffe to leave your tribute. Finally, Funeralcare would like to thank everyone who bought a hand made poppy from us this year, in our Newton Aycliffe funeral home we raised £15 for the Royal British Legion and in total our area raised £278.77.

STEPHENSON WAY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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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 wil 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

F.C. Turbinia Move to the Semi Finals

FC Turbinia welcomed West Auckland WMC to Simpasture this week in the Colin Waites Cup. The teams previously met 3 weeks ago at St Helens Rec, in a game of 2 halves. FC Turbinia struggled in the first half with Goalkeeper Chris Wilson keeping the score down to just the one goal. But the second half saw a different formation and a different

attitude from the entire team, who battled their way back into the game, 2 goals in the last 10 minutes from Daniel Keane and Daniel Dixon handed FC Turbinia the Victory. This week the story was pretty much the same, West Auckland WMC started the game with a "win at all costs" mentality, they were tough in the tackles and they pressured the ball, not

giving "The Tub" a chance to string 3 passes together, again Chris Wilson pulled off 3 fantastic saves in the first half, to keep the home side in it. The second half started and FC Turbinia were clearly the better team, it was their turn to pressure the ball, and really show "West" why they won the previous fixture. 2 goals from Daniel Dixon saw FC Turbinia take the lead, a consolation goal for West Auckland came 5 minutes from full time, but this made little difference when the final whistle was blown. The result sees FC Turbinia secure their place in the Semi Finals of the Cup, the only team to do so with a game in hand as well as winning every game on the way. This has to

be put down to the "Never Say Die" attitude of the team, as a collective, these guys play for the full 90 minutes and never give up no matter what the score is, and that can be seen in their recent run of results in the League too. This week FC Turbinia are Away to Howden-le-Wear Australian, in a fixture that will see "The Tub" extend their lead at the top of the Division 2 table to 7 points, if they can claim the win! The Club is still offering two sponsorship opportunities. If there is anyone interested in sponsoring the front of the shirts, whether it be the home shirt, away shirt or both, please get in touch with Paul Soakell on 07848932989 or p.soakell@sky.com.

Table Tennis Finalists



Students from Greenfield College took part in the Sedgefield School Sports Partnership County qualifying event for Table Tennis recently and finished in first place! They will now represent Sedgefield in the County Finals in the New Year. Well done and good luck in the County finals to: Emma, Sinead, Caitlin, & Anna. Greenfield College work in partnership with Bishop Auckland Table Tennis Club to develop the game offer for their students and members of the local community at Greenfield's sports facility. Matthew Porter (Head Coach

& County Durham Coach of the Year 2013), runs sessions at Greenfield every Monday evening from 3.30 to 7.30pm. Greenfield students train every Monday 3.30 to 4.30 free of charge, followed by a Community session 4.30 to 5.30 (Cost £2) for all ages and abilities. A number of Greenfield students have progressed to District and County training which takes place at Greenfield from 5.30 to 7.30pm and at Bishop Auckland every Friday. For more information contact Lee Boynton (Greenfield Sport Manager) on 0787 9117224.

Running Club News

Mark Wade was the only runner to compete in the Commondale Beacon Fell Race over 14k in the North York Moors and has 300mtrs of ascent. The route starts at Commondale, then on to Danby, skirts past Castleton before heading back to Commondale. This was Mark's first official fell race and he misjudged the big climb and suffered for the first third of the race, but then regained his strength to finish strongly in 57m:28s - 15th out of a field of 97. In the third fixture of NEHL cross-country even at Ayley Heads, runners had to contend with extremely muddy conditions, so bad that several dropped out. It was otherwise a fine day and most of the Aycliffe members managed to get round the course in one piece. In the senior men's race over 10k the club produced enough runners to make up a team and finished a commendable fourth in the division 3 group. Mark Wade was first home for the club, 80th in 43:06, followed by Peter Milburn, 165th in 45:00 and Martyn Knox, 250th in 47:22. Dave Blewitt, who had also done a park run earlier in the day literally revelled in the mud, to finish 411th in 52:26 and Colin Gibson, who doesn't miss many x/c races was 496th in 56:58. Only two athletes braved the



conditions in the ladies senior race. Clare Rose was 230th in 38:45 and Judith Porter was 271st in 40:53. Why not join us in our circuit training sessions every Tuesday between 6&7pm. Non members welcome. For more information about Aycliffe Running Club and their training sessions visit ayclifferunningclub.org.uk

Greenfield Year 8 Girls No.1 in Sedgefield

Congratulations to Greenfield Community College's Year 7 and 8 athletes who represented the school at the Athletics event at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre last week.

The competition included a range of track, field and relay events, including 2, 4, 6 & 8 lap races, standing long jump, vertical jump, standing triple jump, speed jump and shot putt. Finishing with the 4 x 2 lap and 4 x 1 lap relays. Run by Sedgefield School Sports Partnership, it was an excellent event. Special recognition must go to the Greenfield year 8 girls who finished 1st. They will now go on to represent Sedgefield at the County Durham finals in the New Year. Greenfield's Year 8 girls team consisted of Ellie Gibson, Charlie Nichol-Brown, Sophie Dobinson, Adara Natrass, Ebony O'Donnell and Molly Clark. This was a remarkable achievement for the girls, who were delighted to finish 1st after training hard since last year's event. The result shows the hard work and excellent progress by this dedicated group in their first year at the school. Well done girls, we are very proud of you! The event was also a success for Year 8 boys from Greenfield, who finished in 2nd place and Year 7 girls who finished 3rd. Well done to everyone involved. Good luck to the Year 8 girls in the County finals!



Aycliffe Reserves Take Their Chance

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club took advantage of a league-free week to play a 2nd team fixture, giving reserves and inexperienced players a chance of a full game, and trying players out in different positions. Chris Carlon played at prop forward for the first time, whilst Jeff Hodgson played at Number 8 and Ronnie Gilyeat returned to the side. The Aycliffe scrum functioned well from the start, giving Mikey Dunn at scrum-half enough time on the ball to be comfortable. Good defence ensured that Chester never really looked like scoring, although their defence, also, was sound. Aycliffe took the lead when the ball was spun out wide and winger Luke Crossen scored out wide. Crossen attempted to convert his score but was unsuccessful. There were no further scores in

the half and the score was 5 - 0 at the break. Ash Elliott was performing well at the lineout, taking ball from his taller opponent and Aycliffe continued to look comfortable. Crossen again scored with a dash down the wing. The final score came when Jonny Griffith, at full back, ran a good inside line to be fed by Luke Tinkler for his first try for the club. Hodgson added the extra points from in front of the posts. The match finished with a 17 - 0 scoreline in Aycliffe's favour. This was a valuable runout for the players and gave coach Peter Ryans things to think about in the selection meeting before Aycliffe's next game which is on 29th November at home to Seghill; kick-off 2.15pm. Aycliffe Rugby is sponsored by Whitehouse Funeral Service & S Cars.

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

The Council, on 28.11.14 made an Order under Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, as amended, to close a 560 metre 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 4 December 2014 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: 28 November 2014



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Head of Legal & Democratic Services
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Badminton Club Trophy



Aycliffe Badminton Club have had some great news to start the season with one of our members, Maggie Winfield, winning the Darlington & District League Willie Dods Tournament, meaning Aycliffe have won the first available silverware of the season! Despite playing with an unfamiliar partner, Alan Wall from Eppleby, Maggie played brilliantly in the Tournament held at Greenfield School, losing only 2 games all night as they beat a pair from the Wensleydale Club in the final to lift the trophy.

Woodham

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40 Medals for Local Gym Club



November has been a superb month for local gymnasts from Athena Sports Academy based at both Sunnydale and Newton Aycliffe Sports Centres. At the beginning of the month gymnasts travelled north to a competition held at Deerness

Gymnastics' Academy in Durham. This annual event attracts entries from all over the north east and has become very popular making the competition for medals harder each year. All the gymnasts who competed had to be at their best, and the Athena Gymnasts certainly made their coaches very proud with a medal tally of 40. This included 12 Bronze, 8 silver and a remarkable 20 gold medals on an amazing day for the club. Gymnasts didn't have time to dwell on their performance, as they prepared for last weekend's national showcase, Gymfusion Northern, which was held in Newcastle - a British Gymnastics National Festivals Programme with over 4500 performers. Athena Gymfusion 2014 team included a squad of 21 gymnasts, with the youngest aged 9 years, and were dressed in a futuristic costume which just added authenticity to the Next Generation performance.

The buzz from the audience was there for all to hear, as the squad performed what can only be described an amazing show of gymnastic talent. Remembering how good the squad performed in Newcastle last year, this squad, featuring many gymnasts who were performing for the first time, had been tasked to better last year's masterpiece. If the audience reaction at the end was anything to go by, they certainly bettered it! All the gymnasts who performed at Gymfusion 2014 were amazing and a special mention goes to coaches, Samantha Robson and Britanny Fuller who put together this magnificent piece of work.

The club are now preparing for their 3rd Annual Christmas Showcase which will be held at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Saturday 6th December with the performance starting at 2pm. The Athena Christmas Showcase will feature gymnasts from many of the clubs rec classes, from the toddler classes to the older gymnasts. The show will also include the superb Gymfusion 2014, which is a must for all to see. For more information or to book tickets, contact Sam on 07800 847527.

Greenwell Gas Keep the Team Warm

Newton Aycliffe Youth Under 8 Eagles would like to thank Greenwell Gas Services for funding their winter training kit to keep them warm pitch side during the 2014-2015 season. The boys in the team and the coaching staff appreciate all Anthony & Laura Greenwell have done to help support the team over the past two seasons, as they also sponsor the team strip and can often be seen cheering the boys on every Sunday morning. Greenwell Gas Services can be contacted on 07921 575039



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

WOODHAM WARD
Thursday 4th December
2014 from 6.00pm at Agnew Community Centre, Morrison Close.
PCSO Amy Jorgeson 6849

SPORTS CLUB GOOD FORM CONTINUES

Newton Aycliffe Sports Club played away to Bishop Auckland Lacey's this weekend and saw them record their first back to back league wins of the campaign. There had to be another re-shuffle of the squad due to absences again this week and it was clear from the start that the heavy pitch was going to take its toll on both teams. The Sports Club started the brighter of the two teams, controlling the tempo of the game well and with less than 10 minutes on the clock, Connor Hughes, continuing his excellent run of goalscoring form, broke the deadlock. A through ball from the inform Anthony Campbell saw Hughes take it round the last defender and slot the ball calmly past the keeper.

Just five minutes later, some excellent work from strike partner Chris Jones saw his cross-come-shot fall into the path of the advancing Hughes to hammer home his second. However, some lapses in concentration saw Lacey's grab one back on the 20 minute mark with a long ball over the top catching out captain Craig Barrigan and his defence, who were slow to react. Lacey's equalised 5 minutes later with a mirror image of the first goal and their 3rd followed just before the break to see the Sports Club's bright start to the game slide away going into half time.

The second half started pretty much as the first had, with the away team bossing the early exchanges. Gareth Boyes, in outstanding form of late, dominated the centre of the park with his tough tackling and controlled passing. On the 50 minute mark, a through ball from Campbell, found Jones, and after beating the offside trap and rounding the keeper, he made it 3-3. With the pitch tearing up badly, both teams found it difficult to gain any momentum and the next goal was always going to be the most important. It was on the 65th minute that the goal came. With a slight suspicion of offside, it was Chris Jones again who received the ball from midfield to fire home his second and the Club's 4th of the

game, which turned out to be the deciding goal and the only real difference between the two teams. The Sports Club now sit 7th in the table, with a couple of games in hand on those above them. Next up is Shildon Crossings (away) who are just 1 point behind them and after a controversial 5-5 draw at the start of the season, a tough game is expected.

Newton Aycliffe Sports Club would also like to announce an additional new sponsor for their training and leisure wear. Amazing Results (Estate Agents) will contribute towards the purchase of new tracksuit bottoms and T shirts to help us all look that little bit more professional and a whole lot smarter. A further announcement will be made shortly on this

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Beautiful West Park Lake



Mel Hayes a resident of Aycliffe for 44 years, laid the concrete floor of West Park Lakes. He sent this recent photo, proud of his contribution to this beautiful place.

The next meeting of the Friends of West Park will be on Tuesday 9th December in the British Legion Lounge from 7.00pm.

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From today, you can make donations of up to £10 by texting APPE00 and either £1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10 to 70070.

The text message is free and all of the donations will be passed to the Helping Hands Christmas Appeal.

Alwyn White of Helping Hands said: "This is a wonderful way for us to raise money as it's speedy, simple and spontaneous. Most people have a mobile phone these days so we expect this to be very popular with supporters."

Please support our 'Helping Hands' Christmas Appeal.

Your donations will help our dedicated volunteers deliver hampers and Christmas Dinner to those who desperately need it in our community.

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Thank you for your support which is urgently needed. www.lifelinecommunityaction.co.uk

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"Elfie Selfie" to Help Autism Charity

The Aycliffe based autism charity is hoping their Christmas fundraising appeal will help develop their toddler group service. The North East Autism Society (NEAS) launched an appeal last month urging supporters to join in the festive fun by posting elf-themed selfies on Facebook and Twitter.

The charity hopes the appeal will raise £50,000 to help replicate their successful toddler group that is based at their North East Centre for Autism, Newton Aycliffe to other towns across the North East.

Kerrie Highcock, Family Development Manager for NEAS said; "Parents can often find accessing mainstream toddler groups extremely difficult. Autism is a hidden condition so others may think a child is being naughty or has bad behaviour when in fact they may be finding it difficult to cope in the group or communicate their needs.

Children with autism perceive the world differently through their senses, for example a toddler may be hypersensitive to noise so being in a group with other children who are



loud or crying may make them anxious even resulting in the noise causing them pain. Because children with autism find it difficult to communicate, they can become disruptive but it's their way of expressing themselves. This can leave parents very anxious and feel

as if they are being judged." Caroline Robertson, mother to Lucas aged 3 who attends the toddler group said; "The group has helped Lucas to socialise with other children, he's a happy little boy and growing in confidence. Having trained staff on hand allows me to have a break and get advice from other parents."

To help the charity develop the toddler group take an 'elfie selfie' either by downloading an app or by dressing up. Upload it on to Facebook or Twitter, tag in the North East Autism Society and nominate your friends.

Donations can be made by texting elfi14 followed by desired donation amount, such as £3 to 70070.

For further details about the toddler group service email Kerrie.highcock@ne-as.org.uk or call 0191 410 9974

Opticians

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Town Centre
Newton Aycliffe
Tel: 316600

Public Notice

DONATIONS needed of Bric-a-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring Honest John 316 630

RSPCA North Tees & District cats and kittens for adoption, fee applies to cover 1st and 2nd vaccination, also neutering and ID chip. Please Tel 311 215
XMAS FAYRE Saturday 22nd November at The Salvation Army, Cross Street, Shildon 12noon till 2pm. A warm welcome to all.

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AYCLIFFE CANCER GROUP

The group is going really well with 21 members and have heard some fantastic guest speakers. From January 2015 we would like to issue newsletters which helps anyone interested in coming to the meetings and will carry a programme for 12 months with names of each guest speaker attending.

We are looking for a business to sponsor this project, who could benefit from the advertising. The most important thing is helping local people fight cancer and get the relevant help they need when terminally ill. Our group is not all doom and gloom and we have plenty of fun fighting this awful disease. When people come for the first time they don't have to say why they have come or if they have cancer. It is up to each person whether they want to talk about it and at the end of each meeting there is time for people to have a private chat. You don't have to fight cancer alone.

Next meeting is 4th December which will be a Christmas Party with nibbles, and we have a speaker coming to talk about different therapies. **STARTS AT 6pm until 7.30pm at NEVILLE PARADE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

We would also like to thank Durham County Councillors for their donation to our group and Gestamp. Anyone that would like to help with any donation or want more details please ring Allison 07762 258696

What's On at the Youthy

Want to get fit? Looking to lose weight, build body strength all whilst enjoying friendly, fun atmosphere? Join Fit4Longer Bootcamp on every Monday night 7.15pm.

PERMANENT EVENTS:

Monday: Beveridge Café 10am – 2pm
Bootcamp 7.15pm – 8.15pm
Zumba 6.30pm – 7.30pm
Tuesday: Beveridge Café 10am – 2pm
One Point Bump Baby & Toddler Group 10 – 12pm
Dancercise 11.30am – 12.30pm
Destination Judo Classes start from 4pm
KDanz Classes start from 5.30pm
Youth Zone 16 – 20yr olds 7pm – 9pm
Beveridge Café 10am – 2pm
Wednesday: Tai Chi 12pm – 1pm
Youth Zone 6pm – 8pm
Thursday: Beveridge Café 10am – 2pm
Little Gems Toddler Group 12.30pm – 2pm
One Point Baby Café 1.30pm – 3pm
Beveridge Café 10am – 2pm
Friday: Little Gems Toddler Group 10am – 11.30am
Dancercise 10am – 11am
Sporting Chance 3 – 6yr olds 4pm – 5pm
Sporting Chance 7 – 11yr olds 5pm – 6pm
Youth Zone 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Saturday: Popnosis 5 – 16yr olds 10am – 11am
Sunday: Duke of Edinburgh 14 – 25yr olds 6pm – 8pm

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Aycliffe Village News

CHURCH SERVICE: There is no Service at St Andrew's Church on Sunday, November 30th. Instead, there is a Parish Service at St Elizabeth's Church at 10am. On Monday, St Andrew's Church holds its patronal service with the Rev Julie Wing at 6pm preaching, followed by light refreshments.

COMMITTEE MEETING: The next committee meeting of Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association is on Monday, November 1st, at 8pm in the village hall (please note change of date from the usual second Monday).

NEEDLE AND THREAD: There is a needle and thread group at the village hall on Tuesday, December 2nd and 16th, from 7-9pm. Anyone with a sewing project, such as patchwork, Christmas decorations, knitting, crochet or rag rugging is welcome to go along. For more details, call Tricia Johnson on 01325 314735.

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST CLUB: For a morning of Christmas fun, visit Aycliffe Village Hall for the Christmas Breakfast Club on Saturday, December 13th, from 9am to noon. As well as the usual bacon, egg or sausage buns on offer, and cups of tea or coffee, this month, Santa will be in his grotto for the morning, ready to hand out presents. Children's visits to see him do need to have been booked in advance. There will also be Christmas activities for children, and a book stall. All proceeds go to the village hall.

SANTA DASH: Following the success of this event last year, there is another Santa dash on Saturday, December 20, starting at the village hall at 11am. Participants are asked to raise £10 to enter and Santa suits will be provided. For more details, call Sue on 07775 680804.

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SANTA IS ON HIS WAY

He's making a very important visit to St Elizabeth's Church Woodham on Saturday 6th December at 10am. He'll be opening the Christmas Market and giving small gifts to all children attending.

Be there between 10am-10.40 to ensure you meet the man himself! Refreshments, seasonal stalls and raffles will be there for this festive event"

Christmas Souper Lunch St Elizabeth's Church Woodham

Come and join in this festive lunch on Wednesday 3rd December at 12.30.

For a delicious two course lunch followed by refreshments and festive fun for only £3 per person. No pre-booking required-just turn up hungry and in the festive spirit at 12.30!"

DEVELOPMENT AT ELMFIELD

As Chairman of Horndale Residents Association for the past 2 years I have been aware of groups trying to move the Elmfield School site discussion forward, however I am shocked at the time that has passed since the school closed.

It reminds me of the old Avenue site which I think took about 13 or 14 years for something to be done. The Elmfield site is of great value to the local community because "106" money is generated when a site is developed to be used in the local area. £15,000 was generated when Livin built 22 houses on the small Greenfield Nursing home site which was put towards the Multi Use Games Area, opened earlier this year.

How much 106 money could be generated if this larger site is used for housing? Hopefully enough to build a small community hall or something else the community wants. I urge Durham County Council to start discussion with people who live near this site to see what they want to happen with this important site, or at least explain their plans.

If you think this is important contact your local County Councillors, who need evidence of your needs to present to Durham County Council, and they only do this if you tell them. Philip Clark

Charity Santa Run



Butterwick Hospice are calling upon your festive spirit, offering an invitation to enter their annual Santa Run on Sunday 7th December at Hardwick Park. Sedgefield at Christmas time is the perfect place to spend a Sunday morning with family and friends or work colleagues, whilst having fun raising funds for the charity.

Your support enables Butterwick Hospice to continue delivering very special care for children and adults living with life threatening illnesses.. The event is jointly supported by Durham County Council and Sedgefield Harriers, with all proceeds going to benefit the Hospice.

The event is a spectacular sea of red and white with everyone in humorous mood in their Santa attire. Entry is £12 for adults which includes a full Santa suit to include trousers, jacket, belt, hat and beard (one size fits all). Children aged 15 and under entry is £6and they will receive a Santa hat. Everyone completing the event is presented with a commemorative medal and certificate as they cross the finishing line.

Entrants are encouraged to place your entries as early as possible in order that we can mail or deliver your outfits to you. All entrants must pre-register

The route is slightly less than 3km and remember the accent is on FUN rather than RUN. You can run, jog, walk or have a leisurely Santa stroll along this idyllic route. The main event commences at 10.30am, quickly followed by the "Santa Dog event "so if you wish to bring your dog along and follow the route through the woodland and lakeside they

will be given a race number for just a £2 donation.

Once again upon completion each dog receives their own little festive collar charm. There is ample parking on the site and after the event there is a café for refreshments. Families bringing young children may want to re-visit the lakeside to feed the ducks, swans and winter water fowl. To enter contact Butterwick Hospice: Tel 01388 603003 payments can be made over the telephone by debit or credit card, or enter online - www.butterwick.org.uk/santarun

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 £50; Boxed Cosmic Blue Nintendo 3DS £50; Nespresso Lattissima+ coffee machine. £60. Tel 07789 502173

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In Memoriam

DEREK WILLIAM YOUNG 20/02/1960 to 30/11/2013, I can't believe it's been a year since they asked me to let you go, but you are at peace now and there is one thing I'm sure you know, is that I will always love you. Love always, Gordon. Sadly missed with fondest memories by family and friends.

MARGARET TOLSON 25th November 2012. Two years ago today, the angels came to take you away. To a pain free place, to keep you safe. The place is not the same. Love you forever Mam xxxx

RAY LAMBERT 30th November 2012. Memories are a gift to treasure, ours of you will last forever. Love always, Wife Olive, Daughter Denise and Grandchildren

Acknowledgement

ALAN DIXON. Jean and the family of the late Alan Dixon (10/11/2014) would like to thank the paramedic, ambulance team and the wonderful Staff of Ward 2, University Hospital of North Durham for the care and compassion shown to Alan. Special thanks to Bryan Shepherd and all the staff at Whitehouse Funeral Services, Rev Chris Pearson, the piper and veterans of the REME Association. Also thanks go to all of Alan and Jean's friends, business associates and colleagues who attended the funeral.

Birthday Remembrance

ALAN DIXON 28/11/1948 – 10/11/2014. You will always be in our hearts and minds. So sad we had to part so suddenly. From your loving Wife Jean and all your family xx

STEPHEN IBINSON (Ibbo). 30th November 1975. Your smile is in your photo, we look at it every day. Your memory is in our hearts, and there it will always stay. For death leaves a heartache, that no one can heal, but love leaves memories that no one can steal. Love you always, Mam, Dad and family **WATSON** Pauline Anne. 27th November 1947. We cannot send a birthday card, your hand we cannot touch, but God will take our Greetings to the one we loved so much. Joe, Angela, Michael, Philip and family xxx

Obituary

JENKINS, Ilse, aged 84 years, peacefully at home on 22nd November of Simpature Court, Newton Aycliffe. A dearly loved Mother, Grandmother and Great-Grandmother. Funeral Tuesday 2nd December. Would friends please meet for Service in Darlington Crematorium at 2.15pm. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, may be sent for either Macmillan Cancer Support or Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o Whitehouse Funeral Service. Surtees House. Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6EN

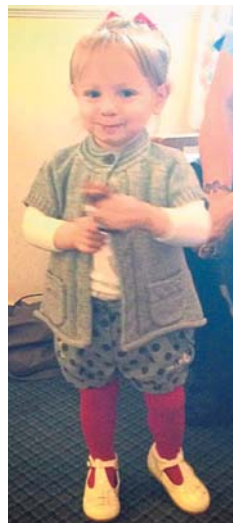
JEAN THOMPSON of Newton Aycliffe. Peacefully at home on November 22nd aged 89 years. Much loved Wife of the late Husband Jack. Dearly loved Mother to Jackie and Gordon. Funeral took place at Durham Crematorium on Thursday 27th November at 3.30pm.

CATHERINE SANDERSON (Irene). 29/9/1945 to 22/11/2014. Loving Wife of Richard, God bless sweetheart. Love forever.

SANDERSON Grandmother of Louise and Toby. Gone but not forgotten. Love you lots Nana. **SANDERSON** To our beautiful Irene. We love you and will treasure your memory forever. Love, Marcia (Sister), Jim, Mairi, Lorna and Ian xxx **SANDERSON** Mother, you will always be in our hearts. Sadly missed. Love you always. Barrie, Tracy and girls xxx **EINAR KJENSTAD** aka Ernie or Little Ern to many. 23rd November 2014 at peace now Dad. Back in the arms of your Mam and Dad. Gone but not forgotten. Loved always, Carolyn, John, Kyle, Gina, Toni, Dave, Kel and Lauren. R.I.P. xxxxx

Congratulations

MileyRae



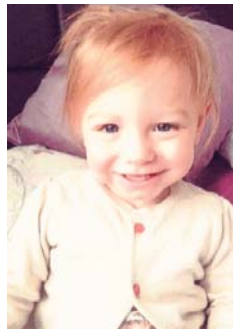
2nd December 2014
Happy 2nd Birthday to my Granddaughter MileyRae. Hope you have a nice party. You're a little miracle, lots of love Nanna xxx

MileyRae



2nd December 2014
Happy Birthday to my gorgeous Princess MileyRae. 2 already and what an amazing little two year old you are. Perfect in every way, after everything you've been through you deserve the best birthday! Have a lovely party, love you lots, love Mammy xxxxxx

MileyRae



2nd December 2014
Happy 2nd Birthday to our beautiful Niece MileyRae. I can't believe you are going to be two, you have been through so much, hope you enjoy your party, no one deserves it more than you. All our love, Auntie Toni and Uncle Lee xxx

Robert Rose



Happy 70th Birthday
Happy birthday Dad. Have a great day. Love, Darren, Irene, Julie, Shannon, Paige and Megan xxxxx

Barry Elkin



Happy 40th Birthday
Hope you have a fantastic birthday. Enjoy London. Love from Mam, Keith, Nanna, Grandad, your Brother, Sisters, Nephews and Nieces

Robert Rose



28th November 2014
Congratulations Robbie on your 70th birthday. Love and best wishes, Maureen xxxx

Joshua James



4th December 2008
Hope you have a great day! Love and miss you lots Dad, Gemma + the family xx

Richard Fothergill



Happy 21st Birthday Rich
4th December 1993
Lots of love, Grandad, Grandma and Dean xxxxx

Audrey Patterson



90 TODAY
With love from all the family xxxxxxxx

JOHN CLASPER 1st December. Happy 70th birthday. Love from Stephen, Julie, Lisa, Jason, Jack, Callum, Harry and Jamie

SHARON CROSSEN Congratulations and well done on gaining your Degree in Social Work. Love from Connie, Paul and Daisy xxx

LIAM SHAUN HUNTER 28th November 1993. This brings a birthday greeting and a wish for nothing less than good luck in the future and special happiness. Congratulations on your 21st. Mam, Gary, KellyAnne and Amy xxx **LIAM SHAUN HUNTER** Congratulations on your 21st birthday. Good luck for the future. All our love, Grandad and Lads xxx

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NAYFC Girls' U13's in Cup Final After Penalty Shoot-out



The victorious NAYFC Girls' U13 Team

Newton Aycliffe Youth FC Girls U13's reached the Final of the Russell Foster League Cup after a stunning comeback against Washington AFC Wildcats last Saturday. Trailing 0-3 at half-time, the girls kept their heads and continued to press for that crucial next goal. From a corner, the ball was swooped in to reduce the arrears. The girls were back in it and with 10 minutes to go, and from another corner they scored a second via a precise header. As the tension mounted and with time running out they won yet another corner on the

left – the inswinger evaded everyone to loop over the goalkeeper for a last gasp equaliser! Full time 3-3. No extra time as they went straight to the dreaded penalty shoot-out! Cool heads were required and the girls duly delivered and progressed to the Final winning 3-1 on penalties. A superb display by everyone and a great advert for Girls' football.

Well done girls and onto a meeting with Lumley Girls in the Cup Final next May. If any girl in Years 7 or 8 are interested in playing football, the team trains indoors at Greenfield Community & Arts College each Wednesday 6.30pm-7.30pm. Please contact Helen Clark on 07904 886885 or Berni Borsbery on 07939 045242 or visit www.naycafc.co.uk

CROSS COUNTRY QUALIFIERS

Congratulations to Adam Ord and Adam Lamb, from Greenfield College, for their recent success at the District



Schools Cross Country Championships.

Adam Ord, a year 7 pupil who was competing in his first competition for Greenfield, managed to dominate the field from start to finish with an excellent 1st place position. He will now go on to the County Championships on the 17th January 2015.

Adam Lamb, a year 9 pupil also qualified for the County Championship for the second time. Well done to these fantastic representatives of Greenfield Sport - we wish both the best of luck in January!

LONDON LIONS FACE WILDCATS AT AYCLIFFE

Coming off the exhilarating win over Manchester Giants which snapped a three-game losing streak, Durham Wildcats feel revitalised and are excited for this weekend's games. The team faces Leeds Force (7:30pm tipoff) and will on Sunday welcome London Lions to Newton Aycliffe. At 4-5 in the BBL Championship, Durham jumped to 8th place on the league table the moment Ralph Bucci's buzzer-beating three-pointer gave Wildcats the 70-67 win over Manchester. Out of the possible 360 game minutes from nine games this season, Bucci has clocked in 329 minutes and 35 seconds. Jones has played 316 minutes and 25 seconds.

In a long basketball season, coaches often have to be concerned and economical with the amount of time they allow their players on the court. Head Coach Lee Davie recognises that Bucci and Jones have seen a lot of court time already this year, and while confident they can handle it he feels this will not be the case as the season progresses. With Buchberger fit and Attah and Mayindombe expected to contribute this weekend, minutes will be more widely distributed, helping keep the Wildcats' legs and minds as fresh and strong as possible throughout the long BBL season.

Davie added that he is excited to see Urli's continued progression as a quality scorer and defender when he faces Leeds tonight. The London Lions, according to Davie, have gone through similar hurdles and challenges in the season as the Wildcats.

The 5th place Lions have only played seven games so far, tied for the fewest played in the league, yet they hold a 5-2 record. Issues with scheduling a home venue has limited and altered the Lions' schedule. Davie says that London perhaps may be less weary because they have played fewer matches, but he pointed out they have struggled to find their dynamic as a team because of some players joining the squad late and because of injuries. Two players have been released from the London side as well.

There are two players for London who will nonetheless provide Davie and the Wildcats a challenge to contain. Zaire Taylor, a 6'4 guard from Staten Island, New York, is second for the Lions in scoring with 92 points and leads in assists with 27. Davie said he "is going to be handful for us. We need to make things difficult for him, to not let him penetrate the lane. We want to turn him into a jump shooter and this will help us keep out of foul trouble and get us rebounds."

The Great Britain captain is another player who provides London a wealth of talent and experience. Andrew Sullivan has represented England and Great Britain since 2006 and has been one of the country's most respected players. The 6'5 forward and London-native provides his team a strong rebounding presence. He is able to stretch an opponent's defence and is able to control the tempo of his offence as he leads the team in scoring with 95 points and trails Taylor in assists with 23 this season. Junior Basketball Tournament / Community Basketball Day - Tipoff versus London Lions

is at 4:00pm on Sunday at the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. In addition to showing your support for the Wildcats, come cheer on young basketballers from a number of local clubs and schools as they compete in Durham's central venue league. Starting at 12:30pm, 10 teams are set to compete in Durham's Community Basketball Day with the hopes of playing in the final during halftime of the BBL match versus London. Attendance to the central venue tournament is free and snacks will be available for purchase. Purchase your tickets for the match versus London on godurhamwildcats.com.

Meeting of Xmas Helpers

Helping Hands would like to give Newton News readers an opportunity to come to a meeting where we will be discussing the plans for our Christmas Day Lunch.

It is to be held at Woodham Golf and Country Club on 3rd December from 7-8pm. Thankfully we have about 20 volunteers but we still need more to do things like videoing this amazing event, musicians, photographer and one more chef.

If you intend joining us please let us know by phone or text 07936 431262 or e-mail: lifeline.action@googlemail.com

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