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## Aycliffe "Club of the Year" Award for Second Year



Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club have become only the second club in NYSD history to win the prestigious Gold Award Club of the Year, two years in a row. What makes the achievement more amazing is that the Club only joined the North Yorkshire and South Durham League in 2013.

Newton Aycliffe also scored a new record 913 points only dropping 14 points throughout the season, beating their nearest rivals Richmondshire by a massive 61 points. The award measures teams in 5 distinct categories, Administration, Facilities/ Match Day Experience, Fair Play, Discipline and Match Play and Newton Aycliffe finished first or equal first in four of the five categories. Newton Aycliffe Secretary Lee Weldon said "This is a great accolade for the Club and is testament to the way that we try to run our Club. Everybody involved, from the players to the committee and supporters, should be commended for the way they have conducted



themselves while remaining competitive on the field. Redcar are the only other Club to win the award two years in a row so the target must be to surpass them and win the award for a third straight year next season". Honest John has again shown his generosity by raising money to buy coaching equipment for Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club. Honest John donated £550 which has enabled the Club to purchase a complete coaching

*continued on Page 2*

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# Cricket Club's Wins Second Award

Continued from Front Page

player in the Club regardless of age. This is the second successive year that Honest John has raised money to improve the coaching facilities at Newton Aycliffe CC and everybody at the Club are extremely grateful for his continuing support. Franks the Flooring Store have agreed to continue their sponsorship of Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club for the 2015 season. Franks stepped in at short notice, to sponsor the senior teams for the 2014 season, when the previous sponsor was unable to continue their support. They have now agreed to not only continue the sponsorship but have extended the agreement to cover all six teams from under 11 through to the senior sides.

The sponsorship deal will see the Franks' logo worn across the chest of all of the Clubs white playing kit. Chairman Ian Palmer said "Franks have been very supportive during our discussions and were keen to continue their support of Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club. Their Managing Director was guest of honour at the Club's presentation evening and was impressed with where we have come in a short time and our plans for the future of the Club. NACC are very pleased to be associated with a progressive company like Franks who are providing employment and support for the local community and hope that the partnership between Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club and Franks continues to flourish for many years to come".

# The Best Panto - Oh Yes it Was!



I could fill a page of our local paper Newton News, if I singled out every members of the cast of our recent Show "Cinderella" performed at Woodham Academy. They were all brilliant from principals to dancers, not forgetting stage crew, lighting and sound, backstage workers who were tremendous and front of house staff. By the audience reaction I know we brought lots of laughter and happiness to those who supported our Panto. Many thanks to all who donated raffle prizes and for Newton News for the great publicity - there is no doubt this was our most successful panto to date. Anne Harland, Hon President.

# CHRISTMAS EVENTS

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**  
with Aycliffe & Brancepeth Band  
on Monday 8th December  
at Aycliffe Village Hall from 7.30pm  
Tickets £2.50 including light refreshments  
Children Free - (Adults can pay at the door)

**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**  
on Wednesday 24th December  
at Aycliffe Village Hall from 3.00pm

**MIDNIGHT HOLY COMMUNION**  
on Wednesday 24th December  
at St Andrews Church, Aycliffe Village - 11.30pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**  
on Thursday 25th December  
at St Elizabeth's Church, Woodham - 10.00am

**Pharmacy Opening Times** 

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[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

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**Fri 19th Dec**

**Aycliffe Big Club**

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# Sponsor a Christmas Pallet to Help Low Income Families

The Helping Hands Team in Newton Aycliffe will soon order another five pallets of Christmas items for families/individuals on low incomes to keep up with the demand for our services. Alwyn White, says "these pallets represent exceptional value for money as we only have to pay around £125.00 for each one when the true value is 10 times that amount. We are now seeking



businesses or readers of the Newton News to generously sponsor a pallet. This will then enable us to distribute essential items to those that are known to us in our community that are in financial difficulties. Members of Life Church are heavily involved in this incredible outreach and always seem to get involved with such enthusiasm for which I'm very grateful. They are truly a delight to work with!

We need to be ready with these provisions as we expect to have an increase in the number of people seeking assistance over the coming weeks leading up to Christmas. Please contact us on M: 07936431262 e-mail lifeline.action@googlemail.com to pledge your support. Thank you so much!

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# Burnhill Way Church Xmas Tree Festival

On 12th, 13th & 14th December, there is a Xmas Tree Festival at Burnhill Way Church with 25 trees, all sponsored by various organisations around the town and decorated accordingly. On Friday 12th 7.00pm you can enjoy Winter Broth and a bun, sponsored Carols and lots of fun. On Saturday 13th from 10.am-12 noon a Coffee Morning will be held with bacon butties and cakes, Tombola. From 2.00 - 4.pm Xmas Entertainment from the young people of Burnhill Way and the Shine Choir. Sunday 14th at 10.00am - All Age Worship and Nativity.

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**Saturday 13th December - "This Machine"**  
**Saturday 20th December - "Gate Crashers"**  
**Saturday 27th December - "Skin Flint"**

For more information on bands go to  
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# DO YOU KNOW ANYONE IN AYCLIFFE WHO DESERVES A MEDAL?

Big-hearted people who have made a difference in their communities are being sought as nominations are made for the Chairman's Medal. Durham County Council is looking for individuals or organisations that have done something special for their community. The Chairman's Medal is presented to individuals and

groups to recognise significant achievement and outstanding effort in all walks of life. It's the highest honour the council can bestow and Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) are looking for nominations from across the county in the run-up to a major presentation event next year. The medal has been County Durham's top civic award since introduced in 2007 and Durham County Council Chairman, Cllr John Robinson, JP, will be holding a ceremony on 13th March 2015 to award chosen individuals for voluntary effort or outstanding charitable organisations. Cllr Robinson is asking for nominations which can be assessed and put forward to next year's presentation. There

will be 14 winners, representing each AAP area across the county. The Chairman is working with the AAPs to find people and organisations that have gone above and beyond to make a difference. Cllr Robinson, said: "I want this presentation event to be a celebration of the achievements and effort that people of our county put in every day - a little time to reflect on the excellent work that people do for each other. I am keen also to try and highlight through this event the excellent work undertaken by the emergency services in County Durham. "We are writing to all AAP forum members and voluntary organisation partners to ask for nominations but anyone can nominate someone."

The deadline for nominations is Friday 16 January 2015. Forward completed forms to the Chairman's Office, Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UF. Anyone can nominate an organisation or individual for a medal. For more information log on to: www.durham.gov.uk/ChairmansMedal Email: chairmansoffice@durham.gov.uk or call 03000 268 828

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## Good Prospects for Aycliffe Town Centre

Town Centre Manager, Bryan Haldane, is very optimistic on the future of Newton Aycliffe as a shopping precinct. Since the completion of the refurbishment there has been much interest by prospective shopkeepers and there are positive signs new businesses will be moving in to offer new services to the town. The new look town centre has been judged in a nationwide competition and was shortlisted in the top four completed projects in the Under £5million category. "I am particularly proud of what we have achieved in Newton Aycliffe compared with what we had before the revamp" said Bryan.

If you look at the photos on Page 5 it will remind you of what the town centre used to look like and how it has been transformed. It is easy to forget that we were once falling over a badly paved area for years with constant complaints to Bryan Haldane's Office. This was down to the former Aycliffe Development Corporation laying paving over a road surface when Beveridge Way was pedestrianised. The current owners had to remove the old paving, dig up the road and start from scratch to provide a proper paved area. Since then there have been no falls or complaints due to poor paving.

Bryan told Newton News he was in the process of refurbishing Woolworths and the former HSBC Bank ready to take new tenants. He also revealed that four flats above HSBC were being prepared for residential rental. There was some exciting news about a new large retailer coming to Aycliffe, the name of whom could not be revealed until negotiations are complete.

The delay of a year on the demolition of Churchill House, Beveridge Way shops and removal of the town clock were laid at the feet of the Utilities companies who have failed miserably to meet deadlines to complete necessary work before demolition can start. "I have to apologise for all the promises which had to be broken but it was out of our hands and I am embarrassed to mention further dates. We are however hoping progress will be made in February.

## Rotary Club's Annual Street Tour with Santa

The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe will be out with Santa's Sleigh on the following dates each evening from 5.30 - 7.30 pm. They will be collecting to provide Christmas Hampers for needy families an annual event which also involves a collection in Tesco.

- Monday 8th December - Heighington
  - Tuesday 9th December - Woodham
  - Wednesday 10th December - Cobblers Hall
  - Thursday 11th December - Greathead Crescent
  - Monday 15th December - Simpasture
  - Tuesday 16th December - School Aycliffe
  - Wednesday 17th December - Bluebell Way
  - Thursday 18th December - Silkin Way
- Listen for the music and bring your children out to meet Santa.

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**Jessica's Truce Poem**

12 year old Jessica Butterworth a Year 8 student at Woodham Academy, recently wrote a poem as part of her English lesson. Her teacher thought it so good he chose to read it out to the class who all thought it was amazing.

**A CHRISTMAS TRUCE**

**It was Christmas Eve in the dreaded trench,  
Everyone was all but drenched,  
Bones were flying making a mess,  
Soldiers were lying, wishing they were dead.  
Alas, all of a sudden the air was still,  
Not a mouse or finger moved,  
As a brave young Englishman stood alone,  
ready to call a truce.**

**Vane Road First in Sports Skills**



A group of 22 children, from Year 4 to Year 6, attended Sunnydale Leisure Centre in Shildon to take part in a Sports Hall Athletic Competition. The sporting activities tested skills in running, throwing and jumping.

Mr Cant, Head of PE, was thrilled at the results when it was announced that the team had come first. The school children have now qualified for a place in the County Finals which take place next March. He was very proud of the children who showed excellent team work and commendable sportsmanship.

The school's netball teams also had great results with the A team coming second in the league, only missing first place by one point, and the B team came a respectable 5th. The team are coached weekly by Year 2 teacher Miss Newton. Congratulations to all involved.

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**New Year, Fresh Start with Free PCP Courses**

Are you aiming for a better 2015? Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) can help you kick start your new year with a positive attitude.

The Pioneering Care Centre is the Newton Aycliffe Hub for the Colour your Life project which provides access to creative and informal learning activities for the improvement of mental health and the development of emotional resilience.

PCP use professional, experienced tutors to deliver these new and exciting free courses to help you learn, create and develop.

**Art Journals** - Every Tuesday till 3 February 10am-12noon. Make beautiful handmade books combining art techniques with words to express yourself.

**Beat the Winter Blues** - Wednesday 7 January - 4 February 10am-12noon. Mood boosting techniques on how you can make real and meaningful changes to your life in the New Year.

**Pottery Making** - Thursday 8 - 29 January 1-3pm. Make a range of handmade ceramics. Learn pottery throwing, sculpting, clay modelling and glazing techniques.

**Gemstone & Colour Therapy** Friday 16 January - 20 March 10am-12noon. Learn about the

energies and healing properties of multi- coloured crystals, minerals and gemstones.

**Introduction to Holistic Therapies** - Wednesday 21 January - 25 March 1-3pm. A relaxed and informal introduction to aromatherapy massage, Indian head massage, stress management techniques, reflex points and chakras.

Coming soon in 2015: Walking, Talking Photography and Plot to Plate Gardening plus Saturday Family Activities and Evening Classes. Keep up to date with new courses online at [www.colouryourlife.org.uk](http://www.colouryourlife.org.uk)

Twitter: @CYL\_CoDurham and Facebook: ColourYourLife. LearnCreateDevelop

The service is open to referrals from GP's, mental health services, health and care professions, third sector/ community organisations, statutory agencies and self-referrals. Please get in touch to find out more.

To register an interest in any of the Colour your Life courses, please get in touch with the Colour your Life team at PCP on 01325 321234 email: [colouryourlife@pcp.uk.net](mailto:colouryourlife@pcp.uk.net) Or call into the Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF Please book early to avoid disappointment.

**Special Ingredient Indian Food**



Syed Marjan Haque is the owner/chef of the Masala Takeaway at Cobblers Hall and he is very proud of the quality of Indian food they provide. He has been in the catering profession all his life and has been at the top for many years. He was once one of the top chefs chosen to demonstrate the best of Indian food at a big event in London (shown far right in the photo). Syed invites readers to sample his menu to see for themselves the high quality curries made with special spices that are available at Masala.

# Merry Christmas



**AYCLIFFE**  
SHOPPING CENTRE

Saturday 20th December  
**Christmas Celebration**  
hosted by Star Radio  
plus performances by local artists



## Christmas in Newton Aycliffe

Newton Aycliffe Town Centre would like to invite you to celebrate Christmas here with us on Saturday 20th December 2014 when we will have a Christmas celebration hosted by Star Radio.

Not only do we have a special pre-Christmas visit from Santa, who will have free gifts for children, it will also include performances from local artists.

With over 50 shops such as Wilkinson, Boyes, Poundstretcher, Select, Peacocks, Bon Marche, Card Factory, Occasions and many more you can be sure to find that perfect gift.

Should you be looking to impress your friends with a new look why not call into 'Stephen Russel Hair Design' or 'Hair We Go' for that special hairstyle or colour change.

You can then call into Boots or Savers for those special little extras and then Coffee Pronto for a well deserved coffee or meal. If you plan to decorate this Christmas then call into Homeplan, VC Carpets or Brian Venebles Carpets & Blinds for expert advice.

Newton Aycliffe is better than ever and wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas for 2014.

## HOW WE USED TO LOOK . . .






COFFEE PRONTO	YOUNGS NEWSAGENTS	MIKE'S FISH BAR	KRUMS	VC CARPETS	BRIAN VENABLES CARPETS & BLINDS	GRANNIE'S CHOICE	AYCLIFFE FRAMERS	BOOZE BUSTER	STAR CABS
FLORAL CHARM	LOVE THY CUP CAKES	BARGAIN BOOZE	CARD FACTORY	STEPHEN RUSSEL HAIR	HAIR WE GO	OCCASIONS	ELACHI INDIAN RESTAURANT	CHINA GARDEN	PHIL WILSON M.P

We wish all our customers a great festive season

# Mayor Opens Xmas Fair Superheroes at Stephenson Way raise £600 for Children in Need



L to R, Mrs Ruth Lee, Anne Dobson, The Mayor, Lissa Gibbons (Vicar) & Mrs Val Curry

The Mayor of Darlington, Councillor Gerald Lee and his Mayoress, Mrs Ruth Lee officially opened St Michael's, Heighington, Christmas Fair, held in the Village Hall last Saturday.

Paying a surprise appearance was Santa Claus himself, who handed out presents to local children in his grotto. The Fair proved a huge success and raised over £2000 for Church funds. Throughout the day food was prepared and served up by the Church Ladies Working Party.

The mild weather brought many into the popular Village Hall where they found many craft, cake and jewellery stalls. A huge Christmas hamper was the main raffle prize. The Mayor and Mayoress would like to thank everyone who helped make the Fair a roaring success!



For the second year running, Stephenson Way entered into the spirit of Children in Need, with the children participating in a range of activities and competitions to raise funds and learn about how Children in Need helps and supports other children around the UK. The theme of the day was super heroes and the children were encouraged to come to school as their favourite character. The children and staff

responded to this challenge with great enthusiasm and a wide range of superheroes were observed teaching and taking lessons around school. The children and parents were very generous with their donations and over £600 was raised.

As part of the day, the children were invited to dress a teddy bear at home and enter it into a best dressed bear competition in their class. There were spots and eye-patches aplenty as lots of children entered in each class and the best dressed bears were awarded a prize.

## ROOTS GO BACK OVER 300 YEARS

Roots is a family of hairdressers, who have been tracing their roots, and have discovered their genealogical tree stretches back more than 300 years. Keith Bailey, his son Mark and daughter Gemma have identified their ancestors – the Burns family – who were involved in hairdressing three centuries ago.

Keith is to publish a book chronicling the history of hair from the ancient Egyptians alongside running their salons in Chilton and Newton Aycliffe. Called "Style, Sphinx and the Sixties", the book will prove as useful research to hairdressers as they study their craft.

"We knew we were from a long line of hairdressers and barbers but were surprised to unearth the Burns family who were in the trade 300 years ago," said Keith, who is also a photographer and has exhibited his work in the region and London.

"We have decided to mark the discovery with a family tree on the wall of the newly refurbished Chilton Salon detailing the generations of hairdressers."

Keith paid £50 for his first salon, a tin shed just yards from his current business in Chilton, when he was just 19. After studying at Durham and Leeds Universities and Cleveland College of Art and Design, he has traced the history of hairdressing back to Egyptian times analysing hair dressing techniques, body image and its impact on society.

Hairdressing remains in his blood and that of his family. Mark, who has painted the family tree in the salon, returns home every six weeks to conduct training seminars. Mark works as a hairdresser, and his work has appeared in Vogue, Elle, Marie Claire and has many famous friends



and clients including Kylie Minogue.

Jemma, who trained as a hairdresser, gave up a top job with Cadburys, to join the family firm as business development manager.

"I am researching a range of products not currently available in the North-East," she said. "I would like to introduce the idea of hair bars where you can come in and use the salon to blow dry your hair."

Mark said: "We are also looking at holding model and consultation days." Keith added: "It is so rewarding to see my children as passionate about hairdressing as I am and with so many great ideas. The fact the family has been part of the profession for centuries validates our efforts and inspires us to take the business forward." Contact Keith on 07719 592302 or email at baileykeith2005@hotmail.com.

# Build a New School on Elmfield Site

Dear Editor

I read with great interest the letter on Elmfield school site, closed in 2009 and when I read Durham County Council's 10 year plan this site was included. As requested I emailed my comments in November 2013 to the CDP consultation on behalf of the West Ward in Newton Aycliffe for a new Primary School to be built. Elmfield School was demolished due to shortage of children, yet the County Council have put land up for sale to build houses, along with a public building that local councillors are trying for, but the people in the area do not want.

This is Education Land and a new primary school is what is required as there are primary schools in Newton Aycliffe that have asbestos and this is not safe. Now is the time to rectify the problem and build a new school before we have no land left!

The County Council are building new schools elsewhere so why not in the forgotten town of Newton Aycliffe?

I attended a public meeting on the County Durham Plan Examination in July 2014 chaired by the inspector Harold Stephens. The meeting was very well attended by people that had complaints about the plan but I was the only person there from Newton Aycliffe.

It must be that Aycliffe are happy with this plan but a lot of our Green belt is being taken for housing.

I had the chance to speak with Stuart Timmis Head of Planning and Assets also Councillor Neil Foster who requested I email

him all the information. To date I've had no reply! Stuart Timmis arranged for one of his managers to meet me 4th September 2014.

I sent a letter to the Department of Committees and Local Government and received a letter informing me what to do next.

Without been disrespectful in any way it is now time for the two County Councillors to represent the views of West Ward instead of trying to do what their political party tells them to do! Councillor Mike Dixon spent £4700 on a feasibility Study on the future of the site - rate payers money! There is an education covenant on this land and it is the only site in the West Ward to build a new school. Are we going to sit back and let them just do what they want as they did with our Care home closures just to build houses? Let's put right what is wrong with Newton Aycliffe before it is too late.

Once again without been disrespectful in any way. With regard to 106 Agreements and public buildings it is only a few years ago that DCC stopped this funding.

We already have a public building in the West Ward which has received money from the GAMP fund and our county councillors said in their election leaflet they were going to do to put things right in West Ward.

There are people from outside Newton Aycliffe coming in to run - I only hope that they can put it right and run it for the people of Newton Aycliffe.

Alderman George Gray, West Ward Councillor.

## Acupuncture, Massage and Reiki at the Pioneering Care Centre

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## FESTIVE ISSUES OF NEWTON NEWS

Christmas Issue - Friday 19th December  
No Issue - Friday 26th December  
Friday 2nd January 2015 - New Year Issue  
Deadline: Tuesday 30th December, 12noon

Advertisements can be placed at our agents:  
WALKERS (Simpasture),  
YOUNGS/POST OFFICE (Town Centre)  
or online at www.newtonnewsads.co.uk

## Office Opening Times

Closing 4.00pm on Friday 19th December  
Skeleton Staff in attendance until reopening  
on Friday 2nd January 2015 at 8.30am

The Management and Staff of Newton Press and Newton News would like to wish all Newtonians a Merry Christmas and Happy, Prosperous New Year



## BINS OUT BY 7.00am

From the beginning of December, people living in Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas are being asked to make sure they put their bin out by 7am, regardless of whether it is usually collected later in the day.

This is due to the Heighington waste transfer station partially closing next month for renovation work and refuse and recycling crews having longer to travel to get the waste to alternative depots.

Collection days remain the same but to ensure bins are collected they should be placed at the normal collection point by 7am on that day.

Work at the waste station is expected to last until March 2015. People can find their bin collection day by entering their house number and postcode into the "My Durham" section on Durham County Council's website: www.durham.gov.uk Residents are also reminded to "Bin it Right", the campaign to reduce recycling contamination by putting the right waste items in the right bin. Further information about bins is available on www.durham.gov.uk/bins or calling 03000 261 000

## J&C COACHES

presents

### Yuletide York

Inc. "Festival of Angels" St Nicholas Christmas Fayre & York Christmas Markets £15.50 adult, £12.50 child  
Saturday 13th December  
Pick up: Ferryhill 10.20am, Chilton 10.30am, St Clares 10.40am  
Darlington 11am - Return 7pm



### 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



### Olly Murs

Metro Radio Arena - Sat 18th April 2015  
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# Steeplejack, Martial Art Black Belt, Turns Poet

After an eventful life as a roofer, steeplejack both here and abroad and achieving black belt status in martial arts, Kenny Gatenby from Newton Aycliffe suddenly discovered he could write poetry!

Three years ago he was walking round Darlington and came across a man in the street who was obviously disadvantaged and in a very bad situation.

When Kenny got home he sat and wrote his first poem in just 45 minutes based on what he had seen, hoping it would hit home to whoever read his work.

This is the basis of all his poems in a collection just released, based on real life topics such as drugs, poverty and prostitution. His poetry makes a statement on life hoping it will dissuade people from the paths they have chosen.

Sponsored by his friend, local businessman Brian Windwood of Digiprint the 32 page booklet is on sale for £2.50, available from Newton Press offices and direct from Kenny on 07967 709015. Profits from the books go to Cancer Research. Kenny is currently



Kenny (left) with Brian Windwood

working on his second book. He is typical of a self taught, late starter whose life would have been much different with the benefit of opportunity. He was good at music and art but his family could not afford to send him to College. Kenny is married to Lisa and they have four children and three grandsons. Two years ago he was injured and

required major brain surgery from which he has nearly fully recovered, thanks to the brilliance of surgeons at James Cook Hospital. Kenny plays guitar and harmonica with the ambition of joining a Blues Band. If any reader has similar goals he would love to meet up and talk about forming a group in the town.

## NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Nursing Homes in the town are invited to bring residents to enjoy New Age Kurling every Tuesday from 10am - 12 noon. This is an indoor sport anyone can play as you can sit down and take part.

Our FREE Children's Party is on Saturday 24th January from 10am - 2pm. Adults pay £3 inc lunch. Booking is essential. Face Painting, Ballooning, Disco, Bouncy Castle.

Out of work people are invited to volunteer to supervise Bowling, Kurling, Billiards and Table Tennis each Monday 2-4pm.

Art and other activities every Wednesday from 1 - 3pm. Admission £2 - just bring your own gear including Card making, Embroidery, Photography, Rug making, etc., etc.

Our halls are available to hire to start up a new club or hold meetings. For enquiries on any of the above ring Peter Beaty on 313924.

# Improvements at Middridge



Councillors from Middridge and Newton Aycliffe went to Middridge, for a photo shoot to celebrate the successful completion of three projects they had helped fund. The first was a truly exciting project on the Middridge allotments where their input was to pay for the new road (and - largely due to Joan Gray - to get DCC back to do it properly when the initial work proved unsatisfactory). The best bit of the project,

however, is the demolition of an old hut, to turn it into a community garden with raised beds for disabled and elderly people who find it hard to stoop. We inspected the new entrance road (beautiful), saw the progress on the community garden ... and had our photo taken! Kathy Booth, Secretary, thanked everyone who had helped to secure the funding including Adam White from GAMP and John Fyffe,

chairman of the allotments. The second project visited was the refurbished War Memorial, and the third the repaired village hall, both of which they had helped to fund. Well done Middridge!



School Aycliffe Lane  
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The Management and Staff would like to wish all our customers a Very Merry Christmas

Please note we will be closed on 25th & 26th December 2014 and 1st January 2015

### Christmas Fayre

Sunday 14th December  
12noon - 2pm

Two course Menu  
(Main meal & dessert)

Served in our function room

Only £10.50 per adult  
£7.50 per child

Booking Essential

### Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve Quiz Nights

Tickets £2.00 per person

1st & 2nd place & spot prizes

Hot Meat Sandwich & Quiz

Included in Ticket price

Food at 8pm, Quiz at 8.30pm

### Children's Christmas Party

Saturday 20th December

1pm - 2.45pm 4 - 7 years

Christmas Crafts, Party Games

Present from Santa

Only £4.00 per child

Booking Essential

### Bar

Relax with friends and family in our spacious Bar, enjoy a wide range of meals and a large selection of drinks, there's something for all the family

### Function Room

The room enjoys panoramic views of the surrounding area. We can cater for a max of 60, an ideal venue for a conference, banquet, party or wedding....

### Tuesday Night Quiz

Starts at 9pm

Only 50p per person

General Knowledge, Sport, TV and Film, Music, Picture round  
1st & 2nd place and spot prizes

# TOWN'S R.E.M.E. UNIT RECRUITING CAMPAIGN

To champion Reservists, the Army Reserve launched a campaign to celebrate the great work they do and demonstrate the opportunities on offer for recruits. The campaign was launched regionally at Newcastle Central Station on Saturday 29th November, when six soldiers from 102 Battalion REME, based at Aycliffe, known as "The Northern Craftsmen" took turns inside a life-sized copy of a box of a well known "action figure". The box was designed to show the versatility of the Army Reservist and how reserve service can compliment and enhance their civilian employment. It certainly caught the eye of commuters at Newcastle on Saturday with many pausing to inquire about the "man in the box". One of those taking part was Craftsman Andrew Hogg from Bishop Auckland. Craftsman Andrew Hogg is 30 years old and is employed as a Fitter and Maintenance Engineer at Berendsen UK Ltd based in Durham, where he is responsible for keeping the industrial washing machines and dryers working throughout the week.

Andrew joined 102 Battalion REME in January 2012 because, "I needed a challenge and I knew that within the Army Reserve I would be able to keep myself fit and meet like minded people. I wasn't disappointed." After discussing all the options open to him within the Battalion, Andrew decided to train as an Armourer within 124 Recovery Company. "I already had a good level of engineering skills when I joined and wanted to specialise in something outside of my day to day work. I was fascinated in the mechanics involved in developing and maintaining the Army's weapons, so becoming an Armourer was the obvious choice for me." Since joining "The Northern Craftsmen", Andrew has qualified to become an Armourer Class 2, and has already deployed to Canada on Exercise DARK HORSE where, along with other members of the Battalion he undertook equipment maintenance on behalf of the regular army's winter repair programme. Andrew enjoys the support of his employer, Berendsen UK,



Andrew Hogg

(formerly Sunlight Services) and the company proudly display their "Supportive Employer" certificate in the foyer of the business. Andrew said, "Work has been really good about my being in the Army Reserve. In 2012 they were really happy to let me take part in the 'Uniform to Work Day' when I turned up in my combat uniform. The girls loved it too." Andrew's father, John, is also a former member of the Territorial Army and served for many years as a member of the RAMC TA. Asked what he liked most about service with the Army Reserve, Andrew was quick to respond: "I like everything about it. I have made loads of friends and together we have taken part in running & cycling events, including the Para 10 (a gruelling 10 mile cross country), Man Vs Mountain and the Newcastle Stampede. I have never been fitter. My service doesn't end when the weekend is over, we keep in touch and do stuff together. I just love it." 102 Battalion REME, 'The Northern Craftsmen' have companies across the North East, Yorkshire and Humberside. They specialise in Mechanical Engineering and vehicle recovery. Alongside their paired regular army unit based in Catterick, the battalion are responsible for keeping the Army moving at home and abroad.

# Woodham Academy Raise £900 for Charity

Elle Jeffries makes a petite figure; slightly built and fair hair scraped back into a perfunctory ponytail. She is dwarfed by the cottage-suite chair she is sitting in, but does not seem at all phased by the prospect of being interviewed for a newspaper; quite the contrary in fact – she seems to take the experience in her stride, as though it is exactly the sort of thing expected of a twelve year old in these media-savvy days. Elle is one of many thousands of school children who have been putting their talents to good use for Children in Need. Elle and other Woodham Academy pupils have raised an impressive £900 for their chosen charity. Elle's particular talent, however, is anything but usual: she has just completed a fundraising exhibition, and the skill she has been exhibiting to schoolmates and staff-members is the art of competitive roller-skating.



Elle belongs to the Durham District Roller-skating Club and practises 15hrs a week at Shildon Leisure Centre. The programme she performed for Children in Need in the school's gymnasium included a short 'programme' of jumps and spins, and a 'showcase' featuring the music of Queen and ABBA, taken from the club's forthcoming Christmas show at Sunnydale Leisure Centre on the 14th December. Asked about the £75 she raised towards the school's great grand total, the Y8 pupil is quite blasé: she accepts charity fundraising as an integral part of school life and says she is happy to help 'kids who haven't got the things we have.' Although, to be honest, this reporter wonders whether she is aware of the impressive nature of her achievement: given that most of her audience were Y11 students (not, perhaps, noted for fraternising with lowly Y8s); or that they were so impressed by what they were witnessing they got out their smart phones to alert others as to what was going on. Woodham Academy is not alone in feeling a sense of pride over the selfless attitude of many of its young people when it comes to raising awareness (and money) for deserving causes. It has become almost commonplace for the public to come across groups of shivering youngsters chatting happily at bus-stops dressed as bears, bunnies, SpongeBob SquarePants or pirates of the Caribbean. In Elle Jeffries, however, they may have found something exceptional, and we would like to wish her the very best of luck as she prepares herself for trials for the international championships in Portugal next year.

# "Helping Hands" Full Time Project Worker

Lifeline Community Action (Helping Hands) will soon be employing a full-time Project Coordinator to enable the ever-increasing workload of our projects to continue over the next year. Currently the board are volunteering themselves with clients, raising funds, organising the work of current volunteers and running many of the courses that are taking people forward. Chair of trustees Alwyn White says 'we want to be able to take a more strategic view of the charity and would like to employ someone to support the day to day running of the work on the ground. We need a confident and competent Project Coordinator to relieve us of some of the hands on work in order for us to look further ahead to the future of the charity and to ensure we

are working to the benefit of our clients and meeting the needs of the people we are here to support'. GAMP via the Neighbourhood Budget allocation of Councillor's Joan Gray, Mike Dixon, John Clare, Jed Hillary, Sarah Iveson, Eddy Adam and Kate Hopper, Garfield Western, and private funding has supported this role. Brian Riley GAMP Coordinator said 'We are pleased to support the work of Lifeline Community Action and hope the funding for the Project Coordinator will help support some of the most vulnerable GAMP residents'. Lifeline Community Action is extremely grateful for the generous contributions everyone has made. It means we can expand our services and help even more people over the next year.



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## People Cause Litter Problem Not Councils

Dear Sir,  
In reply to last weeks letter from Vince Crosby about the litter problem around Tesco and Argos to Aldi. I do not think accusing the Council for not cleaning the area is fair, because the litter problem is created by the people of Newton Aycliffe. People throw litter down anywhere as a matter of course. Would the same people clutter their kitchen or living room floors like that? Have pride in your town, take the rubbish home, keep it tidy, keep it clean put your rubbish in the bin.  
Pat Spellman

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## Future Business Magnates at Greenfield

Another fantastic year of Future Business Magnates has begun at Greenfield Community College! The new team of 8 aspiring business entrepreneurs from Greenfield got stuck in to challenge one at Meadowfield Sports centre last week. The team building challenge was a fun day and a great learning experience for the team. Alongside their business partner, Trevor Forsyth

from IES, the team tackled a number of challenges, learnt more about communication and worked together to score points. This year's enthusiastic group will now continue to complete challenges, learning more about success in business and practical skills for the future. Greenfield has been successful in the competition for the last 4 years, we wish 2015's team equal success and good luck!



## Greenfield College Congratulate Class of 2014



The class of 2014 was joined by the Chief Constable Mike Barton at Greenfield Community College last week to celebrate their efforts, commitment and fabulous GCSE results.

All pupils in the year group received their GCSE certificates at the celebration and some were nominated for star prizes in individual subject areas.

Executive Head Teacher, David Priestley, welcomed the students back to Greenfield and praised the year group for their hard work and commitment throughout the duration of their academic studies.

Each subject area was recognised in 'Oscar' style with subject leaders announcing the overall winner of the subject prize. Special awards were presented for whole school

priorities such as attendance, social contribution, progress and the Mayors trophy for academic achievement which this year went to Megan Cross. The Chief Constable gave a wonderful speech to the young people and spoke about exciting times ahead for the college and how the group of students were a key part of what puts the 'Great' in Great Britain.

It was fantastic to see the class of 2014 return, to hear of their success and wish them well for the future – we look forward to seeing them continue to achieve great things.

Winners of awards were: Design & Technology: Taryn Edgson; English: Chloe Hudson-Shalliker; Geography: Tanisha Waters; History: Josh Jackson; ICT: Zoe Blakey; Mathematics: Harry

Heaton; Modern Languages: Tanisha Waters; Dance: Patrice O'Donnell; Drama: Aicha Krasik; Music: Sam Dobinson; Physical Education: Megan Cross; Religious Education: Megan Cross; Science: Harry Heaton; Visual Arts: Jessica Underwood.

General Awards: **Attendance Award:** (The Dave Tate Award) Megan Cross, George Dixon.

**Progress Award:** (The Peter Beatty Trophy) Kimberley Morgan-Linskey

**Highest Academic Achievement:** (The Mayor's Trophy) Megan Cross

**Social Contribution:** (The Fred Leight Trophy) Francesca Moody

**The Outdoor & Adventurous Activities Award** (Mike Thornton Trophy) Owen Preston.

## Giving and Receiving a Helping Hand

As Christmas quickly approaches, Helping Hands still have resources that are available for those who are struggling financially. Alwyn White says 'we know there are residents out there who are suffering in silence, people who can't afford the gifts under the tree or the food on the table. It saddens us to learn that there are people in our community who are suffering when we know we can assist'. If you need our help please contact us now and we will see how we can best assist you before Christmas. If you can't make a call to us, simply just

text the words 'support needed' and one of our dedicated team will be in touch. Telephone or text 07936 431262 We can help with Toys, Hampers, Essential household packs, Heat pads. Our Fashion Show provides warm coats, dressing gowns, slippers, etc and is on Saturday 13th December. Christmas Day Dinner for those who would rather not be alone on this special day. For all enquiries or to find out more, contact: e-mail lifeline.action@googlemail.com/ or visit our web page http://lifelinecommunityaction.co.uk

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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



## Call for Local Residents to Support Elmfield School Site Project

Dear Sir,  
As stated in recently published letters on the former Elmfield School grounds, the school was demolished several years ago and the derelict site is now in urgent need of regeneration. As a background, the Elmfield Action Group evolved from a funded West Ward Partnership project to pursue the possibility of establishing a purpose-built community centre at the heart of the Ward. At the time, unlike other areas of the town and prior to the DCC 2012 boundary changes, no suitable premises to meet the evidence-based needs of the whole community could be identified.

Made up of volunteers, local elected councillors and representatives of partner organisations, the group's main aim is to make the case for a modern, multi-function community building based on the site as part of a new housing development.

It is proposed the facility will host a variety of activities, courses and events to benefit all age groups, as well as providing improved access to vital services and advice delivered by various providers. To date, a feasibility study of the site itself is in place and an initial local community consultation has been undertaken following a widespread survey of young



Counc. Kate Hopper

people's views. However, in order to progress the completion of a sound, comprehensive business plan, it is essential that residents both young and old alike who live in the immediate vicinity and wider neighbourhood come forward to show their support for the project. To find out more or get involved, please get in touch. Alternatively, visit the Elmfield Action Group facebook page to pledge your support or post your ideas and aspirations for your community. The group welcomes your views and looks forward to hearing from you.  
Cllr Kate Hopper  
Chair,  
Elmfield Action Group  
Tel: 03000 268727  
email: kate.hopper@durham.gov.uk



## The Village Pharmacy

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### OPENING TIMES

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## THREE AWAY WINS ON THE TROT FOR SPORTS CLUB

Another away game and another victory for Newton Aycliffe Sports Club which now sees them starting to close the gap on the teams at the top and pulling away from the teams in the bottom half of the league. The first game

of the season saw the Sports Club surrender a 5-1 lead to draw 5-5 with the Crossings at Moore Lane, and there was no way they were going to allow a repeat performance this time around.

In form striker Connor Hughes was again partnered up front by Chris Jones who opened the scoring on 5 minutes after a beautifully weighted pass from Anth Campbell parted the defence for Jones to fire home. The home side equalised on 25 minutes after a deep cross caught keeper Andy Hartley off guard who fumbled and dropped the ball into his own net.

It took ten minutes for the Aycliffe side to regain the lead, Anth Campbell striking from outside the box with an excellent drilled effort giving the keeper no chance. With The Crossings still licking their wounds, Connor Hughes took advantage of a great through ball from David Teder, who was slotting in at left wing back, to make it 3-1 just moments later.

The game was turning into a true battle and it wasn't long before the first yellow card was awarded, with Craig Barrigan being chopped down with a malicious tackle from behind. With passion high, the home side grabbed a goal back to make it 3-2, David Hall heading into his own net past the stranded Hartley in goal. However, that lasted only seconds as Chris Jones grabbed his brace after some great link up play with Shaun Grant and David Teder to make it 4-2 going into the break.

The next goal was always going to play a big part in the game and it was Connor Hughes who effectively killed the game off grabbing his brace on the hour mark. The home side, which were now at sixes and sevens and arguing amongst themselves couldn't do anything to stop goal machine Hughes grabbing his hat-trick with five minutes remaining, lobbing the goalkeeper to make it 6-2 and rounding off a fine display.

Next up is a break from the league campaign, with another away tie to BA Lacey's in the Invitation Cup. Cup form has been poor this season, but this is a good chance for The Sports Club to try and change that by taking the excellent league form into this tie.

Team: Andy Hartley, Jonathan Clegg, David Teder, David Hall, Mark Craggs, Craig Hannant, Anthony Campbell, Gareth Boyes, Craig Barrigan, Connor Hughes, Chris Jones. Subs (used): Shaun Grant, Tom Postle, Tommy Young.

## Woodham Academy Swimming Stars

Woodham Academy has always had a strong swimming tradition and has excellent links to Sedgfield 75 and Sedgfield Water Polo Club. Over the past few weeks Woodham Academy students have had tremendous success both in water polo and swimming. Woodham Academy water polo players are currently enjoying tremendous success in the pool. Since September they have won a host of tournaments and currently have players competing at District, National and International level.

Ben Stephenson, Year 9, travelled to Andorra in September to represent the North East in an International 5 day tournament and since returning has now become a National Champion taking Gold at the ASA Under 15's National Tournament in Manchester in October, in the same winning Sedgfield Water Polo Club team, was Niall Coulthard, year 7. The team is coached by George Carpenter Ex -Great Britain player who runs Woodham Water Polo Academy. This is the highest ranked competition in the UK and for Woodham Academy to have two players competing at this level is a fantastic achievement. Niall has also enjoyed major success as a swimmer. His qualifying times and gala achievements are outstanding after 5 PB's at Billingham, 4 Gold medals 1 qualifying time and 4 PB's at Darlington, two qualifying times and bronze at Middlesbrough, and Gold and Silver and two qualifying times at Wear Valley. Niall will now



compete at the North Eastern Regional Championships in early December with 3 individual swims. At District level Poppy Stephenson and Jessica Webb have just returned from representing the North East at

the Inter Regions under 14's competition in Liverpool. Whilst they narrowly missed out on a medal, they played some outstanding water polo and were competing two years above their age group. This means that they will have lots

of opportunities to represent the district in the future.

Also at District level after representing the North East Under 17's and the Under 15's this year, Ben Stephenson has made his 3rd District team of the year and will play for the Under 14's at the Inter Regions Competition in Walsall in December along with Jake Mendelsohn, Year 7, who will play for the District for the first time.

This shows the quality of water polo players attending Woodham Academy as Niall, Jake, Poppy and Jessica have also played in Northern Water polo tournaments and won Gold in Maltby Rotherham and Gold in Aycliffe. They all travel to Lancaster in December hoping for great success again.

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## Dinner in aid of Children with Cancer

This is the 3rd event to raise money for the Charity "Children with Cancer UK" and this is to support Paul Cook and Peter Armstrong (Darlington Cricket captain) run the London Marathon in April next year. This will Paul's 3rd Marathon and Peter's first.

They want to sell as many seats as possible and 100% of what is raised will go to the charity. The event is at the Hall Garth Hotel on Friday 12th December starting at 7pm

The night will include a three course meal, magician, live auction, raffle, and live music. Tickets are priced at £50 each, available from Paul Cook on 07967 262095

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# Newtonian Wins Karate National Championship



Three Aycliffe students travelled to Sheffield to take part in the GKR National Karate Tournament, Annalise Tinkler (centre) was prepared to take on the best of the country's top Karateka. She held her nerve in the Kata and came away as the National Champion after coming second last year and third the year before. Everyone told her this was her year and she proved that practice, even when tired, pays off. Asa Fletcher (right) did very well and was up against some tough brown belts. He held his own and is now preparing for next year. Annalise Dez and Asa are now training for the World Cup which is in Liverpool next year. If you would like to join our very family orientated club, we train at Greenfield School on Thursdays from 6.30 - 8pm.

# Local Dance School in Blackpool

I would like to congratulate everyone who qualified and took part in the Nationwide Medalist of the Year Competition held at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool over the weekend 8th and 9th November, competing against children from other dance schools from all over the country, with up to 200 taking part in each event.

Andrea Menzies, Jade Wakefield, Annis Race, Kalya Shaw, Kasia Shaw, Abbie Kennedy, Kieron O'Donnell, Kira Watson, Drew Shaw, John Paul Fish and Chloe Farley all qualified to compete in the Finals. Unfortunately Drew Shaw, John Paul Fish and Chloe Farley were unable to attend on the weekend.

Those who did attend the Nationwide Competition achieved some incredible results in their individual age groupings and categories with Kalya Shaw achieving 2nd Place overall in the Solo competition, Annis Race achieved 5th Place in the Slow competition, Andrea Menzies achieved 2nd Place overall in her Solo competition and 5th Place overall in her Slow competition.

Kieron O'Donnell and Abbie Kennedy achieved 5th place overall in their Pairs competition and Kalya Shaw and Annis Race were placed 1st and are now the Nationwide Champions in their Rock 'n' Roll pairs competition. This was an extra special result, as Annis had missed out on training in the run up to the competition due to a spiral fracture of her arm and only had the cast removed in the week leading up to the competition.

The competition was really tough, but there was a fantastic atmosphere which made the whole weekend thoroughly enjoyable.

The support from all parents, friends and families was superb and I would like to personally thank the parents for their continued support.

Anyone interested in attending dancing or fitness classes, please contact Caroline Race on 07949 911642.



Keiron and Abbie



Kalya and Annis



(above) Jade and Andrea, (below) Andrea

## Residents Meet

Linden Place Residents Association meeting is on Tuesday 9th December 2014 at 6pm at Silverdale Community House. All residents welcome



## Councillors' Surgeries

A Surgery will be held at St. Mary's Meeting room on Saturday 13th December from 11am till noon. Councillors for the Neville, Shafto and Central Wards will be in attendance.

# ACORN Residents' Meeting

Popular residents community group ACORN Residents Association, will be holding their monthly meeting on Thursday 11th December ACORN will be holding their monthly meeting at the Royal British Legion Club commencing with a meeting of the little ACORNS at 5.30pm who will be discussing future events and trips.

With the forthcoming Christmas season almost upon us the group will be planning trips to a local adventure farm, pantomime and zoo trip.

At 6pm the main ACORN group will be discussing local issues and concerns. Anyone is welcome to attend as police, councillors and living representatives often come along to keep us informed.

Any items for agenda or guest speakers who would like to address either meeting should contact the group through the chairman Ken Robson on 01325 321471.

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**Proposed New Houses Outside Eldon Whins**

Dear Sir,  
With reference to the recent Article in the Newton News for Week Ending 28th November, 2014, entitled "Will New Housing Development Swamp Middridge Village?" I would like to make a few comments:-  
1. 80% of the proposed Persimmon Housing Development is outside the area designated as "Eldon Whins" in the new Draft (and current) Durham County Plans. Since the new County Plan identifies all the required future Housing in County Durham, most of the proposed Persimmon Development is arguably surplus to requirements. For this and other reasons, the majority of Middridge Residents are against the Persimmon Proposal.  
2. It may be that it was intended to include some or all of the proposed Persimmon Development in the "Aycliffe Master Plan". However, since all this land lies outside Great Aycliffe, in the Parish of Middridge, it would be better if this was settled in a spirit of good neighbours, rather than resorting to the Petition, which in view of the difference in populations, frankly reeks of "bully-boy" tactics.  
3. I don't know who has

stated that "Middridge are only interested in the extra income they would receive from rates". Since it is Great Aycliffe Town Council who are trying to take over part of Middridge Parish, I would suggest that this is more likely to be their motive.  
A.D. Jordan

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**GET SURROUNDED WHILE YOU WORK**

An increasingly popular concept which connects home-based business owners with "colleagues" at one day 'co-working events' across the North-East continues to expand and is now holding events in Newton Aycliffe. Colleagues on Tap was established by Jayne Graham,



49, a business coach and nominee in this year's Queen's Enterprise Awards, who wanted to ensure that the increasing number of people who work for themselves don't always have to work by themselves. Coworking Days is where people can go into a pop-up office and work alongside fellow small business owners for a day. They are proving to be such a hit that Jayne is increasing the number of venues. The events are held throughout the North East from Alnmouth to Middlesbrough and many locations in between including Newcastle, North Shields, Durham, Consett, Washington and now Newton Aycliffe. Over 200 business owners are regular co-workers and Colleagues on Tap will shortly celebrate its 150th event. "Many people who work from home do so to enjoy the benefits of low overheads and the flexibility of being their own boss, but it can also be quite isolating," said Jayne, who has run a coaching and consultancy business from home for over ten years. "The beauty of Colleagues on Tap is that we're not a traditional networking group. People who work for themselves are often short of time because they're so busy running their businesses, so Coworking Days provide the opportunity to connect with other people, and pick up tips and business opportunities, while they work. "We help people who work for themselves to recognise that they're doing a great job, and that they don't need to always work by themselves." Kathryn Clarke, of Spennymoor, who runs an Image Consultancy, is delighted to host Coworking Days in Newton Aycliffe at the Evans Business Incubation Centre. She said: "When I previously worked in an office environment I liked the colleagues and the social side of it, and that's something I've missed since I started

working for myself. With Coworking Days you get all of that – the support of colleagues and the chat – but you don't get wrapped up in any office politics. It also gives me the chance to really focus on the business away from clients and the home." Coworking Days at Evans Business Incubation Centre are held once a month, and cost £20 including lunch, with discounts also available. Anyone interested in attending a Coworking Day can find out more and book a desk at www.colleaguesontap.com

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**NEW GREEN DOG WALKERS CAMPAIGN**

People in a County Durham community are being encouraged to clean up after their dog as part of a mini Green Dog Walkers Campaign. Durham County Council's Civic Pride Team is running the campaign, which aims to promote responsible dog ownership in the Bournmoor area. As well as educating people about their duty to clean up after their dogs, the three-week initiative includes extra patrols in dog fouling hotspots and an increase of temporary signs to deter people from allowing their dog to foul. Bournmoor Primary School children will be encouraged to go green by taking part in education sessions about responsible dog ownership and the importance of scooping up after their pet. Local councillors, neighbourhood wardens and local Police neighbourhood teams will also be taking part in the mini Green Dog Walkers campaign. Pauline Walker, Durham County Council senior civic pride officer, said: "Dog fouling is an issue which affects many communities

across the county. The mini Green Dog Walkers Campaign is an educational and fun way for residents, children and young people to get involved in combatting this issue." Groups who wish to get involved in improving their environment can contact the Civic Pride team on 03000 26 1000 or email civicpride@durham.gov.uk. visit www.durham.gov.uk/civicpride

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# TURBINIA TOY RUN Stick a Candle in Your Ear and Relax



Sunday 15th December, 12.30pm Start

Every year the Turbinia Pub helps organise 'Aycliffe Bike Club' & the Party Fire Engine's tour round 10 local pubs collecting toys that have been donated to Bishop Auckland Women's Refuge. This event has been running for 7 years and has handed over thousands of toys, giving kids a Xmas they could only have dreamt about. Please support this worthwhile

cause. buy an extra present this year and leave it at the Turbinia, unwrapped with the staff, or better still, hand it over in person and greet the cavalcade of motorcycles (many in fancy dress) and the 'party fire engine' at 12-15pm. All bikers very welcome to join the fun, suitable for all sizes of bikes, trikes and scooters. Just donate a toy, call Gary on 01325 313034 Party Engine kindly supplied by Martin Norris from the 'Blazin Squad' - 0800 9775221.

## In Memoriam

**TREVOR PLASKITT** 23rd May 1941 - died 12th December 2010. You left too soon and broke our hearts, we it hard to carry on without you. We miss you and so proud of you, we love you and always will Trevor xxx. Thinking of you every day and in our hearts forever. Love, Valerie; Daughters Shirley, Jason, Julia, Adam and loving Grandchildren Jonathan, Maxine, Louis, Mia and your loving family xxxxx  
**HAZEL YOUNG**, its that time of year when you were taken from us, there is a sadness in my heart & a gap in my life that you used to fill. Love you & miss you so much mum. Love Carol, Gary & the kids xx

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gliding over your head and atmospheric aromas to inhale. The whole session takes around 30 minutes leaving you feeling totally relaxed and refreshed. For your Ear Candling Treatment contact Helen Rickaby on 320409. Helen is a fully qualified Holistic Therapist and specialised Tutor (Darlington College). www.footreading.net

## Acknowledgement

**EILEEN MEALE** - The children of the late Eileen Meale would like to express their deepest appreciation to friends, family and neighbours for their kindness and care throughout their Mam's illness, during her final weeks and following her death. They also wish to express their heartfelt appreciation to the outstanding team at St Teresa's Hospice for the exceptional care and support given to both Eileen and them at a deeply difficult and troubling time. Special thanks to Dr Ruth Hewitt and Susanne Kay-Worrall for their unfailing care, kindness and compassion throughout her illness, above and beyond expectation. Finally, sincere thanks to Bryan Shepherd and the entire team at Whitehouse Funeral Services for their unprecedented support and kindness.

## Christmas Wishes

**LOVELASS**, Mike and Pam donate to charity instead of sending cards, but wish all their neighbours and friends around the town all the blessings of Christmas and a Happy New year xxx

## Births

**HARVEY MICHAEL PALMER** Congratulations Christopher & Lindsay on the birth of your beautiful baby boy, 25/11/14 8lb 4oz. Lots of love always Mam, Dad, Kimberley, David, Sean and James and all the family x

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## Congratulations

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**Robert Ross**



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

**Amanda Peacock**



**Happy 40th Birthday**  
 10th December 2014  
 Happy birthday to a fantastic Mam, a beautiful Wife and amazing best friend. Lots of love Chris, Kennedy, Holly, Lilli & Tyler xxx

**Robert Ross**



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

**DEREK JOBES** 09/12/14. Happy 18th birthday Bro. Love you loads, from Sonya, Sarah and Simon xxxxx

**DEREK JOBES** 09/12/14. Happy 18th birthday Jay. Love you loads, from Amy xxxxx  
**DEREK JOBES** 09/12/14. Happy 18th birthday Jay. From Jodie, Jade, Billy and Leah xxx  
**BECKY WHEELER** Congratulations on your BSc of Science with Medical Chemistry at Newcastle University. We are very proud of you. Love, Nana, Grandad, Woolf from Teddy xxx  
**PALLISER** John & Melanie. 15 Years Wedding Anniversary. The best Wife a man could ever have from the best Husband a women could ever have Love you always and forever more.

**Derek Jobs**



**Happy 18th Birthday Son**  
 9th December 2014  
 Hope you have a great day. Love you loads, From Mam and Dad xxxxx

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# Glasgow Rock Wildcats Newton Aycliffe Beat Seghill

## Film Show

Offensive struggles in the first and third quarters hurt the Durham Wildcats on the road against the red hot Glasgow Rocks in a 79-68 loss Friday night. Throughout the match the Wildcats shot 39.3 percent overall (24-61) compared to Glasgow's 46.5 percent (33-71).

The Wildcats fall to 5-7 in the BBL Championship. Meanwhile Glasgow are riding a three-game winning streak in all competitions which include two buzzer-beating finishes.

The first quarter set the tone for the rest of the evening on 28th November. Durham could only muster 12 points in the first quarter and trailed by 10 points by the end of that term. They would shrink the deficit to six by halftime with the score 40-34.

Production faltered again coming out of the break as Durham scored 15 to Glasgow's 21, stretching the margin to 12. The Wildcats could only gain back one point



Photo Dave Stocks

in the final quarter on the way to the 79-68 final score. The Rocks never relinquished the lead throughout the game. Chris Jones and Fran Urli both had 14 points to lead the Wildcats. Nine of Urli's points came from the free throw line. John Puk added nine points from 4-10 shooting and one free throw. Jones led the team in assists with four. Overall, the Wildcats were 14-17 shooting from the free throw line. Durham shot well from range, netting 6-16 three-pointers. Glasgow were 10-35 from that distance.

Ralph Bucci gathered a game-high 16 rebounds to go along with his seven points and four steals. The Wildcats were edged out by the Rocks in rebounds 40-34. Durham limited their

turnovers to 10 and forced 12 Glasgow turnovers. Panos Mayindombe had eight points and three assists. Sam Martin and Joel Madourie each had four points and David Buchberger had three. Odiba Attah returned from injury and had five points.

The Wildcats will take a long week of preparation as they get ready for another derby faceoff with the first place Esh Group Eagles Newcastle on 5th December on the road. The last time the clubs met was back on 5th October and Newcastle came away with a 99-73 win. Urli and Buchberger were not active in that match up and, with a full squad expected to be healthy, should help the Wildcats threaten the BBL's top team.

On Sunday 7th December the Wildcats will welcome Surrey United, who sit at the bottom of the table, to Newton Aycliffe. That match will be preceded by the Wildcats' U-18's match versus Bradford Dragons at 12:30pm. The entry fee for all children will be £1.

Saturday's league fixture saw Newton Aycliffe RUFC play at home to Seghill who were sitting three places above them in fourth place in Durham and Northumberland Division 3. The pitch at Moore Lane was looking superb the playing conditions were next to perfect. In fact it was all set up for a fantastic day of rugby. Head Coach Peter Ryans has been trying all season to get the players to play to their full potential, to start the game strongly and stick to the game plan and for once it worked.

Aycliffe took the upper hand and for the first 10 minutes they were encamped in Seghill's 22. Aycliffe seemed certain to score but allowed Seghill to fly hack the ball through their defence where their winger managed to be first to the touchdown. Seghill's kicker slotted home a monstrous kick from out wide for them to take a 7-0 lead. Deryk Cairns, a late arrival, came straight on for Danny Prince who up until this stage had propped really well. Drew Gibson went into the front row, with Andy Littlefair and tighthead prop Chris Carlon who was making his first team league debut as a prop. From the resulting kick off, winger Jonny Griffith and several of the quicker forwards put the Seghill receiver under immense pressure; they turned the ball over and, after several powerful pick and drives, Cairns burst through and scored a fantastic try with only his second touch of the ball. Luke Tinkler kicked a fantastic conversion from the touch line levelling the scores at 7-7.

The rest of the half saw Aycliffe dominate every aspect of the game. Seghill began to concede a number of penalties, but Aycliffe were unable to add to the score. Neil Morgan won a great deal of ball at the front of the lineout - a constant source of

quality ball which was used really well by the backs. Seghill's light weight scrum-half had an excellent game and was a constant threat to the home side. At half time the score remained 7-7

The second half was more of the same; Aycliffe's forwards were almost unstoppable; time after time they drove forward draining Seghill's resolve the more the half went on. Aycliffe took the lead through a 40-metre penalty kick from Tinkler. There was no way back for the visitors more and more pressure was exerted and another visitor was yellow carded. Aycliffe continued to dominate fantastic runs and Dan Montgomery put in some fine runs in the centre. Luke Crossen, playing fullback, had his best game of the season. Seghill's strong defence final crumbled more pick and drives from the forwards

saw birthday boy and skipper Warren Parsonage cross the line to give Aycliffe an 8 point cushion. As the light faded, Aycliffe continued to pile on the pressure but they could not add to the score. Final result 15-7.

This was a great result for Aycliffe, as, for the first time this season, they controlled the game and pressurised the strong opposition out of the game. Drew Gibson's performance was worthy of special mention having to play the majority of the game out of position. Gareth Parsonage, another birthday boy was also mentioned after the game for the quality of his strategic kicking.

Aycliffe's next match is away to Washington on 6th Dec ko 2.15pm.

Aycliffe rugby are sponsored by S CARS and WHITEHOUSE FUNERAL SERVICE.

St Clare's Church FEEL GOOD FILM SHOWS will feature "NOEL" on Tuesday 9th December. Starring Susan Sarandon, Penelope Cruz, Paul Walker, Alan Arkin and Robin Williams.

It is a drama about five people with their individual problems as Christmas Eve approaches, each needing some sort of miracle, and how their lives touch each other.

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Further details from Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755

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## New Local Indoor Bowls League

Great Aycliffe Indoor Bowls Club were in action recently in the Durham & District Inter Club Triples League. This newly formed league is run by Ken Tait from Ferryhill I.B.C and comprises teams from Great Aycliffe, Ferryhill, Spennymoor, Durham and Chester le Street. The format of the league is

three rinks of triples and is open to both male and female bowlers.

After suffering heavy defeats in their opening two games Aycliffe took on a strong team from Park View at their Oak Leaf Sports Centre base.

The visitors were looking to take advantage of Aycliffe's slow start to the season by taking maximum points and take over top spot. They found the home side in excellent form however and were soundly beaten 6-2.

Home skips R Jones and P Whittaker won their games comfortably and in doing so won by sufficient shots to claim the points for the overall aggregate score.

C Chapman for the visitors rescued two points with a win over home skip McDonald.

Final scores (Aycliffe first) Jones 26-7 Thompson, Whittaker 20-9 Herbert, McDonald 5-14 Chapman. Next fixture Wed 3rd Dec Spennymoor (away) Ken Tait

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