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Town's Schoolchildren in Free Christmas Concert

Community Invited to the Leisure Centre

On Tuesday 16th December residents can enjoy a FREE Christmas Concert in the Leisure Centre provided by our schoolchildren from 2pm to 3.30pm.



Dance Group from Greenfield College will perform

It will be a super afternoon's entertainment with singing, dancing and a Brass Band to lead the singing of Christmas Carol and Songs.

Everyone is invited to this annual event organised by the Rotary Club which is always a splendid occasion with lots of seasonal joy.

Schools taking part include Sugar Hill, Woodham Academy, Vane Road, Greenfield, St. Joseph's,

Byerley Park, Aycliffe Village and Stephenson Way. Sunnydale School are also sending a group of singers. Some of the community carols will be accompanied by talented brass band musicians from Woodham and Greenfield. Former Head Teacher at Heighington School, George Dixon, will play the

organ for favourite Christmas items such as "Once in Royal David's City" O Little Town of Bethlehem, White Christmas and "Jingle Bells"

15 year old soloist Alice Jordan will add sparkle to the programme with her wonderful vocal talent.

Town Mayor Wendy Hillary and Councillors will attend along with a visit from Santa Claus. Please come along and support the children who will be singing their hearts out to help you get in the festive spirit.

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Honest John's
£1k Xmas Gift

A few weeks ago honest John offered £1000 from his Community Kitty to a deserving cause. He received four requests and chose Aycliffe's "Rock Solid" a charity which cares for vulnerable young people. They will use the money to give youngsters who may be homeless or with no family, a nice Christmas with lots of presents and treats.

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Greenfield Excellence at National Conference

Two groups of pupils and staff from Greenfield Community College were invited to share excellent practice with educational professionals from around the world at the SSAT National Conference in Manchester last week. Teachers Ellie Barnes and Emma Curran were joined by students Nicole Todd and Lucy Roberts to share Greenfield's vertical tutoring programme "Time 4 Success" with their audience on Friday morning. The students spoke

eloquently and confidently about the importance of reading, mentoring and intervention within T4S, and explained how their Tutors put the system into practice. They gave an insightful pupil point of view on how T4S has helped their personal and group skills and the benefits of working in a mixed age group. After the talk, the students and teachers led an enquiry session with their audience, mimicking a Time 4 Success



session. This provided a great talking point, inspiring even the international teachers present about the ways to encourage students to achieve and promote independent learning. The presentation was very well received, prompting questions from teaching professionals about how to introduce the programme into their own schools. After their presentation the students had the opportunity to join staff at a presentation about how iPads can be used in school for learners to lead learning. The girls were really interested in the presentation; it has given them a lot to think about and to use in their own learning. This is just one of the two fantastic experiences Greenfield had at the SSAT conference last week, where students were a credit to their school and the work of the staff and students

at Greenfield Community College was celebrated and recognised – well done Greenfield!

Honest John Raised Over £102,000

Honest John reached a fundraising milestone recently when the total money raised for good causes in Newton Aycliffe passed the £100,000 mark. For 7 years John has supported countless town organisations, first he stood in all weathers raising funds at the weekly market, benefitting young and old alike who needed help. Recently John was able to increase his giving by moving to the Cubby operating six days a week taking in unwanted goods donated by Newtonians and selling them to raise funds. Many people have expressed their gratitude to John for his good work, not least the Cubby who have also benefitted from John's donations. He has helped to keep the premises open as a drop in for regulars to enjoy a cup of tea and a meal

at very reasonable prices. There is a worry however, now that the Cubby's future is under threat from the County Council who own the land and are needing it for a commercial development that John's good work may be affected. John said; "Over the last year I have to recognise my very good friend and trustee of the charity, Valerie Wright, who has been invaluable with her time and help, especially with the paperwork which I hate doing. I prefer sitting around smoking my pipe and selling in between my weirdy, beardy mug appearing in the Newton News. That must be annoying to some, but it really helps the charity with publicity. Thanks to Syd and Paul Howarth of Newton Press for their help and support over the years through Newton News and running our website. Most of all my thanks to the generous folk of Newton Aycliffe for generating this

amount of money through donations of unwanted goods". John sends his best wishes to everyone for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

£500 for Marie Curie Charity

At the annual Open meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club, Chairwoman Pauline Wadge presented a cheque for £500 to Elizabeth Varley, Chairwoman of the recently-formed Bishop Auckland Group of Marie Curie Cancer Care - the Flower Club's Charity of the Year. The group has raised over £10,000 in its first year - thanks to the generosity of people in South West Durham. All monies raised by the Bishop Auckland group will go towards supplying 'end of life care' in the Bishop Auckland area

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Exciting Prospects for Agnew Community



Ron Mitchie Secretary/Centre Manager with Joan Clark newly appointed trustee and GACAP Secretary.



Joan and Ron are wearing new polo shirts designed to link with exciting changes at the Agnew in the New Year. Joan has been brought on board to help with the Marketing & PR at the centre. GACAP (Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership) recently moved their administrative centre from Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre to Agnew where it is hoped to build a new extension to provide another Foodbank, extended Nursery, and other welfare services to the area. The Agnew is one of several collection points for the Foodbank. All donations would be gratefully received to help families on the town facing difficulties or unable to feed their children properly. Should you require any further information about the Agnew Centre or GACAP please contact Joan Clark on 321504. GACAP is a partnership of statutory and voluntary workers who strive to ensure no person suffers from deprivation.

If you wish to be part of this organisation please contact Joan.

Motorway Service Station Petrol Prices Advertised on Route

The Institute of Advanced Motoring greatly welcome the move to place the price of petrol before users reach the service stations. It will give motorway users the chance to compare prices and not feel 'held to ransom' at hefty premium prices charged on these routes. Using a motorway should not be seen as a penalty, and service station operators need to think long and hard about the charges they make. They should not see motorway users as a 'cash cow.' The IAM see fairer prices on motorway fuel as just the start – there is no justification for such eye-watering prices for food, refreshments or other such essentials.

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

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Saturday 13th December - "This Machine"
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One of the most entertaining bands on the circuit, music by Motorhead, Van Halen, Metallica, Pearl Jam, Bon Jovi, Guns n Roses, Deep Purple, AC/DC, Billy Idol and Thin Lizzy

Saturday 20th December - "Uncle Gilbert"
Saturday 27th December - "Rock Solid"
Sunday 28th December - "No Fun"

For more information on bands go to www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034
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15000 Sign up for Garden Waste Collection

The number of County Durham residents signed-up to the extended garden waste collection scheme has already topped the 15,000 mark. Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, Cllr Brian Stephens, said: "These are early days but the initial feedback is hugely supportive. There is still plenty of time for others to subscribe and it is really good that we are able to offer the service to even more households."

By signing up for a £20 annual fee, residents receive 16 fortnightly collections

between spring and autumn. Anyone opting to take up a three year subscription will get a discounted rate of £50. Rotters will continue to work in partnership with Durham County Council in Teesdale in 2015 and the same annual fee applies. Residents are reminded they need to subscribe by February 1 to get all garden waste collections in 2015. To find out if a property is eligible for garden waste collections and to sign up to the service, go to www.durham.gov.uk/gardenwaste or call 03000 261 000.

MP Backs Small Businesses in Aycliffe Town Centre

Phil Wilson, our MP took part in a cupcake making workshop at Love Thy Cupcake in Newton Aycliffe town centre last weekend, as part of this year's Small Business Saturday. Phil Wilson MP said: "It was an honour to get behind our area's local small shops and independent businesses on Small Business Saturday. We should do all we can to thank them for the vital contribution they make to the local economy, adding to the local community and boosting diversity on the High Street. I have been working for a while on improving Aycliffe town centre and Love Thy Cupcake is the exact type of business we want to see more of in the centre, alongside the large chains. Saffron Broad is the owner of Love Thy Cupcake and she set up business last year after leaving the corporate world to do something more creative. She says "I was making cakes for friends and family and decided I wanted a career that made me and other people happy, so I set up Love Thy Cupcake". Saffron now has plans for greater on-line presence, to do workshops, run pudding clubs and involve more people in the community and children in baking and cake making, maybe running a competition like the Great British Bake off. Saffron goes on to say about the visit from the MP. "I was delighted Phil came and took part in the workshop, it is really encouraging that he that getting behind this type of local business. Many people who come in the shop say they would like to see more businesses like mine in Newton Aycliffe so I hope this will be an encouragement to the shopping centre and other entrepreneurial hopefuls that this type of business can work."



Shadow Business Secretary Chuka Umunna MP said: "Building on the success of last year, Small Business Saturday 2014 will help to provide a much-needed boost to our High Streets and make even more consumers aware of the fantastic products and services offered by small and independent businesses. Small businesses have had an extremely tough few years, and have been hit by soaring business rates. That's why the next Labour government want to get behind small business. We will therefore cut - then freeze - business rates to back Britain's wealth creators."

extremely tough few years, and have been hit by soaring business rates. That's why the next Labour government want to get behind small business. We will therefore cut - then freeze - business rates to back Britain's wealth creators."

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 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.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

CHRISTMAS CONCERT
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at Aycliffe Village Hall from 7.30pm
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CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
on Wednesday 24th December
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MIDNIGHT HOLY COMMUNION
on Wednesday 24th December
at St Andrews Church, Aycliffe Village - 11.30pm

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Dear Sir,
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COUNCILLOR'S BEDROOM TAX PROPOSAL REJECTED

Dear Sir,
Readers may remember that, shortly after I was elected as a County Councillor, I submitted a proposal to the government to help victims of the bedroom tax who found themselves in the 'can't-pay-can't-move' trap. The Council, unanimously, agreed to submit a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act that, for a period of two years, tenants might be exempt from the bedroom tax until suitable

alternative accommodation could be found. At the end of last month, Kris Hopkins MP, Minister for Local Government, wrote to me to inform me that our bid had failed. In a polite letter, Mr Hopkins argued that 'to apply a two year exemption would remove much of the fairness that removal of the spare room subsidy has brought back to the system, with hard-working people again having to fund empty bedrooms and tenants less motivated to

move to appropriately sized accommodation'. He also cited the fact that in County Durham the number of tenants affected by the bedroom tax had fallen from 8167 to 6885 as proof that the government's policy is 'already producing the type of results that the Government is hoping to see'. I am very disappointed by the government's decision. Our proposal was not a full demand that the bedroom tax be abolished but a request

merely for some mercy in its implementation. Mr Hopkins' letter indicates that it has been the government's intention all along to use the bedroom tax as a 'motivation' to force people out of their homes. I am particularly worried that we do not know where those 1282 displaced households have gone. A few, indeed, may have gone to smaller social dwellings, and some to decent private landlords. My fear is that many vulnerable people have been forced to

sleep on the couch of family or friends, or - unable to pay a bond - to move to poor quality landlords. Councils and social landlords have implemented a suite of measures to help people and, as far as I am aware, there is no one yet in County Durham who has been evicted solely as a result of the bedroom tax. I am also aware that some people reading this letter will approve of the bedroom tax. But I think it is typical of this Tory-led government that it

should insist on acting without mercy. What the bedroom tax has done in County Durham, effectively, is to force more than a thousand households - too poor to find £14 a week - OUT of the social housing sector which is designed for them, into the private sector whether suitable or not (no one knows) ... and then to boast about what a success their policy has been. You can read Mr Hopkins' letter at bit.ly/BedroomTaxMotion Cllr John D Clare

CHILDREN'S PARTY FREE!

Friends of Senior Citizens at Neville Community Centre are organising a FREE children's Christmas Party with bouncy castle, disco, ballooning, face painting etc on Saturday 24th January. Open to families, with parents just paying £3 for a Pie & Peas Lunch. Book today on 313924 as places are limited. This event is sponsored by local County Councillors, Sarah Iveson and Jed Hillary

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Aycliffe in Lights



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We wish all our customers a great festive season



Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
to all Newtonians



Saturday 20th December

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

hosted by Star Radio plus performances by local artists, a visit by Santa with FREE gifts for children



Town Centre Market Missed

With reference to the good prospects for our Town Centre - this may be so in some way, but shopping on Tuesday could be improved if we had a market! How we miss our friendly stall holders who gave us 32 years service and a great variety of goods to purchase. Since they left, after the shabby way they were treated, Tuesdays have become dead in our town centre as less people are attracted here now. When they eventually demolish Churchill House and the shops the town centre will be open to the cold winds of winter.
Mrs J. Lawler
Grearhead Crescent.

Council Leader Named in Most Influential List

The leader of Durham County Council has been named as one of the most influential people in local government. Cllr Simon Henig is included in the Local Government Chronicle's LGC100 list, published today. Cllr Henig, who has been leader of the county council since its formation as a unitary authority in April 2009, is also chair of the North East Combined Authority. He is the only North East-based elected politician



included in the list and one of only two combined authority chairs. The list includes national and regional politicians, government ministers, civil servants and think tank representatives. Cllr Henig said: "It is absolutely vital that nationally, the voice of County Durham and the entire North East is heard and that there is an understanding of the area's needs and aspirations. "I am pleased to be at the forefront of delivering lasting and tangible benefits to the county and region and I will continue to make that my priority for the future." The LGC100 is compiled by first gathering nominations from LGC readers. A panel of judges then selects the final 100. Earlier this year, Durham County Council was named Council of the Year by the Local Government Chronicle.

Self-Guided Northern Walks

Leaflets to guide you on walks along the region's limestone landscape have been launched this week. The Geotrail guides detail how the rocks and fossils, some dating as far back as 300 million years ago, were formed and have since influenced the area's natural habitats, industry and lives of local people from South Shields to Hartlepool. They also include ancient sand dunes and coastal reefs. The work on this project has been led by Groundwork NE & Cumbria and funded by Limestone Landscapes Partnership, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The five walks are: Souter to Marsden Bay - 'Cliffs, quarries and mills' Sunderland City - 'Rock in the City' Tunstall Hills - 'On top of a tropical reef' Seaham Nose's Point - 'Cliffs, caves and curious rocks' Coxhoe - 'Coal, clay and quarries' The guides are available in public and community buildings and can be downloaded from www.limestonelandscapes.info. For more information please contact Groundwork NE & Cumbria (North Durham Office) 01207 524 803.

Woodham Academy Student Shines Brightest in Belgium



Dylan Lewis, a student at Woodham Academy and a vital member of the Sports Academy, has had a fantastic month on and off the football pitch. During November Dylan was selected to be part of the Newcastle United U12 squad that went over to play in the annual Premier League Christmas Truce International tournament, in Ypres Belgium. This was a fantastic achievement for Dylan, as he was selected to be part of the 12 man squad out of a group of 16 players, and also received the award for Newcastle United Player of the Tournament, as voted by fellow players and Premier League officials. The whole experience was one that Dylan will never forget, from sharing a hotel

with players from Arsenal and Chelsea, learning to mix across different groups and visiting the Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery in the world. Newcastle United have also selected Dylan to be part of their squad for the forthcoming U13 Futsal tournament in Paris, on 18th to the 22nd December, making him the youngest player taking part. During his four days away Dylan will play against some of football's biggest clubs including Borussia Dortmund, Lyon and Brazilian side Sao Paulo. Liam Clough, Director of Woodham

Sports Academy, said "Dylan's attitude is brilliant, he is always willing to represent the school, he's never missed a football game and is keen to take part in all Woodham Sports Academy has to offer. Being part of Newcastle United Academy has not stopped him making himself available which is extremely refreshing. Along with Josh Bayne who plays for Sunderland, he is proving to be a perfect role model within Woodham Sports Academy. I for one am extremely proud of what Dylan has achieved this year and can see him being very successful in the future"

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French Students "Appy" Using Apps



French GCSE students at Woodham are enjoying using mobile phone technology to improve their French. Using mobile phone Apps can be a fun and interactive way of learning French vocabulary. As Head of MFL, Mr Coley explained: "Our students can now learn French vocabulary "on the go" whenever they have a spare few minutes, whether it's sitting on a bus or at home on the sofa. It really is a fantastic tool to enable our students to make better progress." Students are also enjoying using their phones to listen to French podcasts on a regular basis in order to improve their listening skills for the exam. Listening to authentic French speakers on a regular basis is a great way of ensuring exam success. Year 11 student Jessica Baker said: "It really helps you memorise words in a fun, engaging way.

I can easily access it anytime and I enjoy scoring points from all the words I have learned"

Beer and Carols at The Huntsman

Wear your best Christmas jumper or festive hat and join us for this annual event at The Huntsman, Woodham, on Thursday 18th December 6pm-7pm. What better way to get into the Christmas spirit than drinking *beer and singing carols! Lots of merriment, laughing, beer drinking and carol singing! Event totally free - Just turn up ready to sing and drink *beer* other refreshments also available. This event is brought to you by The Huntsman, Woodham and St Elizabeth's Church".

Joy-Marie and Georgie Stokes
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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!

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School Website: www.swcps.co.uk

GREENFIELD STUDENTS ADDRESS NATIONAL S.S.A.T. CONFERENCE

Two student "Engineheads" represented Greenfield Community College, Greenfield Arts and Room 13, alongside Katy Milne at the international SSAT Conference in Manchester last week.

Millie Tezcan-Fotoohi and Jasmine Falconer were invited to lead a SOLE session alongside colleagues from George Stephenson in Newcastle and join Professor Sugata Mitra for his keynote speech at the conference celebrating the learner.

As part of the keynote the students discussed what is SOLE, why it works, and how the role of the teacher and student can shift. They talked about how SOLE helps you to explore information in a broader way through your own curiosity; enabling you to learn what you want to learn.

Millie and Jasmine are part of the Engineheads, a group of enthusiastic students who support the work of Room 13, one of seven schools in the Cloud labs, developed as part of Professor Sugata Mitra's TED Prize. Room 13 opened in February 2014 and has provided the opportunity for staff and students at Greenfield, as well as colleagues from across the world, to explore SOLE "Self Organised Learning Environment."

This involves students being asked a big question, working in groups of 5 or 6



around computers, organising themselves in regards to who they work alongside, how they work and what they learn.

The students were a credit to Greenfield at the conference – speaking confidently and intelligently about the space and the research – well done! The research and learning environment of Room 13 continues to be successful – next week will see Professor Mitra return for another visit and the first sessions with "Robogran." Visit the Room 13 blog via the Greenfield Arts website to keep up to date with all the news www.greenfield-arts.co.uk.

Lake Improvement at West Park



Friends of West Park volunteers: Martin Ashcroft, Ken Robson, Richie Bainbridge, Chris Wheeler and Arun Chandran turned out on a cold winters day to help Town Council staff clean the lake at the park. Environment Officer Steve Cooper led the task assisted by Laren Aldworth, Shaun and other Council Staff. As can be seen by the photo it was cold, hard work (the water was warmer).

M.A.D. Christmas Concert



120 plus audience enjoyed a MAD Christmas Concert with a high percentage of audience

participation to well known Christmas Carols. the MAD Community Choir sang and

signed White Christmas along with some other Christmas Songs. This included a humorous rendition of Dominique the donkey. There were some touching Christmas Readings plus Soloists and a duets, also a vocal trio and quartet. The youngest soloist was Kayleigh Langan only 11 years old. The evening ended with a surprise visit by Santa who distributed sweets to young and old alike.

For more information about joining the choir, especially if you are a man, please telephone or text Joan on 07730 471487

SERVICE OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND LESSONS

St. Clare's will hold its Parish Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols on Sunday 14th December at 6pm.

This is the most beautiful Service in the Christian calendar for young and old, regular worshippers, and the once a year visitors to church.

This is the traditional Service that tells us Christmas is really coming.

Everyone is warmly invited to come along to hear the message that tells us what it is really all about.

Please come and enjoy the wonderful carols and readings and in the midst of winter enjoy the warmth of their message.

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Aycliffe Care Home CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 13th December



Plus many more - Come and join in the fun. Everyone is welcome

Apprenticeship Awareness



On 26th November Woodham Academy held its third annual Apprenticeship Awareness final which saw over 150 Year 9 students working alongside a business from Aycliffe Business Park.

Their task was to lead a research trail into the opportunities available to them locally through the apprenticeship route and to examine career progression routes within the companies.

The six tutor groups battled it out in the live final with each group entering a collage display and a verbal presentation. All presentations were to an exceptionally high standard and the use of modern technology was used to enhance the final performances. The competition was won by Ebac who were represented by John Clough, Kacpar Siembida, Adam Grainger, Caitlin Swainston, Ellie Picken and Jasmeen Vasey.

'The high quality of the presentations we saw on the evening made it incredibly difficult to choose an overall winner' said Gary Chaplain from Business Durham, one of the two judges of the competition.

Woodham Academy would like to thank the six companies represented in the challenge: Ebac, Finley Structures, Gestamp Tallent, Livin, Shepherd Construction and Thorn Lighting.

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Headteacher: Mrs. C. Forsyth

Higher Level Teaching Assistant

required for January 2015
Grade 6 Point 21-25 (subject to HLTA qualification)

The Governors seek to appoint a Higher Level Teaching Assistant to manage the day-to-day running of the school's Behaviour for Learning Centre which supports the learning of students eligible for Pupil Premium and those identified as having social, emotional, behavioural and learning difficulties. The successful candidate will plan, deliver and assess activities and strategies to advance learning, working with individuals, small groups and whole classes without the presence of a teacher. He/she will also co-ordinate the work of outside agencies to support students. Candidates should have experience of working with young people and should possess relevant qualifications. We would, however, consider candidates without HLTA status who would commit to gaining the necessary accreditation during the next 2 years.

Woodham Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be subject to a full enhanced disclosure procedure via the National Criminal Records Bureau prior to appointment.

For further details and an information pack, please telephone Mrs Lesley Buck at the school.

Closing date for applications: First post Tuesday 6th January 2015

Horndale Winter Fayre Raises £182



Horndale Residents Association working in partnership with Greenfield Arts Centre, held a Winter Fayre on November 19th. Visitors were able to make their own candles, gift tags and badges and there were the usual stalls selling Christmas gifts. We raised a fantastic £182.50 which was donated to a pupil led project, where pupils from Greenfield are designing and building a free library with the help of the Monday morning

Cree group. Cree meet at 10.30am and personally I have enjoyed working with the young people and look forward to the coming weeks passing on my skills. If you are interested in helping the youngsters you are more than welcome to join us. We also enjoy trips and evenings out. For more info contact the Arts Centre, info@greenfield-arts.co.uk. The evening also saw three

local artists, Anna Cole, Vicky Holbrough and Nicola Golightly opening their exhibition "Modus Operandi". The artwork was produced in the Art Centre Shed and showed what can be achieved using the equipment provided. The exhibition is open till the 28th December. The Shed also offers personalised gifts so call in and find out more. I would like to thank everyone who joined us and helped make the event successful including Boyes and Wilkinsons, County Councillors, Gray, Clare and Dixon. Watch out for Horndale Residents' events for next year including trips and fun days. The first outing is to Sunderland Dogs - more info in the New Year.

Merry Christmas to all.
Philip Clark
Chairman
Horndale Residents Ass

"Annie" Show for Care Home Residents



The residents at Aycliffe Care Home really enjoyed their annual Christmas Show. This year's production was "Annie" and they even had two staff members take part. The staff, resident and families would just like to say a big thank you to Northeast Productions for another wonderful night.

Aycliffe Bus Society Outing



Members and friends of the Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society took time out for a Christmas lunch at Walworth Castle last week. Travelling in vintage style but well wrapped up, the party used the Heartbeat Bus. The day finished at Locomotion, Shildon, to view the refurbishment of Churchill's funeral coach which is to go on display at York NRM in January 2015 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of Winston Churchill.

Picture by John Gibson Society President

County Council Make Savings of £137 Million

An update on council finances in County Durham outlines how difficult decisions about spending priorities look set to continue for several years. Durham County Council's Cabinet will consider its Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) – the plan which the authority uses to manage its budget and track its savings when members meet on December 17th. Following the Chancellor's Autumn Statement last week, the paper reveals the financial outlook remains extremely difficult and confirms that Government funding cuts will continue until at least 2018/19. However, members will also hear that early planning and robust management will see the delivery of nearly £137m of savings by the end of this financial year. Cabinet member for finance, Alan Napier, said: "We have done what we can to lessen the impact of these cuts on

front line services by using £10m from our reserves but there is still more than £88m to save over the next three years. The total forecasted target we must meet by the end of 2017 is now £225.4m, a difficult task in anyone's book. "We will continue to plan ahead and manage these reductions and to turn to the public to ensure we understand their spending priorities as we face the challenges ahead." The report will also ask for approval for the authority's council tax base which is the number of properties the authority will collect the tax from and at what level. Members will hear that due to more houses being built in the county and due to changes to the eligibility around discounts and subsidies, the council will raise an extra £1.9m from 2015/16 which can be used to help manage the impact of its budget reductions.



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GENEROUS SUPPORT FOR FOODBANK COLLECTION

Dear Sir,
Once again I write to express my thanks to all those who donated non perishable food,

Toon Fans Support Local Charity Toy Run



Gary (right) on behalf of The Turbinia and Aycliffe Bike Club, gratefully receives a very generous £100 donation from Newcastle fans who travel to the match on the bus from the Turbinia Pub. It will be used to buy toys for Bishop Auckland Women's Refuge at Christmas, and added to the toys donated by the pub and those collected on the Annual Motorbike Toy Run. This year's run is on Sunday 14th December starting at the Turbinia at 12-15 returning at 3-15pm. Bikers / trikers / scooters all welcome to join in the fun, just bring a toy. More details from Gary on 01325 313034.

during the collection week for the Foodbank, organised nationally by Tesco's Supermarket. Despite the current economic climate the people of this town still managed to donate a fantastic amount of food, which we will put to good use to help local people in need. The food was collected by foodbank volunteers, or friends of the Foodbank, who stood for long periods of time handing out leaflets or collecting donated food from shoppers. Without their help we could not have handled the amount of donated food that we had. A very big thank you to Tesco's supermarket in Newton Aycliffe, their managers and staff for all their help and support, not only during our foodbank collection, but for all their help throughout the year. It is refreshing to find commercial companies who are willing to support the community in which they are based. So finally a very big thank you to Tesco's supermarket, and especially the people of Great Aycliffe for their help and support. June & Ernie Temple Foodbank Co-ordinators St Clare's Church Newton Aycliffe

Student Film Premieres at Bristol Conference



Greenfield Arts had a busy week of conferences last week - including the premier of the new Curiosity film "Be Curious" at the NCCPE Conference in Bristol. The film was designed and produced by two Greenfield Community College students alongside Dr. Lorraine Coghill from Durham University, Katy Milne, Director of Arts and Creativity at Greenfield Arts

and film maker Sheryl Jenkins. The students used their prize money from winning the NCCPE "Engaging Young People" award earlier this year. The new film continues the theme of the "What If..." project, which was developed by young people to explore science and curiosity. The performance reached over 1000 young people across the North East during its tour in 2013.

Aidan Wong and Aiden Robson shared the new film at the conference in Bristol last week, talking about the process involved in developing "What If..." and now "Be Curious." They told the audience about taking opportunities, and how if you do, you can make things happen.

They provided an insight into their thought processes, discussing how they have lots of questions and sometimes exploring the questions is more exciting than finding the answer. They explained that they don't see ordinary things in the same way anymore. Greenfield College is very proud of these two dedicated and enthusiastic students - you can see their film on Greenfield Arts' vimeo page: www.vimeo.com/GreenfieldArts.

Last Post for Christmas

Have you sent your Christmas cards yet? It's not too late, but the last posting dates will be on us before you know it! The last day for SECOND CLASS POST within the UK is Thursday 18th December! If you don't mind paying for FIRST CLASS stamps, the last day for post inside the UK is Saturday 20th December - bear in mind that in a lot of places, the last collection on Saturdays will be earlier than in the week, so don't miss it! If you miss the deadlines and you have something that absolutely has to get there on time, then 23rd December is the last chance if you use Royal Mail Special Delivery...

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

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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

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

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



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ASDA Donates to Helping Hands Appeal



The Bishop Auckland ASDA store has pledged to donate a number of gifts to make sure that underprivileged children in the South Durham area have something under the tree on Christmas morning. Linzi Nicolls, appeal co-ordinator, said: "We are grateful to Asda for backing our toy appeal and I'd like to give an extra special thank you also to the bighearted customers

who are also donating - it's fantastic that you are all supporting Helping Hands this year". If you know a family that is really struggling this year please do let us know by phoning our helpline on Mobile: 07936 431262 or e-mail lifeline.action@googlemail.com. For more information about our charity please go to <http://lifelinecommunityaction.co.uk>

Patched Up Team's Excellent Away Win

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club travelled to a much improved Washington with a mix and match team due to a number of unavailabilities and gained a fine bonus point win to move within striking distance of third place in Durham and Northumberland Division 3. The shortage of backs meant that coach Peter Ryans had to play his first game of the season at stand-off and regular hooker Andy Littlefair played at inside centre. The bench featured the evergreen Tommy Cooper. Aycliffe began the match superbly, with their forwards dominating possession and a series of intelligent kicks from scrum-half Warren Parsonage and Ryans giving the Washington back three torrid time. The pressure soon told; Parsonage picked up the ball at the back of a ruck and, drawing the defenders, fed Ryans who twisted over for a try, and no doubt he will be regaling everybody with the story for weeks! A try for Parsonage from more good attacking work increased the lead and Adam Gascoigne, returning to the side after a long injury lay-off, outstripped the defence for a third try which was converted by Luke Tinkler. Washington now began to put their game together and started to look dangerous; one break was stopped by a fine tackle from Jonny Griffith, who showed great speed to chase down the winger. With less than 30 minutes on the clock, Aycliffe secured the bonus point when Ryans kicked the ball

into space and Gascoigne fielded the bouncing ball, proving much too quick for the defence. For the rest of the half, however, Aycliffe found themselves stuck in their own 22 as Washington mounted attack after attack, which Aycliffe did well to resist. At half-time, Aycliffe led 22 - 0. The second half saw Washington maintain their attacks as their scrum improved and Aycliffe tired. Eventually, midway through the half, the home team scored a try from a maul to put themselves on the scoreboard. With 10 minutes to go, Washington scored another try and it looked like there could be a grandstand finish, but Aycliffe girded their loins and the forwards took the fight back to their opponents, rejuvenating the scrum and halting the run of penalties conceded. A penalty goal with 5 minutes left made the game safe and Aycliffe were able to run down the clock without any more alarms with a 25 - 10 victory. The first 25 minutes of this match were the best seen by Aycliffe this season as they controlled all aspects of the game and the forwards put Washington on the back foot. Washington showed good spirit to come back from this start and make a good, competitive game of it. Aycliffe's next match is at home to Yarm on 13th December. The game, at Moore Lane, kicks off at 2.15pm. Aycliffe Rugby are sponsored by S Cars and Whitehouse Funeral Service.

Chairman's Medal Should go to Honest John

Dear Sir,
Regarding the article on who deserves the Chairman's Medal in Newton Aycliffe?
I don't think any resident would have to rack their brains on that question as in my mind one person stands out above any other and that is "Honest John".
He tirelessly stood in all weathers selflessly raising money for so many good causes in our town.
He always has a cheery friendly greeting for everyone and since the demise of the market he now does the same good work in the Cubby.
I don't know of any other person who would work the hours he gives for free - my nomination without a doubt is Honest John.
Irene Hewitson

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Ineos Golf Club Presentation Evening



On 6th December Ineos Golf Club held its end of year Presentation Evening in the clubhouse attended by members and their families. Before handing out trophies a cheque for £550 was presented to Nora Brewster of the "Busy Bees" Charity based in Shildon. The charity helps families in difficulty and this year's Club Captain, Ian Evans, had the choice of deciding which charity to support. Ian did an excellent job as Captain in 2014 and the club thanks him for his efforts, knowing the incoming Captain David Pinkney has a hard act to follow. However the club has every confidence in David and are sure he will represent the club well. On behalf of Ineos Golf Club we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy 2015.



Durham Wildcats Take 7th Spot in the League

Durham Wildcats faced squads situated on the opposite ends of the BBL table over the weekend and came away with a win and a loss. They made the short trek across the Tyne and gave derby rivals and first place holders Newcastle Eagles their best fight on 5th December but lost 99-83.

Two days later Durham took on the co-sharers of the bottom rung of the ladder Surrey United and the Wildcats ran away to a 101-57 victory. The split weekend leaves the Wildcats with a 6-8 record. Durham take the 7th position in the league after Manchester Giants were defeated in their two games over the weekend and dropped to 8th.

At Newcastle, Head Coach Lee Davie and the Wildcats going in were confident they could compete stride for stride with the best all-around squad in the BBL. In their first face off back on 5th October the Wildcats battled tough with the rivals, even holding a 55-50 lead early in the third quarter. But the Eagles' experience allowed them to take control of the rest of the match to win 99-73. It much the same on Friday night. Newcastle's offensive efficiency from every corner of the court proved too much for the Durham Wildcats on 5th December in the 99-83 loss. The Wildcats were down 45-42 at halftime to the North East derby foes before the Eagles turned on the jets on the way to their 11th straight victory.

"We were right there with them again," said Davie. "We managed to score well and trade baskets against one of the best defensive teams in the BBL. In the end they were able to get defensive stops when they needed to and we could not." Chris Jones led the Wildcats with 20 points (7-11 FG, 1-4 3FG) and Panos Mayindombe added 16 with the help of 2-3 shooting from three-point range. Ralph Bucci led all rebounders with 13 and led the Wildcats in assists with four. Fran Urli had 13 points and Odiba Attah had 12.



Durham was 23-40 shooting from two-point range and were 6-19 from beyond the arc. Against Surrey United, both offenses started off slow and inconsistent, translating into a low-scoring first quarter. Davie admitted that his squad was out of rhythm in the first term. Once the defensive pressure from Durham started to fluster Surrey United, points came in bunches for the Wildcats to help them to the 101-57 win.

"Once we got going defensively we managed to create some good shots for ourselves," Davie said. "The more and more we pressured them on defence the better we played on offence." Mayindombe and Sam Martin both scored 19 points and Attah added 16 points. Martin came off the bench and provided Durham an offensive spark starting in the second quarter with his three-point shooting. The Yale graduate was 5-6 shooting from beyond the arc, adding also a reverse layup in the third quarter after receiving a no-look pass from Jones. Martin was 2-2 from the free

throw line. He was given an honourable mention spot on the BBL's Team of the Week.

That pass from Jones was one of his six assists on the night in addition to his eight points. Bucci had five assists and Mayindombe had four. Also scoring in double digits were Urli and David Buchberger who had 15 and 10, respectively. Urli led the Wildcats in rebounds with six and joined Martin on the BBL's Off the Bench team.

John Puk had eight points and Joel Madourie added six. Martin's 19 points was his season-best which led the way for Durham's bench production. Attah, Martin, Buchberger and Madourie combined for 51 points coming off the bench. Surrey United only had five points from their second unit. Davie found the performance of his bench very important looking forward to the rest of the season. "We are not a team with one superstar. We have nine guys and it's important that each of them contribute in their own way especially with the length of the season that we have. Everyone has a role on this team and we saw that come true today with everyone coming off the bench and contributing well."

The Wildcats shot 60 percent overall (39-65) and were 12-24 from the three-point line. They were 11-12 from the free throw line. The Wildcats welcomed back their former teammate in Kirk Crecco. Now with Surrey United, Crecco had 13 points and two assists in his return to Newton Aycliffe. Bucci, Madourie, Attah and Davie conversed with Crecco before and after the game.

"It was good seeing Crecco and we caught up before the game," Davie said. "It is great to see a guy who is a product of our system; he has his Master's degree from Durham University and has himself set up very well for his own future. It's great to see another BBL team has recognised Kirk for his talents and what he can bring to their team."

This weekend, the Wildcats will travel again to Leeds Force on 12th December in hopes to this time earn a needed road victory. On 14th December, the Wildcats will have their final home match of the 2014 calendar year when they host One Health Sheffield Sharks.

Tickets are now available for the match versus Sheffield on godurhamwildcats.com

Aycliffe Swimmers in North Championships

The annual North Eastern Regions Amateur Swimming Associations Short Course championships were held at the Sunderland Aquatics Centre on the 7th and 8th of December 2014.

Sedgefield 75 ASC had four swimmers attending the gala. In the Age Group championships for the under fourteens Sedgefield had two competitors. In the ten year old girls age group Jessica Hall was competing in various events over the two days. Jessica performed extremely well in all of her events showing how recent training had prepared her for the championships achieving many personal best times and taking a bronze medal in the 200 metres backstroke event.

For the boys, eleven year old Niall Coulthard was competing in three events. In all of his events he achieved very good personal best times and took the bronze medal in the 200 metres freestyle event.

Both age group swimmers showed the potential they have

for the future at this prestigious championships.

In the senior championships pool for 15 years and older competitors, Hannah Featherstone (15) and Matthew Bradley (16) competed. Hannah competed in eight events and achieved several personal best times and made finals in all the events that she entered taking gold and silver medals in seven of the events. Matthew swam in seven events over the two days with personal best times in six events and her achieved places in the finals of all of his events. He also took the bronze medal in the 100 metres breaststroke.

John Moore the club's head coach was delighted with all four swimmers and was pleased that the training programme is working for both the younger and older swimmers. He was pleased to see that the age group swimmers show promise to continue the club's competitive tradition and that his older established swimmers are still among the best in the region.

COUNTY NEWSBITS

compiled by County Councillor John Clare

- Durham Wildcats play Sheffield Sharks, 4pm Sunday 14th December-Leisure Centre.
- Monday, 15th December, 5:30-8pm at the Xcel Centre, there is an exhibition about the proposal to site a 20-acre solar farm at School Aycliffe
- Welfare Champions' Day of Action, 10am-2pm, Tuesday 16 December at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre – welfare, health and finance signposting, tea, coffee and mince pies!
- Darlington Sword Club – free foil, épée & sabre session, 7:45-9pm, Thursdays at the Leisure Centre – just turn up or phone 07758398184
- Winter health tips – vital to share this, especially with your older friends and relatives bit.ly/NHSwinterhealth
- Don't fall for a chain email scam about missed delivery cards in the run-up to Christmas: <http://ow.ly/EAq14>
- A car left unattended with its engine running to warm up gives out a clear message – 'Steal me!'
- Is Durham Constabulary the best police force in the country? bit.ly/DCPEEL
- Youth Unemployment remains a scourge and a worry: bit.ly/DCCYouthUnemployment
- Has your Voluntary/Community group working with Children & Young People in Aycliffe & Middridge area applied yet for its small grant? For information contact the PCP on 01325 327462 or kath.ferry@pcp.uk.net
- Green scheme community grants: bit.ly/DCCRHSGrant
- This week, I passed 1000 followers on twitter ... and 750 friends for my councillor facebook blog: [#stayinformed](http://bit.ly/JDClare)

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Blessing

PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART

"May the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Holy Mary be praised, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world, now and forever. Amen."
To be said six times a day for nine days, prayers always answered.
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Thanks to St. Anthony for prayers answered

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CLASSIC WEDDING CARS offer a superb collection of cars for your special day including Rolls-Royces, Bentleys, Jaguars, Beaufords and Daimler Limousines. View our cars at our Aycliffe showroom. www.classic-wedding-cars.co.uk 01325 789 291 (Aycliffe) mob 07721 771 113.

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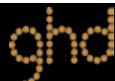
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Xmas Wishes

The Officers and Trustees of The Agnew Centre would like to wish everyone on the Agnews and immediate area a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2015. They would like to thank all the people/organisations who have used the centre over the past year and hope these and other members of the local community will continue to use the centre in 2015. The Agnew look forward to continuing to support all who use our friendly centre in 2015. For more information about the Centre please contact Ron Mitchie the Manager on 01325 321504

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GAMP JOB PROJECT CELEBRATES 100th PERSON INTO EMPLOYMENT

A fund which finances training for unemployed people in Newton Aycliffe and Middridge to enable them to find work is celebrating supporting the 100th person into employment. The Employability Skills and Discretionary Fund is the biggest project to date for Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) and has seen cash spent on both an Employability Skills Fund that can respond to specific training needs and a Discretionary Fund, which removes barriers that prevent people from accessing training. The fund is managed on GAMP's behalf by Bishop Auckland College. Success stories include Ting

Zhao Ting has lived in England for 5 years; she was educated in China and South Africa and worked in China for an International Accountancy Organisation. She was looking to gain qualifications that were recognised in the UK and improve her skills. With the help of GAMP funding, Ting enrolled on a SAGE course and a course to improve both her literacy and numeracy skills, as she was conscious that she lacked formal qualifications. Ting's children are now in full time education, which allowed Ting to progress in enhancing her employment potential. She has proven to be very active in moving forward with her newfound skills. She has gained employment as a lunch time assistant at Woodham Academy and also volunteers there, helping children with their Maths and English homework. Ting is also undertaking a

Teacher's Assistant Course and has a placement at Vane Road Primary School. When she has completed the course, she is hoping to get a job at either Woodham Academy or Vane Road Primary School. Ting is also active in making a positive contribution to her community and teaches Chinese at the Sunday school. She thanked the National Careers Service and GAMP for their help and support in helping her move forward. Brian Riley, GAMP Coordinator, said; "This project is unique to the GAMP area and brings together a wide range of partners to address barriers to employment. We are encouraging unemployed people from Newton Aycliffe and Middridge who think they could obtain work through specific training to apply to the fund". Anyone who is unemployed and from Newton Aycliffe or Middridge, can contact Denise Hopps at Bishop Auckland College for further information via: denise.hopps@bacoll.ac.uk or on (01388 443078)

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

Tuition

ENJOY LEARNING Guitar, Bass or Drums at home. Tel Roger 01325 321 444 - Friendly, Experienced, Local.
MUSIC TUITION Terence Lawson BA ARCM Cert. Ed. has vacancies for new pupils. Piano, Singing, Guitar, Music Theory. All levels and Exam Grades - children and adults. 01325 312 883 or 07811 132 577

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EYE DREAM Photography for weddings, portrait and event photography. Telephone: 07595 023 823 or email paul@eyedreamphotography.co.uk or visit www.eyedreamphotography.co.uk
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P.A.C.T. Meeting
Police And Community Together

PACT Meetings will be held at the following venues:
Simpasture Court Coffee Lounge on Tuesday 16th Dec from 6-30pm to 7-30pm.
Neville Parade Methodist Church Hall on Thursday 18th Dec from 6-30pm to 7-30pm.
PC Alan Thompson and PCSO Richard Scott are your Community Police Officers. Representatives from our Partners will attend when available. For more information visit www.durham.police.uk

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3 Bed Semi Detached
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OIRO £134,950
3 Bed Semi Detached Property with double garage situated on a sizeable corner plot with enclosed gardens in the coveted Byerley Park. Ideally suited to the needs of a growing family or offer an excellent working from home environment. An internal viewing will reveal attractive living accommodation comprising entrance hallway, open plan lounge leading to diner with french doors to the conservatory. The kitchen with access to the gardens and double garage, ideal for use as workspace office or conversion. The first floor includes three bedrooms and Family Bathroom/WC. **MUST BE VIEWED TO BE APPRECIATED**

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HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

We are always interested in local news stories. We like to feature good news and interesting items on achievements & community service
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Pets

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Email petpride@live.co.uk

Give Someone a Pamper Session for Christmas

Be original & thoughtful this Christmas with a gift from the Pioneering Care Centre. Treat a family member or friend to a complimentary pamper session at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe. Therapy Gift Vouchers are available and can be tailored to suit individual needs. Choose from a relaxing, stress busting holistic therapy such as Aromatherapy Massage or Reiki, or a more bespoke treatment to help reduce aches and pains or improve mobility such as Physiotherapy or Bowen.

Therapies include:
• Acupuncture
• Aromatherapy Massage
• Body Massage
• Bowen Technique
• Chiropody
• Herbal Medicine
• Homeopathy
• Indian Head Massage
• Physiotherapy
• Reflexology
• Reiki
• Sound Therapy
• Sports Massage
Show you care about someone this Christmas with this thoughtful and beneficial gift; vouchers can also include a personalised message. A standard therapy costs just £26.50 or £23 for concessions. Cash value vouchers and Hydrotherapy pool vouchers are also available. The Hydrotherapy pool is also a great way to improve mobility, relieve pain or simply de-stress



from everyday life. It's safe for non swimmers and fully accessible. Gift vouchers can be purchased from reception in the Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4SF, alternatively ring 01325 321234 and pay by debit card. The Pioneering Care Centre is run by the local charity the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) to help people of all ages and abilities to improve their health, wellbeing and quality of life to find out more information visit www.pcp.uk.net.

Accommodation

ALL LANDLORDS

We need 2, 3, 4 bedroom houses and apartments in Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas for our clients on our waiting list.
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BRAND NEW double divan with quilted Damask mattress, can deliver, £120. Tel 07789 113343
LARGE quantity of men's, women's and children's socks, tights, underwear and gloves etc for sale. Value £2000 at wholesale prices, being offered at a reduced price of £550 ono. Too much to list individually so please call 07913 952174.
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3 bedroom in Greenlea Garth, Newton Aycliffe.
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07814 022301

Remember to tell the advertiser you found them in the Newton News

Town Supports New Hairdressing Salon



Mosaic Hairdressers, opposite Argos, have been trading for 18 months and are delighted with the support they have received from Newtonians. They have steadily built up a list of regular clients who are quite satisfied with the service received from this spacious and modern Salon offering a comprehensive service. In addition to quality hairdressing Mosaic will pamper you with a massage, waxing, eyebrows, facials nail art and this includes

men who are among the many satisfied customers. Mosaic, an agent for Fudge products, is a friendly, welcoming and very professional Salon with an appointment system. The unit also includes a walk-in Barber Shop. Photo shows Manager Joanne (seated) with Kerry a beautician, Faith the hair stylist and Alex the Salon's apprentice. The business is owned by Jill and Mark Foster who have a chain of successful salons.

Northern Devolution

Cllr Simon Henig, chairman of the North East Combined Authority, said: "The North East Combined Authority welcomes the focus on devolution in the Autumn Statement and I have written to the Chancellor to request an urgent meeting with all of the North East leaders to further our proposals for devolution to the area.

"With a population of two million people and an economy generating £30bn each year, this area has significant opportunities for further growth.

"We believe our proposals have wide public support, with evidence suggesting that the public's appetite for devolved funding, powers and responsibilities is greater here than in any other part of the country. We have a proven track record for working together and we believe the time is now right for significant devolution in a number of areas including employment, skills, housing and transport."

Advice for Carers

Dear Sir,
New Carers UK research has found that over two million of us will start providing care for older, sick or disabled loved ones every year and many will go without the vital advice and information they need.

With an ageing population and people living longer with disabilities, caring for a loved one is increasingly a reality for families. In fact, as our research found, 10.6 million people across the UK will take on a caring role over the next five years and £1.1 billion of Carer's Allowance goes unclaimed each year.

It's vital that anyone caring for a loved one seeks advice to ensure they are getting the services and support they are entitled to. Without help and assistance carers can find themselves facing financial hardship, health problems, emotional stress and relationship breakdown. They can be pushed to breaking point. This has serious consequences for individuals, families, employers and the UK economy as a whole.

With new rights in the Care Act coming into effect next year, carers locally need to be informed about how it will impact them. Carers UK has launched a new Carers Rights Guide available at www.carersuk.org, which contains important information on how to get support, including details on upcoming changes to carers' rights.

We're also ready to answer questions via our advice line.

Readers can call 0808 808 7777 between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday or email advice@carersuk.org with any specific queries.

Yours sincerely,
Helena Herklots,
Chief Executive, Carers UK

Birthday Remembrance

MARGARET KELLY 12th December. Love and miss you so much. Always yours, Paddy xxx

WENDY GRAHAM 12th December. Missing my beautiful Wife Wendy. Thinking of you always. Your loving Husband, Charles xxx

WENDY GRAHAM 12th December. Thoughts of a special Sister, miss you. Love, Mandy xxx

WENDY GRAHAM 12th December. Special memories of a lovely Sister and Aunt. Love you forever. Kay, Mike, Michael, Sean and Zoe xxx

ELLIOTT HILTON 14th December 1928. As we opened our eyes this morning and looked to the sky above, we whispered "happy birthday" and sent you all our love. Love, Pauline, Bruce, Michael and Stephen xxx

ELLIOTT GEORGE 14th December 1946. Dad. Thinking of you today and always. Lots of love, Rob and Barbara xxx

Thank You

EINAR KJENSTAD

Jean and the family would like to thank Dr Stephenson, Andrea and the Nurses who gave special care for Einar at Bewick Crescent Surgery; Andrea our Macmillan Nurse; Wards 31, 14 and 41 at Darlington Memorial. Thank you to Bethany House for the special care. Susan and Ingrid for the catering and everyone else for their help. Thank you to friends who had a drink at the Big Club for "Ernie".

THANK YOU to On Tap Heating for helping my Dad when he was ill during a boiler installation last week. From Barbara Young & Family I WOULD like to say a very big THANK YOU to all the Lunch Club at St. Mary's. Dinner Ladies, Helpers and Drivers for their kindness to myself and my sick neighbour Bill, and to wish them a wonderful Christmas and New Year and to all at the SVP for all their care. Love, Brenda and Bill

Film Show

St Clare's Church FEEL GOOD FILM SHOWS will feature "WEST SIDE STORY" on Tuesday 16th December. This 1961 musical with it's score by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim, stars Natalie Wood, Russ Tamblyn, Rita Moreno and George Chakiris. Songs like "America" "Tonight" "Somewhere" "Maria" and "Gee, Officer Krupke" are as beautiful and fresh now as they were then. 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

In Memoriam

Sheila Gibson



16th December 2012

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed, very dear. Miss you, love, Fred

Dorothy Anne Bowron

25.8.1940 - 13.12.1994



To our dearest Mother

It is hard to believe that twenty years have passed since you left us, and how we wish you were here with us today to share our lives. You would be so proud of your wonderful grandchildren, and we know what an amazing, kind, warm and loving grandmother you would have been, given the opportunity. You are remembered by everyone who knew you as a true lady, a great and respected teacher, generous, loving, gentle and committed to your family. You gave us everything that mattered, and we will never forget how blessed we are to have had such a wonderful family with the strong values that have moulded us into the people we are today.

Love, Andrea, Julian and Simon and all of our families xxx

A memorial mass will be held at St Mary's Church on Sunday 14th December at 10am

BOB DICKINSON 10th December 1991. Your presence we miss, your memory we treasure. Loving you always, forgetting you never. Missed always. Loving Wife Peggy and all the family xxx

WINIFRED HAYES 29th December 1999. This day is always remembered for those we love don't go away, they walk beside us ever day. Unseen, unheard, but always near. So loved, so missed and very dear. "Loved Always". Stan, Patricia and Family

STEVE STEWART 14th December 2009. Still sadly missed. Love you, Mam

Obituary

VERA CRUDDACE. 7th December 2014. Vera, beloved Wife of Arthur, suddenly in hospital surrounded by her loving family. Dear Mother of Sharon, Michael and Andrew; Mother-in-Law of Gary, Julia and Paula; Grandmother to Rebecca, Kieran, Holly, Christopher and Sam; Sister of Rita and Joan. Requiem Mass to be held in St Mary's Catholic Church at 10:30am on Tuesday 16th December 2014. Cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon. Afterwards at the Moore Lane Sports Club, DL5 5AG. Grateful thanks to ITU2 at Darlington Memorial Hospital for the outstanding care shown to Vera. Family flowers only please. Donations, in lieu, if desired to the British Heart Foundation may be left at the Church.

Congratulations

Joyce Brown



82 YEARS YOUNG

12th December 2014

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Lots of love from all the family xxxxxxxx

Steven Grainger



Happy 18th Birthday

16th December 2014

Happy birthday Son, hope you have a great day. Love you loads. Mam, Dad, Lewis and all the family xxx

Steve Hodgson



Happy 60th Birthday

Lots of love from Jean,

Lisa, Katie, Richard,

Morgan, Nathan and Rhys

xxxxxxxxxxx

CHLOE MILLER Happy 17th birthday on the 15th December. You are so special in every way. Love you so much. Lots of love and kisses, Mam and Dad xxx

OSCAR COOK Happy 1st birthday. Lots of love and kisses, Auntie Lisa, Uncle Darren and James xxxxxx

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

BEST WISHES for Christmas from Godfrey and Shirley Bennett

Wanted

CASH FOR FURNITURE Cookers, Fridges, Freezers, Houses cleared for cash. Tel 07754 261443

Pharmacy Festive Opening Hours

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Wednesday 24th December: 9am-6pm
Wednesday 31st December: 9am-6pm

BOOTS
57 Beveridge Way - 01325 300355
Wednesday 24th December: 8.30am-5.30pm
Friday 26th December: 10am-4pm
Wednesday 31st December: 8.30am-5.30pm

LLOYDS PHARMACY
2 Pease Way - 01325 318135
Wednesday 24th December: 8am-6.30pm
Wednesday 31st December: 8am-6.30pm

TESCO PHARMACY
Greenwell Road - 01325 553447
Wednesday 24th December: 6.30am-10.30pm
Wednesday 31st December: 6.30am-10.30pm

VILLAGE PHARMACY
PCP Centre, Burn Lane - 01325 311297
Wednesday 24th December: 8.30am-1pm/2pm-5.30pm
Wednesday 31st December: 8.30am-1pm/2pm-5.30pm

You are advised to ring the pharmacy prior to attending
If you require advice out of hours, please call 111

It's a Wonderful Christmas

Saturday 20th December 2014 // 7pm
Xcel Centre, Long Tens Way, Aycliffe Business Park, DL5 6AP

Tickets: £5 Adult / £3 Child (Under 12)
* Tickets available for purchase at the Xcel Centre

 Come and meet special guests
Elsa, Anna & Olaf from 6pm

Wednesday 24th December
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
6pm



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SERVICE LOCATIONS VISIT: WWW.XCELCHURCH.COM OR 0845 450 5871
XCEL CENTRE, LONG TENS WAY, AYCLIFFE BUSINESS PARK, CO DURHAM, DL5 6AP

INDOOR BOWLS NEWS

Great Aycliffe Bowls club's last game before the Xmas break in the Durham & District Inter Club Triples League took the club the short journey to Spennymoor. Aycliffe were looking to build on their recent improvement in form but found the home side also looking for improvement.

In a very closely contested match where the sides were separated by only five shots on the overall score Aycliffe were on the wrong end of a 5-3 score line.

The reliable P Whittaker skipped his rink to a three shot victory. Skip Rob Jones pulled off a draw though at nine shots down with five ends to play defeat looked the more likely outcome.

However they stunned the home rink with a late burst to force a tie at 13-13 and share the rink points. Neil Roberts was unable to add more points losing by eight shots to the consistent home skip of Ian Brown.

Final scores: P Whittaker 13-10 G Black, R Jones 13-13 H Hall, N Roberts 11-19 I Brown

SPORTSY CUP VICTORY

This weekend saw a break from league fixtures and a return to cup action for Newton Aycliffe Sports Club against Bishop Auckland Lacey's. Cup form has not been great so far this season, and this fixture in the Invitation Cup is one of only 2 cups left for the Sports Club to compete in. The opponents were familiar, as the two sides met in the league just a fortnight ago with the Aycliffe side narrowly beating the Bishop side 4-3.

This week, for the first time in a while, the Sports Club had almost a full quota of players to choose from, which made picking the starting 11 a difficult task for manager Paul Eales. One thing he couldn't change was the two centre forwards, Connor Hughes and Chris Jones, who are proving to be a formidable partnership. Another player who has been in superb form of late is Anth Campbell, and he opened the scoring on the 20 minute mark with a low drive from just outside the box leaving the keeper with no chance. With the heavy pitch taking its toll, both sides again



found it hard to play neat football so the chances were few and far between in the first half.

However, the game opened up in the second half when Gareth Boyes pile driver somehow slipped through the keepers hands and into the back of the net to make it 2-0. Chris Jones opened his account shortly afterwards when Anth Campbell's strike hit the bar and fell to the forward to slot home. Lacey's clawed one back on the hour mark but it was Campbell again who put the away side 4-1 up and effectively killed off any chance of the hosts getting back into the game.

As the clocked ticked down into the final seconds, Chris Jones grabbed his second to make it 5-1 and secured the Aycliffe side's passage into

the next round.

Next up is a home league game, the first at Moore Lane for some time, against one of the leading sides in the League, Willington Cottles. This will be last game before the Christmas break and the Sportsy will be looking to maintain this excellent run of form which has seen them win the last four games in a row.

CRICKET SUCCESS



Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club, who are sponsored by Franks The Flooring Store, have won the Spennymoor Leisure Centre Winter Indoor Cricket League after beating title rivals Spennymoor CC by a massive 114 runs. Both teams went into this important final game of the season, sitting jointly at the top of the table, so the match became a winner takes all to be crowned league champions. The Aycliffe team, which is made up predominantly by their second team players, batted first and they got off to a flyer when the opening pair of Tom Wickins and Matt Capper smashed 59 runs during their allotted 4 overs at the crease. The momentum continued when the next pair of Jack Slatcher and James Brown added 44 runs and then Sam Telford and captain Adam Gittins blasted 58 runs during their innings. The last pair of Danny Weldon and John Wardle also batted well and 3 sixes from Weldon towards the end of the innings helped push their team's score to an almost impregnable 192 after 16 overs. In reply, Aycliffe's Tom Wickins took early wickets and leg spin bowler James Brown also chipped in with a couple of wickets to put Spennymoor

on the back foot. Aycliffe's fielding has been the stand out feature of the campaign and so it proved again in this game as outstanding catches by both Matt Capper and Danny Weldon helped restrict Spennymoor to just 78 runs to give Aycliffe the title in their first season in this league.

The victorious team is: (left to right), top row: Matt Capper, Sam Telford, Tom Wickins and Danny Weldon, bottom row: James Brown, John Wardle, Adam Gittins and Jack Slatcher.

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