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Aycliffe Town Centre Wins Gold Award

At the British Council of Shopping Centres (BCSC) annual industry Gold Awards, the transformation of Newton Aycliffe town centre won the coveted refurbishment prize for smaller centres.

The awards recognise the creation of the best retail places at the heart of large and small communities throughout the UK.

The Awards Jury, which was drawn from leading experts in investment, development, management and architecture in the retail property sector, was particularly struck by: "the partnership approach in Newton Aycliffe and the dramatic impact the refurbishment has had on the local community with the creation of a town centre of which they can be proud".

The comprehensive refurbishment of the main shopping area is the latest phase in a series of developments within an overall master plan for the town centre, commissioned by owner Freshwater, designed to transform Newton Aycliffe as a community focal point and shopping destination. A fundamental aim of the master plan was to improve the overall customer experience and attract new retailers to the town centre. The phased programme of investment has delivered a dramatic improvement to the shopping environment, which included the removal of wooden canopies and ramps



After refurbishment



Before improvements, and the ramp being removed

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that obscured shop fronts, refurbishing and painting the elevations of all the main buildings on Beveridge Way and providing new windows. New landscaping with feature paving and lighting and specially commissioned seating has transformed the public realm, turning the centre into a much more welcoming and pleasant place to spend time. As a result, new retailers have been attracted with a 15,500 sq ft Aldi being constructed at the gateway site along with the introduction of a new Wilkinsons store with local business also investing and expanding their offers.

At the heart of the
continued on Page 6

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Santa's Christmas Eve Tour of Newton Aycliffe

ROUTE ONE 3.45pm-4.10pm Welbury, St Oswalds, Central 4.10pm-5.00pm Washington area, Wycliffe, Armstrong, Wren, Whitehead, Hutchinson, Hylton, Matthew, Wolsey, Richardson, Trevor, St Aidans, Felton 5.00pm-5.30pm Neile, Defoe, Trevor, Porter, Wheeler, Lamb, Espin, Bellasis 5.30pm-6.00pm Wiseman, Ewbank, Hardinge, Chandler, Chapman, Crowley, Hardinge, Bousefield, Faber, Kendrew, Sanderson, Redworth Grange, Elstob, Burn, Westmorland, Henson, Whiteley, Thurlow, Aylmer 6.00pm-6.45pm Dalton, Hartley, Faulkner, Hullock, Allington, Walcher, Lilburne, Macmillan, Bertie, Alington, Webb, Westmorland, Newburn 6.45pm-7.30pm Humphrey, Silkin, Stead, Wright, Priestman, Marshall, Burdon, Lightfoot, Stephenson 7.30pm-8.10pm Barrington, Ashfield, Tunstall, Carileph, Ebba, Bruce, Pease, Past RAFA Club to Paulinus 8.15pm Back via Pease	ROUTE TWO 3.45pm-4.05pm St Cuthbert's, Bede, Anne Swyft, Clarence Chare, Clarence Close, Clarence Green, Clarence, Baliol, Hackworth 4.05pm-4.45pm Baliol, Travellers, Linguard, Seton, Gilpin, Clanny, Palmer, Cosin 4.45pm-5.15pm Co-operative Store, Bury, Wilkinson, Van Mildert, Greathead, Shafto, Yacley and return to Shafto, Greville, St Cuthberts 5.30pm-6.00pm Sharp, Sheraton Road, Sheraton Close, Greville, Henderson, Crewe, Sharp, Hunter, Lumley, Sheraton, Crawford, Sheraton, Biscop 6.00pm-6.25pm Hatfield, Heild, Biscop, Skirlaw, Flynn, Beck 6.25pm-7.15pm Via Shafto to Creighton, Moore, Swan, Gunn, Mellanby, Liddell, Kenny, Carr, Markham, Secker, Joicey, Kemble, Bulmer, Vane, Fowler, Warburton, Jackson 7.15pm-7.40pm Shafto Way, Shield Walk, Stanfield Road, Denham Place, Ramsey Place, Eden Road, Langley Road, Malling Green 7.40pm-8.00pm Central Avenue (Fire Station), Church Close	ROUTE THREE 3.45pm-4.45pm Malham, Reeth, Rylstone, Askrigg, Skipton, Arncliffe, Aysgarth, Hawes, Pateley, Stainforth, Keld, Marrick 4.45pm-5.35pm Garburn, The Lanes, Burnhill, Hawkshead, Honister, Silverdale, Lindisfarne Care Home, Kirkstone, Langdale, Whinlatter, Eskdale, Greenfield, Linden, Greenfield 5.35pm-6.15pm Beechfield, Rowan, Elmfield, Pease, Oakfield 6.15pm-7.00pm Cumbly, Crosby, Doxford, Crosby, Lowery, St Godrics, Mills, St Godrics, Cumbly 7.00pm-7.15pm Watson, Simpasture, Simpasture Gate, Moule, Finchale, Gregory Court, Lambton, Lee Green, Hopper 7.15pm-7.30pm Finchale, Dixon, Walker Lane, Simpasture Gate, Emerson, Butler, Castlereagh, Merz 7.30pm-8.10pm Butler, Ritson, Bowes, Lyon Walk, Bowes, Marley, Wallas, Isherwood, Bewick, Emerson	ROUTE FOUR 3.45pm-4.45pm Millfields, Atkinson, Orlands, Green (Mill House), South, St. Andrews, High St, Heighington, Oakley, Congreve, Bickford, School Aycliffe 4.45pm-5.30pm West Cottages, North Cottages, Eastfields, The Garth, Midfields, Lord Neville, Binchester, Menville, Burnynghill, Forresters, Smythsons, Sheppards, Thursby, Wilbore, High Barn, Meatlesburn 5.30pm-6.10pm Springfields, Hazelrigg, Lowfields, Hansard, Jennison, Westfields, Hillfields, Greenfield 6.10pm-6.30pm Malvern, Colwell, Bedford, Wilton, Greenfield, The Chase 6.30pm-7.10pm Staintondale, Rookwood, Zetland, Covert, Stirrup, Bramham, Bedale, Post Horn, Saddlery, Greenfield, Byerley Park 7.10pm-7.45pm Lascelles, Luttryngton, Hambleton, Ranulf, Jesmond, Colburn, Elwick, Claxton, Russell, Yoden, Wynyard	ROUTE FIVE 3.45pm-4.10pm Brafferton, Grange, Chilton, Grindon, Whittton, Woodham 4.10pm-4.45pm Lowther, Brook, Cartington, Mulgrave, Helmsley, Middleham, Burleigh, Badminton, Stoneleigh, Lowther 4.45pm-5.00pm Hickstead, Stag, Kennilworth, Cheltenham, Gatcome 5.00pm-5.35pm Epsom, Kempton, Windsor, Fallow, Fawn, Hind, Raby, Brancepeth 5.35pm-6.00pm Village, Bamburg, Chillingham, Alnwick, Barnard, Pemberton, Farnham 6.00pm-6.35pm Beaumont, Kirkham, Egerton, Dudley, Howson, Clover, Sorrel, Yarrow, Harebell, Campion 6.35pm St. Elizabeth's Church car park 6.45pm-7.00pm Sandowne, Tattersall, The Oaks, Beechers, Paddock, Croft, Woodham, Sunningdale, Low Green 7.05pm-7.45pm Spinney, High Green, Granges 1-4, Bridle, Woodham Gate,	ROUTE SIX 3.45pm-4.20pm Hallington, Tindale, Derwent, Angram, Scholars, Broomlee, Stocks, Waskerley, Fewston, Blackton 4.20pm-5.00pm Meadowfield, Ladybower, Greenlee, Stainmore, Winterburn, Grassholme, Burnhope, Stainmore, Meadowfield, Hareson, Cestria 5.00pm-5.45pm Lisle, Lockyer, Hoode, Cheviot, Pennine 5.45pm-6.20pm Bluebell Close, Coverdale, Bluebell Meadows, Wolvestone, Alverton Drive & Court, Hamsterley, Barton, Paxton 6.20pm-7.00pm Lancelot, Temple, Gamul, Raddive, Spooner, Thwaites, Eade 7.00pm-7.45pm Scott, Bakewell, Booth, Bates, Sid Chaplin, Fox, Brockett, Loraine, Thornton, Sampson, Merlin, Kestrel	ROUTE SEVEN 3.45pm-4.10pm Rose Lodge at Cobblers Hall, Foxglove, Ashtree, Pinewood 4.15pm-5.10pm Ropemoor, Forster, Patenson, Wakenham, Youens, Haselwood, Blackiston, Carwardine, Karles, Bloomesley, Oldwood 5.10pm-5.20pm Acle Burn and Meadows, St. Andrews, Ryder, Agnew, Kings 6.00pm-6.10pm Ida, Osbert, Guthrum, Osric, Aldfrid, Wellhouse, Morrison, Tanfield, Stargate, The Ballarat 6.15pm-7.00pm Kimbleworth, Fenhall 6.15pm-7.00pm Hutton, Callerton, Deleval, Elemore, Phoenix, Brockwell 7.00pm-8.00pm Heatherburn, Foxton, Herrington, Hardwick, Butterwick, Rushyford, Layton, Woodham
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CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT NEVILLE PARADE

Sunday 21st Dec 10.30am morning service
Sunday 21st Dec 6pm Candlelit Carol Service
Thursday 25th Dec 10am Christmas Day Service
The Ministers and Members of Neville Parade Methodist Church wish you a Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and would like to welcome you to join us at any of our services over the Christmas period.



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Greetings from Fr. Michael



Father Michael Whalen at St. Mary's Church would like to wish all parishioners and the community of Newton Aycliffe a peaceful and blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.
The Christmas Mass times are Christmas Eve at 5.00pm at St Thomas Shildon and 6.30pm (preceded by a Carol Service) and at St. Mary's and Christmas Day 10.00am at St. Mary's.

Christmas Services at St. Elizabeth's

St Elizabeth's Church in Woodham would love for you and your family to join us at our Christmas Services:
Bring the children on Tuesday 23rd of December to our Festive Christingle Service at 7pm
Christmas Eve - A Celebration of Holy Communion at 7.30pm which will bring the wonder of this season to everyone.
Christmas Day - Join us at 10am where the whole Parish of Great Aycliffe will come to St Elizabeth's Church to celebrate the birth of Jesus our

Christmas Closures for Council Services

Residents in County Durham are advised that council customer access points (CAPs) will be closed during the festive season. Council-run services will have different opening hours during the Christmas and New Year period.
Leisure Centres will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day and will close early at 4pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Library opening hours may vary so people are advised to check times with their local library.
Children's centres will close or have restricted opening times so people should again check with their local centre. Adult day centres will remain open, except on bank holidays.
Register offices will close at 12.45pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and will be closed on bank holidays. People

are advised that some offices operate on an appointments basis only.
Information about festive opening times for council services can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/festive

The Huntsman

St Elizabeths Close, Woodham Village

CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES:

Christmas Eve - 2pm to 12midnight
(Karaoke 9.00pm to 12midnight)

Christmas Day - 11.30am to 2.30pm

Christmas Night - CLOSED

Boxing Day - 12noon to 12midnight
(Karaoke 9.00pm to 12midnight)

New Year's Eve - 3pm to 12.15am
(Karaoke 9.00pm to 12midnight)

New Years Day - 12noon to 11.00pm



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Saturday 20th December - "Uncle Gilbert"

Riffs Online Review: "An excellent night with some classic rock covers done by mainstay of our rock fraternity both Bill and Gary gave the thumbs up to the performance - as did all the other punters in the venue tonight. For a band to stay together for that long you just know they're doing something right - this band have just earned themselves a promotion into the premiere league".
Covering tracks by: Bad Company, Billy Idol, Bon Jovi, Cult, Deep Purple, Gary Moore, Hendrix, Satriani, Pink Floyd, Rory Gallagher, Santana, U.F.O., ZZ Top and much more.

Saturday 27th December - "Rock Solid"

Gig Pit Review: "Bit of a late one but I just had to mention how absolutely outstanding 'Rock Solid' were at Houghton Comrades on Friday night, the sound was spot on and the band were as tight as a folk singers fringe. CJ's voice was awesome and perfect for the Rush and Dio songs and as usual we were on cloud nine as the band blasted out AC/DC, Saxon, U.F.O., Deep Purple, etc.

Sunday 28th December - "No Fun"

'NO FUN' are a five piece punk covers band based in and around Aycliffe / Darlington. With a line up comprising of former members of such prominent local acts as Freezone, Major Accident and Last Rough Cause, the band deliver a tight set of punk classics from the late 70s and early 80s. Their recent appearance at The Forum saw the band take to a stage bedecked with a digital backdrop, opening the set with an authentic version of The Ruts classic "Staring At The Rude Boys", sharply followed by the Sex Pistols "No Feelings". After a couple of SLF tunes - the acidic "Straw Dogs" and tongue in cheek "Barbed Wire Love" the anthems kept flowing. After a frantic and powerful 50 minutes the pace slowed and the cheers lifted the roof as the intro to "White Man in Hammersmith Palais" rang out across a sweaty hall, and when the last chords rang out the bass drum kicked straight back into life as The Pistol's "Holidays In The Sun" once again lifted the tempo, before a fitting finally of the Angelic Upstart's classic "England" brought proceedings to an end.

For more information on bands go to
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CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

19th - 23rd December • 12noon - 11pm
 Christmas Eve • 3pm - 11pm
 Christmas Day • 11am - 1pm
 Boxing Day • 12noon - 11pm
 New Years Eve • 3pm - Midnight
 New Years Day • 12noon - 11pm

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 Saturday 20th December 3pm - 5pm

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GREAT YEAR FOR ACORN Xmas Tree Festival

Dear Sir,
 On behalf of the ACORN Residents Association incorporating little ACORNs and the Woodham Burn Neighbourhood Watch I would like to thank all residents in Newton Aycliffe and beyond who have contributed to the success of our organisation. From Raffle prizes donated by local businesses and residents, Neighbourhood Police Beat team, County Councillors Eddy Adam and Kate Hopper, Town Councillors Arun Chandran, George Gray, Chris Wheeler, Dan Summers, Paul Kjenstad and Tom Twizzell. We recognise your help makes us the unique group we are. Local tour bus company J&C Coaches and their staff have liaised with tour committee Christine Thompson and Leanne Robinson to provide our members and their families with some legendary trips to venues across the north enjoyed by all. Over the course of the year we held the Halloween Party and the brilliant Easter Petting Zoo event in our Leisure Centre to the delight of all. West Park hosted the great ACORN Easter

Egg Hunt and Egg and Spoon challenge, whilst the summer events in August on Christopher Walk Green featured KL ponies, inflatables and fun rides hosted by Professor Nincompoop and Harry Potty. Fun and games for the whole community and a fantastic display from our cheerleading friends Nemesis.

The next ACORN and little ACORNs meeting will be held at the British Legion Club on Thursday 8th January with little ACORNs at 5.30pm and the main group at 6pm. Thank You all and we wish everyone a Merry Christmas
 Ken Robson

Vane Road Talk to P.M.



On Monday December 8th Y6 pupils at Vane Road Primary School spoke to David Cameron and children from schools across the country via an internet application called Google Hangout. "The Hour of Code" saw the children use block code to write their own computer algorithms, which they shared with children in Downing Street. During the afternoon, the children created their own applications and conducted a live webcast with the director of Microsoft Ventures, Diane Pearlman. Mrs. Costello,

Head of ICT, said: "This was a fantastic opportunity for our children to share their learning with a national audience; they were thrilled to speak to Mr. Cameron and learned lots from being able to chat to a major player from Microsoft UK. "Coding is a key skill for the new technological age and we were thrilled to be invited to take part in such an important activity. All key stage two children at Vane Road have now completed the Hour of Code and will build upon these skills as part of the new computing curriculum."

Film Show

St Clare's Church FEEL GOOD FILM SHOWS will feature the musical "FUNNY LADY" on Tuesday 23rd December. This 1975 sequel to "Funny Girl" is a very fictionalized story of Fanny Brice's life and career, starring Barbra Streisand, James Caan, Omar Sharif and Roddy McDowall. 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

Quality Trees at Homeplan

Dear Newton News
 I've always been a strong believer in supporting established local businesses, and it seems the closure of more and more shops in our town centre, can only prompt my enthusiasm to put forward my message!
 I have bought my Christmas tree from HOMEPLAN for the last few years since moving to Newton Aycliffe, and they seem to get better and better every year! I've had this one nearly two weeks and it's hardly dropped a needle. It is perfection.
 Free delivery too.... and at the end of the day, if we don't support and appreciate our local businesses, then we won't have any.
 Merry Christmas everyone. From a very satisfied resident.
 E-mail address supplied.



Burnhill Way Methodist Church had a wonderful weekend with their Christmas Tree Festival. 28 trees were sponsored by various organisations and businesses from across the town. Newton Press, Rotary Club, Inner Wheel, W.I., Whitehouse Funeral Service, J+A Headstart, Stevens Neville Parade, Rose Lodge, Turbinia, Ramsey's Garage, Fangdale Financial, and organisations attached to Burnhill Way Church, Neville Parade Church, St. Clare's Church and St. Mary's Church. On Saturday afternoon everyone enjoyed listening to singing by children attached to Burnhill Way and the Shine Community Choir.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Denmark Street - £99,995</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">£5000 deposit buys my 3 bed house, £129 per week</p>	<p style="background-color: yellow; text-align: center;">£5000 <small>Deposit</small></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Buys my 3 Bed House</p> <p style="background-color: black; color: white; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">NO MORTGAGE REQUIRED</p> <p style="background-color: black; color: white; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">RENT NOW BUY LATER</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: yellow;">£99 PER WEEK</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Call Lindsay on 07968 760051 http://www.rentnow-buylater.co.uk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Brockwell Close - £79,995</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">£5000 Deposit buys my 4 bed house, £129 per week</p>

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TEL: 01325 778775



Nursery Donate to Foodbank Appeal Supporting Aycliffe's Foodbank



On Wednesday 3rd December Ernie Temple from St Clare's Church came to Playday Nursery to pick up food that children, parents and staff had kindly donated to the Foodbank. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated and Ernie for coming to talk to the children about how important the Foodbank is - especially at Christmas.



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Churches Together in Great Aycliffe, made a cash donation and gifts of selection boxes to the Foodbank this month. Wilkinson's and Tesco also made donations of chocolates and other goods.

Photos shows representatives from Churches Together, Wilkinson's and Tesco and Ernie and June Temple receiving the cheque from Rev. Christopher Pearson.

A Healthier New Year

Are you aiming for a better 2015? Unresolved issues, physical and mental clutter, and maybe even some extra weight? The PCP has a huge range of activities, support and classes aimed at improving your health and making you feel better!

Come along to a free information event at the Pioneering Care Centre on Tuesday 20th January between 10am - 3pm and get inspired!

A new you calls for a new approach. Releasing and discarding things and thoughts that no longer serve you will free you to be more productive, creative and happy.

Thinking about a new hobby or getting out more? Discover PCP's big plans for the Community Garden which include hands on learning and training opportunities.

Chat to friendly staff about the 'Work for Health' and 'Colour your Life' projects and be one of the first to find out what courses are available and sign up on the day.

The Work for Health project is funded by Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) and aims to help people who are having difficulty finding employment. Free 10 week courses are specially designed to support people with health problems who want to improve their skills, confidence and opportunities.

Colour your Life offers 10 week free courses in creative or 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 courses to help you learn, create and develop.

With all that festive feasting you may want to get fit or lose weight. PCP Health Trainers will be on hand with advice and support to help people lead a healthier lifestyle. They deliver Check4Life health checks and Move4Life activities across County Durham.

Further details from the Pioneering Care Centre, tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net visit: www.pcp.uk.net


Or find PCP on Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: /PCPandCentre

Join the Xmas Eve Fun at the Leisure Centre

Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre will be holding its annual Children's Christmas Party on Christmas Eve. There will be fun and games, KDO Disco, face painting, Punch and Judy and of course a visit from "Santa Claus". Every year a charity is chosen where proceeds will be donated this year it's the Teenage Cancer Trust. The party starts at 12 noon and will finish at 3pm. Tickets cost just £3 and are available from reception. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



We wish all our customers a great festive season

**Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
From Your Town Centre**



Saturday 20th December

**CHRISTMAS
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WOODHAM ADDS BOXING TO ITS SPORTS ACADEMY



Woodham Sports Academy develop with the addition continues to grow and of a Boxing Academy to

its already extensive extra curricular provision. Boxing has always been a sport that has been well received and popular with students at Woodham Academy, and in recent years students have had major success in the boxing ring.

In partnership with Seconds Out Boxing, students are now offered elite coaching by Paul Eddy on Wednesday evenings in the state of the art gym at Ferryhill Community Hub. Sessions take place on a Wednesday night 3.30-5.00pm.

Transport is provided thanks to the funding that the Sports Academy has received from Children In Need. Liam Clough, Director of Woodham Sports Academy, said "Developing boxing provision in school is something I have been looking into for a while. Boxing is currently taught as part of the PE curriculum and it's something that students thoroughly enjoy and excel in.

Recently students fought competitively for local boxing and Thai boxing clubs and it was something I wanted to make part of the Sports Academy. Boxing not only teaches students discipline but also improves key skills such as movement, agility, reaction time, balance and general fitness. Through Seconds Out and the links the sports academy has with Paul Eddy it has been possible to provide students with the opportunity to access to a state of the art facility and extra time to develop their skills and fitness".

Town Centre Gold Award

Continued from Front Page

transformation has been a Town Centre Partnership fanned in 2009 with Freshwater being joined by key stakeholders including Sedgefield Borough Council (now Durham Council), the Library Service and the PCT.

Phil Wilson, MP for Sedgefield was particularly pleased with the award: "I have seen the centre transform from a drab, miserable place to one where people want to shop and spend time. All credit to the town centre partnership, Freshwater, the owners of the centre, and the town centre management for their effort, investment and foresight. The town centre is going through a further period

of transformation and the continuing improvement can only make it more of an asset to Newton Aycliffe." The next phases of the transformation are already planned with new signage and branding to be installed in the New Year, the complete refurbishment of 2 Beveridge Way and the creation of a new open gateway to the town centre with the demolition of Churchill House.

As the town looks to the future and welcomes the new major investment at the Hitachi train factory, Aycliffe Town Centre is now much better placed to cater for the growth in housing, people and jobs.



Before and After



Mayor's Xmas Card Competition Winners



The Mayor with Adam Ord and Ellie Gibson

Councillor Wendy Hillary, Mayor of Great Aycliffe, would like to thank all of the children who entered the Competition to design a Card for use as the Official Civic Christmas Card. The Mayor presented prizes and framed pictures to the winners at the Christmas Council Meeting on the 10th December and Greenfield School Assembly on the 17th December.

The results of the Competition were:- 1st Adam Ord - Year 7 at Greenfield School; 2nd Ellie Gibson - Greenfield School;



Mark Chapman

3rd Mark Chapman - Year 2 at Stephenson Way School

Kdanz New Dance Studio Now Open



Dance School KDANZ have more than Christmas to look forward to. After an amazing few months dancing in London at the Royal Albert Hall, performing on TV show 'Got to Dance' and being the home entertainment for the premier BBL Durham Wildcats, KDANZ now have an amazing state of the art Dance Studio on Aycliffe Business Park. It opened on THURSDAY 18th DECEMBER.

Located on Whitworth Drive the studio is still in easy reach of the town centre. KDANZ have made 2015 another year

to get excited about! Not only are owners Kay Thompson and Phil Harrop about to tie the knot on New Year's Day, but the dance school has a barrage of professional dance lecturers booked in to offer workshops to local dancers.

The likes of Ruff Diamond, Twerk and Burn and London based Steven White are confirmed with many more in talks, proving KDANZ is really the place to be. Classes start back in January and we hope to see many new members - contact Kay 07900 365892

Christmas Truce Match



On Sunday 7th December the Oakleaf Sports Complex held a 90minute five-a-side football match to remember the WW1 Centenary and the 1914 Christmas Truce football match. It was a great game ending in a 9-9 draw. £35 was raised and went to the Help for Heroes charity.

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It is with deep regret we record the death of Doctor Brian Jones aged 82 of Westmorland Way on Wednesday 17th December in Sedgefield Community Hospital.

The Funeral Service will be at St. Clare's Church on Tuesday 30th December at 12 noon followed by cremation at Durham Crematorium.

Brian was a popular figure in the area and a highly respected GP at Bewick Crescent Surgery for many years. Newton News will be printing an obituary in our next issue, meanwhile we extend sincere condolences, on behalf of Brian's many friends, to his wife Shirley and all the family.

Merry Christmas

Freda, Neville & Debbie would like to wish Family, Friends and Customers of

J&C COACHES

A Very Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year

Thanks to all for the wonderful support we have received over the last year.

We have decided not to send Christmas cards this year and instead have donated to The Butterwick Hospice xx

STUDENTS TALK BUSINESS WITH GOOGLE M.D.



Last week 17 Greenfield Community College students had a unique and valuable opportunity to talk business innovation and technology with Google UK & Ireland's Managing Director, Eileen Naughton as part of a "Google Hangout" and the "Speakers

for Schools" programme. After a talk from Eileen about her career and work at Google, Greenfield were one of three schools chosen in the UK to be part of a Q&A, which was live streamed on Google Hangouts. The students asked three questions: "How does Google

help protect the intellectual property posted online and how is this protection enforced?" "How does Google plan to develop more opportunities for small businesses to globally connect?" "Its inspirational to have such a strong female role model, what steps within your education did you take to get where you are now, and what advice would you give to others?" The group of students spent time beforehand coming up with questions and were pleased and inspired by Eileen's answers, which provided insight into her position at Google and the process and steps she took to get to her current position. This was a great opportunity for them to talk to a woman whose career has included a high level position at the Time Warner group and a previous position for Google in the Americas, as Vice President of Global Sales, setting an example and hopefully raising aspirations of those students involved and those watching via the live stream.

Greenfield were pleased to have been chosen to be a part of this "Speakers for Schools" live show, it was a fantastic opportunity for our students as one of three schools taking part, using the technology in Room 13 and supported by the Greenfield Arts team. Thank you to Google and Speakers for Schools for choosing Greenfield! You can watch this Google Hangout, and hear the answers to our student's questions at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhSG2HCFK7I>



FROM GREENFIELD TO THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY



If an epiphany is a sudden, powerful, spiritual or life-changing realisation that a person experiences in an otherwise ordinary moment, then that may be what I experienced in May 2014 at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh when I viewed the Taylor Wessing Photographic Portraiture Prize 2013 exhibition concluding in Edinburgh that weekend. I had visited the 2012 exhibition in London the year before and was smitten with the desire to enter the competition. My reason for the first visit was to further my research into portraiture as I was studying for an MA in Photography at the University of Sunderland at the time and was drawn more and more to completing a project that involved representations of women of my age. I found inspiration from the direct viewing of the work of other artists and on my second visit, I thought, 'wouldn't it be amazing to see my portrait of Kathryn here'.

Edinburgh provided the inspiration to enter the 2014 competition with a portrait of my Scottish friend, photographed with the iconic Forth Bridge behind her. I was totally amazed to find that it was shortlisted in the 60 portraits that make up the Taylor Wessing Photographic Portraiture Prize 2014, currently showing at the National Portrait Gallery in London. The competition

had 4193 portraits entered by over 1000 international photographers. The photo is from my MA series entitled 'Now You See Me ...' which is about women over 50 years of age and the invisibility, negativity, or discrimination many feel or experience in this life stage. It is about using photographs as metaphors, celebrating the intrinsic worth

of older women and combating negative stereotypes of ageing. I photographed family and friends, some from Scotland and London but most from around the North East. I hope to continue to build this portfolio, so if you are over fifty and know me, watch out, I might be asking you or you could volunteer. For me, having achieved the MA Photography was the fulfillment of a dream in itself and this accolade is the icing on the cake! It is an amazing thing and something I could never have envisaged would happen. The idea to photograph 'In Our Image' in 2009 came about in a similarly inspired way and both experiences show that it is worth following a dream or an idea; it's never too late and can be better late than never to learn a new skill or have a go at something that really interests us and may seem out of reach. Elaine exhibited at the Greenfield Gallery, Newton Aycliffe 2010 and will be exhibiting the selected portrait and other work at the Greenfield Gallery, Newton Aycliffe 2015.

Swimming Club's Christmas Gala



Sedgefield 75 Swimming Club held its annual Christmas Gala over last weekend which brought together all squads for the first time this year. The senior squad kicked off the meet with some impressive swimming demonstrating why Sedgefield has National and Regional champions amongst their ranks, this was followed up by B & C squads who again showed plenty of determination in the water and potential progression into the top squad. Finally the younger D squad swimmers entered the pool, which is used as a platform from the national Aqualearn programme to club swimming, again these swimmers showed great promise in pool and were encouraged by everyone from the viewing balcony which was great to see. Once the wet side activities concluded, a small buffet and presentations ceremony was held in the leisure centres VIP lounge where all squads celebrated their successes from the afternoon. Sedgefield 75 Swimming Club would like to thank Wilkinson, Tesco, Husqvarna, Occasions, The Card Shop, Petals Florist and parents for donating raffle prizes and the NALC

staff and club volunteers for their support in setting up the event. Swimming is a great way of improving your cardiovascular and general all-round fitness and lots of Sedgefield 75's younger members excel in other sports and regularly represent their school at athletics, track and field, biathlon, triathlon, football, rugby to name a few. Sedgefield 75 train at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on most evenings, if you would like a try out to join the club, come along on Monday nights between 18:00-19:00 and speak to one of the Coaches, for more information on the club you can also visit their website at: <http://freeteams.net/sedgefield75>.

DISAPPOINTMENT OVER CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CONCERT DATE CHANGE

Dear Editor, As a Full time working Mum of one, I was extremely disappointed to hear that the annual Christmas Concert that we, as a family, look forward to every year - has been changed to a weekday in work/school hours. I can't understand who thought this was a good idea - are we just assuming now that people don't have to go to work and are happy to take children out of school on a whim to attend these "family" events? I am really sad that we won't be able to attend, as I look forward to this event each year and watching the children sing the Christmas songs and the

band playing, it's a real festive family event that puts you in the mood for Christmas. I hope very much that this will be changed back to a weekend day next year as I am sure that its not just our family that will have to miss out due to work and school commitments. Samantha Mitchell Editor; The Rotary Club organisers explained the change was due to the Leisure Centre not being available on the date required. As it happens the change to a weekday brought greater school and community involvement. (See next issue for a full report).

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NEW YEAR'S EVE FAMILY PARTY

The Scout Supporters Association is again hosting our ever popular Family New Year's Eve Party in the hall at the Scout centre Bluebell Way on the 31st from 7.30pm to 12.30am. The bar is open serving alcoholic and soft drinks at very reasonable prices. All money raised is used to maintain and run the Scout Centre for the use of community groups and of course, the Scouting organisations that use the building.

This is an event for all the family to enjoy with Karaoke and Disco. Children of all ages

are welcome as long as they are accompanied by a responsible adult. Tickets are now on sale at £2.50 for adults and £1.50 for children (under 3's free) and can be obtained from the centre during bar opening hours-8.00pm to 11.00 each night (closed Wednesday) and 12.00 to 4.00pm at weekends. Numbers are limited so get yours early so that you don't miss all the fun. Please phone if you would like any further information tel 01325318091. See you all there for a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Will Christmas Ever be the Same Again?

How do you face the Christmas season when it doesn't look the way it used to? LIFE Church has been thinking about this a lot lately. Someone we know will face his first Christmas in over 30 years without his wife. Another will celebrate without the child she waited so long for and never held. They both had plans for Christmas, knowing what was coming and now, this year, it doesn't look like Christmas at all.

Heartbreak and loss, loneliness and disappointment stand out in sharp contrast to the sparkly

excitement of Christmas. "Christmas in our society is often about families, and families are not always happy. If you're facing a death or a divorce, the 'empty chair syndrome' becomes very real at this time of year."

Christmas gets all glammed up, but at the heart of it all, it celebrates a very quiet moment. Christmas began with a little baby in a stable over 2000 years ago.

It started with two parents who were tired from a long journey and caught off guard that the baby would choose this particular moment to be born. It wasn't glamorous, and it certainly wasn't shiny but it did mark the moment that Jesus came as the Light to the world to bring us all hope. You can read the Christmas story from the book of Luke.

Twelve Scams of Christmas

Online shoppers are being warned not to fall victim to any of the 'twelve scams of Christmas'.

With time running out to get those all-important presents under the tree before the big day, many people will be heading online to snap up some festive bargains.

But Durham County Council's consumer protection team is warning residents to beware of the major threats posed when shopping online.

It's part of the national 'Twelve Scams of Christmas' campaign, which has been launched by various agencies including the National Trading Standards eCrime Team, Action Fraud, GetSafeOnline, Crimestoppers and more to protect online shoppers.

People are now being advised to watch out for the following 12 scams online:

- **ONLINE SHOPPING FRAUD** – use online retailers and brands you know and trust as bogus websites advertise poor quality counterfeit goods and services or items that may never arrive.

- **CHRISTMAS ECARDS** – if you receive an anonymous ecard, better to play it safe and delete the email as it could be infected with a virus which can affect your computer or mobile device without your knowledge.

- **AUCTION FRAUD** – while most items on sale in online auctions are genuine, fraudsters use the festive period as an opportunity to sell popular items at unrealistic prices. In reality, these items may not exist so research the seller before bidding.

- **HOLIDAY FRAUD** – beware 'too good to miss' packages advertised on websites or social media. Always pay by credit card and if the seller doesn't accept, don't buy from them.

- **LOAN and investment scams** – as the cost of Christmas rises, many may consider an online loan application. Do not pay advance fees and make sure to read any terms and conditions.

- **TICKETING FRAUD** – avoid ticket touting websites for concerts and sporting events by booking tickets from reputable sellers and online ticket providers.

- **DONATING TO CHARITY** – be aware of fraudsters looking to exploit your charitable nature by stealing donations. Before you donate, visit the charity's website to make sure it is legitimate.

- **MOBILE malware/malicious apps** – with many people receiving smartphones or tablets for Christmas, make sure the latest update is downloaded for increased

protection and only download apps from official app stores.

- **MONEY TRANSFERS** – never send a money transfer for online purchases as an authentic online seller will only ask you to pay by card on a secure payment page.

- **SOCIAL MEDIA** scams – do not hold too much personal information on social media accounts as fraudsters may advertise giveaways and offers on Facebook and Twitter, which when clicked can extract private details.

- **DATING/ROMANCE** fraud – many will sign up to an online dating website over the festive period, but be careful who you contact. If anyone asks for money to visit you, do not send it to them or provide bank or credit card details.

- **MOBILE PAYMENTS** – only save passwords or financial data onto your mobile phone if it is absolutely necessary

and make sure your phone is password protected. As data is stored in the phone's memory, it can be compromised if the device is hacked.

Joanne Waller, heading consumer protection at Durham County Council, said: "We know residents will be finishing off their Christmas shopping over the next couple of weeks so this is a timely reminder to be vigilant when buying online. By heeding these warnings, this will hopefully ensure that people purchase their gifts safely, allowing them to enjoy their Christmas without having to worry about becoming a victim of fraud."

Anyone who has fallen victim to an online fraud is urged to contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. For advice about your rights when shopping online, contact Consumer Helpline on 03454 04 05 06.

Rotary Donation Takes Poppy Appeal Over £17k



The Rotary Club held a Charity Night at the British Legion Club in November with the aim of supporting the Poppy Appeal. The members agreed to donate £500 from the proceeds and President Dave Anderson handed over the cheque to the appeal organiser in Newton Aycliffe Dave Preston, shown here with the British Legion Chairman Eddie Graham and other Committee officials. The Poppy Appeal was another record this year passing £17,222 and Dave and Tricia Preston thank all those who gave such wonderful support.

Gregg's Hamper

Gregg's Shop in Newton Aycliffe have donated a large hamper of food to Honest John at the Cubby for which he sends his heartfelt gratitude.

Aycliffe FC Show Promise for New Year

Newton Aycliffe FC will play their last home game of 2014 at Moore Lane on Saturday 20 December. The club start the second half of their Ebac Northern League Division One season against Newcastle Benfield.

Aycliffe have signed 18 new players over the last couple of months, since Peter Dixon took over the reins. Club chairman Alan Oliver is delighted with the new signings saying "I'm confident that we'll have a strong second half of the season."

Peter has brought in players of proven quality. Goals & results will come." However, the team has been left frustrated at the lack of games over the last month. Aycliffe has only played once since the League Cup victory over Hebburn on Remembrance Day. Away games at Penrith & Bedlington scheduled for the last 2 Saturdays were called off due to bad weather.

Hopefully the winter weather will hold off for this Saturday. We hope to see as many fans as possible taking a break from Christmas shopping to come to cheer the team on.

Tickets for NAFC's Christmas raffle will be on sale at the ground. For just £1 you can try for a range of prizes including £100 cash or a child's bike kindly donated by long-term benefactors, Cycleways, among many other prizes.

Fixtures:
Saturday 20th December Newcastle Benfield (h) 3:00pm
Saturday 27 December Bishop Auckland (a) 3:00pm
Saturday 3rd January West Allotment Celtic (h) 3:00pm
Tuesday 6th January West Auckland (a) 7:30pm
Tuesday 13th January Ashington (h) 7:30pm

Help for Man Who Fell

Dear Sir,
On Thursday 11th December. I tripped on the kerb in Vane Road at about 10.30 am. The accident was due to poor vision caused by the sun. Fortunately for me a couple stopped their car and helped me to clean myself of mud and grass and were very helpful and kind. I don't know who they are or where they live, but I would like to thank them for the help they gave me.
Alan Snowball

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School on Elmfield Site – Not Justified

With reference to the call for a new school on the old Elmfield school site. Cllr Gray did not state which schools he would close, especially as, in his words ‘...not safe’! Also, I cannot recall at any point in the previous 9 year period as a councillor where he requested or canvassed residents for a new school. However that a-side, his arguments are somewhat alarmist and incorrect especially concerning his reference to; ‘a lot of our green belt is taken for housing’ and our ‘schools..... have asbestos and this is not safe’. The previous borough council and now Durham County Council have protected and preserved the extensive green belt areas and as stated by DCC, ‘asbestos management plans are in place’, these are regularly reviewed with the schools to ensure that there is no risk to their users. One important fact that he did not mention was the number of surplus primary school places in Newton Aycliffe, total capacity should be 2683 children, yet even by 2028-29 total capacity is predicted to be 2140 a surplus of 243, 90 of those within the West area. Therefore, there is no justification for a new school on the grounds of numbers and I am certain Head teachers would welcome a new school but again he failed to mention where the funding

would come from at this time of Coalition enforced austerity. Cllr Gray says, ‘let’s put right what’s wrong with Newton Aycliffe’ therefore, let us work together and focus on the lack of good quality social, private rented and privately built housing to accommodate our towns people and the possible new residents to support the new Hitachi factory and its support industries. Let’s focus on jobs for our young people and let’s focus on supporting our most vulnerable in West ward and seriously consider, as Cllr Kate Hopper indicated the ‘regeneration’ of the Elmfield area with the possibility of a community facility. This would offer a place for young mothers, families, vulnerable people and pensioners alike, to provide a place to meet, get advice and support, education and training for a better future for all, therefore this area will still be used for education and housing purposes. Cllr Eddy Adam Aycliffe West Division Durham County Councillor

CUBBY TIMES

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year’s Day other times as usual. Best Wishes to everyone from the volunteers at the Cubby for a Happy Christmas.

Brilliant Christmas Concert by Woodham Academy



Woodham Academy held their annual Christmas Concert last week and demonstrated the rich variety of young talent Newton Aycliffe has in its young people. Singing, dancing, acrobatics, pianists, violinist, brass instruments a rock band and percussionists were all part of a packed programme and were presented with confidence and enthusiasm to an appreciative



audience. Dance Teacher Miss Minervini can be complimented for her leadership in some magnificent routines and for encouraging students Kay Clarey, Caitlin Roberts and others in the choreography of other items in the programme. Zoe Efthymiadou was described by the compere as a prodigious talent able to play a



number of musical instruments and she delighted the audience with a largo played on the violin. Josh Blackburn and Ben Wales played a Scherzo piano duet which was brilliantly performed and well received. One of the highlights was Emma Sandford singing “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” while Victoria Archer and Caitlin Roberts danced gracefully on stage. Woodham Sound and the Advanced Vocal Group sang magnificently showing hours of rehearsals to reach this level of perfection. The Brass Band conducted by Stephen Boyd gave a comedy version of the “Twelve Days of Christmas” narrated by Emma Sandford and was very amusing. The whole evening was most enjoyable and everyone left the event feeling very proud of our young people.

Work Experience for Budding Chef



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

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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:
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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

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New Staff at NAYCC

Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre are pleased to announce they have succeeded in employing 2 new members of staff. This is through the hard work and dedication of the 2013-2014 treasurer Joan Clark and 2014-2015 treasurer Rebecca Metcalfe.

The centre employed 1 member of staff in 2011, and have added 1 new member each year and this year have managed to employ 2 taking the new total of employees to 6, all of whom started as volunteers or through Shaw Trust.

The centre now has 2 part time centre administrators, chef, children's worker, Marketing/IT administrator and part time finance officer. Chairman Vince Crosby said "Our staff run the centre and it is great when we can reward our faithful volunteers with paid employment."

We hope to be able to continue to grow like this, enabling volunteers to enter paid employment either with us or elsewhere with our support." We welcome aboard Dean Johnston and Rebecca Metcalfe.

Award for Livin at National Apprenticeship Event



Homes and communities organisation livin was recognised last week for their outstanding contribution to apprenticeships at the National Apprenticeship Awards 2014. The highly commended employer stood out from over 1400 entrants to receive their award.

The Awards, now in their eleventh year, are run by the National Apprenticeship Service and recognise excellence in two areas: businesses that grow their own talent with apprentices and apprentices who have made a significant contribution to their workplaces.

livin was confirmed as the regional winner in the 'Medium Employer' category earlier

this year, and has now been highly commended nationally making them within the top 3 apprenticeship employers in the country.

Alan Boddy, executive director, people and communities at livin said: "Our apprenticeships are an integral part of the livin futures employability programme which is going from strength to strength."

To be recognised as one of the top 3 apprenticeship employers nationally demonstrates our commitment to developing and growing the programme over the past four years and the impact it is having in our communities".

The awards ceremony, held at The Skills Show in Birmingham on 13th November also saw livin revealed as one of the top apprentice employers in the country. The prestigious Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers list, which is compiled annually by the National Apprenticeship Service in partnership with City & Guilds, recognises excellence in businesses that

employ apprentices. Sue Husband, Director of the National Apprenticeship Service, said: "The National Apprenticeship Awards recognise the very best and all of the finalists should be feeling very proud. Recognising excellence encourages others to achieve and I hope that people and employers will be inspired by our finalists' stories to discover what apprenticeships can do for them."

"Apprenticeships are thriving in England. They are becoming an increasingly popular option for businesses and it's easy to see why. They enable companies to grow their own workforce, providing highly-qualified and motivated employees. Apprentice employers report real business benefits."

"Apprenticeships also offer ambitious unrivalled career prospects, enabling people to get in and go far with some of Britain's leading companies. The continuing expansion of higher apprenticeships means apprentices can now train to degree level in more sectors than ever before, providing further opportunities for individuals to fully realise their potential and maximise their career progression."

"I congratulate this year's finalists and wish them well for the future." more information about the National Apprenticeship Awards or to view the full City & Guilds Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers list: apprenticeships.org.uk

Fantastic Production by Greenfield College Students



The Greenfield College annual Christmas production was performed to local feeder primary schools last week prior to its public evening performances

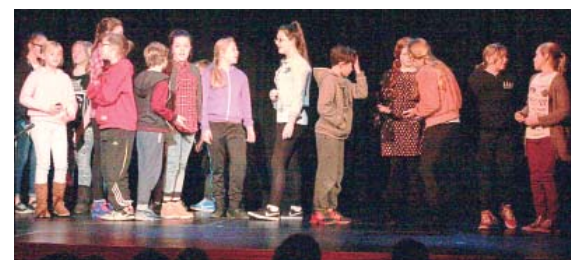
"Don't Feed the Animals" is a specially written piece of drama, dance and music using the talent of students in all these departments. The story is based on a family circus facing troubled times and being forced to close unless something happens. A group of local bored youths appear on the scene to help brother and sister Zach and Missy, who take on the task of training the un-trainable mob in circus skills.

There was no shortage of acting skills in this play and Zach, played by Kieran Berry stole the show with a stage presence that belies his years. All the lead characters gave convincing word-perfect performances and demonstrated the commitment of Greenfield College in developing the arts in Newton Aycliffe.

The band conducted by John Tobin gave great backing to the show with music specially composed by the conductor.

Greenfield College excel in dance and these students brought the "wow" factor to this production with brilliantly choreographed routines by Teacher Alison Dixon, combining all types of dance including acrobat and ballet.

The College can be truly proud of this Show and the effort put in to it, along with the pleasure the whole cast gave to their audiences.



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COUNCIL'S £1.4M BOOST FOR LOCAL SERVICES

A project aimed at giving communities more control over the services which matter to them has been given a £1.4m funding boost. The Durham Ask project – launched by Durham County Council in February – was set up to transform the way local services are provided. It aims to encourage and support local groups and organisations interested in taking over the ownership

and management of some services, and it builds on earlier work with community and leisure centres. Cllr Brian Stephens, Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships at Durham County Council, said: "This is fantastic news for community organisations in County Durham which are interested in taking over the running of services which matter most to them."

"The funding means we can support local groups in developing the skills, experience and resources they need to take on these important services. "We have already gained valuable experience through our ongoing community buildings project – one of the largest asset transfer programmes in the country – which has led to some major improvements in a number of community centres across the county."

"We now aim to build on this experience and work together with interested community organisations to bring about further changes to the way in which local services are provided." Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council, said: "At a time when we have to make savings totalling £224m it is increasingly difficult for us to continue to provide some services at the same level as before. That's why it is essential that we find new ways of working in partnership with communities in order to ensure these services can continue. "Using this funding we can ensure that advice and support is made available to those groups, organisations and teams of volunteers who are interested in getting involved in the management of services in their areas." People who are interested in finding out more about getting involved in services in their area can contact Durham County Council on 03000 268 055 or by emailing Comm.Assets@durham.gov.uk

Aycliffe Fell Walkers High in the Howgills



The club coach buzzed with enthusiastic walkers heading for the Howgill Fells recently. The forecast had promised early low cloud with possible showers but most were undeterred by the prospect and a first group, at Ravenstonedale, donned waterproofs and headed towards Green Bell and the highest of the cloud-covered fells; a second group, got off outside the Fat Lamb pub, and headed over Harter Fell, whilst others opted for a low level walk beside the River Rawthey. After the previous day's heavy rain all knew that streams would be swollen and it wasn't long before those at low level were looking for an alternative to wading, when their route encountered a flooded stream. Fortunately, there was a bridge 100 metres away. The second major stream was more difficult however. The bridge shown on the maps no longer existed. Some doubled back to get onto the road, whilst others waded and climbed the steep bank opposite. Soon after arrival at the Cross Keys, a temperance inn on the road north of Sedburgh, hot drinks

and bacon sandwiches were served up by welcoming staff, the landlord giving the group a brief history of the Inn, where a building with a long Quaker connection has been standing since the 16th century. Suitably warmed, cheered and refreshed the group headed for the dramatic Cautley Spout waterfall; before following paths above the intake wall, with views over the river and along the valley towards Sedburgh. The high level walkers were not so lucky, for they had to progress over steep hills in heavy cloud, no views and lots of accurate compass work in order to find the narrow cols between fells. The steeper slopes of Yarlside had many gasping as they struggled upwards and it was encouraging to find that, on arriving at the summit, there were signs of the cloud lifting, views opening up – thankfully all as forecast. Following a detour to catch a glimpse of Cautley Spout from above, the group descended to Bowderdale Head and then faced their second big climb of the day, lunch break being the reward for another tiring ascent (but no bacon sandwiches here, just cereal bars and high energy drinks!). The steeper climbs now behind them, The Calf was reached in bright sunshine. It was about this time that the second group, after descending from the summit of Harter Fell and climbing steeply up beside Cautley Spout to the ridge above, were spotted by the high level walkers as they progressed up toward the higher fells by way of Great Dummacks. Distant views were enjoyed by all on the high ridges; the Shap Fells, Wild Boar, Whernside and Morecambe Bay all being clearly visible. Wild ponies now kept walkers company, whilst a lone sheepdog 'wandering about on its own', proved a distraction that helped take thoughts away from aching legs. The descent down Settlebeck Gill towards Sedburgh, quite dramatic and steeper than expected, couldn't come soon enough for those less fit! Most were now pleased to see Sedburgh ahead and, after changing into dry garments on the coach, made either for the nearest hostelry or the fish and chip shop. All agreed it had been quite a tiring but inspiring day, something of a classic! Some slumbered, most were quiet and subdued on the return coach journey, indicating it had been another grand day out! Alan Holmes, Email: ahpatsol@btinternet.com

Helping Hands Fashion Show Giveaway

Due to huge popularity the Helping Hands team hosted yet another Fashion Show Giveaway. Our guests were welcomed and given drinks and pastries on arrival, donated by Tesco's. Very swiftly the models gracefully took the floor to display the beautiful clothing, shoes and accessories. Most of the models were from Life Church in Newton Aycliffe that meets every Thursday at Greenfield School main hall at 6.30pm. The age ranges were from teens to a lovely pensioner! As we like to point out we honestly don't want to be supermodels; we just want to be role models. Not one item of the beautiful clothes and shoes were sold but were given away free to those who need them the most! Entry was by invitation and each person received five vouchers to redeem on the evening for items of their choice. We had a range of new ladies clothing from size 8 – 24 and this time

we introduced a selection of men's clothing. This fashion show was organised by Kerry Wootton who said we wanted to go the extra mile making our guests feel special by providing them with something special. We really wanted them to feel good about themselves, which I believed we achieved! It was a lot of hard work but it was wonderful to see the clothes looking so great on the models who looked relaxed and happy as they walked down the catwalk. Helping Hands thoroughly enjoyed putting on the fashion show and are very much looking forward to our next one in the New Year. If you are someone who would benefit from a free place at the next Fashion Show, or you know someone who would, please contact: lifeline.action@googlemail.com. Telephone or text 07936 431 262



Tricia, Kaylen and Kerry

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Aycliffe Win in High Scoring Feast of Rugby

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club finished their last league game before Christmas with a morale-boosting 43 - 34 victory over Yarm at Moore Lane. With Luke Tinkler missing, Darryl Pettit returned to the side as stand-off, and Liam Kelly returned from a long absence in the second-row. Aycliffe had the early possession, but some loose play saw them back in their own half and Yarm took the lead with a penalty goal. Aycliffe attacked again and after the forwards had sucked in the defence, Luke Crossen sprinted down the wing to score. Adam Gascoigne added the conversion. Yarm soon fought back and scored a rather soft try to retake the lead. Yet again it was Aycliffe on the attack and, after Jeff Hodgson's run broke the gain-line, scrum-half Warren Parsonage found the defence open up in front of him and he added another try; Gascoigne again converted. It was the turn of Gascoigne to score next as his speed proved too great for the defence, but Yarm scored from a driving maul to keep the game close. The game in the forwards had become a battle between Yarm's scrummage and maul prowess and the better work

from Aycliffe at the ruck and around the fringes. Gascoigne scored his second just before the break and Chris Richards added the extras to leave Aycliffe 26 - 15 ahead at the break and with the try-scoring bonus point. Aycliffe struck quickly after the break and this time it was Richards with the score. It was beginning to look as if Aycliffe were going to run away with it, but again Yarm had other ideas. Another Yarm try was followed by a try from Craig Holmes running an excellent line through the defence. Yet again Yarm struck back and scored their own bonus-point try to get within 8-points. Now, it was Yarm on the attack and they were close to getting a losing bonus point, or even a win, but Gascoigne settled the Aycliffe nerves by running a kick back through the middle of the Yarm defence from 60 metres out, Gareth Parsonage converting. Yarm were still not finished and added another converted try from a 20-metre maul, but there was not enough time for further scores and the match ended 43 - 34 to Aycliffe. Aycliffe Rugby is sponsored by S CARS and WHITEHOUSE FUNERAL SERVICE.

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No School Unsafe - Asbestos Under Control

Newton News carried a letter from Counc. George Gray who said there are primary schools in Newton Aycliffe which have asbestos and are not safe. County Counc. Kate Hopper rased this matter at County Hall and received the following statement from School Organisation Manager Graeme Plews:

"I have been made aware of the e-mail you sent to Counc. Ossie Johnson concerning claim in a local newspaper by a Parish Councillor that schools in Newton Aycliffe" have asbestos and this is not safe." Together with other Local Authorities in the country, there are a number of school buildings in County Durham that contain asbestos.

I would like to reassure you however that all schools have asbestos management plans in place which are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure the health and safety of all users of buildings are not put at risk. Schools are also supported by the County Council's asbestos officers to effectively manage the presence of asbestos. I can confirm therefore that there is no truth in the statement that appeared in the local newspaper."

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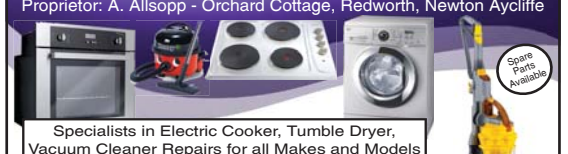
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Birthday Remembrance

RAYMOND BENNETT (Ben) December 23rd 1927. Dad thinking of you on your birthday, miss you so much. Love, Susan, Lawrence, Chris, Ashley, Marc and Adam xxxxx **BRYCE PETER FOSTER FARRELL** 21.12.2001 Happy 13th birthday to our special little boy. We are sending a dove to heaven, with a parcel on its wings. Be careful how you open it, it's full of beautiful things. Inside is a million kisses, wrapped up in a million hugs, to say how much we miss you and to send you all our love. Lots of love, Mummy and Daddy xxx **BRYCE PETER FOSTER FARRELL** Happy birthday to our special Brother, lots of love, Jordan Tia and Ethan xx **BRYCE PETER FOSTER FARRELL** Special birthday wishes for our Darling Grandson. We have a gift you cannot see, of heartfelt love and memories, carried through the sunny skies on the wings of doves and butterflies. A loving wish wrapped tight with love, to one we've lost who lives above. Lots of love, Nan and Grandad xxx **BRYCE PETER FOSTER FARRELL** Special birthday wishes to a sweet little Nephew. Always in our hearts. Lots of love, Uncle Mally, Auntie Tracy, Uncle Mark, Auntie Rachel, Ashley, Ellie, Evie and Bobby xxx **MILLER RICK** With an ache in my heart, I whisper low, Happy Birthday Dad, I miss you so. Love you, Tiff **NOEL NEEDHAM** 24.12.30 Birthday memories are lovingly kept. One we loved and never forgot. Love always, Sheila and family x **PAUL RAINE** 28th December. Thinking of you on this special day. Love, Jeff, Tracey and family xxx **PAUL RAINE**, Bishop Auckland, 28th December. Missed by Mam, Brothers and Sister xxx

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."
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M.R.H.
Thanks to St. Anthony for prayers answered

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DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM OF ALCOHOL

Durham Alcohol Self Support groups have been running now for over three years and we have seven groups running in the Durham area. We started the Newton Aycliffe group in June 2013 after realising the problems of alcohol in Newton Aycliffe. The group meets in Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre Ash Room every Thursday from 11am till 1pm. In September of this year we were approached by Shildon Alive to open a self support group in Shildon which has turned out well. When people come they can be reassured it is a non-judgemental group and be aware that everyone is equal. People come with various stages of alcohol problems, even if just worried about the glass of wine they have every

evening after work. The meetings are very informal with a chat over coffee to discuss coping strategies and pathways to help with alcohol problems. I would like to thank Newton Aycliffe Councillors for their generous donation which will be used for diversion activities. We are a registered charity and work with volunteers all of whom are in recovery themselves. If anybody feels they would benefit from the group feel free to phone or pop into one of our meetings. For more information telephone Lisa on 07921816549 or visit our website www.durhamalcoholselfsupport.co.uk

Public Notice

DONATIONS needed of Brica-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
BRITISH LEGION Members are advised to renew membership before 14th January 2015.

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New Leisure Club Manager - New Deals

Chris Felstead, Redworth Hall's Leisure Club Manager, has been in post since July and is intent on building up the membership by improving the facilities and offers. The current promotion for joining is - £10 joining fee and get the rest of December for free including added benefits in being a member. If anyone wants any further details they can contact Chris or Julia on 01388 770 649. As the former General Manager at Banantynes, Chris has a Certificate in Management Studies and along with many other qualifications gained the International Fitness & Sports Therapy Diploma. He is highly committed having worked in



the private health club industry for 16 years.

Care Home Residents Visit Metro Centre



Residents from Defoe Court enjoyed the stunning decorations at the Metro Centre whilst out Christmas shopping for the day. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all local schools, churches and the local community in general for their support over the last year and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Pets

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Obituary

JENNER on 11th December, passed away in the loving care of Defoe Court Nursing Home, Ruby, aged 90 years. Beloved Mother, Mother-in-Law, Nanna and Great Nanna. She will be dearly missed. The Funeral Service took place today, Friday 19th December, at Wear Valley Crematorium at 11am. All donations went to Defoe Court.

EMMERSON George, aged 70 years, peacefully after a short illness on December 16 of Darlington (formerly of Newton Aycliffe). Dearly loved husband of Rosalin, much loved Dad of Maxine, Michael and Rolinda, dear Father-in-law of Andrea, loving Grandad of Christopher, Michaela and Connor and a dear Brother. Funeral Wednesday December 24. Would friends please meet for Service in St Michael's Church, Heighington at 9.30am followed by interment. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, may be sent for St Teresa's Hospice c/o Whitehouse Funeral Service, 11 West Auckland Road, Darlington

IN MEMORY of Ralph Nelson, passed away peacefully at home on 11th December 2014. Dearly missed, forever in our hearts. Loving Husband of Kathleen Nelson, Dad to Tracy and Daniel, Grandad to Beckie, Emily and Great Grandad to Brodie. Gone but never forgotten.

JONES, Newton Aycliffe. December 17th, (after a long illness battling with poor health, surrounded by his loving family) Dr. James Brian Jones (Retired General Practitioner of Bewick Crescent Surgery) aged 82 years. Beloved Husband of Shirley, dearly loved Father of Susan, Philip and Elizabeth, a dear Father in law and a devoted Grandad of Aimee, Harry, George and Ewen and a dear Brother of Barbara. He will be sadly missed by all his family and many friends and all who knew him. Funeral Tuesday December 30th. Would friends kindly meet for Service in St. Clare's Church at 12 noon followed by cremation at Durham Crematorium at 1.00pm. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu will be shared between The Stroke Association and The British Heart Foundation and will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6EN. Tel: 01325 318 600

MOUNSEY PHILIP HARTLEY aged 62. Passed away in the Phillipines, December 8th 2014. Dearly beloved Son of Edna and the late Fred, ex-licensee of the Oak Tree Inn. Will be sadly missed by Patricia, Vivian and Adrian and all the family and friends

Births

WILLIAMS Congratulations to Claire and Andrew on the safe arrival of Niah, beautiful Sister for Freya and another gorgeous Granddaughter for us. Love and thanks, Mam and Dad

WINTER WILLIAMS Massive congratulations to Claire and Andrew on the birth of their second beautiful daughter Niah, little Sister for the beautiful Freya, well done Claire, all our love to you all xxxx

WINTER WILLIAMS Congratulations Claire and Andrew on the birth of Niah, thanks for making me an Auntie again. Love, Diann and Calvin xxxx

Christmas Wishes

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous New Year to all the residents of Aycliffe Village and Neville Ward of Newton Aycliffe

Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp

AYCLIFFE CENTRAL WARD COUNCILLORS
Jim Atkinson, Val Raw and Bill Iveson would like to wish all residents of Great Aycliffe a Happy and Peaceful Christmas

DORIS CASSIDY and family would like to wish all friends and family Seasonal Greetings and a prosperous 2015. Love you all xxx

Christmas Remembrance

LIAM HANNON No card or presents. This is our 2nd Christmas without you. We love and miss you every day Sweetheart. Love, Wife Dorothy x. Love you Dad, Denise and Gary. Love you loads, Adam, Teri-Ann and family. Love, Stuart

BILL TALBOT Christmas is not the same without you, no card, no gift, just loving memories in our hearts. Forever missing you lots Bill. Love, Val and all our family

DAD & GRANDAD We miss you now, our hearts are sore. As time goes by we miss you more. Your loving smile, your gentle face, no-one can fill your empty place. Merry Christmas Dad, love you, Debbie, Tim, Sophie, Katie and Toby

Thank You

THANKS TO THE LEGION, Paul and Sue Land and co. for helping to celebrate Ada's 100th birthday. Ada, Ann and Tony wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Cheers.

For Sale

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

"ALL SORTS" selling anything and everything for Charity. Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10am to 1pm at St Clare's Church. Closed for festive holidays from 25th December - reopen Saturday 10th January

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AIR HOCKEY table game, mains operated, hardly used, £20. Tel 07789 113343

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COUNCILLORS SARAH IVESON AND JED HILLARY wish the people of Great Aycliffe a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

COUNCILLORS WENDY HILLARY, MALCOLM IVESON AND BOB FLEMING send Seasons Greetings to the people of Great Aycliffe.

IT'S CHRISTMAS and we would just like to say 'Thank you' to all our town's folk and that it's been a pleasure working with and on behalf of you all. We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, peaceful and prosperous New Year. From Great Aycliffe, Durham County Councillors' Eddy Adam, Kate Hopper, Mike Dixon, John Clare, Joan Gray, Jed Hilary and Sarah Iveson

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM RON MITCHIE May I take this opportunity to wish the many friends old and new a Christian Christmas and to say I have made a donation to a local Charity instead of buying cards or gifts outside of my immediate family? To all of those that use the Agnew Community Centre, Xcel Church, The Cree Project, Greenfield Arts, The Mayor and all Councillors/Staff Town and County, GACAP, Newton News and not forgetting my fellow members and Trustees of the Agnew Community Association and the many people it has been my good fortune to have met in 2014. I wish you Fellowship, Health and Happiness for 2015.

VALLIER Mary wishes her family, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

I WOULD LIKE TO WISH all my family and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. As usual I will not be sending cards but making a donation to charity. Love, Pauline Longstaff

BEST WISHES for Christmas from Godfrey and Shirley Bennett

ANN NAYLOR would like to wish all my friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

A MERRY Christmas and Happy New Year to all my customers. Bill Lowery

PAT LINDLEY & JUNE JOB would like to wish all their friends in Aycliffe Walking Club and Defoe Social Club a Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

ANN TOMLINSON donates to Cancer Research UK instead of sending cards and wishes all her family, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

In Memoriam

DENNIS ARCHER
Died 19th December 2010
To us you were so special,
What more can we say.
We only wish
within our hearts,
That you were here today.
Loved and remembered
always, by your loving
family and friends

DAD
19th December 2010
Thinking of you this
Christmas and how things
aren't the same.
There's a dull and nagging
heartache when someone
speaks your name.
Sadly we can't buy gifts
for you,
Just silent tears that fall,
For this time of year
without you is the
hardest time of all.
Sadly missed and always
loved from Helen, Steven
and Natasha xxxx

PHYLLIS BLENINSOPP
It does not need a special
day to bring you
to our minds.
Gone are the days we used
to share, but in our thoughts
you are always there.
From loving Sisters Pat,
Joyce, Ena, Valerie
and Susan

JIM NAYLOR 23rd December 2007. It's been seven long years since you passed away. You are in my thoughts every single day. The memories you left me are worth more than gold. They will be with me always as I grow old. Your loving Wife, Ann and family

BILL BAKER 17th December 2010. 4 years on, still sadly missed. Barbara

LENA JACKSON 27.12.87 Twenty seven years too long Mum and Nana. Missed beyond belief. Loving thoughts also to Dad, Nana and Auntie June. All our love, Debra, Geoff, Joel and Stevie Lena xxx

LENA JACKSON 27.12.1987 A light from our household is gone, a voice we loved has stilled. A place is vacant in our hearts, that never can be filled x

IN MEMORY OF ALBERT ROBINSON 17.12.03 Our thoughts are ever with you, though you have passed away. And those who love you dearly are thinking of you today. Your presence we miss, your memory we treasure, loving you always, forgetting you never. From loving Wife Marjorie and the family

DOREEN McCUE 30-12-2011. Everyday in some small way, memories of you come our way, though absent, you are always near, still missed, loved and always dear. 3 years on and still sorely missed. Love always, Jimmy, Stewart & Roxy, Marie, Sharon & Jonny and all the grandchildren xxx

JOHN WILSON Died 22.12.02. A dearly loved Husband and Father. Remembered every day by Judith and Victoria xx

JAMES BERNARD McKAY 17/2/1929 - 23/12/2006. My darling Husband, it's not just today but every day that I think of you, forever missed. Your loving Wife, Heather xx Also a big miss to Daughter Heather and Grandson Christopher xx

JAMES BERNARD McKAY 17/2/1929 - 23/12/2006. Thinking of you Dad as always, missed and loved forever, Alicia xx

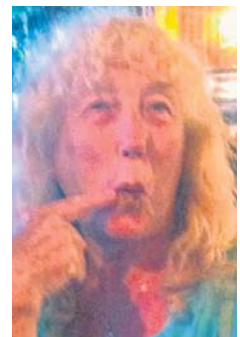
GRANDAD we will never forget you. Love from Dean, Wayne and Ricky

Craig Jackman



Happy Birthday
23rd December
All my love always,
S-J xxxx
Lots of love Dad
from Macca xx
Lots of love Dad
from Madison xx
Happy birthday Grampy.
Love and burps from
Grandson JC xx
Woofs and waggy tails
from Maverick, Marley,
Madison and Merlin xx

Nanna Bell is 70 years young



22nd December
Nanna and Great Nanna
to loads!
We all wish her health and
happiness, we love you to
the moon and back.
Love all your family xxx

Joe Barnes



Happy 21st Birthday
Love, Mam, Dad
and Adam xx

BARNES Congratulations Joe on your 21st birthday. With love and best wishes always, Grandma and all the family xxx

JOSEPH THOMPSON 21st December. Happy birthday, love and kisses from Nana xxx

CHLOE WILSON Happy 18th birthday, 31st December 2014. Happy birthday Chloe, hope you have a great night. Lots of love, Nana, Wayne, Aunties, Uncles and Cousins xxxxxx

LIAM ANDERSON Happy 18th birthday Son. Love, Mam, Dad and Snowball xxx

BARBARA HODGSON Happy birthday Barbara, hope you have a wonderful birthday on holiday in the USA. Love from SJ, Craig, Madison, Mackenzie, JC and all the duggies xx

Congratulations

Jimmy and Norma Neal



Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary
Congratulations on your 50 years together
Lots of love from All the Family

Hollie Langsley



21st December 1993
All our love Hollz on your
21st Birthday
from Mam, Dad, Nycola, Gary, Emily, Abigail
and all your family!
Enjoy London! xxxxxxxxxxxx

Chelsea Keedy 21



Have a wonderful day
All our love, Mam, Mike,
Gran & Grandad, Luke,
Truff & Woody xxxx

Anna Louise Thornton



24th December 2013
Happy 1st Birthday
to our precious
Granddaughter.
Have a lovely birthday
Darling, from Grandad
and Grandma Melcalfe
and Auntie Sharon xxx

Jessica Pattinson



Happy 16th Birthday
23rd December 2014
Hope you have a great day.
Love you loads,
Mam, Nana, Chris
and all the family xxxxx

VINCE RYAN

Happy 50th birthday
and all the best from
The Newton Press Gang

VINCE RYAN

Happy 50th birthday
Hope you have
a fantastic day.
Love from Sarah-Jane,
Craig and family xx

Rebecca and Jamie



Engagement

Kevin and Heather Bage are pleased to announce the engagement of their Daughter Rebecca to Jamie, Son of Alec and Diane Duncan of West Auckland. Rebecca is the Manager of Superdrug in Ripon and Jamie is a self employed Joiner.

Advertise in this section
from 15p per word

Greenfield Students Support Christmas Foodbank Appeal



On Friday 5th December the van arrived to collect Christmas food donated by Greenfield Community College students and staff for the County Durham Foodbank run by the Trussel Trust. Greenfield students wanted to support their local community and were pleased to be able to contribute to this very worthwhile cause with food donations. Hopefully local County Durham families will benefit from our donations and receive traditional Christmas goodies over the festive period whilst Greenfield students recognise the importance in supporting those less fortunate than themselves at Christmas.

Aycliffe Sports FC Hit Willington for Six!

The first home game in 6 weeks saw Newton Aycliffe Sports Club FC host one of the front runners, Willington Cottles. With Craig Barrigan still out through injury and Sam McKerr unavailable veteran Dave Hall, continued to deputise at centre half despite suffering a mystery illness which had got the better of a lot of the first team squad. Up against the odds it was still the home side that took the lead on 12 minutes. A free kick was lofted into the box from Anth Campbell and Connor Hughes rose above the defence to head past a stranded keeper. The lead lasted less than 10 minutes as the away side took advantage of some sloppy defending to equalise. The remainder of the half saw both sides try to stamp their authority, but ultimately cancelling each other out as they went into the break all square.

With Dave Hall unable to continue in the second half, Gareth Boyes came off the bench to slot into the back 3 and bring some much needed guile back into the defence. On the 55 minute mark, the home side were awarded a dubious penalty but took the opportunity when Chris Jones put the Sports Club in front again from the spot.

Within 10 minutes, Jones was again brought down in the box and took the opportunity to slot home his brace from the spot making it 3-1 to the hosts. Shortly after, Jones made way for Tom Postle, after suffering a slight injury and Postle turned provider for Connor Hughes who scored his brace on 70 minutes. Postle then missed a golden opportunity to kill the game off when he somehow failed to connect with a cross that was harder to miss than score. However, he made amends for this a few moments later, breaking through the defence to slot home a well-deserved goal and make it 5-1. As the game entered into the last few minutes, another penalty was awarded to Aycliffe Sports Club and with Jones now off the field, Hughes had the chance to grab his hat-trick and extend his lead on his injured strike partner. Making no mistake from the spot, Hughes grabbed the 6th and final goal, picking up the Man of the match award and taking his tally to 20 for the season. The strike partnership of Jones and Hughes (or Quinn and Phillips as they are now been compared too) is proving formidable, with 37 goals between them and one more game to go as we head towards the Christmas Break.

Strike Partners Chris Jones and Connor Hughes have 37 goals between them so far this season. This excellent run of form has seen NASC FC close the gap on the top teams in the division, with games still in hand on those above and around them. Next weekend's final game of 2014 sees the Sports Club at Home again, to familiar opposition in Bishop Auckland Lacey's.

Aycliffe's MMA Champ Defends Title



Dave Cunliffe (left), Sam Robinson and team Itaipava Newcastle

Newton Aycliffe's Dave Cunliffe had his first title defence at the weekend on Ian Freeman's Mixed Martial Arts Show held in Stanley.

The show had several local fighters all trying their skills for top places in the weight divisions. David was joined by team mate Sam Robinson from Itaipava Gym in Newcastle as well as 2 local fighters Lewis Harrop and Brandon Jones from Viper MMA.

All 4 fighters joined forces over the last few months and trained alongside each other for the event. Lewis had a great fight after getting off to a tricky start and submitted his opponent with a slick armbar, picking up the victory in his first semi professional bout!

Brandon had a real war with his experienced opponent. The fight saw some very close submission attempts and was extremely close. Brandon didn't get the win but looked very good for training over so little time. Sam Robinson totally dominated his opponent right from the off. His wrestling gave him a huge advantage gulliotining his opponent with a victory by submission.

David was matched against a well known southern fighter

Dominic Dillon, currently ranked 15 in the UK with several British titles. The fight was an explosive battle with both fighters trying to out strike and submit each other. Dave handed some heavy punches and knees before dropping Dominic with a nicely timed left hook.

The fight was stopped after some more knees as Dominic was unable to carry on. A great win for all involved.

The fighters would like to thank their coaches, Itaipava Newcastle run by Pete 'the legend' Irving, their team mates, family and friends, training partners, secret ninja squad JP and the boys, Mark at Viper MMA, Rachel, Lucas, and everyone for their awesome support over fight camp!

Letter from Santa Claus

Dear Newton News
Unfortunately some boys and girls have forgotten to put their addresses and even forget to put their names on their letters to me. Parents are asked to check to make sure that all letters have a name and return address.

I have had these letters which I cannot reply to:

Paige who would like My Little Pony and Frozen stuff from the movie. Someone who wants a Dinosaur DS game and Wii Spongebob game. Sophia who wants Doc McStuffin and an Elsa nightie. Olivia who wants Frozen make up and an Elsa doll.

To all the boys and girls who I cannot reply to, Merry Christmas and I will see you on Christmas Eve.
Love Santa

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Merry Christmas to all our Customers

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