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Solar Farm Proposed on Land Near School Aycliffe



Just before Christmas around 25 people, including local residents and councillors attended a consultation on a proposed solar farm near School Aycliffe.

Responses from those attending were overwhelmingly positive with people highlighting the ease with which the site can be screened and that it is sited on poor-quality land. The company, Lightsource



Renewable Energy Limited, from London are currently tweaking the proposals to take into account people's comments from the community consultation evening and will be providing a project update pack to councillors and local residents once these are

finalised. Solar Farms are only temporary use of land and cause no harm or risks to flooding.

The wide gaps between the rows of panels are designed to accommodate grazing of small livestock.

The company will be trying to use as many local contractors as possible in the installation of the farm. Anyone wanting be involved is invited to get in touch.

If the project goes ahead and is approved the installation of the farm will take two months. Further information on www.lightsource-re.co.uk

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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

Tel: Syd
01325 300212
or syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Job Centre Staff Donation

Newton Aycliffe Job Centre decided not to send Christmas cards to each other this year, but instead they wanted the money to go towards the Helping Hands Christmas Day Lunch. Linzi Nicholls said "This will have a real impact on people who truly need it".

Wonderful Festive Fair at Woodham Academy



Thank you to everyone who attended the Woodham Academy Christmas Fair on Saturday 6th December. It was a wonderfully festive event which left visitors spoilt for choice. A whole range of activities were on offer from face painting to writing letters to Santa. There were families enjoying Christmas paper crafts, making tree decorations, decorating fabric with glow in the dark dye and music making. Santa Claus arrived amid a flurry of excitement and stayed for the whole morning, entrancing the younger children, receiving letters and hearing what they hope he's going to bring on Christmas Day. Woodham Sports Academy worked non-stop on table tennis coaching and Woodham Dance Academy ran a carousel of dance workshops throughout the event. After an exhausting morning of enjoying all the activities on offer, it was time for a well-earned buffet lunch before heading home. A great time was had by all.

Christmas Carols at the PCP



The House of Eden Nursery children and the Options group who meet at the PCP both sang carols for invited guests on Friday 19th December.



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Christmas Celebrations with Santa in the Town Centre



To celebrate Christmas 2014 Aycliffe Town Centre hosted a Christmas Celebration Party on Saturday 20th December in conjunction with Star Radio. With acts ranging from the Cockerton Silver Band, rock and roll performers and Olli Pato, to finish the day, it was a great family afternoon. Santa himself came to give away presents to all the boys and girls supported by Phil Wilson MP, our Mayor Wendy Hillary and her consort Jed Hillary. As much as Santa tried some presents were left over and these have been donated to the Rotary Club to help raise funds.

Centre Manager Bryan Haldane said: "I hope everyone who came to the celebration had a great time and on behalf of all of us at Aycliffe Shopping Centre I wish everyone best wishes for Christmas and a very Happy New Year".

NEWTON NEWS EDITORIAL

Why Does Aycliffe Not Have a Bus Station?

Peterlee with a population of 20,000 has a Bus Station which Newton Aycliffe has never had. Salford Estates, the owners of the Castle Dene Shopping Centre also own the bus station and we can only assume this was sold to them by the former Aycliffe and Peterlee Development Corporation when it was dissolved in the 80's. The County Council has now bought the Bus Station from them so that they now own all the bus stations in the county. A town the size of Newton Aycliffe with a population of 30,000 should have a Bus Station and perhaps our Councillors will note this disparity and start agitating on our behalf?

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BRILLIANT SHOW BY "SHINE" CHOIR

St. Clare's Main Hall was filled with family and friends of SHINE Choir for their Christmas production 'A Midwife Crisis'. A huge thank you to you all for your support and encouragement of this lively group and a massive well done to the choir boys and girls who were all amazing. The narrators read with clarity and expression, keeping the audience with them.

The ditsy midwife who searched everywhere she could possibly think of where a King would be born, was ably assisted by her donkey. Steve kept the Christmas message alive in a funny yet moving way. The angels dazzled, the Kings entertained, the star shone, the soldiers and Ceasar took charge, the townspeople bustled, the shepherds rocked and the sheep stole the show!

She did eventually arrive at the stable to be greeted by beautiful Mary and proud Joseph to find the baby she thought desperately needed her had already arrived, without any grandeur. At that moment she understood she actually needed him much more than he needed her, Steve was united with Mary's donkey Nigel, a long lost cousin and all was well. A wonderful

evening!

The Children's Team at St. Clares invite you to continue this transforming story by coming along to Messy Church, Family Service and of course the children's choir which is open to all school age boys and girls.

The choir will have a well deserved break and will resume on Monday 12th January 2015 5 - 6pm.

We would like to invite all

children to join them in celebrating the start of a New Year with a fun filled party. Come along on Saturday 3rd January, 3 - 6pm to St. Clare's for a disco, games and tea - all for just £1 per child.

THIS IS IN PLACE OF THE JANUARY FILM CLUB.

Contact Helen McCormick on 319002. We Wish you all a Peaceful New Year. The Children's Team, St. Clare's Church.

Christmas Charity at Stephenson Way



At Stephenson Way Community Primary School the children have been busy raising money for two charities, by getting involved with two Christmas themed activities.

The national 'Christmas Jumper Day' was a big hit with the children, and everybody enjoyed parading their festive jumpers around the school. From jumpers with flashing lights to ones which sang Christmas carols on request, the outfits had it all.

Penguins, reindeers, santas, stockings and Christmas trees brightened the cold day at school, but as one Y5 pupil commented, 'It's not all about jumpers though, because we have brought in £1 each for Save the Children'. Altogether donations to Save the Children topped £300.

Children at Stephenson Way have also been raising money for the Butterwick Hospice by purchasing small Christmas themed soft toys from the school office. With several different designs to choose from, children have found it difficult to pick just one. A year 6 pupil said 'I'm going to collect them all and that means more money for the Hospice!' The children are aiming to raise £500 and are well on their way to achieving this target.

The school would like to thank the children and their parents for all their generous donations to different charity events which the school has participated in over the past year.

Written by Summer, Beth, Natasha and Maddison (Y6 Pupils)

Rotary Club Helps Town's Needy Families



The Rotary Club have been helping the town's families in need again this Christmas by collecting in Tesco and touring the streets with Santa Claus and his musical sleigh.

Tesco's provided the sixty parcels of food with staff picking out the best buys. The food hampers were then collected by Rotarians to deliver to Social Services staff who ensured they went to those who need the help.



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New Year Message from the Chairman of Durham County Council

It is hard to believe that I am already more than half way through my year as Chairman and what a privilege it has been so far.

I have attended all kinds of community events and it has been an honour to meet so many people who do remarkable things for others.

I have been overwhelmed by the kindness shown to my wife and consort Maxine and I, and we are looking forward to meeting many more inspirational individuals and organisations during the rest of my term as Chairman.

For my New Year's resolution I will endeavour to raise as much money as possible for the Chairman's Charities - the Great North Air Ambulance and Butterwick Hospice.

I would like to thank everyone who have given us such a warm reception and express our gratitude to everybody who has donated to these charities. I also hope that 2015 brings health and happiness to the people of County Durham.

Furthermore, as the New Year approaches, I ask you to think



about those who are unwell, who have been bereaved, the elderly, the vulnerable and those who feel lonely, to be a good neighbour and I hope those serving our country abroad come back home safe. To you and your loved ones, I send my sincere best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year."

John Robinson, JP

Newtonian Leukaemia Victim Launches Appeal

A Newtonian struck down with leukaemia just weeks before Christmas is selflessly asking people to donate to his charity.

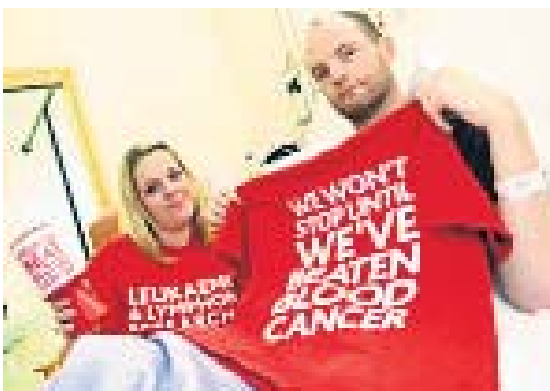
Married dad-of-one Paul McGeary spent Christmas in hospital after he was delivered the blow on Friday 28th November that he'd been diagnosed with an acute form of leukaemia. His 14-month-old daughter, Niamh, isn't even allowed to visit him during his time there - Paul had to watch her on Skype as she took her first steps this week.

But instead of wallowing in self-pity, the football-mad secondary school Maths teacher and his wife Becky want to raise cash to help fund research into the killer disease.

Paul's "Not One Inch" appeal - dubbed from a Twitter hashtag, meaning not to give leukaemia one inch of respect during his battle - will raise money for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research through his own Just Giving page.

"I've been told I have a 90% chance of recovery, so I'm one of the 'lucky' ones," said the brave 33-year-old, who is writing emotive blogs during his two-month course of chemotherapy at the James Cook Hospital in Middlesbrough.

"I could have been diagnosed with a much more severe form of leukaemia, but evidently



Paul and Becky McGeary

acute in this form means aggressive and in the three weeks since the bruises have appeared, the leukaemia has taken its hold. I'm here to be cured, but I have a long road ahead of me."

Paul, known in Aycliffe for his voluntary role with Newton Aycliffe Football Club, wants to encourage people to give blood and is planning a 'Blood Drive' some time soon.

But he also wants to raise vital cash which will go towards research that will ultimately save lives. Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research is a leading UK cancer research charity dedicated to improving

the lives of patients with all types of blood cancer, including leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

"The research they have already done in the past will help me beat this disease," added Paul, who works at Sedgefield Community College. But fundraising is vital so they can continue their work and, in time, increase recovery rates for all forms of leukaemia."

Paul has set up his own Just Giving page and you can donate now at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Paul-McGeary2

You can also follow his story via Twitter: @PaulMcGeary

Academy Students Give Hampers to Elderly



Taking hampers into the local community has become a tradition at Woodham Academy and one that all students look forward to. This year has been no different and the kindness and contributions from students and their families has been amazing.

Each tutor group in the school created a huge hamper filled with Christmas gifts of food for some of the elderly residents within our community. A member of staff and a group of students hand delivered the hampers this week. The response from recipients was fantastic and showed how much they appreciated students' warm generosity.

Deputy Headteacher, Danny Morgans, said "This is what Christmas is all about. Our students really want to help people who are not as fortunate as themselves, and this is a wonderful way of doing that. It is important as a school in the community, we reach out to support families around us at Christmas."

NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Chairman Peter Beaty and all volunteers at the Centre wish all clients and supporters a prosperous New Year.

Maybe you will want to start a new club in your local centre in 2015? Or maybe you could help run a Table Tennis club, Badminton, Snooker, Bowls Kurling?

Please give a little of your time to help us raise funds or give others a new interest or hobby - ring 313924.

Knit & Natter is on every Thursday 10am - 12 noon - just drop in with your wool and needles.

Dog Training every Sunday at 6.30pm.

Bingo every Monday and Friday at 7pm. Come and join this very friendly group.

Hair Styling TV Contest

Hair is a competitive, amateur hairstyling series which aired on BBC 3 earlier this year, presented by Steve Jones. Industry professionals Alain Pichon and Denise McAdam judge the competition.

Each week contestants will be given a number of technical and creative style-based challenges, designed to help test and develop their hairstyling skills.

This year the programme is moving to BBC Two, and we are looking for people with a wide variety of occupations, backgrounds and talents to take part.

We would love to reach out to hairdressing students and salon juniors, as well as those with no formal training or background in hairdressing.

We'd love to hear from passionate and talented, amateur stylists who think they could cut it in the competition. Perhaps you've been dishing out freebie haircuts to family and friends for years, or hair has always been your hobby but you've followed a different career path?

There are no qualifications necessary to take part, but applicants must not have completed an NVQ Level 2 or VRQ Level 2 in Hairdressing.

For more information, please email hairstyle@bbc.co.uk

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DURHAM (WHINLATTER PLACE FOOTBRIDGE, NEWTON AYLCLIFFE) (TEMPORARY FOOTPATH CLOSURE) ORDER 2014

The Council, on 23.12.14 made an Order under Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, as amended, its effect to close to pedestrian traffic an 18m length of Whinlatter Place Footbridge that extends southwards over Woodham Burn from the segregated footpath outside No. 54 Whinlatter Place, Newton Aycliffe to enable remedial works to be undertaken. The maximum duration of the temporary closure under the Order is 6 months and is required from 07.01.15 for the duration of the works, anticipated to be 6 months. However, on rare occasions, alternative dates for closures may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly. **Alternative route:** via either the footpath adjacent to Williamfield Way that crosses Woodham Burn to the south west, or via the Kirkstone Place Footbridge to the north east.

DATED: 02.01.15



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

Great Aycliffe Town Council Notice of Intention to Dispose of Open Space

Notice is hereby given that Great Aycliffe Town Council proposes to dispose of:-

.72 hectares (1.78 acres (approx.)) of land adjacent to South Agnew Plantation, Woodham, Newton Aycliffe. A plan showing the area concerned is available for inspection during normal office hours, Monday to Friday at the Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6QF.

By virtue of Section 123 and 127 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the Town Council is required to give formal notice of its intention to dispose of Open Space and consider any objections to the proposed disposal.

Any representations or objections to the disposal should be made in writing to the Town Clerk at the following address before Noon on Tuesday, 13th January 2015.

A. Bailey, Town Clerk.

Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane,
Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham. DL5 6QF

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 14th January 2015

Environment Committee Recreation Committee 7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

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

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

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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IRRESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS

Der Sir,
As a resident of Flynn Court I am angry with the dog owner who allowed his or her pet to leave a nasty surprise in front of my bungalow just before Christmas.
I am sure the person responsible knows what they did, believing know one would notice under the cover of darkness.
Why are they too idle to pick up after their dogs and if they want a dog why don't they feel responsible?
If they have any decency in their hearts they would clean up after their pet has fouled the footpath.
Why also do people walk dogs without a lead and pretend they don't see what the animal is doing?
If I see them they will be reported, but I suppose they can afford to risk paying the fine.
Name & address supplied

Calling All Town Organisations, Groups and Clubs

CLAIM YOUR FREE WEB PAGE

Send your details for placement on the Newton News website

Newton News is asking all local organisations, groups and clubs to send your details. The website gives comprehensive information relating to Newton Aycliffe and the immediate area and we would like to make sure that the information we have is correct and up-to-date. This will help you to recruit more members and promote yourself to a wider audience. You may include as much information about your club, group or service FREE OF CHARGE. Each club/group will be given their own dedicated page on the Newton News website, so send your details, attach photos, video footage, or any other information you would like, to promote your club.

(Please use BLOCK CAPITALS)

email the following details to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

Name of Organisation
Contact Name
Contact Telephone
Contact Email
Website Address
Meeting Day
Meeting Time
Meeting Venue & Address
Brief description of Activities

(Please use a separate sheet if required)

or hand your completed form in at our agents:
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WALKERS BUTCHERS (Simpasture)
NEWTON PRESS OFFICES (on the Business Park)

For further information on Newton News website or if you would like a basic website designing, please contact Paul on 01325 300212 or email paul@newtonnews.co.uk

New Dance Studio for Aycliffe



Phil and Kay hold the ribbon for Rowena to cut

KDANZ, a new Dance Studio on Aycliffe Business Park, was officially opened just before Christmas watched by students of the popular club, parents and friends. The honour of opening the new premises went to Rowena the mother of the Principal Kay Thompson, in recognition of her support and encouragement of her daughter to dance since she was a child. Kay recognised the hard work of her partner Phil in getting the dance studio ready for opening. They were married on New Year's Day at Newton hall in Northumberland. Kay is running the BTEC Sport with Dance course in September based at the new studio. For more details ring 07900 365892.



TOWN GP's OFFER SATURDAY MORNING APPOINTMENTS

People living in Newton Aycliffe are able to access Saturday appointments at their GP practice until the end of March 2015. The NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the organisation responsible for planning and purchasing health services on behalf of the 272,000 residents in the area, is continuing to run the scheme which was originally introduced in November 2013 to improve access to healthcare for patients. A number of practices in the Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield area will run the Saturday opening scheme until March 2015 with patients able to access a choice of: **Appointments for Saturdays pre-booked with the GP practice** **Urgent appointments booked on Saturdays via NHS 111** **Urgent walk in appointments on Saturdays** The scheme aims to improve access to GP services during weekends and reduce the pressure on hospital A&E departments, allowing them to concentrate on more urgent cases. Since the scheme was launched it has been successful in increasing access for patients whilst providing better quality and continuity of care. The scheme offers flexibility for those working through the week and ultimately offers care closer to home, with indications suggesting that weekend opening has had a positive impact on both A&E and urgent care activity. Dr Stewart Findlay, Chief Clinical Officer from Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG said: "We are committed to increasing patient access to GP appointments outside current contracted hours with a view to improving patient satisfaction with opening hours whilst maintaining standards of access and availability during core practice hours. There is evidence to show that continuity of care from GPs reduces the likelihood of emergency admissions to hospital. The scheme has proven to be very popular and has been successful in alleviating pressure on our local emergency departments by providing a convenient alternative for patients." Practices open in Newton Aycliffe every Saturday from 8.00 – 12.00 noon are Bewick Crescent Surgery, Jubilee Medical Group and Peaseway Medical Centre

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AUTO EXPRESS PRODUCT OF THE YEAR 2013

New Specialist College at Aycliffe Autism Centre



The North East Autism Society (NEAS) is currently renovating a disused building at their Newton Aycliffe site to extend Thornbeck College to offer more vocational courses for people with autism.

Thornbeck College is the only Independent Specialist College in the North East graded Outstanding by Ofsted.

The College provides personal study programmes for learners with autism learning difficulties and, or disabilities. Programmes focus on equipping learners with the skills that they need for living and work. The College have developed a range of vocational pathways which currently include; floristry, retail and horticulture. These pathways provide opportunities for learners to develop work related skills in real -life-working environments.

The College are in the process of further increasing their vocational pathways and are currently refurbishing another building on the site. This development was made possible by a successful bid

to the Education Funding Agency Independent Specialist Provider Building Improvement Fund and this contribution will fund 50% of this £375,000 development. Christine Dempster, Director of Education at NEAS said; "This new building will enable the

college to increase its offer of vocational pathways available to learners and will include car maintenance, woodwork and catering." For more information about Thornbeck College please call 01325 328088 or email college@ne-as.org.uk

Mystery Trip Raised £527 for Helping Hands



Mally Wheldon received a cheque for £527 from

Martyn who is a Travel Consultant at Hays. Mally said 'we are very grateful for this gift towards the Helping Hands project. Our work is forever increasing and funds like this are vital towards the growth of our charity. In 2015 we envisage 100's of extra people in genuine need contacting us' Martin said "As a local business, we believe it is highly important to give something back to the community. We wanted to give Helping Hands as much support as we could, raising over £500 on a Charity Mystery Trip attended by our customers"

TV Programme for 2015 Brides

A BBC 2 series featuring brides, is set to be broadcast in 2015. They are looking for brides getting married in February or March 2015 to take part. Chosen brides get their entire bridal party's hair styled for free by a brilliant stylist. Maybe you're planning a themed do, or going for classic and beautiful? Whatever your dream, get in touch for more information. Email: brides@bbc.co.uk

Special Awards for Disabled Adults

The first ever Options awards night took place on Thursday 18th December at the Pioneering Care Centre. Options is managed by PCP and offers daily support and opportunities for disabled people. The programme provides a way for members to have more control over their lives and

participate more fully in the community in which they live. Family, friends, carers, PCP staff and volunteers attended the event which recognised the efforts and achievements of the participants who access Options. The winners were voted for by the Options members and the award recipients were:



- Member who gained most confidence – Danielle Barlow
- Most Cheerful Member – Christopher Hincks
- Options most adventurous member – John Snaith
- Options most sporty member – Thomas Oakley
- Options best chef- Dale Sugden
- Member with the best sense of humour – Gillian Clarke
- Options Kindest member – Christine Hilder
- Options most creative member – Joanne Gibson
- Options best Gardener – Shaun Ridley
- Options member of the year – Michael Smallman

Guests attending the event got to view the wide range of educational and social activities available to members, which include tending to plots in the PCC garden, visits to local leisure centres, shops, cinemas and cafes. Options also organise residential activity weekends to enable members to experience new challenges. Social care workers refer disabled people into the service where they develop personal development plans which can include access to education, training, leisure, volunteering and employment.

The Options service also enables carers to have some short-term respite whilst the person they care for attends. Carers tasks may also become less as members develop daily living and independence skills. An Options Social Club also takes place every Thursday from 6pm within the Pioneering

Care Centre. The club is open to all local disabled adults and activities include hydro pool sessions, table tennis, bingo, pool and internet access. For further information contact the Pioneering Care Centre, tel: 01325 321234 email: options@pcp.uk.net website: www.pcp.uk.net. Or find PCP on Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: /PCPandCentre

Wilko's Winners



Winners of Wilko's Xmas Colouring in Competition Alan Rowe aged 10, Jamine Isabelle Ages 5 and Olivia Weaver aged 3. Prizes were awarded, but all those who entered will receive a consolation prize if they call at the store Help Desk in the New Year.

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XMAS APPEAL SUPPORTS TODDLERS WITH AUTISM

Local charity the North East Autism Society (NEAS) Christmas appeal will help develop their toddler group service.

The fundraising team launched their annual draw in mid - October with a cash prize of £1,000 to be won. The lucky winner was Norma Park whose grand-daughter, Caroline attends the charities Training Centre in Holmside. Norma said; "Caroline has come on so much since she

started at the North East Autism Society. I was overjoyed with winning first prize and will be sharing the winnings with all the family for Christmas".

Sophie Clarke, Events Fundraiser at NEAS said; "We would like to thank our sponsors for their kind donation of prizes and to our supporters who took part in our annual draw. We raised a fantastic £9,222 which will enable us to fund a further three toddler groups in the North East".

NEAS toddler group is a free service for parents with toddlers who have/or suspect their child may have autism. With the help of their Christmas appeal the charity hopes to replicate their successful toddler group based at their Centre for Autism in Newton Aycliffe to other towns across the North East.

For more information about the North East Autism Society visit www.ne-as.org.uk or call 0191 410 9974

Police Well Prepared Despite Continued Cuts

Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Hogg has criticised the continued cuts to police budgets, following the announcement of the provisional police grant settlement on the 17th December.

Mr Hogg said: "The announcement confirms that austerity continues to bite. The cut to Durham Constabulary is 5.1%, but once inflation is taken into account, it is upwards of 6%.

The Government does not appear to have considered pressures on the police, including increases in demand due to cuts in other services, and the cost of investigating historical cases. They have also carved off money for other organisations, discrediting their claim of a cut of the police of only 3.5%.

"The 5.1% cut is roughly what we expected, and therefore we should be able to maintain Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers at broadly our planned levels, especially those who are most visible to the public. But the Government must recognise that there will be a limit to how much they can cut before they will be putting services at risk.

"The Government has still not told me by how much I can raise Council Tax. This is frustrating for people who want to know how much policing will cost them in the future. I will be asking people to support a small rise, given that Council Tax is below average and a rise would increase our ability to maintain services.

"Despite these challenges, the Constabulary is committed to the highest levels of public service, and was recently assessed as the only force in the country that is outstanding at investigating crime."

Megan's Engineering Award



Congratulations to Megan Pluse of Woodham Academy who was presented with Top Student of the Year award at South West Durham Training Awards evening on Wednesday 10th December.

Megan has worked exceptionally hard in her engineering studies both at SWDT and Woodham Academy and has a very bright future ahead of her. Deputy Headteacher, Jonathan Lumb who was in attendance at the awards ceremony said "Megan is an exceptional student who works really hard. It was a privilege to see Megan receive her award. We are grateful to SWDT who have a very strong relationship with and recognise the importance of engineering in Newton Aycliffe."

Green Scheme Grant of £500 Available

Green-fingered volunteers can get their hands on funding up to £500 for schemes to spruce-up their local areas.

The "It's Your Neighbourhood" campaign, a joint project between Durham County Council and the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), has the money available for everything from planting flowers to litter picks.

It was launched on 1st December and is supported by members of the council's civic pride team who can offer advice and loan equipment as well as get schools involved. Pauline Walker, senior civic pride officer, Durham County Council, said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for community groups to make a positive change to the place where they live, work or spend their leisure time."

Funding up to £500 is available for 15 projects and is available for groups across County Durham.

The campaign builds on the recent success in Britain in Bloom in which Durham City and Sedgfield were both awarded gold.

The Durham City bid was supported by the Durham in Bloom group, which is made up of various local organisations including Durham County Council, while Sedgfield's campaign was led by Sedgfield Town Council and Sedgfield in Bloom and supported by the county council.

Judges were full of praise for both entries - hailing the teamwork and spirit involved and commenting on how both campaigns were close to coming out on top in their respective categories.

Application forms and terms and conditions for "It's Your Neighbourhood" are available to download at www.durham.gov.uk/itsyourneighbourhood or by contacting the civic pride team on 03000 261 000 or by email civicpride@durham.gov.uk

Closing date for applications is Friday 30 January 2015.



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Rotary Club Annual Community Christmas Concert

The annual Rotary Club Christmas Community Concert, although held on a weekday, was a resounding success with the organisers facing the dilemma of what to do next year.

The town schools were much better represented with lots of children attending this joyous event to show what special Christmas music they had learnt to perform at their own concerts, and for this occasion.

There was a rich mixture of entertainment watched by an appreciative adult audience, but it was also good for the different schools to hear each other's contribution to the programme.

There was a lovely community feeling around the hall as each group stepped forward to perform. It was heartwarming to see the delight on people's faces as they listened and enjoyed every musical item.

The children were fantastic and there were so many they had to sit on their bottoms due to insufficient seating, but they were all very well behaved and a credit to their schools.

It would be unfair, and very difficult, to pick out any particular school for special mention as they all sang their hearts out with great enthusiasm and confidence.

Thanks to John Melvin, the sound technician, every song performed was heard loud and clear. George Dixon from Heighington accompanied the carols and songs, along with a brass band and choir from Woodham Academy.

Alice Jordan aged 15 gave a great performance and the dance group from Greenfield brought gasps of amazement. For the first time Sunnydale School (now merged with Greenfield) sang two items and an amazing talent from a male soloist was instantly admired by a spontaneous round of applause from the audience.

One of the difficulties was trying to fit the large programme into the 90 minute concert as schoolchildren were being picked up at 3.30pm. As a result some carols had to be cut out and other items on the programme cut short which resulted in things reaching a



chaotic conclusion. This will be addressed for next year along with suggestions from Head Teachers on how the event can be improved. One thing sure is that everyone enjoyed the concert and the Rotary Club received many messages of thanks for putting the programme together.

Syd Howarth said: "It could not have gone ahead without the support of school music teachers who ensure the audience is well entertained. The children make this event and everyone looks forward with pride to seeing their joyful faces and hearing them sing - it gives a wonderful start to the festive season".

The Rotary Club thanks all the schoolchildren who took part, the teachers for their hard work, and the audience for their support. Thanks to George Dixon and John Melvin and County Councillors for paying the cost of producing the concert free for the community, from their neighbourhood budget.



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Diamond Anniversary



Eric and Joyce Brown celebrated 60 years of marriage on the 27th December with a family get-together at their home in Warburton Close. Town Mayor Wendy Hillary was among the first to

congratulate the couple when she visited them with a bouquet

of flowers from the Town Council.

Eric, a builder by trade, was born in Sacriston and Joyce was from Brandon. They met in the 50's and were married at Durham Elvet Church before moving to reside as early settlers in Newton Aycliffe.

Eric helped build new houses here, also St. Clare's Church and the Town Clock. He is a keen birdwatcher and as an ex soldier a member of the British Legion.

Like a number of wives in the 60's Joyce worked at GEC, but most of the time she was a busy housewife bringing up two daughters. The couple have three grandchildren and a great grandchild is expected, as is a telegram from the Queen congratulating Eric and Joyce on their diamond anniversary.

Town Church Distributes 50 Christmas Hampers



Life Church had the privilege of distributing 50 hampers to those in need of help this Christmastime. Mally Wheldon said 'we'd like to thank all the volunteers around the town that gave freely of their time to make sure the distribution ran smoothly'.

Arts Passport to Enchanted Parks

Last week Greenfield Arts led another successful Arts Passport trip to Enchanted Parks at Saltwell Park in Gateshead, with students from Greenfield Community College and Sunnyside Community College.

The students and teachers from the Art department alongside the Director of Arts and Creativity from Greenfield Arts visited this great experience for the third year in row. The young people thoroughly enjoyed the chance to see this great outdoor arts exhibition, with light sound and movement set in Saltwell Park.

Despite the cold and the threat of snow the group left Shildon after picking up at both campuses and spent the evening exploring the show which this year had the theme "The Stargazer of Saltwell" – looking back into the park's history.

One student shared how much they enjoyed the experience: "Better than the illuminations I have seen before because Enchanted Parks has a story behind it and all the art work helps to get those ideas across." This is just one of many Arts Passport trips organised by Greenfield Arts, designed to give students at Greenfield the opportunity to experience Arts and Culture outside of the curriculum and lesson time.

The trips are always well attended and we were pleased this time to invite fellow students from Sunnyside as they prepare to become part of Greenfield in the new year. For more information about past and future trips, which also include opportunities for families in holiday times, visit our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

Senior Golfers Help Hospice



Old Oaks Senior Section, formerly Woodham Golf Club Senior Section, held their second Annual General Meeting at Oak Leaf Leisure Centre on Monday 15th December where they have been made to feel most welcome by Great Aycliffe Town Council, the Golf Club and Sports Complex since October 2013.

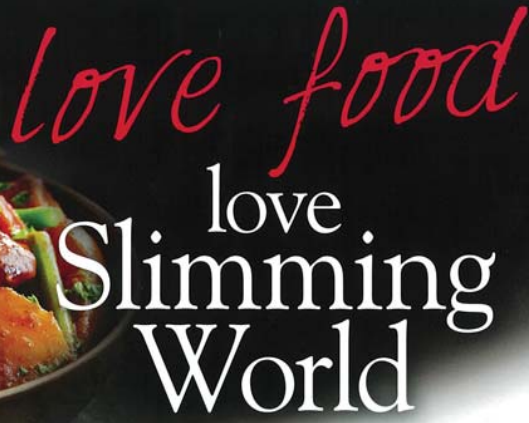
The golf section had a very good year and all events have been well attended. During the year members have raised money by contributing to the Captain's Charity and Mr Ken Crocher the Section's Captain was very pleased to present a cheque for £623.00 to Mr David Jones, Senior Fund Raising Manager at St Teresa's Hospice, Darlington.

MAJOR COMPETITION WINNERS 2014

Winter League: George Wilkinson
David Goad Cup: Gary Clasper
4 BBB Trophy: Alan Bateman & George Wilkinson
Greensome Pairs: Archie Thom & Bob Walton
Arthur Gibson Cup: Malcolm Pierce
Safford Cup: Norman Ryder
Claret Jug: Tony Haworth
Brooks Trophy: Tony Shannon
Millennium Trophy: Harvey Black
Captain's Cup: Paul Longmire

Ray Belshaw Trophy: George Tallentire
Twister Trophy: Len Clough
Bert Bowes Quaich: Ronnie Bainbridge
John Cook Trophy: Ken Crocher
Luxdon Cup: Terry Park
Wilson Shield: Charlie Gibson
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Holes in One: John Littlefair & John Rose





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Aycliffe Features in County Golf Awards Evening



Durham County Golf Partnership's Development Award winners

DURHAM golf paid a special tribute to the unsung volunteers who do so much to help grow the game in the region.

The Durham County Golf Partnership's second Development Awards evening – held at Durham County Cricket Club's ground – presented 13 prizes to helpers of all ages and backgrounds.

The meeting heard about the CGP's plans for its seventh year and the progress made so far in bringing new players into golf and into potential club membership.

Clubs learnt how the CGP can help them introduce the sport to people of all ages and abilities with information on development initiatives, resources and available funding.

Says Jonathan Ward, development officer for Durham: "The evening was a great opportunity for club and county representatives to recognise the commitment of volunteers, clubs and coaches. It was also a chance to celebrate their outstanding contributions.

Among the award winners from Aycliffe were: Club Development Volunteer of the Year: Anita Maxwell/Pat Usher (Woodham GC). The pair

kept the ladies section together when the club closed, organising trips and competitions at other courses, setting up a ladies section at another club before returning to Woodham when it re-opened.

Get into Golf Project of the Year: Oakleaf Golf Club. Showed commitment to attracting ladies into the game with social and structured coaching activity backed up with playing, competing and membership opportunities tailored towards females, all led by PGA Pro Julie Welch.

Get into golf is a national campaign to inspire adults to take up the game and is run by the England Golf Partnership through its network of County Golf Partnerships, supported by Sport England and National Lottery funding.

Get into golf opportunities include FREE taster session and low-cost beginner courses with PGA professionals. They are a fun and sociable way to start golf – and a great way to make new friends.

To find your nearest centre visit getintogolf.org and look at the activity map or call 0800 118 2766 You can follow Get into golf on Twitter [twitter](https://twitter.com/getintogolf). com/getintogolf or on Facebook at facebook.com/Getintogolf

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FORTHCOMING FIXTURES:

Saturday 3rd January, 3:00pm (h) West Allotment Celtic

Tuesday 6th January, 7:30pm (a) West Auckland

Saturday 10th January, 3:00pm (a) Shildon

Tuesday 13th January, 7:30pm (h) Ashington

Saturday 17th January, 3:00pm (a) Bedlington Terriers

Santa was less than generous to Newton Aycliffe FC with just one point coming from the two Saturdays either side of Christmas Day. In both games late opposition goals deprived Aycliffe of much needed points.

On the Saturday before Christmas Aycliffe played a 2-2 draw against Newcastle Benfield at Moore Lane.

Benfield took the lead on 13 mins but Aycliffe fought back and scored two goals before half-time. Both goals came in similar fashion with crosses from Dennis Knight being headed home by the central defenders, Dan Mitton on 26 mins and Andrew Green on 42 mins.

Both sides had chances in the second half but in the last ten minutes Benfield piled on the pressure and Aycliffe's defending became more desperate. Inevitably, the goal came with a cross being smartly put away by Benfield substitute Lewis Scorgie.

After Christmas Aycliffe were away to Bishop Auckland. A goal in the 5th minute of added time deprived Aycliffe of a point at a freezing cold Heritage Park. The game was heading for a scrappy goalless draw until Bishop centre-forward John Butler scored from close range.

Aycliffe started well enough with Dennis Knight having a good shot saved by Bishop keeper Stevie Richardson after 9 mins. The former Aycliffe stopper was deputising for suspended Scott Pocklington. Ten minutes later Knight took a free kick from outside the box which was headed away for a corner. That was headed goal bound, but went out for a goal-kick.

The second half began with early pressure from Bishop but Aycliffe fought back and on 51 mins Connor Winter was brought down just outside the box. Unfortunately the resulting free kick was fired wide without troubling the keeper.

With a minute of normal time to go Aycliffe sub Jordan Laidler pressed on down the right wing putting a good cross into the box. Unfortunately Zak Boagey's shot was too weak to trouble Richardson. With 6 minutes being added a draw still seemed the most likely result. However, the hammer blow for Aycliffe came right at the end when James Winter was unable to gather a cross which fell to Butler to slot home.

One point from the six available over Christmas is not what Aycliffe wanted but hopefully the New Year will bring more goals and points.

Father & Daughter 2nd Dan Black Belt Grading



Father and daughter Dez and Annalise Tinkler travelled to Batley in Yorkshire to attempt a Second Dan Grading which they passed with flying colours. It was a long three hours of pain and sweat as they battled as both were carrying hip injuries. "It was a great feeling when it finished but a nail-biting wait to see if we had passed," said Dez. They took a well earned rest over Christmas before back to full training in the new year.

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Forced to Move from Home of Ten Years

Dear Sir,
I wish to comment on a recent item "Councillor's Bedroom Tax Proposal Rejected." He stated "We do not know where those 1282 displaced households have gone." While I was not one of the 1282 I would have made it 1283. As to no one moving directly because of the Bedroom Tax, County Durham have that wrong as well. There might be others besides myself who left just ahead because of the change. As to the £14 a week mentioned - that was a lot less than I was facing.

I was in a two bedroom house and changes meant I was about to drop to a "one bedroom in use" situation. I enquired and was told that for my house in Newton Aycliffe I would have to pay £19.75p a week for the one empty room.

At the time I had been receiving money that was also going to stop due to changes. What happened in my situation and likely others, is that if I had stayed I would have lost around £80.00 a week and then have to find £19.75p, hence a loss of about £100.00 a week which was just over half of

my income.

To reduce this loss I was forced to move to a much smaller house in a nearby town, saving the £19.75p. (I still went out my way to obtain the Newton News). When people are able to work (subject to disabilities) the more one earns the more tax they pay on their income. In this situation had I no changes I would keep more money and pay no Bedroom Tax.

But the way it worked I lost money and then had to pay it as well. Yet when such a cut comes and money is tied up in things you have and/or run, something has to give.

I was forced out due to the Bedroom Tax after about 10 years in my home, but I have become a non-statistic due to moving ahead of the change, so the figure is likely to be higher than was stated.

It appears now that Housing Associations are having problems getting rid of property because people do not want homes that will involve much larger costs. We also have to consider moving every time our family circumstances change, up or down, in numbers. Name and address supplied

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Is it a Tax or a Cut?

Dear Sir,
At the behest of Councillor Clare, DCC sought mercy from the Coalition Government in the implementation of what he chooses to call the Bedroom Tax. The proposal was that DCC would get a period of 2 years to seek alternative accommodation to those to whom (not the Tax) but a cut in Housing Benefit, in respect of spare bedrooms, applies.

Using J.D Clare's figures that is, 1282* £14 * 2(years)* 52 (weeks) = £1,866,592 that the tax paying electors of County Durham would have to pay because of his dislike of the Coalition Government. Luckily, the Coalition Government politely rejected his proposal. Clearly, John D. Clare's grasp of the public finances are from the school of Gordon Brown and Ed Balls - borrow and spend until you are found out and thrown out of office. Oh yes, and sell our gold reserves when the market was at an all-time low!

However, what really worried me about John D. Clare's letter is that, as a Labour Councillor in a Labour Council, he could not tell us where the 1282 'displaced' tenants moved to, or their experiences. There could be two reasons for this:

1) He does not know or care; he was only using the figure to try to discredit the Coalition Government's attempts to recover the economy from the New Labour disaster. The fact that he refers to a Tax and not a Benefit cut, leads me to believe that his motivation is political rather than based on social conscience.
2) Previous New Labour Councillors decided to 'privatise' our Social Housing

and therefore the County Council is now remote from the day to day control of Social Housing.

Readers can make up their own minds as to whether either or both apply.

While I have every sympathy for any tenant being in the can't - pay - can't - move trap, the policy has 'freed-up' a minimum of 1282 bedrooms, some of which will be taken up by tenants who wanted to move and can pay. This is to the benefit of our society as a whole and increases the amount that can be spent on social policies.

Also, please remember that this is not a tax; it is a cut in Housing Benefit. If someone in receipt of Housing Benefit moves to a private rented property their Housing Benefit is still paid. It is therefore disingenuous to call it a tax. I only wish that more of New Labour's taxes were as easily avoided e.g. Student Tuition Fees now at £9,000 p.a. Alastair P. G. Welsh

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The next PACT meeting for
Midddridge will be held on
Monday 5th January 2015 in
the Village Hall, and will start
at 6pm
PCSO 7564 Mike Hutchinson

Wanted

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

Public Notice

DONATIONS needed of Bric-a-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring Honest John 316 630
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BRITISH LEGION Members are advised to renew membership before 14th January 2015.

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Great Expectations for Town Centre

The town centre owners, Freshwaters have confirmed that following the successful three phases of the award winning redevelopment in the town centre including

refurbishment of almost all of the public realm, they will be continue with further changes in the new year.
1. The demolition of Churchill House and

Students Visit London Fashion Exhibition



On the 5th December a group of thirteen Year 9, 10 and 11 Textiles Technology students from Woodham Academy visited London for the day to enhance their studies.

The main focus of the trip was to inspire the students' work, particularly the Year 11 students who are completing their final year projects.

The group visited the Wedding Dress exhibition at the V&A Museum which showcased the most exquisitely made wedding gowns from designers such as Vera Wang, John Galiano and Vivienne Westwood. They saw dresses worn by the Queen, Gwen Stephanie and Kate Moss amongst others.

This exhibition traced the development of the fashionable white wedding dress and its treatment by key fashion designers, offering a panorama

of fashion over the last two centuries. It also highlighted the history of the dresses, revealing fascinating details about the lives of the wearers and offering an intimate insight into their circumstances and fashion choices.

The group also had a whistle stop tour of London taking in the sights of Trafalgar Square and the National Gallery, Big Ben, Downing Street and Buckingham Palace as well as being able to carry out some valuable market research in Oxford Street and Harrods to see high end clothing from successful international fashion designers.

All the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience even though the weather was a challenge at times and everyone wanted to return to London in the near future.



associated shops will start March 2015 with further improvements being provided by Durham County Council within the Leisure Centre.

2. They are currently refurbishing the former HSBC Bank for retail use.

3. Flats situated directly above the former HSBC on Dalton Way are also in process of being fully redecorated including new kitchens, bathroom suites and carpets to allow them to be brought back into residential use.

4. The former Woolworths, Boola and G8vibes are being combined as one

large retail unit for a potential let, currently in discussion.

5. The former Your More Store at 10-14 Beveridge Way is in process of being tendered to provide a new larger more attractive retail space.

All of these works are building on the British Council of Shopping Centres Gold Award jury's comments that Newton Aycliffe has been an amazing small centre transformation fully supported by our local MP Phil Wilson, Durham County Council and Great Aycliffe Town Council.

Accommodation

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PAWS2RESCUE We urgently require fosterers and adopters for our Romanian rescue dogs. To find out more and to help this wonderful charity please text 07834 614659 or follow us on facebook paws2rescue.

Funeral of Highly Respected Town Doctor

Friends of Dr. Brian Jones paid their respects at his Funeral held at St. Clare's Church on Tuesday 30th December conducted by the Revd. Christopher Pearson. The Church was full, demonstrating the high esteem people had for the former Town GP, a partner at Bewick Crescent Surgery. Brian was a very popular doctor, known for his charming and gentlemanly attitude to patients. Everyone wanted to be treated by him and he was loved and respected by all he met for his kindness, dry sense of humour and quick wit. He was a founder member of the town's Rotary Club which was formed in 1977 and he was actively involved in the



Brian and Shirley celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary

community. Brian loved sport and was the attending medical officer at Darlington F.C. and Sedgefield Racecourse for a number of years before he retired due to ill health, which plagued his life since his first heart attack at the age of 41. He was once a scout for Arsenal FC, and played rugby for his university. He enjoyed snooker and horse racing. In recent years he took up indoor bowls at the Oak Leaf with Rotary friends.

Jean Thompson, District Governor for Rotary in the North East, paid a tribute to Brian, a much loved member of Newton Aycliffe club who will be sorely missed. Granddaughter Aimee read a beautiful poem which

epitomised the character of her Grandad as a fine gentleman, full of human kindness. Born and educated in Marske, Brian won a scholarship to Coatham Grammar School then a medical degree from Durham University, although based in Newcastle, where he met his wife Shirley at a Nurse's party. He did his National Service as a doctor for two years in Malaya and on his return took his first position in Evenwood. He was later a partner in a practice in Shildon before joining Bewick Crescent as a partner for the remainder of his career. Brian and Shirley celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 2010. They have three children all in the medical profession, and four grandchildren. On behalf of the community Brian served so well as a doctor, we extend sincere condolences to all his family.

Newton Press Free Calendar

If you did not receive one of the free community calendars from Newton Press, delivered with your newspaper, they are available at the Library and from our offices at St. Cuthbert's Way.

Government Cuts Unfairly Allocated

Dear Sir,
Despite the fact the economy is growing, austerity and cuts – for some – continue ... so that the benefits of the economic growth can go to others. On 18th December, Local Government minister Kris Hopkins announced next year's funding statement for Councils. Overall, he said, it amounted to a 1.8% cut, bringing the total of cuts to 40% since 2010. What you have to look at, however, is where the cuts are falling, because they are not falling equally all over the country. Under Labour, local government funding was centred on need – the more deprived areas got more per head than the wealthy areas. This government is turning that around, and distributing funding by population, but also by economic growth, with money going to reward the economically active areas. Consequently, the cuts have not fallen equitably. Middlesbrough is facing cuts of £9m (£145 less per household). Similarly Newcastle -£15m (-£119), Sunderland -£12m (-£97) etc. But, at the other end of the table, a number of councils are actually getting increases. Surrey is being given £27m *more* money (+£56 per household). West Sussex +£15m (+£41), Richmond upon Thames +£3m (+£37). To make things worse, the minister confirmed the government is also axing the

fund which provided £180m central funding for council-run local welfare assistance schemes. So, as spending on Council services is stretched, the poorest will have nowhere to go in a crisis. Durham County Council is expecting a real cut of £16m in its spending. With social needs in the county growing, how the government expects DCC to cope with £57 per household less next year, without the safety net of the welfare assistance scheme, I cannot imagine. My guess is that they simply do not care. To be fair, County Durham still gets more per household (£2048) than Surrey (£1863), but what we are seeing here is a massive redistribution of Council funding FROM the deprived areas of the north TO the wealthy areas of the south and south-midlands. In a very real way, today, the government has taken £57 from each household in County Durham, and given it to the people of Surrey. The other day I caught Scott Wood, the Tory candidate for Sedgefield, trying to ascribe the town centre redevelopment to government money (it was wholly privately-funded)! He did not reply when I challenged him to say *what* money, and appears simply to have deleted his original tweet. I wonder whether he will now reply to this, and tell us what he thinks about today's Council funding settlement for the County. Counc John D. Clare

Fellwalkers Enjoy Snow-Covered Hills



Snow lay all around, deep and crisp and even when Aycliffe Fellwalkers took to the hills above Bishopdale and Wensleydale, for their Christmas celebration walk last weekend. Walkers ascended from Buckton village and from the head of Bishopdale to reach the high hills, eager to enjoy the wintry conditions. There was a generous covering of snow underfoot and bright sunshine with blue skies overhead. Distant views of snow-covered fells were enjoyed by all who ventured onto the higher ground, one group heading for Buckton Pike and the challenging terrain to the North, the other group heading towards Addleborough, the prominent hill which overlooks Wensleydale. A third large group stayed

low, preferring to enjoy the delights of Wensleydale to the challenging hills above, although they had lingered for a while before embarking on their walk, keen to warm themselves with an early coffee break at West Witton! Having regained the lower ground of Wensleydale most walkers found time, before darkness descended, to visit and admire the mighty Aysgarth Falls, before retiring to the pub in Aysgarth village. All walkers eventually joined up at the George & Dragon Inn for a well-earned cooked meal. The early evening party was launched by Chris, who entertained everyone with several tunes on his bagpipes; a novel quiz followed and this was so enjoyable that even the locals wanted to join in and compete for the prizes on offer. It truly was a great day out for all and in the first snow since last winter! Noel, Noel!

Christmas Remembrance

DENNIS CHENTRENS
Another Christmas without you Dad and we still miss you so much. Christmas has never been the same without you being here with us. Love from your Daughters, Margaret, Doreen and Denise

In Memoriam

David Barkley

5th January 2011
A loving Husband, Dad and Grandad. Today, tomorrow and always. We will love and remember you. All my love, Pauline and all your family xxxxx

ANNA BOSTEN 7th January 2014. Treasured memories of a special friend, so dearly missed. On 12th January would have been your birthday. No cards or flowers to send, but will be lovingly remembered by us all. Lord give her a big hug from us. Your friends, Maud, Jean, Pat, Margaret and Liz
MARGARET BUSSEY 2nd January 2012. Loved and remembered always by Loving Husband Charlie, Sons Michael, Peter and David, Daughters-in-Law Louise and Alison and Grandchildren Emma, Anna, Jonathan, Joseph and Matthew. You never miss the water 'til the well runs dry.
ALAN PARKER 3rd January. Thoughts of a special Dad and Grandad. Love you, Kay, Mike, Michael, Sean and Zoe xxx

Thank You

SARAH-JANE AND THE TEAM at PAWS2RESCUE would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has donated to our Romanian Rescue appeals this last year. You have all made a huge difference and helped save many dogs. We will be collecting food and essentials again in the new year and any help is very much appreciated as always. Thank you all and we wish you a very healthy and happy 2015.

Obituary

FLANAGAN December 22nd peacefully. Patrick, aged 85 years of Hardinge Road, Newton Aycliffe. Beloved Husband of Catherine; much loved Father of Linda; loving Grandpa of Emily, Christopher, Robert, Sam and Rosie; also Great Grandpa of Oliver and Kenzie. Funeral Monday 5th January. Would friends please meet at 11.00am for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon. No flowers by request. Donations in lieu, if desired, may be made after the Service for The British Heart Foundation.

New Year Wishes

JACQUI AT J&A HEADSTART
Hopes that all her Customers had a Merry Christmas and wishes them a Happy New Year. A big thank you for all the cards and presents I received.

HAPPY NEW YEAR from Godfrey and Shirley Bennett to friends old and new.
MARGARET & CHARLIE MacMURRAY would like to wish family, friends and neighbours a very Happy New Year.

Congratulations

Happy 13th Birthday



Connor William Paterson
31/12/2014
Love and Best Wishes from Mam, Dad & Nanna

MARIA SMITH 30th December. Happy 50th birthday. Have a wonderful day. Love from Kimberley

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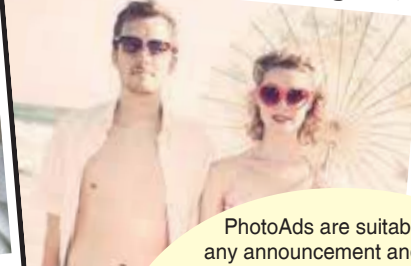
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Alice Springs



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10-10-10
to our beautiful Daughter on your 21st birthday. Lots of love from Mam & Dad xxx

Bonny and Clyde Cunningham



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ations Mar
on 1st Jan
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Wildcats Let it Slip Twice

The Durham Wildcats again came up short on the road at Leeds Force on 12th December with an 81-70 defeat. The Wildcats led at the end of the first quarter 23-22 but could not keep the pace with Leeds in the middle terms. In the second and third quarters Leeds outscored Durham 39-25 to help them seal their second victory of the Wildcats this season.

The trio of O diba Attah, Chris Jones and John Puk each scored 14 points in the loss. Puk was 7-11 from the field and had seven rebounds. Jones had four assists and two steals while shooting 6-10 overall. Panos Mayindombe also had four assists and scored 12 points. He and Attach each scored twice behind the three-

point line.

Ralph Bucci led all Wildcats in rebounds with 12 and was the game-leader in assists with six. Fran Urli had nine points, Joel Madourie had four and Bucci had three.

Turnovers stifled the Wildcats' chances of gaining control of the game as they committed 13 which turned into 14 points for the Force. Leeds turned the ball over just six times.

SHEFFIELD SHARKS

After running out to a 23-7 first quarter lead, the Wildcats' offence stuttered the rest of the way in the 65-63 loss to the Sheffield Sharks. Jones had an opportunity to tie the game at the buzzer, but his final shot from the corner bounced off the back of the rim.

The loss breaks a three-game home winning streak for the Wildcats and, with the defeat to Leeds two days prior, brings the squad to a 6-10 record and 8th position in the BBL.

The first quarter belonged to the Wildcats as the scored 23 to Sheffield's seven. But when the Sharks began applying full court pressure on Durham, the Wildcats' struggled to score consistently as they could only muster 14, 13 and 13 points in the subsequent periods.

Jones was one assist away from securing the first triple-double for any Wildcats player this season. The guard finished with 17 points, 11 rebounds and a season high nine assists.

Urli kept the Wildcats alive

in the game by nailing four three-pointers. He finished with 16 points from 6-12 shooting overall and 4-6 from behind the arc. He had five rebounds in the game. Puk scored 10 points and collected four rebounds and recorded Durham's lone block.

Bucci had 10 rebounds and four assists with his three points. Mayindombe led the team in steals with two and had five points. Attah had six points, Madourie had four and David Buchberger had two.

The Wildcats will look to rebound on the road against the Manchester Giants in a crucial match to earn the head-to-head advantage. Durham will face the Giants on 21st December in the final game of the 2014 calendar year. The teams have split victories, with Durham's win coming from Bucci's buzzer-beating three-pointer on 16th November. Manchester is one spot above the Wildcats on the table with a 6-9 record.

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Aycliffe Athlete Takes Silver for England



Kate Avery from Newton Aycliffe who last year ran for England at The Glasgow Commonwealth Games finishing 4th in the 10,000 metres, had a great run last Sunday in Bulgaria during the European Cross Country Championships. She finished a very close second to take the silver medal behind fellow Brit, Gemma Steel. Our ladies took the Team Gold Medal.

Gemma Steel led home a one-two with Kate Avery in the women's race as Great Britain topped the medals table at the European Cross Country Championships. Kate Avery, Steel and team-mate Steph Twell were part of the leading pack in frosty Bulgaria, before Steel won in the final sprint finish.

Kate aged 23 attended

Woodham Technology College and is a member of Shildon Athletics Club.

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