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XMAS THEFT FROM SHED

Brian Clennell's family were very upset when someone broke into their garden shed on Christmas Eve and stole various items. It was not just about the theft but the impact this had on their two smallest children who will not play in garden or conservatory as they are worried about "bad people" coming back. Residents are warned to make sure any valuables are safe in their garden shed.

Newtonian in New Year's Honours List

B.E.M. FOR CHARITY WORK

Arab Insurance Group Information Technology Head, Simon Cox, has been awarded a British Empire Medal in the New Year's honours list. Newtonian Simon, aged 53, was educated at Vane Road School, Woodham Comprehensive and Sunderland Polytechnic before working as a lifeguard at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre and then taking a position with Legal & General in Brighton. He took a job in 1987 in Bahrain where he met his wife Margaret at a social event. She comes from Northallerton and it was the sound of a friendly northern accent which brought them together. The couple had twins born on New Year's Eve in 1994. George and Megan are both attending University in the U.K. Since arriving in Bahrain Simon has been heavily involved in charity work raising many thousands of pounds to help the Institute for the Blind, disabled children and Help the Heroes. One of his main fundraising events is the annual Bahrain



Marathon Relay which attracts over 70 teams of 16 runners. The British Ambassador, Iain Lindsay, hailed the achievement and said he was delighted that Simon Cox had been recognised for his services to charities in Bahrain. Residents of Newton Aycliffe, particularly those who know Simon, will join the many who have sent well deserved congratulations.

A Message from Santa

Following his tour of Great Aycliffe on Christmas Eve, SANTA would like to say (on behalf of the Town Council) a huge thank you to all his volunteers for their time and support; to Newton Press for publishing his routes, Aycliffe Fabrications and Ferryhill Council for the use of their Sleighs and to all who came out to greet him despite the weather. Cash donations raised £132.55 for the Mayor's Charities. Santa wishes all a very happy and healthy New Year. He will see you next Christmas!

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www.newtonnews.co.uk

- Don't forget to claim your **FREE** web page by sending your club's details to paul@newtonnews.co.uk or complete the form on our website. New web pages added for All Sorts Charity Shop, Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group,

Newton Aycliffe Scout Supporters Association and Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership;

- Claim your date and publicise your event **FREE**, send all the details to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

• New "Cottage Industries" have been added to this section with room for more home based craft businesses, send your details, photos and/or short video to paul@newtonnews.co.uk - remember everything on our website is **FREE**

• Click on our video section to view the archive footage of Newton Press in it's infancy and the move from Greenwell to the Business Park in 1977. Also highlights from three games with the Durham Wildcats and Christmas Lunch at Woodham Golf Club for lonely residents.

- New local Job Vacancies have also been added

WEST PARK FRIENDS MEET

The next meeting of Friends of West Park is on Tuesday 13th January 2015 at 7.00pm in the upstairs lounge at the British Legion club. All residents most welcome.

Arun M Chandran, Secretary

NEW EU FOOD ALLERGY RULES FOR RESTAURANTS AND TAKEAWAYS

Research found that 70% of those with allergies avoid buying takeaways, due to fears about allergens and a lack of trust in the information they are given. More than half of those with allergies said they avoided eating in restaurants for the same reason. From 13th December 2014 restaurants and takeaways will be required by law to tell customers if any of the top 14 allergen ingredients are present in the foods they serve. These changes will mean consumers can feel more confident when asking about allergenic ingredients when eating out in cafes and restaurants. Restaurants and takeaways now have to inform their customers about 14 specific allergens that range from widely known ingredients such as nuts and milk, to less widely recognised allergens including mustard and lupin seeds, which are often used in flour. Around 2 million people in the UK suffer from allergies including 2% of adults and 8% of children.

It is hoped these changes will bring about a reduction in the number of allergic reactions caused by people accidentally eating food they are allergic to. On average 10 people die and around 5,000 are hospitalised per year due to allergic reactions. The majority of these avoidable deaths and hospitalisations are due to incorrect information being given about allergenic ingredients in foods when those with allergies are eating out - usually in a restaurant or takeaway.

This is a growing issue in the UK, with hospital admissions relating to allergies rising by 87% between 2002 and 2014. However, the

same study conducted by the FSA found that half of all UK adults (51%) have either limited or no knowledge at all about the ingredients that cause allergic reactions.

Food businesses such as restaurants and cafes have been given flexibility on how they provide allergy information. This can be communicated verbally through explanations by staff

or signposted to where or how more information can be found on menus or in additional leaflets. The new EU Food Information for Consumers Regulations will also change the way allergy information appears on labelling for pre-packed foods bought in shops and supermarkets. For more information please visit <http://www.food.gov.uk/science/allergy-intolerance/>

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Saturday 10th January

"Tony Liddle & The Electric Warriors"

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Reviews - "The room was full, and the sound was deafening with a mixed bag of people in, being entertained with the likes of Toto, Rainbow, The Cult, Bonjovi, Bryan Adams, Judas Priest, Led Zep, Stereophonics, Whitesnake, AC/DC, and Boston my favourite 'More than a feeling', Jon on bass/keyboards seems to be having a good time in the now settled line up, Ade looking Ice Cool out front with the shades on Tony being his cheeky self cracking on to the crowd." - "Tony and co always deliver the goods and he has a cracking sense of humour. They sound even better now there set list has been re-vamped"

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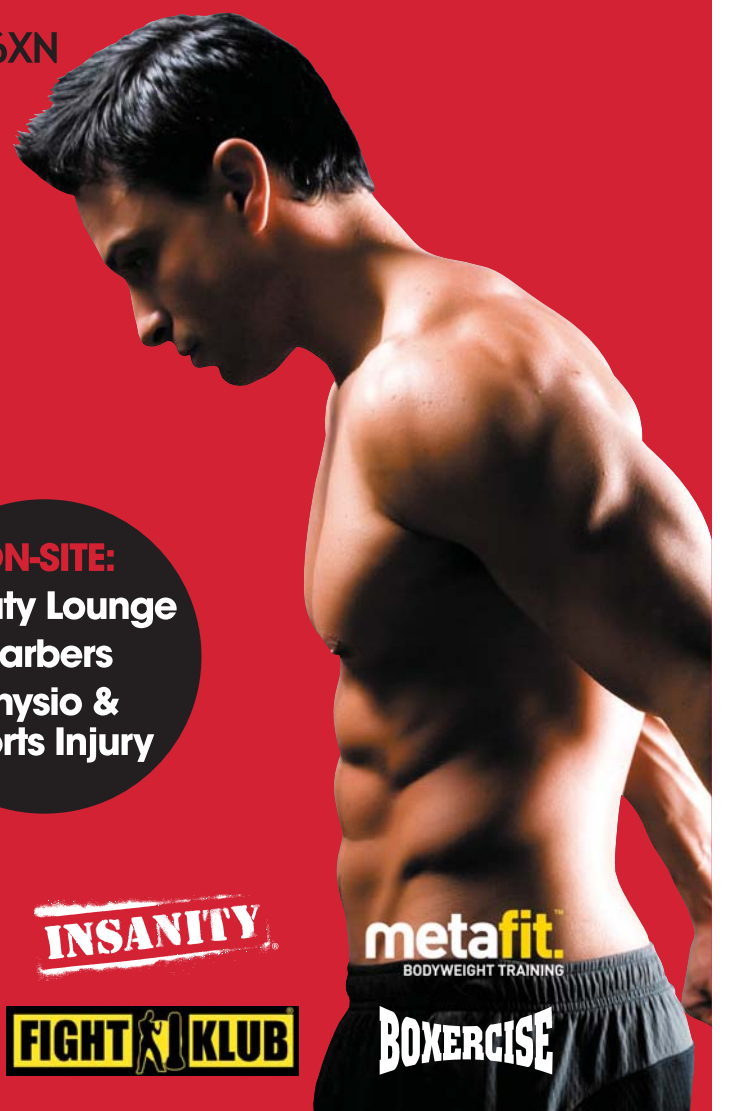
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Volunteers Give a Memorable Christmas Day



Glen, Sainsbury's Manager (left) and volunteers supporting their charity of the year 'Helping Hands' Christmas Day event at Woodham Golf & Country Club. Trustee Mally Wheldon said 'they were all stars, giving their all and were joyful with it. We are very grateful for their support'

This year's 'Helping Hands' Christmas Day Dinner was truly magnificent! All the volunteers worked extra hard to ensure that it exceeded our high expectations . . . from the handmade favours for the tables to Father Christmas making a surprise visit from his busy schedule to hand deliver personalised presents. We even had chauffeurs, chefs, staff serving the guests and a joyful Christmas choir! Around 80 people turned up for the banquet meal and all the hard work made it worthwhile when we saw the smiles of our VIP guests as they walked up the red carpet to receive a warm welcome. Some of the elderly people said it was their best Christmas ever. John and Mandy from Woodham Golf and Country Club were the perfect hosts and made everyone feel like honoured guests. They even helped raise £200 towards the event.

Trustee Alwyn White would like to thank every single person who supported us in any way. She said 'without you all, this event would

never have happened. You helped to make a lot of people extremely happy on Christmas Day.' The day was truly full of love, fun and laughter.

HONEST JOHN TO CLOSE IN OCTOBER

Dear Sir,
Sadly in October 2015 my Community Kitty, a registered charity, will have to cease due to Durham County Council's decision to sell the land on which the Cubby stands and from where I sell goods to help town organisations. The only saviour would be if any business could accommodate the charity in a town centre location for a moderate weekly rent, but I fear that might not be possible owing to rules concerning sub-letting, insurance etc. That being the case it is only nine months before the charity will close down after eight years in which time it has raised over £120,000 from generous Newtonians who have donated goods for me to sell. In 2014 the total donations to local organisations and charities amounted to £21,850. So with such a short time to go let's make more money for deserving causes and go out with a smile.
Honest John



Imagine - No Honest John

Honest John is a massive fan of "The Beatles" and in the knowledge he is in the last months of operating his charity at the Cubby he has penned these words to the tune of "Imagine" made famous by John Lennon, one of the famous four.

*Imagine there's no bric-a-brac
And other things too,
Having to pay full prices
When second hand will do.*

*Imagine lots of people
Living in our town,
Less cash for good causes
Even just a few pounds.*

*People say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one,
A space is all that's needed
Big enough for Honest John.*

*Imagine no possessions,
It's easy if you try,
No community shop now
Where you could come and buy.*

*Imagine there is a need
And many reasons why
To have a special place
To give, to help and try
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READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Biscuit Young sharing his 5th birthday with his pals Poppy and Daisy

Sunnydale Community College Receives Centre of Excellence award

Sunnydale Community College has been recognised as a Centre of Excellence in financial education, after successfully embedding the subject into its curriculum.

Working with education specialists from pfeg, the college has successfully completed the learning steps required to achieve Centre of Excellence status and help young people understand more about money and personal finance. Teachers are now trained to deliver effective personal finance lessons and learning activities designed to give pupils the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to manage their money. The college, on Middridge Lane, was chosen to work towards becoming a Centre of Excellence in financial



education by pfeg (Personal Finance Education Group, part of Young Enterprise) who are working in partnership with Santander to create 40 Centres of Excellence around the UK. As a pfeg Centre of Excellence, the School will also now be supported in sharing its new expertise with other local schools.

Mr Priestley, Head teacher of the College, said:

'The whole team here at Sunnydale Community College has worked extremely hard, with pfeg's help, to embed financial education in our curriculum – and I am pleased that their efforts have been rewarded with a Centres of Excellence award. We are now already seeing the results of the high quality financial education we are now providing, which is bringing significant benefits to our students as they take their next steps in life'

Michael Mercieca, chief executive of Young Enterprise, said:

'Sunnydale Community College has worked extremely hard to achieve their Centre of Excellence award, and we are pleased that its students

have already started to see the benefit. We have been delighted to work with Santander to support the school in this achievement.

'Our aim is to ensure that all students enter adult life with the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to manage money well – and Sunnydale Community College is doing excellent work to make this goal a reality.'

Lynn Brennen, Santander Branch Manager, Bishop Auckland said:

'At Santander we believe it is important for everyone to have good basic money management skills, but particularly young people who are encountering money earlier than ever.

'Sunnydale Community College has shown a great passion in ensuring their students have an in-depth knowledge of these essential skills and the award is well deserved.'

Put That Unwanted Gift to Good Use

According to a recent study almost two out of three people received a Christmas gift they didn't really like, but many are too polite to ask for it to be exchanged for something else. A survey of 2,000 adults showed that a quarter would take any unwanted presents to charity shops. One in 20 admitted they had thrown unwanted gifts away. Linzi Nicholls from Helping Hands project says 'If you have any unwanted gifts we promise that if you donate them to us we will make sure they go to a good home. If you'd like to donate, please phone 07936 431262

Film Show

St Clare's Church FEEL GOOD FILM SHOWS will feature the musical "MRS DOUBTFIRE" on Tuesday 13th JANUARY. Robin Williams plays Mrs Doubtfire, a blessing very much in disguise, and shows what hilarious lengths a father will go to for his children. 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

WOODHAM STUDENTS' HELP ACKNOWLEDGED

Dear Editor,
Please would you put my thank you to the students at Woodham College who recently saved me from going under a car, pulling me out of the bushes near the Burn as my wheelchair slid, due to loss of traction on the footpath, and also when I once took poorly.

A total of ten pupils have aided me from November 2014 up to now. I contacted the school when they saved me from the car, but no names exchanged, so I wish to publicly recognise these pupils. Their action reflects well on the College and their parents.

A really big Thank You, things could have been totally different if not for these boys and girls.

Mrs. S. Carrick



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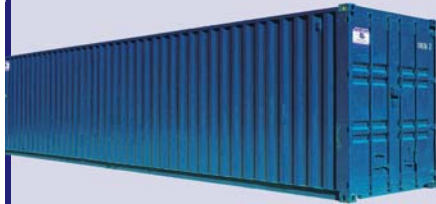
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for entry September 2015

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QUEEN ELIZABETH SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

COUNTY NEWSBITS

compiled by County Councillor John Clare

- DCC’s Cabinet will be told on Wednesday that by 2019 government grants to the Council will have been cut by 60% (or £250million a year) – this is an incomprehensible amount when you consider that the controversial scheme to charge for green waste collection will save less than £1million a year. A full report on the implications for Durham County Council of the Government’s policy programme is available here: <http://bit.ly/DCCGrantsCut>
- Public consultation on the Durham Police & Crime Plan: <http://bit.ly/DPCCconsultation> (ends 15 February)
- DCC School Nurse Service consultation: <http://bit.ly/DCCSchoolNurses> (ends 2 February)
- Money crisis after Christmas? Residents of Aycliffe and Middridge can get free debt advice – <http://bit.ly/NAdebtadvice> or call Andy McGill on 07908 176456
- Many Aycliffe electors dropped off the electoral register with the new arrangements – RU one of them? <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>
- An NHS ‘Commissioning Priorities’ public consultation event is taking place on the afternoon of 14 January, at Ferryhill Community Hub, DL17 8BQ – telephone 0191 3713235 to book a place.
- Teen parenting programme: an 18-week course starts 14 January Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre – contact 03000 261118
- Counselling and Listening Skills: a 5-week course starts 14 January at the PCP – contact 01325 329936
- Diabetes support – a 4-week course starts at the PCP on 14 January, 6-8pm, email healthtrainers@pcp.uk.net or phone 01325 321234
- Sunday 18th January, 4pm in the Leisure Centre – Durham Wildcats play high-flying Worcester Wolves
- Level 2 Food Safety in Catering: 1-day course, 28 January at the PCP – contact 01325 329936
- Warm Up North ‘green deal’ home improvement fund – up to £5600 for such as cavity wall insulation, boiler upgrades, double-glazing etc. – phone 0800 2948073 to arrange an assessment.
- A car left unattended with its engine running to warm up is asking to be stolen
- Feeling fat after Christmas? Here are some guided DCC Countryside Service walks: <http://bit.ly/DCCWalks14-15>
- Feeding the birds this winter? Make sure you’re not killing them: <http://bit.ly/BirdFeed>
- Small grants are still available for Children and Young People’s groups – phone 01325 327462 for more info.
- Keep up with local council issues on Cllr John D Clare’s facebook page: <http://bit.ly/JDClare>

Council Asked to Check Paths & Winter Grit



The Town Council are being asked to consider two item raised by Cllr A M Chandran. The first relates to the state of footpaths in Simpasture Park in the West Ward, with a view to repairing and restoring them to functional use as requested by local residents. The second is Winter Gritting and a request from residents for stockpiles of grit to be placed strategically round the Town for use by residents in gritting side roads and streets, enabling them to help keep roads and paths safe and usable.

HRA NEW YEAR PLANS

As we enter a New Year we hope it is Happy and Prosperous for all. We are already planning trips and events although nothing will eclipse the opening of our Multi Use Games Area (M.U.G.A) at Horndale Park which is proving a great asset and success for our community. We would like to thank Tesco’s, Boyes, Wilkinson’s, County Councillors J Gray, M Dixon, J D Clare, Newton Aycliffe Evangelical Church, Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Policing

Team. Livin Communities Team, Greenfield Arts Centre, J&C Coaches, The Bay Horse Middridge and last but not least the local residents who have helped and supported us in making our good neighbourhoods better places to live. We have secured nearly £6,000 from the Big Lottery to provide coach trips and community events where we will charge a small fee towards other events. More info in the coming weeks. Philip Clark, Chair 07886 204199



Sparrow Hawk looking for its tea - John Williamson

Ministers Shildon Move

Aycliffe Methodist Ministers Rev Graham and Rev Emma Morgan are delighted to announce the late arrival (almost two months after moving) of their new landline! 01388 205319. Their new address is 6 Wordsell Way, Shildon. DL4 2GU. The email addresses and mobile numbers remain the same but the landline is their preferred contact number unless it is of prime importance.

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MINING ARTIST BOOK LAUNCH AT GREENFIELD

In December Greenfield Arts were pleased to host a second launch for the biography of County Durham Mining Artist Tom Lamb, written by Peter Norton. Dr Norton organised an exhibition of Miners' Art at Greenfield Arts in 2013, which included a range of Tom's work, and we were pleased to welcome them both back to Greenfield Arts. The book focuses on a mining theme, covering Tom's life and work as a miner and artist in County Durham, where he has lived his whole life. It was

great to spend a couple of hours with Tom last Wednesday reminiscing and talking about the book, alongside other fantastic local mining artists including Bill Hindmarsh and Derek Slater. The book, which was first launched at the Mining Institute in Newcastle at the beginning of December, is now available for sale from the Mining Institute, and limited copies are available from Greenfield Arts – contact us for more information 01325 379048, www.greenfield-arts.co.uk



Newtonian Meets Pop Idol

Two Slimming World Consultants from Darlington & Newton Aycliffe say meeting singer and TV presenter Peter Andre was the perfect way to get set for a super-slimming start to 2015.

Sally Dale and Nicola Dale were thrilled to get a chance to cuddle up to Peter when he co-hosted the Slimming World Awards with the organisation's chair and founder Margaret Miles-Bramwell OBE.

Nicola who runs a group at the RAFA club every Tuesday said meeting the Mysterious Girl and Insanita singer was a wonderful way to round off what's been a great 12 months for slimmers in Aycliffe as well as the perfect way to kick start another successful year: "I'm so proud of all of our members. They've lost fantastic amounts of weight throughout 2014, with many of them reaching their target weights and improving their health substantially. Meeting Peter was a real treat – he was such a nice guy – and a great way to celebrate all of that. Now I feel powered up and I can't wait to help my members hold on to all of the fabulous changes they've made, and to support even more people to become happier and healthier in 2015."

Two-time celebrity dad-of-the-year Peter, who famously featured on the ITV show



Slimming World Consultants with Peter Andre - Sally Dale (left) from Darlington and Nicola Dale from Newton Aycliffe

I'm a Celebrity and now presents Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover, said he was delighted to meet Sally and Nicola at the event, which was held at Birmingham's International Convention Centre.

He added: "Being in the public eye there's a lot of scrutiny and if you put on even a pound or two the magazines and newspapers are extremely quick to point it out, so I've always tried to take care of myself and

watch my weight. However since becoming a dad I've realised it's about more than just looking good; it's much more important to me that I'm fit and healthy and setting a good example to my children. At the awards I met lots of people who've lost incredible amounts of weight and it has completely transformed their lives – and their families' lives too. They're eating more healthily and being more active, and so are their families. And every single one of them told me that they couldn't have made those changes without the support of their Slimming World group and their Consultant, so people like Sally and Nicola are clearly very important."

Getting off to a great start is really important when embarking on a slimming plan; seeing results on the scales and feeling lighter and brighter will motivate people to keep going and achieve their goals. Everyone will be sure of a fab start with Slimming World this New Year and even if people have struggled to stick to weight loss plans in the past, I know we can help them to make a change for life this time around – my members and their success are proof of that.

"Slimming World's Food Optimising plan isn't a 'diet', we simply help our members to discover new healthy habits and a healthier way of eating that they can enjoy without ever feeling hungry or deprived. They make small easy changes to the way they shop, cook and eat, introduce activity to their daily routine, and get regular support to reward their successes and overcome the hurdles they face along the way. This helps them to stick to their personal goals and can make a big difference to the way members feel about themselves as well as their weight.

"On top of seeing success on the scales, our groups are great places to make friends. We've had a lot of fun throughout the year – we've held parties, raised money for charity and members have cheered each other on with every step of their weight loss journey. I can't wait to see what 2015 holds for Slimming World in Aycliffe and I'd love anyone who's thinking about losing weight this January to join us."

To power up your weight loss in 2015 call Nicola on 07791 909376 or visit www.slimmingworld.com

Generous Support for Aycliffe Foodbank

Dear Sir,
Could I take this opportunity to the thank all those who donated non perishable food to the Foodbank, based at St Clare's Church. My wife and myself were overwhelmed by the generosity of the people in this area.

At the Foodbank we rely on commercial businesses to support us, this year could we thank Tallents (G'stamp) Engineering, Hitachi, and Ebac, all on the Business Park, for all their support. Also Tesco's and Wilkinson's supermarkets for their continued help, and finally we should like to give a very special thank you to many schools, and Churches, on the

town, who chose the Foodbank as their nominated Christmas charity. It is wonderful that so many organisations are so community spirited that they are willing to support local people who find themselves in food poverty.

Can I urge anyone who find themselves in a situation where they are unable to put food on the table for themselves or their family, to talk to one of the agencies that issue vouchers which can be exchanged for food. If you need help there are ways that the foodbank can help you.

Many thanks to you all
Ernie and June Temple
Foodbank Co-ordinators.

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or Email: syd@newtonnews.co.uk

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 21st January 2015

Policy Committee
Resources 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.

"The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".

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

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T: 0191 3843452

47 West Auckland Road,
Cockerton,
Darlington,
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RESOLVE TO GIVE A HELPING HAND

Was one of your new years resolutions to do something for charity? Are you interested in supporting other people to change their lives?

If doing something for charity is one of your resolutions, then why not get your business, school or individuals involved and make 2015 the year that you fundraise for Aycliffe's Helping Hands project?

Think back to a charity event you've been involved in and how much fun you had. Some imagination, a little time and lots of good will can create a memorable event that brings in the vital funds! And we're here to help you!

Why not do sponsored event? We have the sponsor forms ready to send out. We have loads of ideas for businesses and schools too. We've got lots of free resources such as balloons, posters and much more, to help bring your fundraising to life!

Whatever you decide to do, have lots of fun. If you need any extra help, then feel free to get in touch with us: lifeline.action@googlemail.com telephone or text 07936 431262 We are waiting for you to contact us - thank you!

50 Year Marriage



Alan and Jennie Pybus of Macmillan road enjoyed the visit from the Mayor Wendy Hillary on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary on New Year's Eve.

Alan from Ferryhill, met Jennie while he was serving in the RAF at Manby near Louth in Lincolnshire. It was a chance meeting as he expected someone quite different on an arranged date. The lady he meant to take out didn't get off the bus, but Jennie, a nurse, did and he asked her to make up a "foursome" to which she agreed.

They were married in 1964 and after Alan completed his five years stint as an Acting Corporal in Catering, he moved back north after he got a job with DDS Bus Service.

While travelling thorough Aycliffe on the bus route he

thought it would be a good place to live and he got a job with Tallents and the couple moved into St. Aidan's Walk. Jennie, after producing five sons, worked for GEC, Union Carbide and the town centre Supermarket before retiring. When asked how many grandchildren they had, Jennie admitted to losing count, but did eventually give a total of eleven with one great grandchild on the way. Both enjoy walking but Alan is not as able as he was and is content model making and completing jigsaws. Jennie is still a keen walker and along with friends takes to the fells and other countryside treks. Over the holidays all the family came together from different parts of the country to help celebrate the anniversary, using local places to eat such as the George & Dragon and the Sports Club.

LAST DATE TO NOMINATE FOR CHAIRMAN'S MEDAL

There's still time to make nominations for the Chairman's Medal. Durham County Council is looking for individuals or organisations that have done something special for their community. The Chairman's Medal is the highest honour the council can bestow and Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) are looking for nominations from across the county in the run-up to a major presentation event. The medal has been County Durham's top civic award since it was introduced in 2007 and Durham County Council Chairman, Cllr John Robinson, JP, will be holding

a ceremony in March to award chosen 'individuals for voluntary effort or 'outstanding charitable organisations'. Cllr Robinson said: "We have had a fantastic response so far, but there's still time for more nominations. If anyone knows an individual or organisation they believe will merit consideration, get in touch." There will be 14 winners, representing each AAP area across the county and the Chairman is working with the AAPs. He added: "I want the presentation night to be a celebration of the achievements and effort that

people of our county put in every day. I am keen also to try and highlight through this event the excellent work undertaken by the County Durham emergency services." The deadline for nominations is Friday 16 January. Forward completed forms to the Chairman's Office, Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UF. Anyone can nominate an organisation or individual for a medal, but act quickly as time is running out. Log on to: www.durham.gov.uk/ChairmansMedal Email: chairmansoffice@durham.gov.uk or call 03000 268 828



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History Talk Christmas Activities at Greenfield Arts Not a Pretty Sight

Aycliffe Village Local History Society will host a talk by George Dixon who will speak on 'Jeremiah Dixon and the Mason-Dixon Line' on Wednesday 14 January at 7pm in Aycliffe Village Hall. All are welcome members £1 non members £3 to include tea/coffee and biscuits. Details from 01325 301093.

Greenfield Arts ended 2014 on a high note after a busy and very successful year! Our family Christmas activities in the Christmas week were a hit with local young people and their families. Environment Officer Steve Cooper from Great Aycliffe Town Council started off the



week with festive garland making – creating some beautiful and wintery wreaths. This was followed on Tuesday by a session making Christmas decorations from old books and magazines with one of our artists, and finished off with a festive film screening in Room 13.

Thank you to all those who joined us and helped make our last holiday season of 2014 such a success – we are now busy planning activities for February half term – keep an eye on our website (www.greenfield-arts.co.uk) and our facebook page for information when its published!



Reader Keith Smith sent this photo showing there are a lot of responsible dog owners in Woodham, but the same cannot be said of the Council who empty the bins.

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Separating Couples Helped Resolve Future Without Courtroom Drama

A new initiative to provide free family mediation will give many couples in England and Wales a vital new tool to resolve their own problems after they separate, rather than relying on high-fee divorce solicitors, says the largest provider of family mediation.

A new government-funded scheme, effective now will fund a free mediation session for both people involved in a separation even if just one qualifies for legal aid. Previously only the legally aided person was entitled to have the session for free, and the other person had to pay. "We know from 30 years' experience that family mediation works and

provides lasting solutions, with full agreements being reached in seven out of ten cases – without the need for a courtroom drama," says Jane Robey, Chief Executive of National Family Mediation (NFM).

"Getting people into the mediation room with open minds can be amongst the biggest challenges," she adds. "Confidence in the process blossoms as people start to understand and accept that family mediation can help them shape their family's future in an affordable way. "This new scheme can help thousands of people across England and Wales take a vital first step to unlock an understanding of what family mediation can achieve. Mediation puts families in control of their post-separation future instead of handing it over to family courts. It's a much quicker, less confrontational and a more cost effective way of settling family breakdown. "Separating people are often reluctant to pay for family mediation, especially so when they know the other person – their ex – is getting it for free. They rarely understand exactly what they will be paying for and, are quite apprehensive about

coming since mediation is usually an unknown quantity, they are unsure it will work." Family Justice Minister Simon Hughes met NFM mediators during a visit to its head office last week and to hear how the new scheme means demand for the service is likely to increase (picture attached for your use). Simon Hughes said: "We know mediation works and we are committed to making sure more people use it rather than go through the confrontational and stressful experience of court. That is why we are funding single mediation sessions for both parties if one of them is already legally aided. Demand for the NFM telephone helpline soared during 2014, taking an average of 2,300 calls per month since April, when a change in the law made it compulsory for people who are seeking a post-separation court order to first attend a mediation awareness meeting. For more information or to arrange an interview contact Richard Wyatt, NFM PR & Marketing Manager, phone 0300 4000 636 (usually available weekday mornings); mobile 07745 840718

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All Dressed up for Santa



On Christmas Eve Jolene waited for Santa to call round her street with her Bedlington Terrier "Misty" who loves Santa.

She was all dressed up as Rudolph as he came past the house. Santa was very good with the children and also with Misty who was very excited when Santa gave her a hug.

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Little Acorns Help at Christmas Lunch



On Monday 22nd December 2014 Little ACORNS took on a new challenge having received an invitation from the EXCEL centre and LIVIN to help with Christmas Dinners for lonely and elderly people of Newton Aycliffe. The youngsters helped greet the guests and kept them company if needed. They served a 3 course dinner and cleared away dishes. This was followed by Christmas carols, coffee and

mints before helping the guests to their waiting transport. A big thank you to both Rachel at the EXCEL and Robbie from LIVIN for giving the group the chance to participate in such a lovely event, but a massive thanks goes to the youngsters 6 to 17 years old for giving up a lie in and half a day to help make a wonderful day. We really hope to be invited again this year if the event goes ahead. *Keith Lovejoy*



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APPROVED GARAGES

CONTEST HELPS YOUNG PEOPLE WITH AUTISM REACH NEW HEIGHTS

Students from the North East Autism Society (NEAS) took part in the Apollo Trampoline Championships. The competition was the first of its kind in the North East for children and young people of all abilities. The event was organised by the Apollo Trampoline Club and held at Lambton Street Youth Centre, Sunderland.

Andy Leach, Senior Trampoline Coach at the club said; "We had over a hundred young people take part in the competition at the weekend. Students from NEAS have seen the competition as a challenge to set their own personal goals, which gives them a sense of purpose and achievement. As a coach it gives me a great sense of achievement when the students get so much reward and happiness out of the sport and especially for fitness, self esteem, sensory and a feeling free aspect like flying. The purpose of the competition was to assess whether the young people could cope with a competition environment and they did very well. This allows me to feel comfortable to enter them in to regional and potentially national competitions."

Apollo Trampoline Club organise sessions for NEAS and trampolining has proven to have a positive impact on the students. Trampolining is a highly sensory activity that provides a lot of stimulation and sensory feedback. The sessions help young people with autism to control their anxiety and to relieve the build-up of stress. Students generally feel more relaxed and happy after the sessions. Students from Aycliffe School at North East Centre for Autism, Newton Aycliffe entered the competition and won a number

of awards. Georgia Hutchinson, aged 14 from Hartlepool said; "I love trampolining because I like the challenge every week of completing the different moves and sequences. I find that trampolining helps me to feel more relaxed; when I feel upset or angry it makes me feel so much better in myself. The competition was a very exciting challenge for me and I received

an award for third place in the over 13's girls category." The North East Autism Society run free Trampoline Lessons for individuals with special needs. The sessions run twice a month on a Saturday 10am - 12noon at North East Centre for Autism, Newton Aycliffe. For more information and to book please call Theresa Arrowsmith on 01325 328 080.

READERS' PHOTOGRAPH



My name is Toby Leadbitter.
Guess what my favourite game is . . . and I win every time?

Neighbourhood Plan 1st Round Complete

The Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan first round of consultation has ended, with over 1050 people commenting and providing views and ideas for the plan. Angela Corner said "A lot of engagement work has been done to ensure residents were informed and able to have their

say. I am extremely pleased with the response so far and I would like to thank everyone who has taken part. There will be many more opportunities for people to have their say over the next couple of years" How has The Neighbourhood Plan consulted with you over the last four months:

- LOGO COMPETITION - SCHOOLS
- CONSULTATION LAUNCH - YOUTH CENTRE
- AYCLIFFE VILLAGE EVENT - VILLAGE HALL
- FIREWORK WRISTBAND COLLECTION POINT
- POSTERS - COMMUNITY GROUPS/ORGANISATIONS
- FUN IN THE PARKS
- GREAT AYCLIFFE SHOW
- ROTARY CLUB
- GAMP FORUM EVENT
- PIONEERING CARE CENTRE EVENT
- COMMUNITY GROUPS
- RESIDENT AND PACT MEETINGS
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- YOUTH COUNCIL
- AYCLIFFE BUSINESS PARK NETWORKING EVENTS
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- REGULAR NEWTON NEWS EDITORIALS
- AYCLIFFE TODAY INTERVIEW AND EDITORIALS
- FACEBOOK
- TWITTER
- GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE

Once the consultation responses have been analysed, themed groups will be set up to focus on the priorities identified for the plan. Angela Corner said "We hope to have the groups set up by January and have the first meetings in February 2015. We urge residents who

may have an interest in the plan to keep an eye out for opportunities to become a public representative. We will ensure residents are kept up to date with any developments" For further information telephone Angela Corner 01325 300700 or email angela.corner@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Tearaways Pantomime

It will be Pantomime time at the Civic Hall, Shildon soon (Oh Yes It Will) when The Tearaways Youth Theatre Group present "The Disney Pantomime" on Thursday 22nd, Friday 23rd, and Saturday 24th January at 7-30pm with a Matinee on Sunday 25th January at 2pm.

A spokesperson said "This is a great Family Show with many, many of your favourite Disney characters. Boo at the evil Maleficent, and the Wicked Queen played by Bethany Lewis-Burrows, and Erica Wood.

Hiss at the evil Captain Hook portrayed by James Little. Laugh at Dopey played by Samantha Shaw, who along with Nana from Peter Pan, played by Nataly Wood and Lucy Wright, (Jiminy Cricket)

all supply just some of the comedy.

Georgia Brown the Narrator helps move the Disney story along. Nadia Kovacs, plays one of Disney's favourite characters Snow White. Bethany Young, Lauren Lindsley, Chloe Waites, Jessica Taylor and Eleanor Murphy are part of the Dance Troupe under the choreography of Laura Ward.

There is music, singing and dancing to suit all ages in the 2 hour long show. We would love you to come along dressed as your favourite Disney character.

Tickets priced £5 Adults, £3 Children (5 -15) £1 (2-4 yrs), £3 Concessions, can be prebooked by ringing 01325 313363. / 01388 774838. For more information www.tearaways-shildon.co.uk

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ZANSHIN-KAI KARATE GRADINGS



Zanshin-Kai Karate, at Woodham Community Centre, finished 2014 with a successful club grading. The instructors were pleased with the spirit and effort shown by the students, all of whom successfully earned their new belts. Congratulations to: 8th Kyu Jacob Humble. 6th Kyu Leanne Wright, 5th Kyu: Jack Dobie, Darlene Greaves. 4th Kyu: Darcy Greaves, Aaron Busby. 1st Kyu: Joanne Fenton, Jayson Durham. If you want to start the new year off right, be more active, improve your fitness or lose some weight

and have always wanted to try Karate then we would like to welcome you. We are a family club, come down work hard, keep fit and have fun alongside the rest of your family, everyone welcome from 6 years upwards. In January all new starters get the first two weeks free! For more information call into Woodham Community Centre Sundays between 4 - 6pm or ring 0791 7203421 / 0774 6204064. Email zanshin-kai-karate@hotmail.co.uk. Face book (zanshin kai karate newton aycliffe).

Gymnastics - A Fast Growing Sport

It's the new year and the start of what we hope will be another very successful year at Athena Gymnastics Academy, based at both Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre and Aycliffe Leisure Centre. Last year the Gymnasts were very busy competing at local and national level, which culminated in several of our Gymnasts competing in National Finals against some of the best young gymnasts in the country. Athena were also well received at the Gymfusion 2014, held in Newcastle, receiving excellent reviews from both Spectators and other Gymnastic Teams at this event.

The annual Christmas display, held at the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre in December, was watched by over 300 spectators who came to support the Academy. The showcase involved all gymnasts from the toddlers in Rec 1, the superb Disability Sunday Group as well as gymnasts who will be competing in National Competitions in 2015. A fantastic time was had by all. Gymnastics has become more popular since 2012 as Team GB, and the Home Nation Gymnastic Teams have done so well in International competitions since the Olympics were staged in London. The television

programme last year, 'Tumble', watched by millions on a Saturday night, also brought the sport into the public eye. So could you or could your son or daughter be the next Beth Tweddle or Louis Smith? Would you like to follow in the footsteps of Tumble winner Bobby Lockwood?

We offer a wide variety of classes, starting with our Rec 1 toddlers aged 3+ to older beginner's classes, as well as our Disability class which takes place on a Sunday morning at Newton Aycliffe.

We are always on the look out for more gymnasts to join our Boys team, 'The Warriors', who train at Shildon on a Tuesday night. Athena also offer other classes, all to help enhance our Gymnasts including our very popular Acro class which could lead to National Competition, to our Flexibility Class. All our coaches, and staff are appropriately qualified and CRB checked so you can ensure your child is working in a professional and safe environment.

If you are interested in joining our superb Gymnastics Academy or just want more information about any of our classes ring Sam on 07800 847527. Believe in yourself and you will be unstoppable.



Joy-Marie Hairdressing
Would like to thank all her customers and friends for all the lovely cards and presents received and wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

From Joy-Marie, Angela, Sarah and Leah

NEW YEAR WIN FOR AYCLIFFE F.C.



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Saturday 10th January - Shildon (away) 3:00pm
Tuesday 13th January - Ashington (home) 7:30pm
Saturday 17th January - Bedlington Terriers (away) 3:00pm
Tuesday 20th January - Marske United (home) 7:30pm

Newton Aycliffe began 2015 with a convincing 3-0 win over the team immediately above them in the league, West Allotment Celtic. Aycliffe gave notice of their intent after just 10 minutes when Dennis Knight scored an impressive opener. Advancing into the box Knight saw West Allotment keeper Mullen off his line & the precisely judged chip sailed into the net.

The visitors were unfortunate to lose their centre-forward to injury after half an hour when Michael Armstrong picked up a nasty cut after colliding with a post. Nevertheless they might have scored after 38 mins when only a good save from Aycliffe keeper James Winter rescued his defence.

However, within a minute

Aycliffe were 2 nil up when good work by Jordan Laidler was rewarded when the ball found Stuart Banks inside the box. Banks made no mistake firing home a low shot. Aycliffe again had the ball in the net after 42 mins but the assistant referee's flag signalled offside. The second half didn't produce as many chances but Zak Boagey had a good effort saved & Laidler threatened when he ran onto a cross only to find the angle too tight to be able to get an effective shot away. Aycliffe made it 3-0 in added time when Aaron Brown was tripped just inside the box. Banks confidently put the penalty past the keeper to seal the much needed three points. This result was a just reward for improved recent performances.

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Good New Year Start for "The Tub"

FC Turbinia had a very quiet December with away games against Wolsingham FC and Wearhead United being postponed. FC Turbinia did manage to fulfil one fixture and travelled to Crook to face Howden-le-Wear.

The Tub started brightly and secured an early goal through Daniel Dixon. Howden pulled one back midway through the first half, But Dixon managed to grab a second to ensure that the Turbinia went into halftime ahead. In the second half Howden-le-Wear were the better side, they knew that they were still in with a chance and through grit and determination they scored twice to snatch the points away from Aycliffe's Turbinia.

Saturday 3rd January saw FC Turbinia kick off the second half of their league campaign against Barnard Castles, Castle Rangers.

After a 5 week break, the team was ready and raring to go, FC Turbinia played a possession game and kept the ball well. A cross field through ball from Paul Hepper dissected the "Ranger's" defence allowing Luke Black to finish into the far corner of the net.

"The Tub" extended their lead just before the break

when Black was found unmarked, leaving him one on one with the keeper, then calmly placing the ball in the bottom corner.

The second half was very much a repeat of the first with the Turbinia seeing a lot of the ball and remaining in control, choosing their attacking options wisely, and further goals from Daniel Keane, Paul Hepper and Daniel Brown secured a 5-0 victory.

This was a great result for the Aycliffe side, with a number of standout performances across the whole of the field, which contributed to yet another clean sheet.

FC Turbinia have shown great bouncebackability and have proven to the league they still mean business by increasing their lead at the top of the table to 4 points. The Team are currently awaiting to see who they are drawn against in the semi-final of the Colin Waites Cup, again proving how far the team has developed over the last 18 months, since they were formed.

FC Turbinia are still looking for a Shirt Sponsor. Anyone interested whether it be the home or away shirt or both, please contact Paul Soakell on 07848932989 or p.soakell@sky.com.

AYCLIFFE POLO PLAYERS BEAT TOP TEAMS



Sedgefield Water Polo Club played their final tournament of 2014 at Lancaster. There was a big entry of 14 teams for under 13's from Yorkshire, Lancashire and the sole entries from Durham, Northumberland and Cleveland were Sedgefield. Sedgefield started off with a dominant performance beating the host club Lancaster 7-1, then a comfortable win against Manchester 5-0.

Bridgefield from Liverpool were beaten 5-2. Then came a tough game against Oldham team Royton which Sedgefield won 5-3 with 2 late goals. Blackpool were beaten easily 11-1 and the final group game Sedgefield beat school team Ripley 10-1.

In the quarter final in a very close affair with Manchester team Tydsley, Sedgefield came through 6-5. In the semi final Sedgefield were up against Bridgefield again but triumphed easier than the group game winning 5-0. Sedgefield were up against Rotherham in the final for the

fourth time this season at this age group and like the others Sedgefield's extra fitness and tight defence saw them win 6-4. This made it 6 wins from 6 tournaments for Sedgefield's under 13's in 2014, an excellent performance.

Sedgefield's outstanding player/player of the tournament and leading scorer was Michael Hampshire, 12, who is attending GB trials this month. Sedgefield entered two teams in the competition. The Orange team of younger and less experienced players finished 4th in the Plate.

The other members of the Sedgefield squad were Joseph 12 and Isaac Boys 7, Niall Coulthard 11, Haydn Craggs 12, Kate Harrison 12, Kes 10 and Charlie McEwan 7, Kyle 6 and Ben Alderson 9, Hollie Turnbull 12, Jessica Webb 12, Poppy Stephenson 11, Jake Mendelson 12, Katy Fenton 12, Bartosz Czajczynski 11, Crystal Elliot 11, Daniel Millington 12 and Mathew Taylor 12.

Aycliffe Lose to Local Rivals in Xmas Friendly

As a pre-cursor to the annual club Christmas Party, Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club faced neighbours Darlington Mowden Park 3rd XV with a Development side at Moore Lane. Aycliffe began strongly in both the backs and forwards and soon took the lead through a try from guest player Ollie Lines, David Judge, playing his first game since the beginning of the season, added the conversion. Mowden were not behind for long though and soon struck back, taking advantage of some poor defence to score a converted try of their own. Luke Crossen outpaced the visitors down the touchline to score another try but, again, Mowden responded in kind. Mowden were the more organised of the two teams and they scored two more tries, one converted, to reach the break with a 24 - 12 lead. After Peter Ryans' team talk, Aycliffe attacked again and Number 8 Andrew Littlefair was just able to reach out to

the line for a try which was converted by Judge. Mowden scored two further times to develop an unassailable lead, but Aycliffe still kept looking for a score and it was they who were the final scorers of the afternoon when Jeff Hodgson powered through the visitors to leave the full time score 24 - 36. Despite the defeat, it was a fairly good, if low-key, run out to finish off the Rugby for 2014. The Christmas Party followed and, this year, Santa was accompanied by two elves to dish out the presents, before the adult members of the club got down to some more serious partying afterwards. The spare presents were handed out to Darlington Memorial Hospital's Children's Ward. The first match of 2015 will be a league game at home to Chester-le-Street on Saturday 10th January; kick-off 2.15 pm. Aycliffe Rugby is sponsored by S Cars and Whitehouse Funeral Service

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Greenfield Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of sex, race, marital status or disability

The school is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and require all staff to share this commitment. All posts are subject to satisfactory DBS clearance.

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- Experience of applying evidence-based health improvement theories and models and supporting people/groups to appreciate the wider determinants of health
- Professional, friendly and courteous manner with the ability to effectively manage partnership arrangements

For an application form and further information please contact PCP on 01325 321234 or email hr@pcp.uk.net

Closing Date: 12 noon, Monday 19th January 2015
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CHARITY THANKS AYCLIFFE COMPANY FOR SHOEBOX APPEAL HELP

National charity Samaritan's Purse has extended its thanks to the local Regus Centre at Durham Way South in Newton Aycliffe, for its support in collecting thousands of gift-filled shoeboxes which have since been distributed to needy and vulnerable children around the world.

The shoeboxes, put together by members of the public, local businesses, schools and churches, contained everything from sweets and toys to toothbrushes and colouring books. They were distributed in time for Christmas to underprivileged children in orphanages, hospitals and refugee camps.

This is the second year that Regus, the global workplace provider, has been involved in the shoebox appeal with almost 300 of the company's UK centres collecting over 5,000

shoeboxes between them.

Simon Barrington, Executive Director of Samaritan's Purse, the charity which organises the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal, said: "We would like to thank the Regus network of local workplace centres for their support again this year, as well as all the members of the public who wrapped, packed and brought in their shoeboxes. Thanks to them, many thousands of children who otherwise wouldn't have received any presents this Christmas knew they weren't forgotten."

Richard Morris, CEO of Regus in the UK, said: "We're delighted to have been involved in the appeal again this year and the response has been fantastic. Our centre teams across the UK thoroughly enjoyed taking part and doing their bit for such a worthwhile cause."

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Sponsored Climb to Aid Butterwick Hospice

On the 29th January 2015 Sheila Blenkin will fly out to Tanzania with a group of 20-25 strangers and the next day start her 7 day trek on the Lemoshio Trail with “Action Challenge” to climb the mighty Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. It is the highest mountain/volcano in Africa and the highest free-standing mountain in the world at 5,896m or 19,341ft above sea level. Though the climb is technically not as challenging as climbing

the high peaks of the Himalayas or Andes, the high elevation, low temperature (Sheila will be sleeping in temperatures as low as minus 20 degrees Celsius), and occasional high winds make this a difficult and dangerous trek. The group will travel through rainforest, over plateaus and along valleys until reaching the summit at Uhuru Peak where there is only 50% of the oxygen in the air than at sea level. As part of her training Sheila has completed 3 UK marathon walks over the last 10 months including the London Moonwalk in May of last year.

Sheila said “I have no doubt it will be the hardest challenge I have ever faced and way more difficult than my last big charity gig of ‘clearing the beaches and building new houses’ in Sri Lanka after the Tsunami. This is a personal challenge for me to complete before I reach the big 50 (which of course means that I have over a year to reach summit!) but it is also for a greater cause. My trip is self-funded so all the money I raise through sponsorship and fundraising events will go to the Butterwick Hospice to ‘keep it local’.” Fundraiser Laura said “It is

fantastic that Sheila is taking on this challenge to raise funds for Butterwick Hospice. As well as working and training she has arranged several events over the last year including a non-uniform day at Cocktail Hill Infant School and charity day at Bishop Barrington to boost her fundraising and so far she has raised over £3,000 which is a fantastic achievement. Thank you for your commitment and we wish you all the best with your trek!” If you would like to make a donation to Butterwick please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/Sheila-Blenkin/>

Auditions for Broadway Hit “A Chorus Line”

On Sunday, January 18th from 2:30 - 7:30 there are auditions for outstanding male and female dancers/singers aged 16 to 30 to appear in this version of the legendary Broadway production in May. The production rehearses from 8th February 2015 (Sunday & Thursday evenings) and runs 27th-30th May at the Tyne Theatre & Opera House in Newcastle upon Tyne. The auditions will be held at the Theatre Royal Studio, Newcastle. (please use the Royal House entrance), registration at 2.30pm and 5.00pm. This is a dance/vocal audition - please prepare a two minute musical theatre song which best shows off your range and acting ability/characterisation. If you get through the vocal audition you will be required to stay for the full audition period. Auditions may be recorded/photographed. You will be forwarded full audition pack on application. Please come dressed to dance. Theatre Royal Newcastle, Royal House, Grey Street

Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 6BR

Acknowledgement

JONES, Newton Aycliffe. Shirley and the family of the late James Brian, wish to thank their relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and sympathy and for the many letters, cards of condolence and donations to their chosen charities. Special thanks go to the staff at Darlington Memorial Hospital, Bishop Auckland and Sedgefield Community Hospitals and at Bewick Crescent Surgery for all their care. We also extend our sincere thanks to the Reverend Christopher Pearson for his compassionate interpretation of Brian's life and are grateful for support from the Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs of Newton Aycliffe. Finally our thanks to Whitehouse Funeral Service, especially Bryan A. Shepherd for his sensitivity, support and guidance.

Thank You

GLADYS STOUT would like to thank all staff and Christmas Eve Consultant Ian Sole and his “golden girls” from the Ramkni Ward. All staff on the 28th December at the Eye Clinic Biopsy, Ward 23. Very efficient. All the best for 2015. **THANKS TO** Ken and Alison from A.C.O.R.N. Residents Association, out gritting the streets of Priestman Road. This is invaluable to the old and young, trying to walk on pavements. Mrs F Warburton (No. 15)

Obituary

Phil Leadbitter
(Spike)



Died suddenly of heart failure on Sunday 28th December at James Cook University Hospital. A much loved Son of John, Father of Craig, Brother of Linda, Margaret, Dawn, Rodney and Pat. Also loving Grandad to Chloe and Brooke. Funeral Service to be held on Thursday 15th January at 12noon in St Clare's Church, prior to private burial. No flowers please, any donations can be made to CICU at James Cook Hospital

MAISIE CHENTRENS. Aged 86 years of Biscop Crescent. Died suddenly. Beloved partner of Paul and much loved Mother to Daughters, Doreen, Margaret and Denise; loving Nan to Sarah, Kai and Ben. No funeral or flowers, as requested, but any donations to British Heart Foundation if desired.

GERRY FULLER (nee Brittain, formerly Orr), aged 58 years of Newton Aycliffe. Sadly passed away on 3rd January at home, surrounded by her family. Wife of Ronnie; Much loved Mam of Helen, Elaine, Brittainy and Arran; Devoted Grandma of Callum, Evie, Lili, Harvey and Olly; Sister of Stuart and the late Estelle. Would family and friends please meet at St. Mary's R.C. Church, Newton Aycliffe on Tuesday 13th January for a Service at 11:45am followed by a private committal. No flowers at her own request, donations in lieu, if desired, may be left in the collection plate at the church, for Macmillan Cancer Support. Could everyone please wear something brightly coloured to celebrate Gerry's Life. **CURRY.** 1st January, suddenly at home. Karan aged 66 years of Newton Aycliffe. A much loved Wife of Brian; loving Mam of Stephen, Julie and the late Paul; also a dearly loved Nana of Jamie. Karan will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Wednesday 14th January. Would friends please meet at 3.30pm for a Service at the Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon.

Birthday Remembrance



Vera Reed
11th January
No birthday celebrations this year Mam, you should have been 93. Instead a celebration of your life, your smile, your love and the legacy of your wisdom, humour and your outlook on life. The Great Grandchildren used to call you “the wise old owl”. We all miss you dreadfully. You filled our lives with such joy, but in your own words ‘It was time’. Your loving family from all over the world thank you, a life well lived and shared.

DAVID FRANKLAND 5-1-45. Gone but never forgotten. Love from your Wife, Sons, Daughters-in-Law and Grandchildren
ROBERT DOUGLASS (Bob). 8th January. Thinking of you on your birthday. A loving Husband, Dad and Grandad. In our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered each and every day. Loved and missed forever, Grace and family
NOAH HARRY Wharton Peart, 12th January 2007. Happy birthday little man. Love and miss you every day. Lots of love from Nana and Grandad xxxx
NOAH HARRY Wharton Peart, 12-1-2007. 8 today, love and miss you on your birthday. Grandma xxx
NOAH HARRY Wharton-Peart, 12-1-2007. Our beautiful boy, 8 today. Love and miss you always. Your Mammy, Daddy and baby Sisters xx
GRACE HEDLEY 12th January. We'll send a dove to Heaven, with a parcel on its wings. Be careful when you open it, it's full of special things. Inside a million kisses, wrapped up in one big hug. To say how much we miss you, and send you all our love. Happy birthday Mam. Love always, Anne, Grace, Keith, John and Ruth xxxxx
ANN McLUCKIE 13th January. If only I could wish upon a star, much love Mam, Tony and family xxx
DORIS ICETON 11t January 1919. Birthday wishes for a special Mam and Nana. Love and miss you. Sharon and Stephen xxx

ACORN RESIDENTS GROUP LEAP INTO 2015

ACORN Residents launched into 2015 with an hilarious trip to see Aladdin at the Gala Theatre Durham. Fifty members of the popular group comprising of parents and children attended the event, which is supported by the Big Lottery Awards for all scheme. Since its early beginnings as a neighbourhood watch group ACORN has worked to achieve a community atmosphere through a mixture of activities, events and problem solving. Meeting monthly at the Royal British Legion Club, the three elements of the organisation ACORN, little ACORNS and Woodham Burn Neighbourhood Watch come together with local and County Councillors, Police and guest speakers to plan events, solve

local issues and investigate ways to improve our environment. All are welcome so come along and join us. February will see ACORN taking a trip to the South Lakes Zoo and plans are already being discussed for the third annual Easter Petting Zoo event that will take place in Newton Aycliffe Leisure

Centre. Following the success of previous Petting Zoo events ACORN are planning a much larger event for this year and are inviting other voluntary groups and especially animal oriented groups to join us in a community extravaganza. Ken Robson Chairman ACORN Residents Association 01325 321471

Frontline Services Cannot be Protected

Even tougher financial savings are forecast in a paper to be considered by councillors in County Durham next week. Following detailed assessment of the Chancellor's December Autumn Statement, Durham County Council's financial planners now believe the total sum to be saved by 2019 will exceed £250m. Whilst the Autumn Statement largely delivered the continued reductions in budget expected by the authority, the extension to the period of austerity is expected to see an overall reduction in Government grants since 2011 of some 60 per cent. Durham County Council's Cabinet will consider its Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) – the plan which the authority uses to manage its budget and track its savings when members meet at

Durham Town Hall next week. The paper reveals the financial outlook remains extremely difficult and outlines initial feedback on the latest round of public consultation; further details on this will be put before Cabinet next month. Council Leader, Cllr Simon Henig, said: “Thanks to prudent planning we are largely on track to deliver the very significant savings which we have had to meet so far, however, there is no doubt that facing these continued cuts we will no longer be able to protect frontline services.” “We will continue to listen to the priorities of residents and businesses in County Durham as we manage these continually reducing budgets and to work with town and parish councils and the community and voluntary sector to find new ways to deliver services.”

Bus Station for Town is Low Priority

Dear Sir,
I am tempted by the idea of a Bus Station for Newton Aycliffe and not necessarily against it (using buses myself due to not having access to my own transport) also mobility being poor. However, other towns are hubs for changing buses for other routes and have many more services. Unless there is a chance of an increase in services for our town, most services run centrally through the town sticking to a central route. In the evening the few buses that do run are hourly (No.7 and No.5) and during the day the services and few extra routes vary between every 15-30 mins depending where you are going mainly going to a handful of places: Durham - Darlington, Spennymoor - Darlington, Darlington - Bishop Auckland (I may have missed a couple) Our town is part of a route

going to other destinations. Durham/Bishop Auckland you change buses or have to switch to another bus company to complete your journey. Sunday service means practically no buses especially after 5pm and a complicated way to get back to our town. If it meant more bus services I could see the need. I also wonder where it would be located for ease of use. The idea of a bus station came up recently in conversation and though anecdotal and only a handful of us were discussing it, it was seen as a low priority. Anthony Parkin
Editor: The suggestion was based on the fact that most large towns have a Bus Station, just as they have Police & Fire Stations, Library and other public buildings. A bus station serves as a central hub for residents to take transport to all parts of the county and beyond.

Congratulations

GILLIAN SPENSLEY 15th January. Happy 40th birthday to my beautiful Wife. Love always, Vince xxx
GILLIAN SPENSLEY Happy 40th birthday Mammy. Love from Emily, Abbie and Ruby xxx
GILLIAN SPENSLEY Happy 40th birthday. Love from Sammy and Lacey xxx
BURN-JOHNSON Janice and Nigel, congratulations on your engagement on New Years Eve. Best wishes for the future. Lots of love from Mam and Thomas
HUGE congratulations to the best couple in the world Janice Burn and Nigel Johnson on their engagement! lots of love kelly & kids and jo & kids xxx

Chris Drake

Happy 21st Birthday
3rd January 2015
Congratulations on your 21st birthday. Love from Gran, Grandad and Family

Lilly Grace Bell

3 Years Old
12th January 2015
Happy birthday sweetheart! Love, Mammy, Daddy and all your friends and family
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Trevor Murray

Happy 50th Birthday
Have a good weekend. Love, Mam, Brothers John, Raymond and Ian; also Nicola, Karen, Sue and all the family. Good luck
Happy 50th Birthday
Happy 50th Dad. From Sons Michael and Matthew; also Kirsty and Luran and Grandsons Morgan and Jacob

Brogan Collier

Happy 13th Birthday
10th January 2015
Have a great day. Love, Dad, Julie, Danielle, Darren and Ritchie
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Happy 13th Birthday
10th January 2015
Wishing my lovely Granddaughter a happy 13th birthday and on becoming a teenager. Lots of hugs and kisses from Nan and Grandad

Aycliffe Running Club

On New Year's day eight members of Aycliffe Running Club tackled the tough and demanding Captain Cook's Fell Race, which took place in the North York Moors.

A wet and mild winter's day led to some slippery conditions, but 271 runners managed to complete the course and the event raised £1,953 for various organisations.

This was the first fell race for both Jodie McMaster and Clare Rose, so they decided at the outset to stick with each other to make sure they got round. This



Jodie McMaster & Clare Rose

they did admirably in 57:51, 242nd and 58:05, 243rd respectively.

The only other female from the club, Sue Milburn, is certainly not new to this type of race and showed her worth by finishing 2nd in the F/55 age group in 53:21 and 214th overall. Hubby Peter Milburn went one better finishing 1st in the V/55 age group in 38:46 and 39th overall. However, Dez Fielden was first home for the club 26th in 37:30.

Other finishers were – Matt Heron, 80th in 41:52, Lee Wren, 138th in 45:36 and Steve Smith, 166th in 48:10. On the previous Sunday thirteen members of the club took part in the multi-terrain Jolly Holly Jog. The race was a sell out with a record entry of 704 runners.

It was a bright and sunny day starting with a heavy frost, which made the tarmac sections somewhat slippery, but helped to firm up the muddier sections.

Trish Kay completed the Saltwell 10k in 51:40 in 231st position and Kevin Greenall ran in the Old Monks 6 Multi-Terrain Race finishing 170th in 48:41.

Girls Kick Off 2015 With Win



The NAYFC U13 Girls Team started the New Year off with a hard fought away win at South Durham & Cestria last Saturday. The home side, straight from the off, showed determination in attack. No surprise, when from a corner, they went 1-0 up via deflection. It took a while for our girls to get into gear and after some neat passing around the box, the opposition levelled with a rifled shot which gave the keeper no chance! 1-1. The home side continued to

run at our defence and took the lead when their striker fired home from the right hand side. This seemed to wake our girls up and before long a neat combo from the midfield found our forward to make it 2-2. Then from a corner and knock on we forced the ball home for a 2-3 half-time lead.

Second Half saw the girls battle hard in defence - clearing their lines, supported by a strong midfield. We increased the lead when our keeper's long clearance found the striker for 2-4. Our keeper kept their attack at bay with some confident stops, but as before, Cestria kept coming at us and made it a nervy finish for all making it a 3-4 final score.

Some tough games ahead but 3 much needed points. Goals from Lottie Hall, Lily Mansfield & Chloe Ryan (2). Newton Aycliffe Youth FC Girls U13s train Wednesdays, indoors at

Wildcats Best Game of the Season

The Durham Wildcats staved off a Bristol comeback bid to win 77-72 at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. The win puts the Wildcats back up to 8th place with a 7-11 record.

Head Coach Lee Davie said this was one of his squad's best team offensive performance of the season. Durham led throughout the match and at one point had a 18 point lead early in the third quarter.

"We saw a lot of improvement in our ball movement that resulted in plenty of good open shots for our team," Davie said.

The top benefactors of Durham's offensive flow were Chris Jones, John Puk and Fran Urli. Jones led the Wildcats with 23 points from 9-12 shooting and four free throws. Puk also shot 9-12 overall from the field and favoured the short corner spot of the floor to score 18 points. Urli added 16 points and had two three-pointers. Durham had a 66-49 lead going into the fourth quarter before Bristol began to claw back to within five. The Wildcats benefited from 12 Bristol turnovers and had 36 points from the paint to help them secure the victory.

Ralph Bucci led all rebounders with 15 boards and was the top distributor in the game with five assists to go along with his nine points. Other Wildcats scorers were Joel Madourie with six points, Sam Martin with three and David Buchberger with two.

Puk's performance was recognised by the league as he was named to the BBL Team of the Week, his first appearance on the team this season. Once again Jones earned an Off the Bench honour.

The Wildcats travel South next weekend to take on the leagues bottom team Surrey United on Saturday evening. Worcester Wolves provide Durham's next home opposition on Sunday 18th January in the 1st round of the BBL Trophy, tip-off at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre is 4pm.

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Give Tri a Try

Aycliffe Tri Club are opening it's doors to new members throughout January. Whether you are new to the sport or are a seasoned Triathlete who is looking for some new training companions, you are invited to come and give the club a try.

During January coached swimming session are available free of charge on a Wednesday 7pm - 8pm at Woodham Academy Pool. Also coached running sessions are also free of charge on Monday evenings meeting at the Excel Centre at 6.30.

The club also offer a spinning session and a core strength class on a Friday 6.30 - 7.30 at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre for the discounted price of £2. If you join the club before the end of January you will receive 2 months membership absolutely free! If you would like further information you can contact the club via email aycliffetriclub@gmail.com or come along to the pool session on a Wednesday and have a chat with the coaches. Wendy Bake Club Coach

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