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## Stiller's £15m Contract Brings 10 New Jobs

Aycliffe family firm Stiller Warehousing & Distribution are to create more jobs after celebrating a £15m deal with a major multinational food packaging firm Coveris Rigid UK.

The £3m-a-year deal involves Stiller managing Coveris Rigid's newly-purchased premises on Drum Industrial Estate in Chester-le-Street. Stiller, which currently employs 115 people, will also manage distribution for Coveris, a global leader in the manufacture and distribution of packaging solutions and coated film technologies,



Stiller General Manager Brian Simpson (left) with Ian Donal of Coveris Rigid UK.

after it purchased the 264,000 square foot Drum Park, a building stood empty for a number of years. Once the new facility is fully operational in April, Coveris will distribute around 30 billion units - mainly consisting of food packaging - from the site across the UK every year. Stiller Managing Director Paul Stiller said: "This is a fantastic deal for

the company and we're absolutely delighted. We have been working with the Coveris team within a very challenging timeframe and are very proud of the work carried out by our team under the leadership of General Manager, Brian Simpson. "We're now looking forward to operating alongside Coveris Rigid and helping them to continually improve the logistics solutions over the next five years and beyond."

Half of the unit will be used for warehousing which will be managed and operated by Stiller, and the other half utilised by Coveris' manufacturing operations. They will be producing food packaging products and Stiller will be distributing them from the Chester-le-Street location. Coveris Rigid Operations Manager Ian Donal said: "We have a very defragmented logistics set-up, with sites split between Scotland, Cramlington and Newton Aycliffe, and for the first time we'll be able to have everything on one site, saving a lot of money on logistics."

Continued on Page 2

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**New Exhibition at Greenfield Gallery**

Last week The Greenfield Gallery was a hive of activity for a busy morning as the latest exhibition was installed. A group of 8 artists from the ASSIGN group, based in Sunderland, are showing their work in printmaking, as part of a programme of exhibitions showcasing different techniques leading to this year's "Open Art" exhibition.

ASSIGN are a group of artists, formed in 2001, and based in the City of Sunderland. They are a networking and support



group, and over the years have developed an exhibiting

the group in expanding their reach to Newton Aycliffe and County Durham.

The exhibition focuses specifically on printmaking, showing work created using collagraph, mono print, lino, etching and more. The work will now be on display until Wednesday 28th January, during normal centre opening hours. For more information, including how to enter this year's Open Art exhibition please visit our website [www.greenfield-arts.co.uk](http://www.greenfield-arts.co.uk)

**New Curate Arrives in Great Aycliffe**

Rev. Debbie Loughran is the new Curate for the Parish of Great Aycliffe (St Clare's, St Andrew's, St Elizabeth's and St Francis).

Originally from Liverpool Debbie studied at Cranmer Hall, Durham University and was Ordained in June 2014 in Durham Cathedral.

She is Married to Alan who is a Porter at St John's College, Durham University and they have two boys aged 16 and 9.

Prior to taking up the post in Great Aycliffe Debbie lived in Liverpool and her career included working as an Accounts Manager. She then became an Ofsted registered Childminder and owned a shop. Debbie enjoys knitting, cross stitch, reading and dog walking. Her first impression of Newton Aycliffe was a feeling of enterprise, growth and anticipation, with people who are very warm and welcoming,



friendly and cheerful. "It's easy to get lost around the area but I am slowly learning the road layout! I am excited to be part of the parish and looking forward to see what God has in store for me, the family, the churches and Great Aycliffe as a whole" Said Debbie.

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**Saturday 17th January - "Bon Jovi Forever"**  
with special guest support - "THE KILL" £4 c/c, no tickets, pay on the door  
Gig Pit Review: "I went up The Tuns, glad I did, never seen 'The Kill' before, known Mark for years, what a band, top drawer! Not a great fan of Bon Jovi, but I have to say these are the best tribute act I've seen, and Greggs vocals in both bands was awesome, guitar playing was immense and the rythm section tight as anything. Grown men stood open mouthed, and the women went beserk. Great nite lads!"  
Rockermouth Review: "Great band! Still haven't seen the Bon Jovi Forever set, but it's the same line-up as the Kill, and they rock! Talented lads, the lot of them. A great set of musicians, and Gregg has frontman skills and stage presence to back up his excellent voice. Then add to that a cool and interesting set list, a quality P.A. rig, and you've got a superb package. Can't wait to see the lads play again. But maybe next time at the Office".  
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[www.turbiniapub.co.uk](http://www.turbiniapub.co.uk) or 313034  
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**Line Dancing Class Started**

A new Line Dancing class started at the RAFA Club, Barrington Road on 14th January for all, including beginners.

The sessions are held each Wednesday from 11am - 1pm and everyone is invited.

The cost is £2 with tuition by a qualified teacher. For further details ring 07772 430106.

role, in Sunderland and the North East.

Many of the ASSIGN members have studios in Sunderland, and the local areas, and have obtained BA and MA arts degrees. Many work part or full time outside the art world but all wish to sustain their art practice. ASSIGN assists in this by making opportunities for members to exhibit and sell their work. They also encourage members to initiate projects for the group to develop. Greenfield Arts are pleased to be able to support

**Stiller's £15m Contract**

*Continued from Front Page*

Out of all the tenders we received for this project, Stiller's was by far the most attractive."

Paul Stiller added: "We're now recruiting at all levels, including lorry drivers. Bringing drivers direct from Europe is something we're doing regularly, as there is a shortage of experienced drivers locally."

The Aycliffe firm has launched its own training programme to help inexperienced drivers get up to speed, some of whom have been recruited through the armed forces Career Transition Partnership Scheme.

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# Aycliffe Angels "A" Shift 1942-1945



Mr. McLeavy, called into the Town Council offices before Christmas with a photograph of Aycliffe Angels he had found in his mother's things. The photo has a note on the back - "ROT Aycliffe 1942 - 1945. Happy days and happy memories of all my fellow workmates on A. Shift." Annie Marie McLeavy, who was originally from Hartlepool, is the lady second row in the middle

with a white cardigan and a cross on her left shoulder which appears to be in a sling. Newton News has added this photo to its archive and invites readers to submit similar memorabilia. Photos will be copied and returned to the sender. More information about the Aycliffe Angels can be viewed on the Newton News website ([www.newtonnews.co.uk/local-information/aycliffe-angels/](http://www.newtonnews.co.uk/local-information/aycliffe-angels/))

## Have Your Say on Great Aycliffe Issues

Residents in Great Aycliffe and Middridge can find out how local issues are being tackled when the Area Action Partnership meets later this month.

The GAMP board meeting is on Tuesday 20th January 2015 (6pm to 8pm) at Great Aycliffe Town Council offices. Local people can also raise any neighbourhood concerns they want the board to address. These need to be put in writing and sent in advance.

The board will be receiving presentations on clinical commissioning planning, the Great Aycliffe Town Council neighbourhood plan and a new Wellbeing for Life initiative.

Anyone who would like to attend the board meeting or send in questions should register by ringing 01325 327 441 or emailing [gampaap@durham.gov.uk](mailto:gampaap@durham.gov.uk) Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAP is one of 14 Area Action Partnerships set up by Durham County Council in 2009 to help the authority better engage with residents.

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### Flower Demo

Area Demonstrator Pam Greenhill presents an evening of flower arranging entitled 'Gardener's Delight' at the next meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club on Monday, 2nd February at 7.30pm at Shildon Civic Hall. Free to members Visitors £5.00

### Friend Found

Dear Sir,  
 Thank you so much for putting the notice in the paper to contact a lost friend. I am pleased to say I had a great response and found her. Really appreciated. Carol.

## THANK YOU FROM "XCEL LOCAL"



Charity "Xcel Local" would like to say a huge thank you to all who helped with their Christmas Gift appeal which saw over 114 children receive bags full of Christmas presents. All the gifts were generously donated by members of Xcel Church, the parents of children in Little Cubs Nursery and Livin. We were also able to provide families with incredible food hampers full of everything that they would need to enjoy a fantastic Christmas Day. We would also like to say thank you to Livin, Little Acorns Residents Association, The Xcel Centre, Little Cubs and Xcel Church for all their help in hosting a Christmas meal for some of the elderly from around our town. All of our guests were served a beautiful 3 course meal and entertained by some of the M.A.D Choir. We are already making plans to repeat this event. The difference that we can make in peoples lives is all due to the generosity of those who give to the various projects that Xcel Local oversee. In addition to all that was done over Christmas we have given out nearly 1000 food hampers, various items of furniture, clothes and school uniforms to families across Newton Aycliffe and further afield.

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## What's new on our website this week?

[www.newtonnews.co.uk](http://www.newtonnews.co.uk)

• Don't forget to claim your **FREE** web page by sending your club's details to [paul@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:paul@newtonnews.co.uk) or complete the form on our website. New web pages added this week for Northern Bygones, The CandleLite Live Music Club and Friends of Senior Citizens;

• Claim your date and publicise your event, send all the details to [paul@](mailto:paul@newtonnews.co.uk)

[newtonnews.co.uk](http://www.newtonnews.co.uk) for a FREE listing on our events calendar.

• Newton News website now has a Police Notice Board so the residents of Newton Aycliffe can keep up to date with the "wanted" and "local incidents" the police need help with. This information is fed directly from the Aycliffe Beat Team Facebook page.



**DISCO**  
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## NEW ACTIVITIES AT THE PCP CENTRE

Are you aiming for a better 2015? Feel ready to make some positive changes? Pop along to a free information event at the Pioneering Care Centre on Tuesday 20 January anytime between 10am - 3pm and be inspired!

The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) has a huge range of new activities, support and classes aimed at improving your health and making you feel better!

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

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

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

The Work for Health project is funded by Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) and aims to help people who are having difficulty finding employment. Free 10 week



courses are specially designed to support people with health problems who want to improve their skills, confidence and opportunities.

Colour your Life offers 10 week free courses in creative or informal learning activities for the improvement of mental

health and the development of emotional resilience.

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

With all that festive feasting you may want to get fit or lose

## Eight Resolutions to Make Aycliffe Better

by Councillor John Clare

New Year is the time when many people set goals for themselves for the coming year - here are some suggestions of resolutions citizens could make which would make 2015 a great year for the town.

### 1. BIG UP THE TOWN

Aycliffe is rapidly growing in regional importance, and we can all play our part by emphasising the positives. Of course we all wish to improve our town, but in public we need to sing its praises.

### 2. "IT'S THE ECONOMY STUPID"

There are no more government handouts - we live in a world where, if the local economy fails, we all suffer, and some of us starve. In particular Aycliffe Business Park is the key to our future; it needs to figure large in all our decisions.

### 3. LET'S HANG ON TO WHAT WE'VE GOT

The government is systematically reducing funding to local government, and the days when 'the council' could clear up litter, vandalism and neglect faster than it occurs are gone. We need at local level a campaign against littering and vandalism, and a joint-effort to care for the facilities we retain.

### 4. A VOLUNTEERING COMMUNITY

In the region, Aycliffe is envied for its large number of community centres and voluntary groups. But when I speak to the heroic volunteers who give up their time (in some cases their lives) to run these facilities, many worry that they are getting older and that there seem to be few people to follow on after them. Of course, not everyone is in a position to be able even to think of volunteering. But we need as a community to support our local community ventures, not just by attending, but - if possible - by volunteering to help.

### 5. DRY JANUARY

There is a national campaign to give up alcohol for January. Whilst you may think total abstinence a step too far, it is a fact that, if we could eliminate drunkenness from our social scene, we would significantly reduce vandalism, traffic accidents, violent crime, self-harm and suicides, domestic violence, child-neglect and many other social ills, since many of these problems are alcohol-fuelled.

### 6. SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL TEAM

Aycliffe hosts a premier division basketball team. Its football club is in the first division of the Northern League. We have successful rugby and cricket teams. Every one of them would welcome more supporters cheering them on.

### 7. MONEY CHANGES EVERYTHING

We have some fabulous shops and local businesses in the town centre, but we have got ourselves into a vicious circle where people do not go to the town centre because they think the retail offer is lacking, and shops are not coming to the town centre because the public spend there does not make them sufficiently profitable. If every family would resolve to buy from the town centre where it can, we would at least be doing what we can do to stimulate our town centre retail provision.

### 8. 'DO' POLITICS

Proper politics is an informed debate about the decisions, rules and institutions which frame our lives. It will help our town move forward if people would take a greater interest and engagement in what is happening, locally as well as nationally.

## FREE CHILDREN'S PARTY AT NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Dog Training sessions starts Sunday 1st February at 5.45pm. Just turn up and receive a warm welcome.

Karate for all ages every Thursday at 7.30pm. Tai Chi every Thursday from 6pm.

The Art and Hobby Club meets Wednesday from 1 - 3pm. All welcome - just turn up with your gear.

FREE Children's Party on Saturday 24th January from 10am - 2pm with an Adults Pie & Peas Lunch for £3. Booking essential before 20th January on 313924.

## ART EXHIBITION by Local Artists

Come and join us for a coffee, cake and a celebration of art in our friendly craft room.

Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th January 2015

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# "People Want to Buy British" says Aycliffe Director



Ebac Managing Director Pamela Petty

Figures on increased credit card spending and a trade gap of more than £5bn are signs that UK companies should produce more goods for the domestic market, says leading Aycliffe manufacturing boss Pamela Petty.

The Managing Director of Ebac says the public's desire to buy British goods should be harnessed to create jobs and wealth in the UK.

Today's trade figures, covering imports and exports in November 2014, show that the UK is a net importer, with the difference between imports and exports standing at £5.2bn, despite being a net exporter to non EU countries, with a £1bn surplus.

Pamela said: "The fact that spending on credit cards in the three months to Christmas was at its highest level since 2007, with banks and building societies predicting another rise in early 2015, shows the public's appetite to spend is on the increase. Whether this is down to growing confidence or greater access to credit, it indicates a period of opportunity for those who make and sell goods for the consumer market."

"As today's figures show we continue to import more than we export, in our relationship with other countries, particularly within the EU, it is time to acknowledge that the UK should be making more goods domestically. In terms of the economy, it is misguided to buy cheap from abroad, because we pay twice for the labour – once for the people who actually make the items abroad, and again in benefits payments to those who could be doing the job here."

"We have seen a real appetite for domestically-manufactured goods, with the re-launch of the Norfrost freezer range and the demand for UK-made washing machines, which will soon be coming off our production lines. This demand has led to deals with Argos and Amazon to stock the chest freezers, while there is also significant

interest from major retailers for the washing machines.

"The UK, particularly areas such as the North East, where we are based, was once known as a manufacturing powerhouse. We have the people, and we have the knowhow, to make things

## DISABLED BADGE ABUSE

A County Durham woman who allowed another driver to use her disabled parking badge to get free parking in London has appeared in court.

Karen Heslop, 44, of Hillside, in Chester-le-Street, was ordered to pay a total of £550 after she admitted one offence under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Magistrates in Peterlee heard yesterday (Jan 6) that when Mrs Heslop applied to Durham County Council for the blue badge, in February 2013, she had given the registration number of the vehicle she said she would be using.

The court was told that on 11 occasions, between 23 September 2013 and 3 April 2014 fraud investigators observed the same vehicle parked in the Hammersmith and Fulham area of London. On each occasion there was no pay and display ticket inside the car but the blue badge issued to Mrs Heslop was on display. Further investigations revealed that the vehicle was registered to a woman in Newcastle and did not have a valid residents' permit to park in Fulham.

In mitigation the court heard that this was not a case where a blue badge had been obtained from the council by deception but Mrs Heslop did admit she had been deceitful in allowing the badge to be used incorrectly by another person.

Mrs Heslop was fined £200, with £330 costs, and ordered to pay a £20 victim surcharge

again; products which are as good as any on the market. "The potential benefits of driving domestic manufacturing are many. It is good for the country, because it puts people into work, increases tax take, puts money into the pockets of those individuals it employs, which then gets fed into local communities, and it's good for the environment, because it reduces the carbon footprint of transporting goods."

# POLICE BUDGET INCREASE AVERAGES £3.16p PER HOUSEHOLD PER ANNUM

Durham's Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Hogg is seeking views from members of the community as part of his annual public consultation on the police budget. In order to help to support the budget in the face of further cuts, Mr Hogg intends to apply an increase of 1.98% to the amount of Council Tax which goes to the police service. This equates to

just £3.16 over the year, or 6p a week for a house in Band D. Mr Hogg said: "In this continued period of austerity, all police forces across the country are facing similar challenges. I am committed to ensuring that the police have the resources they need to continue to provide an excellent service to the public. "Durham Constabulary

has carried out excellent work to increase value for money and improve its service within constricting budgets, and it is also looking at ways to increase its own generation of income. But I must also review the amount residents contribute towards our police force. "The increase I am proposing would raise funding equivalent to keeping at least 10 police

officers on our streets. In my view, that is excellent value for money." The public consultation is open until Monday 26th January. Residents can provide their views in a number of ways, including through the Ron Hogg's website at: www.durham-pcc.gov.uk, by Facebook or Twitter (search for Durham PCC), or by telephone on: 03000 264631.

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SELL YOUR HOUSE QUICKLY

Well what a year that was!! I want to say a big thank you to Newton Aycliffe for making me feel so incredibly welcome in your town. As someone from down south, it has been great to feel like one of the family. We've had a busy but exciting 12 months; meeting some really interesting people and helping many people move into their dream homes. On top of this we have introduced 'Rent Now Buy Later' into the North East, with great success.

I would now like to take this opportunity to introduce Ray and Miriam Turnbull, originally from Sunderland, who have joined me to help take the business forward. They bring a warm, caring, family atmosphere to the shop and also mirror my values, which are to go the extra mile or 10 to get the job done. As far as business goes, I couldn't be happier with the progress that we have made in 2014. Rightmove statistics show that, after only one year, we are the **fastest selling Estate Agent in Newton Aycliffe**. To top off a fantastic year, we had a magic month in **December** where we **sold an amazing 22 properties**. Not bad for what is supposed to be the slowest month of the year!

So once again, thank you for your support and I am really looking forward to helping many more people realise their property ambitions in the coming months ahead.

Best Wishes, Lindsay.



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## Rotary Club Thank You



Dear Sir,  
The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe once again had a very successful Christmas fundraising campaign to help the town's families in need. The collections in Tesco and on Santa's tour of streets with his musical sleigh was very successful thanks to the enormous generosity of residents who never fail to support this annual appeal. We are very grateful to the Manager of Tesco's, Martin Butcher, Shirley and all the staff for their fantastic co-operation in allowing the Rotarians to collect in the store and for providing the best selection of goods from their shelves to make up the Christmas Hampers for distribution to local families needing help. We are also indebted to Gregg Little Garage for the use of their truck which carried Santa's Sleigh and Samwon for storage. Without this community assistance and support the Rotary Club could not operate and we wish to express our gratitude to all concerned. David Anderson  
President

## College Students Kit up for Army Training



Photo: Fusilier Jack Bradley (front left) and Corporal Carl Boyd (front right) of D Coy with the Bishop Auckland College uniformed services staff and students.

A local college has joined forces with a neighbouring Reserve Centre to offer uniformed services students a taste of Army life. Bishop Auckland College and D (Rifles) Coy Fifth Fusiliers have agreed a two year affiliation which will see students attend the infantry company's Reserve Centre for regular training sessions, which will include practising section attacks and learning about military communications. The students will be kitted out with smart jackets, polo shirts and sport t-shirts emblazoned with the D Coy and Bishop Auckland College logos, which have been part funded by contributions from D Coy and the wider Fifth Fusiliers. The training sessions, which started in the new year, are being

held at D Coy's Reserve Centre, Eden Armoury, located near the college's main Bishop Auckland campus, and at the College campus itself. Captain Janet McNab, Staff and Admin Officer said: "We are thrilled that this affiliation is taking place between two professional and forward thinking organisations offering young people opportunities, adventure and training. I look forward to D Coy training students in the near future." Former Greenfields pupil, Ashton Waters, 16 years, is now studying the programme at the College and said, "I feel very proud to wear our new uniform. It really helps us prepare for our working life in the services after College,

and I am really looking forward to the activities with D-Company and the Fifth Fusiliers." The Level 3 Diploma in Public Services course prepares students for direct employment in the Armed Services or emergency services, helping them develop the skills needed including confidence, self discipline, problem solving, meeting deadlines, keeping fit, and working as part of a team. They achieve a qualification equivalent to three A-Levels at the end of the two-year course. For more information on the course, which starts each September, visit the website at [www.bishopaucklandcollege.ac.uk](http://www.bishopaucklandcollege.ac.uk) or email [start@bacoll.ac.uk](mailto:start@bacoll.ac.uk) or call 0800 092 6506.

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## Report Problems Direct to the County Council

Dear Sir  
Last week's Newton News carried the unpleasant picture of an overflowing dog bin, with a caption praising the dog owners, but accusing the County Council of being irresponsible. I contacted the County Council Streetscene as soon as I saw the article. By then, the bin had already been emptied, at the correct time. The problem had been that someone had placed a large bag in the opening of the dog bin which stopped people from using it. I would encourage anybody who comes across such a situation to phone the County Council on 03000 26 1000, and also their county councillor, to report the matter. On this occasion, as I understand it, no complaint other than my own has been recorded. Problems can only be addressed if they are reported. Also, on such occasions, is everybody aware that it is perfectly acceptable to place dog bags in any ordinary litter bin, as an alternative?  
John D Clare

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# Town Band Offers Free Tuition to Brass Musicians



Our Town's Brass Band is looking to increase its membership and expand its training programme for both young and old prospective musicians. Have you ever wanted to play a brass instrument? Why not join us 5pm to 6pm on Sunday 25th January as we launch our new "Training Band". Beginners and intermediates are all welcome, of all ages. We can provide an instrument and we only ask a weekly 50p subscription.

The band meets at Appletree Joinery premises on Howden Road, Aycliffe Business Park DL5 6EU, just behind Ramsey's Garage.

Contacts are:  
Paul - 0797 0077657,  
Mike - 01325 718521,

Tracy - 07449 641234.  
We can also be found on Facebook.



# LIVE MUSIC AT THE SCOUT CENTRE

Newton Aycliffe Scout Supporters Association would like to thank everyone who came to our New Year's Eve Disco and wish them a Happy New Year.

Our next event is free - a Live Acoustic Music Night on 31st January. 'Pipe Dream' from Sunderland who are well known in their home area will perform songs made popular by The Beatles, Buddy Holly, and many others as well as traditional Irish music and some of their own songs. You can listen to them on their website:- [www.pipedreamband.co.uk/gallery](http://www.pipedreamband.co.uk/gallery). Also appearing is Keith Morrison from Washington, well known for his guitar playing and singing. Keith has a huge repertoire with the sound of The Beatles being a particular favourite. The doors open at 7pm.

Our thanks to Neil Mason from The Candlelite Club for organising this night for us, all the singers and musicians, and Roly the sound man, who are all giving us their support free of charge.

We would also like to thank everyone who has helped us following the two break-in's suffered since the end of 2014. Although we are still reeling from the effects of these crimes we will continue to try and raise the funds needed to run and maintain

the Scout Centre.

The Association is a registered charity, all members who help run the centre are volunteers who give their time, and work hard to keep the premises open and allow Scout groups to use the premises free of charge.

Although a significant amount of money was stolen we are committed to continuing our aims. We have reviewed our security arrangements and are working with the police to catch the thieves. If you have any information please call the Police on 101.

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7nts Full Board - 23 May 2015  
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14nts Full Board - 01 August 2015  
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### MEDITERRANEAN MEDLEY

14nts Full Board - 15 August 2015  
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# How Can You Give a Helping Hand?

On a January morning, 82-year-old Irene (name changed to protect her identity) slowly made her way towards the Helping Hands office. Impeccably dressed in head-to-toe blue, she looked ready for a party or special event. But on this particular day, circumstances she hadn't chosen brought her there for an unexpected need to request help. Once inside, Irene hesitantly stepped up to the reception desk. Like most elderly people, she had always worked hard to care for herself and was ashamed to be reaching out for help. She leaned forward and quietly said, "I'm 82 years old and I'm so embarrassed to be here." Gently, Linzi reminded her that we are all in this together, there is no shame in getting help, and that she was happy to be there for her. That compassion instantly comforted Irene, melting away her uneasiness and misconceptions about receiving assistance. Linzi said to her, "Poverty does not discriminate. It does not target a specific gender, race, financial class, or age. In Newton Aycliffe where most people don't think twice about making a trip to the local food shop, there are thousands of people who face hunger every day—including senior citizens". Stories like Irene's are all too

common, there are people who are struggling financially and going hungry. The idea of senior citizens being hungry may come as a surprise to people, but it's very much a reality. People who've spent their lives working are now living through their golden years finding it difficult to get by. Limited income and savings combined with rising living costs make budgeting difficult. Bringing food and goods directly to the people who need them the most is the aim, but getting it there is no easy task. Ordering is done generally before 7am, then wagons are used to deliver the supplies. Preparations for distribution begin a week in advance. Once the goods are brought in on pallets, it takes approximately ten volunteers to load and unload, restock the shelves and make up the household packs. Thankfully, Helping Hands have been able to help over 3,000 people during 2014 but we now need more supporters to meet the demand. Please will you consider doing a sponsored event for us or maybe you'd like to volunteer making up packs? Please be creative in your thinking and we're sure it will all fit in the bigger scheme of things. Please let us know what you'd like to do to help - I'm waiting for your call 07936 431262. Thank you, Linzi.

# St. John's Now Offer Digital eBooks and Audiobooks



Best-selling and classic titles are available anytime, anywhere at St John's Catholic Academy in Bishop Auckland - proud to announce that students now have 24 hour access to eBooks and

audiobooks. Students can browse their new OverDrive website, borrow titles and enjoy them on computers and many devices, including iPhone®, iPad®, Nook®, Android™ phones and tablets. eBooks can be read immediately and all titles will automatically expire at the end of the lending period. Students are also able to reserve books, write reviews and request new reading materials. Linzi Heads, the LRC Manager at St John's and the coordinator of the project said, "This is an exciting time for both students and staff at St John's. We have a fantastic reading culture in school and this additional service can only enhance that further. Before Christmas we introduced an iPad leasing

scheme in school, so the launch of our eBook platform coincides well with this." St John's Catholic Academy is involved in a partnership with 12 Catholic secondary schools across the Hexham and Newcastle Diocese and the new eBook Platform will be shared between these schools. The financial investment from each school means that students in all schools will have access to many more resources than if just one single school had invested. This is the first time that a partnership of schools has undertaken a shared eBook Platform. For further information about this exciting scheme and its future developments, please contact Linzi Heads at St John's in Bishop Auckland.

# Funding Available to Community Groups

There's still time for community groups in County Durham to take advantage of funding on offer to help spruce up their local open spaces. As part of the Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) It's Your Neighbourhood campaign, Durham County Council is making up to £500 available to encourage volunteer-led community groups to take part in environmental projects. The Community Grant Scheme is led by the council's Civic Pride and Clean and Green teams and provides funding opportunities for small groups to get involved in the wider RHS Britain in Bloom initiatives. There are opportunities to take part in various initiatives, including litter picks, revamping an open space, planting projects or adding floral displays to make areas even more attractive and inviting. The scheme is free to enter and up to £500 is available to 15 voluntary groups to help them enhance their local area. \*\*The closing date for applications is Friday, 30 January, 2015\*\* The cash must be used to make a positive change to the place they live, work or spend their leisure time in and it must be an open space that is available for use by the wider community.

Full support is provided by the council's Civic Pride team, from guidance on what types of flowers to plant to the loaning of equipment and links to schools for pupil involvement. Pauline Walker, Durham County Council's senior civic pride officer, said: "While we have had a positive response to the scheme so far, we would still like to remind people that there is still time to apply for funding and make a positive change to the place in which they live, work or spend their spare time. "We would also like to reassure anyone thinking of taking part that we will be on hand to help and offer full support and guidance throughout the process." To receive funding from the scheme groups must enter the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood competition and must not have entered before as the aim is to encourage new entrants year-on-year. Funding is only available to schemes in County Durham and is not available to cover tree management or schemes on privately-owned land. Application forms and terms and conditions are available to download at www.durham.gov.uk/itsyourneighbourhood or by contacting the Civic Pride team on 03000 261 000 or by emailing civicpride@durham.gov.uk

## Death of Long Serving Councillor



We regret to record the death of Eric White of Aycliffe Village who died at the age of 92 on 5th January 2015. Eric was elected to Aycliffe Parish Council in May 1967 and was elected Mayor of Great Aycliffe in 1982. He retired from local government in 1995 and became an Honorary Freeman on the 17th May in the same year. Eric also served on the former Darlington Rural District Council and Sedgefield Borough Council. Councillor White has the distinction of being the longest serving member on Great Aycliffe Town Council. He was also a former Magistrate. Councillor Arun Chandran said: "Eric was a great personal friend, a man of great integrity and ability with a wicked sense of humour. He served the people of Aycliffe Village and Great Aycliffe with distinction and dedication. I worked with him very closely for 13 years to get things done, even though we were politically opposed." Fellow Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp said Eric was a hard working Councillor and well respected in Aycliffe Village. The Funeral will be held at St. Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village on Tuesday 27th January at 12.30pm followed by private interment at the graveside with only family present. Only family flowers are requested.

# CARE HOME ADDS BEAUTY ROOM & LOUNGE

A local care home has undergone a large-scale refurbishment aimed at improving and adding additional home comforts for its service users. Residents of Rose Lodge Care Home in Newton Aycliffe have been treating themselves to beauty treatments and pampering in the home's new beauty room and enjoying socialising in their newly refurbished lounge. The home has also been developing facilities in its specialist dementia unit, including the addition of an indoor garden room so residents with dementia can enjoy the sensations and therapeutic benefits of the outdoors even



in poor weather, with the area being used for activities and for families and residents to enjoy picnics. Nicola Wheatley, Home

Manager at Rose Lodge, Said: "We are delighted with how our new facilities have turned out. We have had a very positive response from residents and

visitors and we have several other projects in the pipeline that we are very excited about." Rose Lodge Care Home is part of the Countrywide Care Group and Regional Director Stephen Young said: "We always strive to offer the very best in quality standards, both in terms of the care that we deliver and also in the living environment for our residents. Rose Lodge is a home that we are extremely proud of. The investment we have made into the refurbishment and development of new facilities have made the surroundings even more welcoming and comfortable for residents and visitors."

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## ROTARY CLUB OFFERS TWO FREE PLACES ON LEADERSHIP COURSE

# ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS

**HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A LEADER?**

The Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) programme is an intensive training experience for young people aged between 14 and 30.

Explore and develop your leadership skills through problem solving and group leading. Build on your strengths and expand your experiences with a programme of challenges, fun and adventure.



For a number of years the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe have offered a free Residential Youth Leadership Course to youngsters in the town aged from 16 - 20 years old. Those fortunate enough to be selected have benefitted enormously and returned more able people, stimulated and better prepared to face their careers.

Some, equipped with new confidence and skills have gone on to bigger and greater things, achieving high posts in their chosen profession. The Rotary Club funds the course which includes team building, and adventure training at Hebdon Bridge from August 3rd to 7th, 2015. Two young people will be chosen for the course and

## Weather Plays Havoc with Junior Football

Only a handful of games to report from last weekend as the windy, wet weather caused havoc with many local matches.

No game for the U13 Girls on Saturday due to a waterlogged pitch. The Girls host Lumley Ladies U13's this Saturday in a dress rehearsal of the League Cup Final to be played at Newbottle in May.

Sunday's games saw the U16's travel to TIB's and come away with a hard fought 3-4 win after finding themselves 2-0 down at half-time. The lads regrouped and from the restart, eventually started to work for each other and were soon level with goals from Lewis Scott and Jimmy Cameron. Corey Denton volleyed in from a Ben Lowthian corner to make it 3-2, but switched off again and the home side equalised.

With time running out, Jimmy Cameron hit the inside of the post and what seemed like a lifetime, the ball rolled along the line into the far corner. 3pts gained with the team doing exactly what was asked of them at the interval. Man of the Match to both Harry Laverty and Kieran McWaters.

Not a great day for both the U13s and U14s who lost to Thirsk Falcons Blues and Heighington at home.

The Under 8 Falcons produced two very good displays away at SRC Wasps. The first game ended in a 2-2 draw after being 2 nil up at half time. SRC came back in the 2nd half to earn themselves a draw. Dylan Stewart scored both goals and "Man of the Match". The second game ended with

a 1-0 win, with an excellent performance by Jacob Bailey-Thompson with a well deserved goal and Man of The Match. Well done boys. Keep up to date with all the football news by visiting the club's Facebook page and at www.naycafc.co.uk for more details on training and fixtures.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?

For the past five years Newton Press have organised the Year 11 awards for Greenfield College and Woodham Academy. These awards recognise the hard work that Year 11 pupils accomplish in their final year of school.

The prizes are valuable items such as cameras, ipods, tablets and are awarded at the end of year Prom.

Newton Press are looking to recruit another sponsor (or two) to provide cash towards this project.

If your company would like to get involved, please contact paul@newtonpress. Ideally the project requires another £400 from one or two sponsors and in return you will be invited to attend the Prom and help present the prizes to the winners. You will also receive free publicity for your business through Newton News (and the website).

## Mock Results Day at Woodham Academy



Year 11 students at Woodham Academy experienced a mock results day last week.

All students recently completed a whole set of mock examinations in their various subjects. The results were held back from the students until last Thursday afternoon, when the students came together and were issued with results envelopes. Pictured are Callum Clasper and Luke Watson who were both delighted to receive high GCSE grades in a range of subjects.

Deputy Headteacher Jonathan Lumb, who organised the event, said "This is a great opportunity for the students to experience the emotions that

the results day in the summer brings and then to implement actions that can help them to make further improvement between now and the actual examinations".

Callum said he was delighted with the grades he is currently working at but will work even harder between now and then to push for more A\*/A grades.

## Giveaway Fashion Show for People in Need

Aycliffe Charity "Helping Hands" want to make sure that warm clothing goes to those struggling financially this winter. They are planning a Fashion Show for PJ's, Onesies, Dressing Gowns, Slippers, Warm Coats with accessories, Gloves, Umbrella's and Heat Pads for male and female and babies to adult sizes - something for everyone!! Invited clients will get a 'free' allowance to pick items of their own choice, to take home. They will find out more on the award winning registered charity

'Lifeline Community Action'. It will be a lovely evening where everyone can relax, have some great food and hear a few stories from people who we've already had the privilege of helping. The event is at Woodham Golf & Country Club, Burnhill Way, on Friday 20th February at 7pm.

If you are struggling financially, and haven't been to one of our Fashion Shows before and would like to attend, please phone Linzi on 07936 431262 or e-mail lifeline.action@googlemail.com



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**Rugby Team in Good Form UNBEATEN RUN FOR SPORTS CLUB**

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club came out on top after a hard fought battle in difficult conditions at Chester-le-Street. Aycliffe came into this game in 3rd place with their opponents 4th so it was never going to be an easy match. The strong cold wind made handling difficult and both teams had to play accordingly. Aycliffe's side looked strong, but flanker Drew Gibson had to fill in at centre where there was still a shortage of players. Aycliffe began well, with their backs showing pace, but Chester's defence was strong. The first score came after a 15 minutes; an Aycliffe move seemed to have ground to a

halt when the ball hit the floor, but Gibson picked up and ran powerfully forward before spinning the ball out wide to Dan Montgomery whose pace saw him outstrip the defence as he ran the ball in from 40 metres. Chester fought back and their forwards' driving play saw them inch their way up the field. Finally they powered over for a try in the corner. The score remained at 5 - 5 for the next 20 minutes as the teams turned around level. Aycliffe's forwards up a gear in the second half as they took the game to the opposition, with hooker Jamie Whelan at the forefront of much that was

good about their play, but the scoreboard stubbornly stayed at 5 - 5. Eventually, with only 15 minutes left, the forwards gained their reward when captain Deryk Cairns was able to power over from short range. Montgomery added a fine conversion to make the lead 7 points. The game was effectively won with a bizarre try. The Chester full-back, under pressure from Jeff Hodgson, completely missed the ball in his attempt to kick it into touch; Andy Littlefair quickly picked it up and calmly drew the last defender before feeding Jonny Griffith, who sped in unopposed. Montgomery added another excellent kick. Although there was time for only one more play, Aycliffe now sensed a 4th, bonus point, try. They quickly spun the ball wide and broke into Chester territory, but the final pass went to ground; Chester launched a counter-attack and, with the Aycliffe defence in tatters, crossed the line for a try. Their kicker then coolly slotted the extras to give the home side a losing bonus point of their own. The game ended with a 19 - 12 victory for the visitors. This result keeps Aycliffe in 3rd place in Durham and Northumberland Division 3, but on 17th January they host 2nd place Houghton in a must win game at Moore Lane; kick-off 2.15pm. Aycliffe Rugby is sponsored by S Cars and Whitehouse funeral services.

After last week's 4-2 home win against Witton Victoria, Newton Aycliffe Sports Club went one better this weekend with a magnificent 5-2 win against Title Favourites Darlington Rolling Mills, at Moore Lane, to make it 8 straight wins off the belt. The two teams had already met twice this season with the Sports Club losing 5-0 in the League and 4-0 in the Heart Foundation Cup, so this was always going to be a tough test for the hosts. Due to numerous absentees, manager Paul Eales was forced to change from his trusting 5-3-2 formation, to a more traditional 4-4-2 set up, with David Teder and Anth Campbell taking up the wide midfield roles. Both teams were intent in setting out their stalls early on the heavy pitch and when a free kick was awarded just outside the area on 15 minutes, it was Paul Cook who gave the hosts the lead, lofting the ball over the wall and past the stranded keeper. Free scoring Rolling Mills were finding it difficult to breakdown the tough tackling home side with Mark Craggs returning to the centre of defence not allowing anything to get past him. On the 35 minute mark, in form Chris Jones got on the score sheet after a lovely weighted pass from David Teder allowed him to break through the defence and round the keeper to slot home and make it 2-0. Then five minutes later, just moments before half time it was Connor Hughes who made it three, slotting the ball in past the keeper after good work from strike partner Jones. The Rolling Mills came out fighting in the second half and with the benefit of a strong wind they gradually began to put the home side under intense pressure with Keeper Andy Hartley having to be on guard numerous times to keep them out. A penalty was awarded for the away team on the hour mark which was slammed home to give the Darlington side some hope of getting back in the game. However, the comeback was short lived as another floating free kick from Paul Cook saw Connor Hughes leap high above anyone else, including the away keeper, to head home his second and the teams fourth on 65 mins. Andy Hartley was kept busy with the away side continuing to press and trying their luck - but the keeper was in fine form and it wasn't until the



80th minute they managed to find a way past him and the battling defence, to make it 4-2. Not to be outdone though, Connor Hughes completed his fourth hattrick of the season with an easy tap in at the far post to make it 5-2 and record a memorable win which saw the Sports Club climb to the top of the table for the first time this season, a position they will be fighting to maintain over the remaining 7 league games. Next week is derby week, when NASC FC take the short trip across town to Simpature Park to play The Huntsman in what will prove to be a very difficult tie, but one not to be missed. Team: Andy Hartley, Jonathan Clegg, Mark Craggs, Craig Hannant, Darren Bossomworth, Anthony Campbell, Paul Cook, Gareth Boyes, David Teder, Chris Jones, Connor Hughes. Subs (used): Tom Postle, Tommy Young

**GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that:

A meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee of the Town Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on:

**WEDNESDAY, 28th JANUARY 2015**  
**at 6.00pm**

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. Agendas and Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. ([www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk))

**GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Dates and Times of Statutory Meetings of the Town Council and its Committees**

**Wednesday 28th January 2015**

**Council Meeting**

**QUESTION TIME**

A period of up to 20 minutes has been also 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.

With the exception of the Annual and Extra-Ordinary Council Meetings members of the public can submit a written question for the Council Agenda as long as it is submitted 7 clear days before a meeting.

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](http://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".

**Local Company Open Day**

Paul Sparke from Shildon is Operations Director for Air Compressors & Blowers North East Limited who are the main distributor in the north for the new Hydrovane design which will be on display at an Open Day on 11th February to which all customers from Aycliffe are invited. A range of Gardner Denver Products will also be available. The company, only open for 2½ years, is based at Dunston, and have invested in new Vibration Analysis equipment to monitor bearing failure and new leak detector equipment. They are looking to expand into Cumbria and are taking on a lot of offshore work. Contact Paul on 0191 460 9605, Mob 07713 503 210

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# Top Rugby League Players Visit Tigers



Saturday 10th January was a wild and wonderful day for the Sildon Rugby League Club. The Durham Tigers aged 6-16, based at Sunnyside Leisure Centre had a day that the weather could not blow away! They had a visit from the top Rugby League Club in the North East, Gateshead Thunder based at Kingston Park. For many of the players, coaching staff, family, friends and local residents this was a wonderful chance to meet and watch Gateshead Thunder in action whilst training. The icing on the cake the Thunder lads taking time out of their busy schedule to join the Durham Tigers training session. They gave the lads some helpful hints and tips whilst having fun. Stanley Gene the former Papua New Guinea International Rugby League player and local hero who coaches Thunder

commented, "We want to take our great game into local communities to highlight the opportunities to local kids, who want to make a future in the game. Today is the first of many sessions which will be held throughout the North East." John Simpson Chairman of the Tigers said "It is a great privilege to host Thunder, as we are building a strong community based club at Sildon, serving South Durham and North Teesside areas. Today's event is all part of the process of developing talented players, showing them what can be achieved with hard work and determination." The Tigers are keen to welcome new players of all ages and abilities. Further information about the club can be found on Facebook 'We are the Durham Tigers' or contact the club secretary on (01833) 641143.

# LOCAL SPORT

## Support the Wildcats this Sunday at 4pm at the Leisure Centre

As the team switches from league competition to the first round of the BBL Trophy, Head Coach Lee Davie is making defence the primary focus in training for his players. The Durham Wildcats will face the Worcester Wolves this Sunday, a team whose second-best scoring offense in the league has helped them to a second place position in BBL Championship. For the BBL Trophy, however, the standings will be reset to 0-0 and the Wildcats want to use a victory in this competition over a quality Worcester side as a boost for the remainder of the season. Durham will host Worcester on Sunday 18th January at the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre with tipoff set for 4:00pm. While the Wolves average 85.26 points per game against Durham's ninth-best 76.89, the Wildcats have an advantage is scoring percentage. Davie's squad scores on 54.03 percent of their shots, a mark which makes Durham one of the most efficient shooting teams in the BBL. Worcester has a 49.34 shooting percentage. This normally would generate more wins for a club, but for the 7-12 Durham Wildcats, the inability to gain defensive

stops has made it difficult for the team to come away with more victories. With this in mind, Durham will emphasise defence more than ever for this weekend. "We have had issues on the defensive end that we need to improve upon," Davie said. "That's the focus all week long. We have made adjustments based on the need to generate more stops. Looking throughout the league we are the second-best shooting team in the league but we are not getting many offensive opportunities. Defensively we are not getting a lot of stops to get those extra possessions." Leading the attack for Worcester's prolific offense is Robert Thurman. The 6'10 American centre averages 18.6 points per contest and 10.9 rebounds, creating a challenge for the Wildcats. Durham's big men in John Puk and Fran Urli will combine to stop Worcester's inside presence with expectations to create scoring opportunities for themselves. Puk and Urli have started 2015 well by scoring 18 and 16 versus Bristol Flyers (4th January) and 12 and 23 points versus Surrey United (10th January). Durham's frontcourt scoring is the result of an overall improvement in offensive play. Davie said his squad has done a much better job moving the ball, creating easy shots and finding open lanes for layups since coming back from the Christmas break. If the Wildcats can stop their opposing offenses more frequently, Davie believes his squad will gain more victories down the final stretch of the season, beginning this weekend versus Worcester. Tickets are now available on godurhawildcats.com for this weekend's first round BBL Trophy action. Find us on Facebook and on Twitter (@DurhamWildcats) to follow all the team's news and updates.

# Mixed Fortunes for Aycliffe FC



Newton Aycliffe FC played two away games against top Northern League opposition over the last week but with very different results. On Tuesday 6 January Aycliffe stunned the league leaders taking all three points on manager Peter Dixon's happy return to his old club, West Auckland. In the end Aycliffe were rewarded for the hard work they put in to the game with the team including several ex West players in their ranks. Jordan Laidler was one of those playing against his old team and put in an outstanding performance. West had the early chances although Aycliffe responded well but were thwarted by a spate of offsides until 36 mins when Laidler made it through and slotted the ball past the keeper. The second goal came just before half-time when Stuart Banks had a great shot saved but Aaron Brown was quick to get to the rebound tapping the ball home from close range. The second half saw Aycliffe kicking uphill but any fears that West might be able to pull it back were dispelled on 56 mins by a stunning goal from Laidler volleying home from over 25 yards. For an hour the following Saturday Aycliffe fans dreamt of another 3 points. Dennis Knight's goal in the 6th minute against Sildon gave the possibility that the Northern League might see its' second shock Aycliffe result in a week. However, it wasn't to be.

### FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

- Saturday 17th January - Bedlington Terriers (away) 3:00pm
- Tuesday 20th January - Marske United (home) 7:30pm
- Saturday 24th January - Marske United (away) 3:00pm
- Saturday 31st January - Sunderland RCA (home) 3:00pm

Andrew Green's dismissal for a foul after 60 mins changed the game. Sildon began to apply pressure and despite Aycliffe keeper James Winter's heroic efforts the goals were bound to come. With 20 mins to go Dan Mitton was forced to head off the line but the equaliser came 2 mins later when the ball was played across the box and after a scramble found its way into the back of the net. Aycliffe battled back and after 81 mins Banks had a strong shot from the edge of the box

beaten away by the keeper. That, however, proved to be Aycliffe's last hope as two Sildon goals in the last 7 mins sealed the win for the home side. Looking forward to those two games Aycliffe fans would probably have happily taken the prospect of 3 points but for a short time it looked as though all 6 might be possible. That they beat the league leaders is an indication of how much progress Peter Dixon has made so far.

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## Are You Getting Married?

If you or your partner live or lived in Newton Aycliffe or the surrounding vilages and are planning to get married, Newton News would like to record this special day, using your photo; to let our readers know about your happy occasion and recording the event in print and on our website.

Contact Paul or Syd on 01325 300212 to find out how

## Running Club Results

Aycliffe Running Club did well in the Cathedral Relays at Durham last Sunday. On what was a cold damp day, the Aycliffe ladies team, competing in the Senior and Veteran Women's Relay finished a commendable 49th in a field of 89 and in the men's veteran relay, the men's V/35 team finished 50th out of 94. Individual runners and times are listed below:  
Senior Ladies - Michelle Scott, 13:38 - Kara Rose, 14:36 - Penny Johnson, 15:14.  
Senior Men - Steve Smith, 13:13 - Justin Hindmarch, 12:48 - Kyle SunderlandAFC, 12:57. 57th out of 61.  
Men's Veteran A team - Andrew Sedgwick, 12:19 - Lee Wren, 12:02 - Dave Blewitt, 13:02.  
Men's Veteran B team - Trevor Needham, 14:40 - Rob Nicholson, 15:20 - James Wilson, 16:38. 92nd out of 94.  
On the same day five members of the club took part in the fourth meeting of the Stockton Winter Trail series over 5k. Peter Milburn was first home for the club in 9th position in 21:16 and 2nd V/55, followed closely by Graham Atkins, 10th in 21:45 and 1st V/50.  
Alan Wilks was next over the line, 65th in 25:20 and 1st V/65 and Susan Milburn wasn't far behind and also first in her age group (F/55) and 77th overall in 25:56.  
Finally, Kevin Greenall, slowly getting back to form finished 90th in 26:46.  
Also on the same day Martyn Knox ran in the Senior Men's race at Hartlepool's cross-country meeting and finished 87th in 43:26. Why not join us in our circuit training sessions every Tuesday from 6-7pm. Non-members welcome. For more information about Aycliffe Running Club and their training sessions visit ayclifferrunningclub.org.uk

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# Greenfield Students on Italian Residential Ski Trip

A group of over 80 students and teachers from Greenfield Community College (both Greenfield and Sunnydale campuses) enjoyed a brilliant time in Italy's Aosta Valley when they took part in the annual ski residential during the last week of term. Greenfield has visited Pila, a superb Italian ski resort boasting stunning views of Monte Bianco, for many years and during this time over 900 students have benefitted from the first class tuition provided by the Italian and British instructors.

In fact 12 former students have gone on to gain scholarships and become instructors in their own right. This year, following promotion to one of the Deputy Head posts within the school, has marked the last residential trip for party leader of the course, Mr Dixon. However, his dedication to learning outside of the classroom has left a legacy that ensures that skiing will be offered to future generations of Greenfield students and that they too will



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## Licence Applications

**The Licensing Act 2003** Notice is hereby given that, Champagne & Wine Occasions Ltd, have applied to the Durham County Council in respect of the premises known as 14 Silverdale Place, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 7DZ for the grant of a Premises Licence to permit the following proposed licensable activities: Sale by retail of alcohol (via internet orders only). Deliveries only by courier between 16:00 - 18:00 Monday to Saturday inclusive. The full application can be inspected at the offices of the Licensing Authority, Annand House, St Johns Road, Meadowfield, Durham. DH&8RS between Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4.30pm by appointment. Telephone: 03000 265107. A Responsible Authority or Other Party under the Licensing Act 2003 can make representations/objections to this application. Representations must be made in writing to: Durham County Council, PO Box 617, Durham. DH1 9HZ by 9th February 2015 or e-mail licensing@durham.gov.uk - It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5,000.

16-1-2015

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develop life- long skills. Mr Dixon says of his time at the helm 'I have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to accompany the ski residential for so many years and seen our young people develop year on year- not only in winter sports but as young people and members of our community. I am very proud of the ethos we have created.

Our residential is about life-long learning, both on and off the slopes. Pupils learn a new craft but also realise a life changing educational experience. They are up early, into lessons all day, follow a comprehensive après ski programme and complete a full programme of school work on an evening. They work extremely hard, but each and every one 'grows' during the week and this, for me, is what education, in its simplest form, is all about.' Assemblies are taking place at both campuses during the week beginning 26th January to launch Ski Pila 2015 and it is hoped that we will supersede the numbers

recruited last year! Follow us on Twitter: @GreenfieldSki

## Wanted

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

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2 bedroom spacious top floor apartment, new kitchen, new floors, newly decorated.  
£450pcm  
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# CLEAR PATHS AND DRIVES WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING SUED

As amber weather-warnings are issued across many parts of the UK, personal injury lawyers have reassured homeowners that they can clear paths and driveways of snow or ice without fear of being sued. "Every single winter someone somewhere stirs the myth that Good Samaritans shouldn't be helpful and clear snow because they will be sued if someone then falls and is injured. It's absurd," said solicitor John Spencer, president of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) which campaigns on behalf of injured people.

"Excuse the pun, but let's clear this up right now. There is a distinct difference between a simple accident and negligence which causes an injury when it comes to making a legal claim. "Whoever clears the snow or ice would have to be negligent to be liable for someone else's injury," said John. "For example, using hot water to melt snow which is then going to re-freeze and create a dangerous sheet of ice would be negligent, as well as foolish. Some salt or sand and a shovel will do the job safely. Use your common sense and no-one will get hurt.

John added that a Bill approved last week by the House of Lords which aims to remove the fear of being sued for people performing helpful acts "hits the wrong mark". He said: "This myth about clearing paths is a perfect example of why the Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill hits the wrong mark. The law is fine, but it is public understanding which isn't right and which could prevent Good Samaritans from acting to help others. Education, not legislation, is the way to deal with misconceptions".

# SPONSORED SWIM RETURNS HALF MONEY RAISED FOR YOUR OWN CLUB OR GROUP

The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe has co-organised an Annual Sponsored Swim over many years raising nearly £400,000 for charity. Swimathon, one of the first ever sponsored events, began in the late 70's and is a very popular event attracting teams for all over the area representing clubs, schools and charities who use this occasion to raise half the money they receive in sponsorship for their own use. The other half of the

sponsorship money is presented to a major charity which in the past has included Great North Air Ambulance, Cancer Research, Red Cross, local hospices, Marie Curie, etc. etc. Each team of up to six people, swim in relay across the pool for 55 minutes not only raising cash but competing for trophies presented for the Most money raised, Best School Team, and Most lengths completed. The event this year is to be held at Spennymoor Leisure Centre

on Sunday 10th May from 9am - 5pm. The main charity receiving half the funds is "Heel & Toe" an organisation which cares for children with Cerebral Palsy and other physical disabilities. Teams from the town are invited to take part to raise money for their own group, school or organisation and this worthwhile charity. Please complete the application form below to receive details & sponsorship forms.

# SWIMATHON ENTRY FORM

**PLEASE REGISTER YOUR TEAM EARLY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN YOUR SPONSORSHIP FORMS, YOU DO NOT NEED THE NAMES OF YOUR SWIMMERS UNTIL THE DAY OF THE SWIM**

PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Name of Team.....  
 Name of Contact.....  
 Address of Contact.....  
 .....Postcode:.....  
 Telephone Number.....  
 Email.....  
**EXACT TITLE of Charity or Good Cause nominated to receive half of sponsorship raised by team**.....  
 Signature of Team Contact.....

The organisers reserve the right to refuse the nomination of a "cause" which is considered inappropriate. Any refusal will be given in writing following receipt of this entry form.

Sessions will start promptly on the hour, every hour, from 9am to 4pm. Whilst no guarantee can be given, every effort will be made to accommodate your preferred day time.

**PLEASE STATE YOUR PREFERRED START PERIOD**

9.00am  10.00am  11.00am  12noon   
 1.00pm  2.00pm  3.00pm  4.00pm

If children under the age of 14 are competing a Parent's Consent Statement must be completed on sponsorship form. NOTE: Confirmation of time of swim and sponsor forms will be forwarded by the organisers to the Team Contact, whose responsibility it is to advise the team of all relevant information.

**Please return to Newton News Offices at St. Cuthberts Way or hand in at our agents Youngs Newsagents in the Town Centre or Walker's Butchers, Simpasturegate**

# Getting to Grips With Salty Roads

As the Met Office has issued yellow weather warnings of ice and snow for much of the country, roads are expected to be gritted to prevent snow from settling. The IAM's chief examiner, Peter Rodger is offering advice to motorists to better cope with driving on road surfaces that have been recently treated.

1. If weather conditions are severe in your area you should take notice of police advice and simply don't travel. However, in exceptional circumstances if you must go out make sure you drive safely with extra caution on icy roads.
2. Salt will often make the windscreen, headlights, number plate and rear parts of your car very dirty. Cars without headlamp washers, for example, will lose an estimated 40% of luminosity, and possibly all their focus in about 20 miles on a damp, gritted motorway. When travelling long distances it is advised that you stop regularly at service stations to clean your

windscreen and headlights with a clean cloth. Or keep a filled gallon of water in the car boot to give your lights, windows and mirrors a quick wash over - a handy investment to top up your windscreen washer reservoir when needed too.

3. When driving on a busy road avoid overtaking a gritting lorry as the road ahead may not be treated yet. If you have any doubt, don't risk it. Never overtake a snow plough in heavy snow conditions.
4. While roads may be gritted to give you better traction some areas may not be completely treated, leaving ice patches exposed. You should therefore drive at a steady pace - ensuring the safety of you and your passengers.
5. It's important you keep your car clean throughout the winter as the salt in grit can cause external damage such as corrosion to exposed suspension parts. Ensure you thoroughly wash underneath your car when you can to stop salt from settling.

6. Don't forget to wash/rinse alloy wheels too; the smallest scratch can quickly become a large rust patch.

Rodger said: "Preparation is the key to avoiding a dangerous situation whilst driving in snowy or icy conditions. Don't rely on the performance of your car systems to get you out of trouble - allow time, make sure you have good visibility all round and carry the right equipment."

## Obituary

## In Memoriam

### Neil Douglass



16th January 2005

If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane, I'd walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again. Always loved and missed. Forever in my heart. Mam

### Neil Douglass

16th January 2005  
 Sending Dad lots of love and kisses, Ella xxxxx

### Neil Douglass

16th January 2005  
 No words were ever written, no verse could ever say, just how much we love and miss you every day. Loved always dear Brother. Alan, John, Tracy and Rob

### Shane Smith



(Big Lad)

Sadly taken from us on 10th January 2015. A dearly loved son of Keith and Sheila; also a much loved Brother of Stephen and Ryan and a much loved Brother-in-Law and Uncle. Would all family and friends meet for a Service at 10am on 23rd January 2015 at St Mary's R.C. Church.

**Shane,** Words cannot express how much we are going to miss our precious Son. Took from our lives far too soon, Our hearts are broken, we love you so much and you will always be in our thoughts and prayers. Mam and Dad xx  
**Shane,** goodbye for now, but definitely not forever, just until we meet again. Love now and forever from your Brother Stephen and Michelle xx  
**Uncle Shane,** we are going to miss you loads and we love you millions, loads of love from Sheniece (niece baby chips, peas and gravy) and Reece xxxxx  
**To my Dear Brother,** I am going to miss you more than words can say. You were a true gentleman with a heart of gold. Love you loads Shane, R.I.P. Until we meet again. Love, Ryan and Buster (your little mate the dog!)

**WILLIAM WRIGHT.** Peacefully on 7th January, Billy, aged 77 years. Much loved Step Dad of Gary and Mandy, Geoff and Marie; Beloved Brother of Doreen; Uncle and Step Grandad and a sadly missed and loyal friend to many. Funeral Service to take place on Friday 23rd January in Wear Valley Crematorium at 1.15pm. Would friends please meet at crematorium chapel. **SHERIDAN,** Newton Aycliffe. 9th January, peacefully in hospital, Roger aged 73 years. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Tuesday 27th January. Would friends kindly meet for Service in Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon at 1.15pm. Family flowers only please. Donation in lieu in aid of WWF may be given or will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6EN. Tel: 01325 318600.

## Congratulations

### Louie Henderson



**Happy 1st Birthday**  
 20th January 1994

Happy birthday to our gorgeous Grandson. Lots of love and kisses from Grandma, Grandad, Uncle Ross and Auntie Janey xxx

### Konnor Latheron



**Happy 21st Birthday**  
 16th January 1994

21 years ago I was blessed with the most precious gift of a beautiful baby boy, who from that day on has owned my heart. Enjoy your special day Konnor. All our love, Mam and Shaun xxxxx

### Louie Henderson



**Happy 1st Birthday**  
 20th January 1994

Happy 1st birthday to our gorgeous little boy. Enjoy your day. Lots of love and kisses from Mammy and Daddy xxx

### Michael Howe



**Happy 21st Birthday**  
 Love from all the family  
 xxxxxxxx

**LOUIE HENDERSON** Happy 1st birthday to our gorgeous Nephew Louie Henderson on 20th January. All our love, Auntie Lee-Ann and Uncle Dave xxxxx  
**LOUIE HENDERSON** Happy 1st birthday to our beautiful Cousin "Louie". We love you very much. From Jay, Parker and Erin  
**HENDERSON,** Louie William, 20th January 2015. A very happy first birthday to our bundle of joy. Love and hugs, Great Granmda and all of the family xxx  
**JEAN McKENZIE,** To Mam/Grandma, Wishing you a grand and glorious 80th birthday and may your heart be filled with happiness. Love always Susan, Chris, Sophie, Rebecca, Harrison and Max. California, USA.  
**JEAN McKENZIE,** 21st January 2015. To a special Mam and Grandma, very best wishes on your 80th birthday. Lots of love from Ian, Joanna, Erin and Neve.  
**JAYDEN & CHELSEA** congratulations on your Engagement in Paris. Lots of love and best wishes from Grandma, Granda and Uncle Jason xxxxx  
**LUCAS JAMES FAWCETT** Happy 3rd birthday to our gorgeous Grandson. Have a lovely day little man. Love you all the way to the moon and back again. Love, hugs and kisses from Grandma and Grandad xxxxx

**SHANE MICHAEL SMITH** Shane, you were an amazing boy and an amazing young man. It takes an amazing person to make everyone you know and meet care deeply about you and people did love Shane. This town will miss you deeply, you were a very special person and you have a place in our hearts kid. R.I.P. Shane, we will miss you forever kid. Our thoughts and prayers to Keith, Shiela, Stephen and Ryan. God bless and care for you all. Carolann and Gerard.  
**ETHEL RICHARDSON** 15th January 2014. Mother, did the sun shine brighter, or was the sky a deeper blue? Or was it just a different world when we shared our lives with you? Forever is a long time, this we know is true. But that's how long our broken hearts will love and yearn for you. Now at rest Mam, free from pain, you are with Dad now, together again. Dearly loved and sadly missed, Geoff, Kevin, Lesley, Neville and families  
**ETHEL RICHARDSON** 15th January 2014. Sadly missed by your friend and companion, John  
**JEAN BISHOP** 1930-2013. To a special friend, thinking of you always and your lovely smile. Mick and Marion  
**JOHN McNAMEE** 15th January 2010. How could I forget you, so full of love and life. Today it's been 5 years gone and I am still your Wife. My heart is torn in two everytime I hear your name. All it does remind me of is that it will never be the same. Your memory is as dear today, as in the hour you passed away. Love you always, Jill xxxxx  
**ARNIE MILBURN** died 15th January 2010. Treasured memories of a dear Husband, Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather. Loved and remembered always. Wife Brenda, Sons John, Kevin and Daughter-in-Law Pam, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren  
**KEV DINSLEY,** Dad. 23 years since you were taken from us, not a day goes by without us thinking about you. Love, Teresa, Kevin, Michelle, Louise, Mark, Ian and the Grandkids xxxxx

# Last Second Defeat by Two Points for Durham Wildcats



distance, going 2-11 from beyond the arc. Yet they shot for 58 percent from close range.

Surrey United improve to 4-15 in regular season play and lifted themselves out of the bottom of the ladder. Durham remain in 8th place thanks to the Wildcats' nearest table rivals Bristol Flyers' 82-59 defeat to Leicester Riders.

A last second bucket from Surrey United's Kramer Knutson sent the Wildcats home to Durham with an 80-78 defeat on 10th January. The loss drops Durham to a 7-12 record overall and the Wildcats continue to search for their first back-to-back to wins and road victory since late October.

Fran Urli and Ralph Bucci kept the Wildcats in the contest with their combined seven three-pointers, most of them coming late in the game. Urli was the co-game leader in scoring with 23 points and he had eight rebounds and four assists in his strong performance Saturday night. Bucci added 13 points from

four three-pointers and one free throw. Two consecutive deep baskets from the captain gave the Wildcats their final lead of 78-76 with 1:21 left to play before Surrey United scored their final four points to secure the win.

John Puk shot 6-10 from the field, earning himself 12 points. Panos Mayindombe overcame last week's ankle injury and had 10 points from a strong shooting performance 4-6 overall including nailing both of his three-point attempts. He also had four assists and a steal.

Chris Jones led all players in the match with six assists in addition to his six points, four rebounds and the Wildcats' only other steal. David Buchberger and Sam Martin each had five points and Joel Madourie added four.

The Wildcats trailed at halftime 37-35 but came out of the break strong with a 14-3 run to take a 49-40 lead. Surrey United answered back with their own string of buckets to later even out the score. Throughout the contest it was Surrey's ability to score in the paint which gave Lee Davie and the Wildcats struggles. Fifty-two of Surrey's 80 points came within the key, besting Durham's 30 points from that area.

Overall, the Wildcats were 29-59 (49.2) shooting from the field and they were 11-12 from the free throw line. Surrey United struggled from

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## Film Show

St Clare's Church FEEL GOOD FILM SHOWS will feature "PILLOW TALK" on Tuesday 20th JANUARY. Starring Doris Day and Rock Hudson, it is the uninhibited story of a carefree bachelor and a carefree career girl, and the hilarious things that happen when they become entangled. 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 pure feel good film in friendly company. Further details from Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755

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