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Aycliffe Business Park Group Celebrate 2nd Birthday

Ebac Host Event for all Aycliffe Firms

The Aycliffe Business Park Community will celebrate its second birthday with a special event at the end of January. A Steering Group launched the organisation with around 100 firms from Aycliffe attending. Since then regular news and networking meetings have been held as well as useful business practise seminars at various sites across the park. In September last year, it organised the hugely successful 'Make Your Mark' awards event, when Tekmar Energy was crowned 'Company of the Year' during a ceremony attended by Sedgefield MP Phil



Aycliffe Business Park Community Steering Group:
Pamela Petty, John Finley, Kerina Clark, Dave Spensley and Rachel Townsend Green

Wilson and Business Durham Managing Director, Simon Goon. Talks are under way to formalise the Steering Group, to create a more sustainable organisation. The birthday celebration will be held at Ebac's Nortfrost site on Heighington Lane, on Thursday 29th January, starting at 8.15am. Chairperson Kerina Clark, Managing Director of

the Xcel Centre, said: "It promises to be another well-attended event with lots of new faces and some fun long the way with a special Aycliffe Business Park quiz, to include a fun picture round featuring well-known personalities. There will also be a short video presentation to round up what's been another positive year for Aycliffe. "It would be lovely to see a big turn-out so that we can celebrate what's been achieved, and keep everyone up-to-date on our exciting future plans."

The Steering Group currently relies on volunteers and help

continued on page 3

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Woodham's Got Talent Show



On 17th March Woodham Academy will once again showcase the very best in music and dance in the eagerly anticipated Woodham's Got Talent 2015.

Last year's show saw the judges having to make tough decisions as the standard was so high, however the wonderful dancing of Year 8 student Lauren Towell won the day.

This year's show is

promising to be every bit as spectacular and every bit as hard to split the students. Practising is well under way with the first round of auditions due to take place in February. The evening also hosts a performance by the Woodham Academy Jazz Band and a mystery staff item.....more to be revealed on the evening. Tickets will go on sale from the last week in February and can be purchased by

contacting 01325 300328

Woodham Music Department has also been the recipient of an extraordinary gift from a local resident. A gentleman from Washington Crescent gifted four impeccable guitars for use by students. The guitars, a beautiful Acoustic, a 12 string Schecter, a 5 string Bass and a wonderful JTV Line 6 electric guitar, have made terrific additions to the department and are being put through their paces by the Academy guitarists. The Music department has also received funding from the EMI Sound Foundation this year to purchase brass instruments. There are already a number of students learning to play the trumpet and trombone at Woodham Academy but with the addition of these new instruments the number of students learning will increase three fold. Woodham Academy plans to have its very own Brass Band in the future.

NEW GROUP TACKLES DEMENTIA AWARENESS AND LONELINESS

Former councillor Dorothy Bowman is starting a new group called "NEW PATHWAYS TOGETHER" at the Youth Centre opposite TESCO Store, Burn Lane.

The first meeting is on Wednesday 4th February at 11.00am. Interested parties are invited to come along, have a chat and a cup of tea/coffee or a cooked meal afterwards.

It is hoped carers / relatives and older people wanting to socialise will attend. Transport can be arranged Ring Dorothy on 01325 308094.

Dorothy was one of the first Dementia Champions to take training with the Alzheimer's Society in Newton Aycliffe in 2013. Her aim was to quash myths and raise awareness of dementia which can affect memory, attention, language and other problems.

Unfortunately at the same time she was diagnosed with Cancer and was unable to put as much energy into cause as she had hoped. Now that she has almost finished her treatment she is retrained and is raring to go. Her own illness has strengthened her resolve.

When receiving treatment there were days when she was too ill to go out and she felt alone and cut off from society.

Many people with dementia can feel lonely and isolated also older people living alone can feel this way. Dorothy wants to do something to help so she is setting up this support group. The idea is to provide a place to socialise and find out more about dementia and loneliness, make new friends and learn about the support that is available.

Anyone affected by dementia including carers, friends and families are welcome to bring their clients/family along to find out more about the condition. The regular weekly meetings will have Tea/coffee with fresh hot and cold food available at reasonable prices afterwards.

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Saturday 24th January - "The Whole Hog"

Gig Pit Review: The Comrades welcomed "The Whole Hog" back with their eclectic mix of rock that although you're familiar with, you don't often hear played by local bands. The fact there were members of at least FIVE local bands in to see The Hog gives an idea of how highly the band are respected among the local musicians. Kicking off with Fleetwood Mac's "Oh Well" and running through classics by Family, Jethro Tull, Free, The Climax Blues Band as well as a couple of newer numbers by Joe Bonamassa and The Foo Fighters, the band gave a superb show that was well received by the punters. Rob on vocals and sax is an excellent front man whose vocal talents and onstage athletics are a visual focus that other bands could learn from. Twin guitarists whose on stage empathy speaks of long experience of working together are underpinned by a solid rhythm section fronted by John on bass who bounces well off Rob on vocals, in giving the appearance of a party on stage. Musicians having a good time whilst playing, always carry the crowd with them - we look forward to seeing "The Whole Hog" later in the year.

Saturday 31st January - "WitchKraft"

For more information on bands go to www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

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Aycliffe Professor Appointed New NHS Trust Chairman

Professor Paul Keane OBE has been appointed as the Trust's new Chairman, replacing Dr Tony Waites, whose term of office comes to an end on 28th February 2015. Paul from Newton Aycliffe is shortly to retire after a successful career in the NHS and as the Dean of the School of Health and Social Care at Teesside University. He is currently the North East Universities' Nominated Governor to the Trust. In this role, he has chaired the Governors' Quality and Healthcare Governance Committee and the Governors' Strategy Committee and, most recently, has chaired the Clinical Reference Group, an expert panel of the Trust's clinicians involved in informing and designing the Trust's clinical strategy. Paul joined the NHS in 1966 and worked in a variety of care settings, including a six month

secondment with the Overseas Development Administration to the Island of St Helena. He has also advised and helped to implement new healthcare programmes in many countries worldwide. He took up teaching in the late 1970s and progressed into management, becoming Director of the Durham College of Health in 1989 when he moved to live in Newton Aycliffe. Paul was born in Galway, Ireland and previously resided with his wife Brid in Derby and York. They have a daughter, Michelle and two Grandsons. Paul enjoys walking, golf and worldwide travel. He transferred to Teesside University in 1995 and became Dean of the School of Health and Social Care in 2000. Under his leadership, the School has grown from 3000 to over 14000 students, and is renowned for the excellence



of its teaching, research and employer engagement. Paul was appointed Professor in 2004 in recognition of his professional and academic leadership, and received an OBE in the 2010 New Year Honours list for services to healthcare. On his appointment, Paul said, "I am delighted and honoured to be appointed as Chairman of this Trust. I appreciate that it will be a demanding responsibility in the current climate, but I am looking forward to working with all employees in the organisation to ensure we deliver the best quality care to the population we serve". Newton News congratulates Paul on his appointment wishing him every success as Chairman.

Do You Want Company?

Independent Age – the long established National Charity with over 150 years history of help and support to older people – is looking to develop its work in the Newton Aycliffe area.

Providing a free service to older people who would benefit from a volunteer visiting them in their own home on a regular basis to spend some "quality time". Whether it is talking about the old days or simply a game of scrabble.

Area Manager Kay White said – "Many older people have great support with practical tasks like shopping/housework. We provide that LITTLE EXTRA from local volunteers who enjoy spending time with older people. I am delighted to announce that we have two new Volunteer Visitors who are awaiting a call. They are Julie Blackburn and Dorothy Bowman. Dorothy is already known to many for her work helping others locally. Please give me a call if you would like to find out more on 0191 2365039".

Popular Social Club Expands



The New Friends New Places Club meets every Tuesday from 1.30pm until 4.00pm at The Navy Club, Burnhill Way.

The club over the years has grown to around 40 members and new members are most welcome and you can be picked up at home for your first visit. The club held their annual Christmas Party receiving a visit from Mr and Mrs Claus. The local Police Beat Team: P.C. Mike Welch and PCSO Michael Hutchinson distributed shed alarms, night lights, handbag bells and lots of other free safety equipment.

Come and join us - we have different activities over the month including Line Dancing, Armchair Aerobics, Quizzes, Bingo, Mystery tours and the last Tuesday of each month we have live entertainment: 29th January: Kevin Royale, 24th February: Stephen Richards, 31st March: Shirley Mac, 28th April: Tony St. Claire. Admission to non members is £3 and a bar is available.

Aycliffe Business Park Community 2nd Birthday

Continued from Front Page

from Business Durham, but a recognised body will have more opportunities to access funding to pay for projects and be able to employ staff or pay local firms to carry out work and build on what's already been achieved in the first two years. "We can't do that as an informal group, and we now feel able to go to the next level to sustain the future, as that is what the park needs and, from what we've heard, it's what Aycliffe businesses want as well."

All companies on Aycliffe Business Park are invited to attend the birthday party. This completely FREE event will consist of breakfast and networking, news and updates, a short video presentation and a special birthday quiz, with prizes up for grabs including a Nortfrost chest freezer and hamper. You can register your attendance at: www.aycliffebusinesspark.co.uk

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Death of Town's Award Winning Gardener



The family of Walter Arnold Bewley (known as Bob) from Stanfield Road are sad to announce he passed away on Thursday 15th January, very peacefully at home, surrounded by his loving family. Bob moved to Newton Aycliffe with his wife Margaret in 1952 and they had a son Colin who was born here in 1956 and is married to Christine. They have four grandchildren, Jessica, Katie, Paul and Shaun and three Great Grandchildren Jackson, Will and Sadie

Bob was well known on the town for his lovely gardens both at Washington Crescent where he lived until 2004 and then at his bungalow at Stanfield Road and many passers by drew great pleasure from his beautiful displays. He won a Best Garden award for six years in a row the last being in 2014 when at 85 he still managed to create a stunning display. His family were very proud that all his hard work was recognised and his lovely displays will be greatly missed.

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HARRY POTTER EVENING

Newton Aycliffe Library are holding a Harry Potter evening on Thursday 5th February from 4.00 pm till 7.00 pm. If you are interested in the boy wizard, come along to the library to visit Harry on his wicked web site and also get involved in other Harry Potter activities. You are hereby invited to embrace the magic and banish the midwinter blues! If you wish to enter into the world of Harry Potter and come dressed up as one of the characters there will be a small prize for the best dressed child. For more information contact the library on 03000 269 519.

NEW LIBRARIES TO ENCOURAGE READING

Since September a group of young people have been a part of “Book Buzz” at Greenfield Community College- a group who aim to be enthused and inspire others to love reading and love books. One of the ways they are doing this is by working with Greenfield Arts and the Greenfield Arts’ Men’s Cree volunteers project to create a “Little Free Library.” The library will have two public installations, one in front of Greenfield Arts Centre and another to follow later at the Sunnydale Campus in Shildon. Both



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 recive 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 rasing 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 fror their own group, school or organisation and this worthwhile charity. Please complete the application form below to receive details & sponsorship forms.

“Little Free Libraries” will hold books that have been collected and donated for young people and members of the community to borrow, read and return. “Book Buzz” hope that this will inspire people to read something new. The young people have been working alongside volunteers to develop the idea for the installation, and will be learning new skills to help build it too! Another local group, Horndale Residents Association, are supporting the project with a kind donation raised at a recent Winter Fayre at Greenfield Arts - to pay for materials. The boys have been very busy building the libraries, collecting books and making plans ready for the launch at the end of February – we can’t wait to see it finished! This project is one of many of our fantastic Cree volunteers are supporting. They meet on Mondays and always welcome new volunteers! For more information about this and other projects visit our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

WEST PARK FRIENDS A.G.M.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of West Park will take place on: Tuesday 10th February 2015 at 7.00pm upstairs lounge British Legion Nominations are sought for the positions of Chairman, Secretary Treasurer Vice Chairman Asst Secretary Asst Treasurer and up to 14 other members to comprise the Management Committee. All present officers and Committee members are standing for re election, but nominations are open to all residents of Great Aycliffe and should reach the Secretary by 6th February. Voting is by show of hands and all residents of Great Aycliffe may attend, vote or speak and put ideas forward which will be most welcome. Arun M Chandran Secretary arunmchandran@aol.com 88 Honister Place Newton Aycliffe. tel.313224

Residents Want More Retail Provision

Analysis of the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire shows improved retail provision is the key priority for residents, who like the refurbished town centre but would like to see more choice, more restaurants and bars and less vacant units. Many residents shop elsewhere for clothing and household items. Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan is working closely with Durham County Council on this issue, as allocating additional retail floor space directly conflicts with its Local Plan. Consultants are being requested to undertake a soft market analysis to determine whether national retailers would consider, what would be for them, a purely commercial decision to locate to Aycliffe. Projected housing growth, the arrival of Hitachi and expansion of the Business Park may make a stronger case for improved retail provision in Aycliffe. Angela Corner, the Community Neighbourhood Engagement Officer said, ‘Residents must understand that the Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory planning document, which makes allocations for land and business use and sets planning rules which could facilitate the setting up or expansion of businesses. It is not, however, a delivery mechanism.’ Respondents ranked the environment as their second priority, with the protection of the current green open spaces and the inclusion of green spaces in future development attracting many positive comments. Lord Beveridge’s vision for the design of the town in the 1940s was for green open spaces for children to play safely and it is clear that the majority of residents share that vision today. However, there is also some support for the partial development of some green areas to ease residential parking congestion. As the third priority, residents highlighted housing, with the provision of bungalows and affordable housing, good design and renewable energy all identified as important. Angela Corner said that the next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan is to set up thematic groups to address all the priorities highlighted, calling for the help of residents interested in the future of Aycliffe : ‘This is a community-led plan, we need residents to get involved by committing just a few hours a month to attend meetings and support our work. We will be holding an event in Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre on 21 February from 10am-12 noon and invite anyone interested to come along, meet the team and register an interest in getting involved.’

Residents Association Receives £7,000 Grant

WASPS Simpature Residents Association are pleased to announce that over £7000 of funding has been approved for our 2015 projects. The group would like to extend thanks to the BIG Lottery Fund and Honest John’s Community Kitty for their kind donations. Working closely with Livin we plan to launch an IT Learning Centre, based in the Simpature Court community facility, early April this year. This will be an invaluable community asset, whether you want to surf the net, shop online, search for a job or just improve your computer skills. So please get involved and use this free project. We are also planning to timetable a programme of outings and events. A day at the seaside, a night at the dogs or a trip to the zoo? Have your say in selecting a venue for a subsidised event. We will be discussing all this and more at our next meeting on Tuesday the 27th of January at 7.30pm, immediately following the Simpature PACT meeting(6.30pm start) . Come along to see what is on offer and also hear an update on the Iron Horse car park development at the Simpature Court coffee lounge next Tuesday. Contact John on 07972170190 or Alan on 07754094946 or email waspresidents@gmail.com

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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.

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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, Simpaturegate

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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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Students Given Chance to Enhance Their C.V.'s



On Monday 12th January 2015, Helen Wilson from the National Citizen Service came in to work with Year 11 students at Woodham Academy to promote their summer scheme.

The scheme aims to give students the opportunity to experience the freedom of life away from home whilst ensuring that they undertake fundraising or voluntary work to help the local community. It is an excellent way to make sure they develop key employability skills such as team work, organisation communication skills amongst many others. This follows its success in 2014 which saw six students from Woodham Academy participate in the scheme.

Nadia Thompson, Casey Davidson, Jack Jacob, Lukas Balmer-Howieson, Jessica Thompson and Amy Jo Saunders spent one week away from home followed by a week's residential at The University of Durham. "These are skills that cannot be taught in the classroom but are sought after amongst

employers and this is therefore an ideal opportunity for students in Year 11 to enhance their CV's whilst at the same time having fun" said Helen Wilson.

Sarah McGinnety, Associate Assistant Head teacher at Woodham Academy said "This is an invaluable experience for our young people and we look forward to seeing more students participate in this year's scheme".

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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

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

COUNTY NEWSBITS

compiled by County Councillor John Clare

- County Councillors refused to increase their allowance, despite the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendation that they do so.
- During the year ending August 2014: 96% of municipal waste was diverted from landfill, against a target of 86%. - 96% of category 1 highways defects (e.g. potholes) were repaired within 24 hours - Only 42% of household waste was recycled (against a target of 45%). Fly-tipping incidents rose 37% to 9,922, prompting the campaign 'Operation Stop It': bit.ly/DCCFlytipping
- Report of the Director of Public Health on social isolation and loneliness in County Durham: bit.ly/DCCDPH
- County Durham Fire & Police Safer Homes Project - for a safety checklist and more information see: bit.ly/DFPSafe
- Stay safe this winter, and check on vulnerable neighbours: bit.ly/DCCwarmandwell
- Complete the Police Council Tax consultation online at: bit.ly/DPCCTax
- Comment on the Police and Crime Plan: bit.ly/DPCConsultation
- Durham Constabulary's 'Safe Places' Scheme: bit.ly/DCSafePlaces
- Choose your favourite GANP vision statement at: bit.ly/GANPvision
- The County Council is consulting on withdrawing the Community Buildings Grant and instead helping centres become self-sufficient: bit.ly/DCCCommBuildGrant
- Access Prioritisation Project: over the next few months, DCC will be consulting about ways to improve the access network in the Aycliffe-Shildon-Bishop Auckland area. bit.ly/DCCAccessProject
- Time is running out to book your DCC £20 green waste collections next year: bit.ly/DCCGreenWaste
- Lumière Light festival is set to return <http://bbc.in/1yDrZJV>
- Guided walks in Teesdale: bit.ly/TeesdaleWalks
- Get the updated Help4Teens 'Start Today' booklet - job, apprenticeship and training opportunities for 16-19yr-olds: <http://ow.ly/H3MDf>
- Hitachi Rail Europe Recruitment Event - Thursday 5th February from 14:00 to 19:30, Xcel Centre, Aycliffe Business Park, DL5 6AP, Newton Aycliffe: bit.ly/HitachiJobs215
- Level 2 Food Safety in Catering: 1-day course, 28 January at the PCP - phone 01325 329936
- One million electors lost their place on the electoral register with the new arrangements - RU one of them? <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>
- Sunday 25 January, 4pm tip-off in the Leisure Centre: Durham Wildcats play Glasgow Rocks

Free Recovery Help With Addictions

A recovery and art project is

running in Bishop Auckland for people with addictions - with free places available until April this year.

January is a difficult time of the year for people with addictions - many of us party over Christmas but then find we cannot stop when others can.

The Creative Recovery Community Association is a volunteer run and peer led project that exists to share the 12 step recovery programme with those that wish to recover and achieve abstinence from alcoholism, drug dependency and eating. They teach this through art and recovery workshops, developing a supportive community that will help people through the early stages of sobriety, into lifelong recovery fellowships. The project is funded through donations and The Arts Council and Russell Brand's 'Give It Up' Comic Relief grants, so all services are free. They are an independent organisation, non-political and non-religious, inviting self referrals or referrals through local agencies, potential members (and their guests), agencies, partners and future friends can visit the studio by appointment, and find out more about the programme.

For more information please visit the website. The studio is based in the Discovery Centre, 17 North Bondgate, Bishop Auckland. Helen Morley, Tel: 07849 926239 E-mail: creative.recovery@yahoo.co.uk

Parents Worried About Social Networking Sites

HIGHER MINIMUM AGE LIMITS REQUIRED

Parents' concerns about social networking sites popular with children are revealed today, as the NSPCC launches its Share Aware campaign to get families talking about socialising safely online.

An NSPCC panel of more than 500 parents from Mumsnet reviewed 48 of these sites and said all those aimed at adults and teenagers were too easy for children under 13 to sign-up to. On more than 40 per cent of the sites, the panel struggled to locate privacy, reporting and safety information.1

At least three quarters of parents surveyed by the NSPCC found sexual, violent, or other inappropriate content on Sickpedia, Omegle, Deviant Art, and F my Life within half an hour of logging into the sites. Those aimed at younger children, like Club Penguin, Moshi Monsters, Popjam and Bearville, fared better and parents did not find any unsuitable content on them. The NSPCC also asked just under 2,000 children and young people which social networking sites they used.2 Talking to strangers or sexual content were the main concerns mentioned by children. But they also thought the minimum age limit for signing up to many sites should be higher, despite saying they'd used the sites when they were underage. The NSPCC has used the reviews to create a new online



guide to help inform parents about the risks of different social networking sites used by children.

Peter Wanless, CEO of the NSPCC, said: "Children are taught from an early age that it is good to share but doing so online can be very dangerous. We must all be Share Aware. This Christmas many children will have been given a smart phone, a tablet computer, or a games console. So it's the perfect opportunity for parents to have that important conversation with their children about who they are talking to and what they share when they socialise online.

"We know children do take risks online, sometimes without realising it. And we know

some parents feel confused by the internet - out of their depth, and out of control. Our Share Aware campaign gives parents straightforward, no-nonsense advice that will help them to untangle the web and feel confident talking to their children about online safety.

"Keeping children safe online is the biggest child protection challenge of this generation. Parents have a vital role to play but we want social networking sites to respond to parental concerns about their children's safety and privacy. The NSPCC will continue to challenge and work with internet companies and the Government to make the internet a safer place for children."

The NSPCC's Share Aware campaign is aimed at parents of 8 to 12-year-old children and also features two animations to be shown on prime time TV and digital spaces. I Saw Your Willy and Lucy And The Boy are engaging films with a serious message that follow the stories of two children who share too much about themselves online. Both films contain the simple message that although children are taught that it's good to share, this is not always the case online.

People can find out more about the NSPCC campaign at www.nspcc.org.uk/shareaware and join the debate on social media by following #ShareAware.

Anyone looking for advice about keeping children safe online, or concerned about the safety and welfare of a child, can contact the NSPCC's 24-hour helpline on 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk. Children worried about online safety or any other problem can call the free, 24-hour helpline on 0800 1111 or get help online at www.childline.org.uk

HALF PRICE ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS

Adults looking to get fit are being offered half-price swimming lessons at leisure centres across County Durham.

They are open to beginners or those who just want to improve their skills. People who sign-up to the full course of 12 lessons before 31 January can also get a second course for half-price. The range of Aqua Adult lessons for those aged 18 or over are:

- Get Swimming - For those unable to swim, with the aim of achieving a distance of 10m. These classes focus on water confidence, floatation and movement.
- Stay Swimming - For those

who can swim 10m. These classes focus on developing stroke technique with the aim of achieving a distance of 25m.

• Feel great Swimming - For those who can swim over 25m. These classes focus on developing stroke technique with the aim of achieving a distance of 100m.

They take place at Newton Aycliffe Tel: 03000 266 446 Spennymoor Tel: 03000 261 161

Costs are £11.75 a month, payable by direct debit for three months, or a quarterly cash payment of £35.50.

More information available at www.durham.gov.uk/leisurecentres.

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NAMED AND SHAMED



Dear Sir,
I thought I should bring to readers' attention the parking situation at Newton Aycliffe town centre. (opposite the Leisure Centre steps).
My father has tried to park there a number of times, however no spaces have been available.
For the past few weeks I have noticed a young man getting into a Black BMW parked in this car park and driving away.
I have since found out he is a fitness instructor in the Leisure Centre and not disabled at all and there is no disabled badge in the car. Why does he think he has the right to take up one of the few disabled spaces in our town centre?
Name & address supplied

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Hitachi's Training Train Arrives in Port of Tyne

A training carriage for the Hitachi Rail Europe plant in Newton Aycliffe, rolled off the 229 metre long vehicle carrier Höegh London and into the Port of Tyne on Sunday 18th January.
The part assembled train carriage will become Hitachi plant's training unit. It was built at Hitachi's factory in Japan and was transported travelling 52 days and 12,880 nautical miles to reach Engalnd.
The arrival of the training



Roman Appoint New International Sales Executive



Leading UK shower designer and manufacturer, Roman, is delighted to welcome a new member to their International team, Emilia Plaza Gomez. Emilia joins Roman's International team as International Sales Executive.
Emilia is Spanish and originally comes from Adalucia in the South of Spain, she also speaks fluent English and intermediate level in Italian. Emilia's previous role was the International Account Manager at Barclaycard, where she managed a portfolio of accounts. Emilia's skills of providing excellent customer service support, building a strong rapport with customers and speaking three languages will be a key addition to Roman's International department.
Emilia says of her new role, "I'm very excited about my new challenge in Roman and to be working with a company who deals with over 45 countries worldwide. Roman's International department is continuously growing and Roman's products are being used in some of the finest Hotels Worldwide. I am thrilled to be joining the strong team and look forward to being part of their future growth and success."

carriage represents a significant milestone for Hitachi Rail Europe, as a major investor in the skills development of its future workforce in the North East. Darren Cumner, Manufacturing Plant Manager, Hitachi Rail Europe, said: "The arrival of the training carriage is a significant step for Hitachi Rail Europe's plans to train our manufacturing staff. Apprentices, technicians and engineers will use this train carriage to gain in-depth knowledge of how to build trains. Shipping this carriage via the Port of Tyne is further testament to our commitment to working with local partners and promoting a strong local supply chain."

The 26m long carriage will be stored at the Höegh Northern Terminal; one of three car terminals at the Port of Tyne, until it is transported to Hitachi's training facility. Graeme Wardhaugh, General Manager at NSA UK Ltd, said: "Our experience of working with the Renault Nissan Alliance and other companies such as Hitachi Construction Machinery has allowed NSA and Höegh Autoliners to develop the required skill base which these global companies require to support their logistics requirements."

RACING ACE FUNDS BLOOD FOR AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE

Motorsport legend, John Surtees OBE, founder of the Henry Surtees Foundation will help to fund equipment for the Great North Air Ambulance Service which began carrying blood on board their aircraft last week.
The foundation's undisclosed donation to GNAAS will buy thermostatically controlled boxes and blood warmers to enable them to carry out blood transfusions at the scene of life-threatening accidents. They will also provide two 4-wheel drive Vauxhall Mokka vehicles for the Cumbria Blood Bikes and Northumbria Blood Bikes to give them all-weather transport for the ferrying of blood between hospital and aircraft.
John Surtees said: "With a background in motorsport, I have spent my life chasing time round the race tracks of the world. I know that every second counts and none more so than for the air ambulance services when accidents or illnesses occur. "Last year the foundation supported the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Trust, with a similar initiative. This has had an immediate result in the saving of injury and life. During the first year alone, over 70 transfusions were successfully carried out".
GNAAS doctor Rachel Hawes, was serving as a reservist in Afghanistan when she witnessed military helicopters delivering blood transfusion supplies directly to the scene of severely injured patients. She recognised its potential in the NHS and on her return set about creating the Blood on Board project. She said: "One of the first things medics have to do is stop any bleeding to save a patient's life and many seriously injured patients risk bleeding to death. This project will bring life-saving treatment to the patient's point of injury. That could be on the roadside, on a hill top, or in a remote community, in cases where previously the patient has had to wait until they get to hospital. This will transform pre-hospital care and save multiple lives. It is going to be of huge benefit to the region. "We want to thank the Henry Surtees Foundation who has come forward to support us." The new service is the result of a collaboration between GNAAS, Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle, Cumbria Blood Bikes and Northumbria Blood Bikes.

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County Robotics Event at Woodham



During the last week of term, 8 teams from across County Durham competed for the second Royal Academy of Engineering Durham VEX Robotics Challenge at Woodham Academy.

The schools taking part were Greenfield, St Leonards, Tanfield School, Park View, The Hermitage Academy, Staindrop, Ferryhill Business College and Woodham Academy. Each school presented a team of 6 Year 9 students, 3 boys and 3 girls.

The event was supported by the Royal Academy of Engineering Connecting STEM Teacher programme. The Connecting STEM Teachers project, which was founded by BG Group and has subsequently been additionally supported by Petrofac, aims to provide local support for the teachers of STEM subject so they can develop the knowledge and confidence to:

- Illustrate the role of engineering in society to young people
- Explain how engineers shape the world and improve lives
- Highlight how STEM learning at school is applied in the real world
- Enrich the STEM curriculum
- Engage a greater number and wider spectrum of students in STEM.

Central to this project is a national network of Teacher Coordinators, employed as consultants by the Royal Academy of Engineering, who provide STEM teachers in their local

schools with free training, ideas and resources to help them enhance STEM learning.

Michael Nelson, Head of Engineering and Design and Technology at Woodham Academy is one of two regional teacher coordinators for this project in the North East. He said "It is remarkable to see so many students from different schools, fully engaged within this challenge. It clearly shows that with a bit of creativity and with some external funding, what can be achieved. These students had a positive experience of STEM and will seriously consider following a STEM pathway within their future career."

The event was kindly supported by members of local industry and The Regional Technology Centre. There were representatives from Hitachi, 3M, Gestamp Tallent as judges and they enjoyed the event and were excited with the prospect of some of these students being future engineers. Michael Burnham, Manufacturing Engineer Hitachi Rail Europe, said "I'm really impressed with the students that competed on the VEX Robot challenge at Woodham Academy. It was fantastic and reassuring to see their commitment and enthusiasm for this engineering based activity".

The 8 teams competed through various different activities, from remote operated ROV through a TV screen, to rescuing a Barbie doll from a maze. It was extremely interesting. The overall winner was Ferryhill, for the second time. Hopefully other schools will get a chance next year?

On Friday 13th February the 8 Durham schools and other schools from the North East will be competing at Nissan UK representing the North East Region in the UK VEX Highrise championship, at the Big Bang Event at the NEC Birmingham in March. The winners from this event will represent the UK at the World Finals in America in April.

Check on Vulnerable People This Cold Winter

With the cold weather set to continue, people are being reminded to check on vulnerable friends, neighbours and relatives.

Durham County Council's Stay Healthy This Winter booklet is available online, offering tips and advice on keeping warm and well during the colder months. The cold weather is felt the most by older people, the very young and those who already have health conditions.

It can lead to serious health problems, such as an increased risk of heart attack, stroke, lung problems and influenza.

Stay Healthy This Winter includes practical advice and information on ways to stay warm and well during the cold weather as well as contact details for services and organisations which may be able to offer support.

Nick Springham, Durham County Council consultant in public health, said: "As the weather turns colder, we're urging everyone to think of someone who may be affected by the cold. It may be an elderly relative, friend or neighbour or someone who has young children or who is not in the best of health. We're asking people to think about what they

may be able to do to help that person look after their health this winter."

Stay Healthy This Winter is available at www.durham.gov.uk/warmandwell

NEWS REPORTS BOOST CONFIDENCE IN AYCLIFFE

Dear Sir,
I should like to applaud last week's Newton News for publishing inspirational articles encouraging residents to get involved in promoting our town.

From the front page story informing readers of Stiller's new contract with Coveris which apparently is worth £15m and creating 10 new jobs, through Councillor Clare's exhortation to big up our town and get people informed in decision making, to one of my personal heroes Ebac Managing Director Pamela Petty, whose common sense approach to business and the economy is a breath of fresh air.

I particularly like her views on buying British to improve our industrial and retail economy. Even more impressive are the green shoots of common sense portrayed in an article on page 15 in which homeowners are advised by solicitor John Spencer that it is ok to spread salt and grit to help our neighbours.

The remainder of the publication is informative, newsworthy and helpful to the community.

Thanks to Newton News for your help and support over the years it is much appreciated and we look forward to working with our local newspaper in the future.

Ken Robson
ACORN Residents
Association/Friends
Of
West Park/ Woodham Burn
Neighbourhood Watch and
resident of Newton Aycliffe



READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Reader, John Williamson sent in this stunning silhouette of the Angel of the North. If you have a favourite photo please send it to syd@newtonpress.net.

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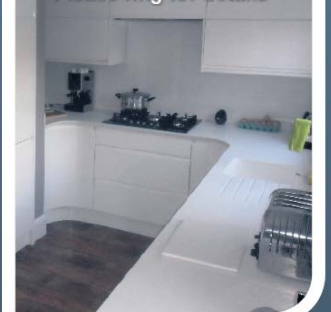
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Dog Waste Bins a Health Hazard

Dear Sir,
Further to the picture in a recent issue showing an overflowing dog waste bin. The bin on Woodham Way next to the BMX track is constantly full and overflowing. No sooner does it get emptied before someone always seems to deposit a full carrier bag of rubbish into it!
On the 16th January, I photographed a cardboard box of Catfood that someone had deposited into a bin? The bin was only changed the day before, so why on earth should such a large item be placed there? Don't people have bins at home?
In support of the complaint- all the bins in the Woodham area are regularly overflowing to the point where people end up creating a separate pile of waste on the ground next to the bin. Not exactly conducive to health and safety protocol which we as a nation seem to be obsessed by to the absolute extreme. I know the Council have been made aware of this problem in the past yet don't seem to be very proactive in addressing the issue. Perhaps they would like to comment? Street wardens patrol the area all the time - surely they could report any issues and therefore have the bins emptied the following day? I know that currently this does not happen as I have witnessed them drive past yet it can be two, three or more days before the bin is actually emptied.
If this is happening in Woodham I would suspect the rest of Aycliffe is equally affected. Maybe I'll just

stop picking up after my dogs as should everyone else, perhaps? That way the bins won't get filled to overflowing. After all health and safety and infection control don't seem to matter to the council!
Ian Archbold
Woodham
Editor: The County Council have to make tremendous savings and maybe the bins aren't emptied as often to save money. The obvious answer in this instance is to have bigger bins or put two bins at the same location.

Super Venue Super Service

Dear Sir,
Debbie Wilson and I would like to say a huge thanks to Arnold and Pat at the RAFA Club on Barrington Road (opposite Simpasture Park) for not only allowing us to use their venue every week for our Slimming World groups, but for also giving us amazing service and going above and beyond the call of duty to ensuring we are happy as clients.
It is a great venue, which many people do not know exists, is spotlessly clean and with a great sized lovely and warm function room. As we often hear about people not being happy with service - These guys are the opposite end of the spectrum and are truly fabulous, so if you are wanting a quiet pint or venue hire - Don't hesitate to contact them.
Nicola Dale

AYCLIFFE COMPANY'S APPRENTICESHIP OFFER

Construction and development specialist Southdale is aiming to recruit 40 apprentices by the end of March.
The positions are being created across the North of England in a variety of on-site trades and office-based positions to support projects on behalf of a number of clients.
Apprentices are required specifically in Hull, York, Barnsley, Halifax, Batley, Middlesbrough, Wigan, Blackpool, Toxteth, Leek, Ellesmere Port and Widnes.
Southdale is aiming to fill a minimum of 50 apprenticeship positions in 2015, double the number created in 2014.
The company, which has offices in Halifax, Warrington and Newton Aycliffe is open to flexible apprenticeship options, such as giving part-time work to students on full-time college courses, opening the opportunities up to a wider group of potential candidates.
Claire Preston, Learning and Development Manager at Southdale, said: "Our workload across the North of England means we have a fantastic opportunity to create apprenticeships for at least 50 young people in 2015, and we are looking to fill 80% of those positions in the first quarter.
"We are keen to give opportunities for people to learn their practical skills, alongside the theoretical studies conducted with learning providers, so those who are already enrolled with colleges can also apply.
"One of the most important



Claire at claire.preston@southdale.co.uk
<http://www.southdale.co.uk>
<http://www.twitter.com/southdaleltd>

responsibilities within our industry is to develop young talent for the future, and we want to be able to do that by creating opportunities for people in the areas in which they live. We would encourage any young people interested in a trade or office-based apprenticeship to get in touch and find out more."
Naz Parkar, Executive Director at the Homes and Communities Agency said: "These apprenticeships, many of which have been made possible by the HCA's funding for much needed homes, will help the young people in the local area, build the skills needed to secure permanent jobs in the future."
Anybody who is interested in an apprenticeship with Southdale should e-mail

Film Show

St Clare's Church FEEL GOOD FILM SHOWS on Tuesday 27th January will feature "REMAINS OF THE DAY" Starring Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson as the perfect English butler and the high -spirited estate housekeeper, during the 1930's. Co-starring James Fox, Christopher Reeve and Hugh Grant.
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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RESIDENTS URGED TO HELP PLAN THE FUTURE OF OUR TOWN

The Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan first round of consultation has come to a close with a total of 1268 Aycliffe residents providing their opinions on what the plan should address. The respondents of the questionnaires were predominately aged 45 – 70 whilst respondents from earlier consultation, which was held over the summer during events like Fun in the Park, were predominantly aged 44 and under. Our youngest resident to take part in consultation was aged 4 who said the worst thing about living in Aycliffe was carrots. The 3 priorities for the plan are Retail, Environment and Housing with 715, 706 and 682 responses respectively. However, a number of other key issues will be investigated as they could impact on these areas.

The next stage for the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan is to set up thematic groups to address the issues. There is a call for residents who have an interest in the future of Aycliffe to get involved in these groups. Angela said “This is a community-led plan so it would be great if residents could really get involved in the work we are doing and watch the plan unfold over the next year or so. We are not asking for a big commitment just a few hours a month to attend meetings and help support the work we are doing.” “We are holding an event in Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community centre on 21st February 2015 10am-12noon and everyone is welcome to come along to find out what we are doing, to meet the team and also register an interest in getting involved”



PACT Meetings will be held at the following venues.
Simpasture Court Coffee Lounge on Tuesday 27th Jan 6-30pm to 7-30pm.
Neville Parade Methodist Church Hall on Thursday 29th Jan 6-30pm to 7-30pm.
PC Alan Thompson and PCSO Richard Scott are your Community Police Officers. Partners from GATC, DCC, & LIVIN will attend when available.
Woodham Ward PACT will be held at St Elizabeth’s Community Centre – St Elizabeth’s Close at 6:00pm on Tuesday 3rd February 2015.
For more information on whats going on visit the Police Facebook and Website www.durham.police.uk

STEMETTES VISIT SAGE GATESHEAD

Last week a group of year 8 girls from Greenfield Community College visited the Sage Gateshead as part of a “Stemettes” Day, aimed at inspiring young people to enter STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers. The group of enthusiastic girls took part in forensic science classes, website

design workshops; Google 3d glasses experiments; 3d printing and flux dance, alongside 300 other young people from across the region. It was a fantastic day, which all the girls enjoyed. Emma Smith, said “I had had a brilliant day. I loved experimenting with all the different techniques and activities and can’t wait until



HELP TO TRACE YOUR FAMILY TREE

Expert help is at hand for people researching their family tree. Durham County Record Office is inviting people to sign up for its latest series of family history courses. Sessions are run by an archivist aimed at anyone who is beginning the process of researching their family tree or are in the early stages. Courses cover use of the census, parish and military records, with the opportunity to explore sources from

Durham County Record Office. Dawn Layland, education and outreach archivist, said: “Our family history courses always prove popular, with participants picking up some useful hints and tips on tracing their family members.” The weekly sessions run from Thursday 26 February to Thursday, 12 March, with the option to attend from 10am to noon or from 6pm to 8pm. The course costs £25 and places must be booked in advance by calling 03000 267 626 or emailing record.office@durham.gov.uk

next year to do it again!” Greenfield Community College has a thriving STEM club which meets on a Tuesday afterschool, one of a range of extracurricular activities offered here at Greenfield. At the moment the students in STEM are involved in a range of projects including a team taking part in a Vex Robotics competition- they have just competed locally and will soon be competing against schools across the North. Some of the STEM students have just applied for STEM leaders’ awards, members

of the group will visit Sunderland University soon, and in March the group will be attending The Big Bang Fair in Birmingham for the second year running. The group has also been working with Hitachi. Over the past couple of years, the group has completed lots of different science experiments, taken part in the 4 by 4 challenge, the ‘What If’ project and in designing the King of the Fairies puppet for the Cutting Loose Festival. The rest of this year promises to continue to be busy – well done STEM!

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MAD-ATHLON CHALLENGE

Claire Gardiner from Vicarage Court in Heighington passed away suddenly just before Christmas 2012. Claire was the only daughter of Donella, she was also an organ donor and 4 transplants took place following her death. From a very close family Claire’s brothers Edward and Matthew and a group of Claire’s friends started to raise money in her memory, initially raising almost £2000 for the Salvation Army. They then started the first MADathlon Challenge and decided to raise funds for the James Cook University Hospital where Claire passed away, after consultation with the ICU they set a target of £11,000 to buy a Criticool Machine, which was delivered in October 2013. 2014 the MADathlon team raised £15,000 to purchase 2 New Motor Bikes for the Northumbria Blood Bikes which are now on the road providing vital support throughout the North East. MADathlon’s New challenge for 2015 in association with North East Hearts and Goals is to purchase and place Automatic External Defibrillators (AED’s) in local sports centres or schools in the event of sudden cardiac arrest. The target is 1 machine per month, and training will be provided on installation of machines. We are currently in the process of arranging events for our 2015 calendar, these vary from black tie dinner events to outdoor activities such as ‘the MADATHLON’ sponsored abseils, walks and more. Information on social media sites. We are looking for corporate sponsors, sponsors, prizes to raffle or auction (MADathlon is registered with Durham County gambling Commission). We are looking for people willing to spare



a few hours of their time for Supermarket bag pack events or to get involved with arranged activities

and to raise money through sponsorship. Contact: Madathlon@hotmail.com and facebook or Twitter.

WATER POLO AWARDS



Sedgefield Water Polo Club presented their “Player of the Year” awards for 2014 at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centreby Scott Carpenter home from Australia for 3 weeks on holiday where he is a top Professional Polo Player. He hopes to be picked for Australia in 2015 if he can stay injury free. Young player of the year was Ben Alderson 9 who has shown great potential for the future with his hard work and dedication.

The under 18 player of the year was John Pratt 15 who is considered the leading player for his age in GB and is in the under 17 GB squad. The overall “Player of the Year” was shared by three young players who led the Sedgefield Under 15 team with distinction to win the National Under 15 boys Championships, Connor Keeble, Michael Cousins and Kristopher Egginton all 14. They are all members of the GB under 15 squad.

Aycliffe Lose Ground After 23-0 Defeat

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club fell back in the promotion race in Durham and Northumberland League 3 with a crucial home defeat to 2nd place Houghton. Despite having a number of players unavailable, Aycliffe were able to select one of their strongest teams of the season to meet the league's in form side. The game began with a minute's silence for former Aycliffe player Johnny Hart who sadly died in the week. The visitors were well organised and their back row were powerful; early in the game they took the lead with a penalty goal. Aycliffe were under the cosh for almost the whole first quarter, but their defence held firm. On twenty minutes, Houghton added their second penalty goal.

Deryk Cairns was the standout forward for Aycliffe, putting himself everywhere on the field, but Houghton were able to score a try before the break, with the conversion giving them a 13-0 lead. Aycliffe put in plenty of effort in the second half and they had the pace advantage in the backs. Houghton defended well but Aycliffe came close to scoring on a number of occasions, but the final pass did not go to hand. Jonny Griffith had a number of good runs down the wing. Houghton withstood the pressure and used their forwards to good advantage as they added a second try. A third Houghton try saw them going for the bonus point as the clock wound down, but Aycliffe held firm for the final minutes. The game ended with a 23-0 win for the visitors.

This victory for Houghton puts them in pole position for the second promotion place behind Whitby and it would take a big slip up from either of the top two to see them fail to go up. Aycliffe put in plenty of effort but were beaten on the day by the better side. The team now need to correct the errors and finish off the season with a flourish. Their next match is on 31st January when they travel to Jarrovians; kick-off 2:15. Aycliffe Rugby is sponsored by S-Cars and Whitehouse Funeral Service

Tree Felling Emergency

A few readers contacted Newton News last week alarmed by County Council tree felling - many complained it was spoiling the environment and seemed unnecessary. It transpired most of the work was due to recent high winds causing some trees to pose a risk. Branches had to be removed and some trees, in a dangerous condition, were cut down.

LOCAL SPORT

Brass Monkey Run

Eight members of Aycliffe Running Club travelled down to York last Sunday to take part in the Brass Monkey Half Marathon, which attracted a field of nearly 1500 entries. It was a bright and sunny day but very cold and there were some icy patches on the roads where the runners had to take care. In spite of this there were some outstanding performances and a few PBs were achieved. John and Tracey Surtees are both newcomers to the club but their times reflect the fact they are not new to running, with John finishing in 1:27:39 and 1st home for the club and Tracy 1:34:44 and 1st lady

home for the club. Graham Atkins was 2nd finisher for Aycliffe in 1:33:05 followed closely by Justin Hindmarch, who smashed his previous best time by over 4 minutes to finish in 1:34:12, followed by Sandra Collins 1:44:23. Trish Kay was pleased with her run knocking nearly a minute off her time for last year despite slipping and sliding on the ice. Her time was 1:47:40

Last but not least, Angela Barrett and Judith Porter both achieved PBs finishing in 1:49:30 and 1:58:48 respectively.

In sharp contrast, Aycliffe runners who chose to compete in the Sedgefield Winter Handicap had to cope with much more bleak conditions. No sunshine here, just grey skies and mud that had turned to ice sheets and towards the end of the race, snow.

This is a multi-terrain event over 10k and follows trails around Fishburn and Bishop Middleham. Sue Milburn was first home for the club, 37th in 50:19, followed by Mark Wade, 57th in 39:33, Matt Heron, 65th in 44:52, Peter Milburn, 77th in 42:33 and Kevin Greenall, 83rd in 52:05.

Why not join us in our circuit training sessions every Tuesday from 6-7pm. For more information about the Club and their training visit ayclifferrunningclub.org.uk



Three Wins in Four Games



Newton Aycliffe FC recorded a third 3-0 win in four games by beating Ashington last week. The result went a long way to overcome the disappointment of the defeat to Shildon a few days before. The first half started & finished in a heavy snow shower but the players on both teams did well to entertain the meagre and very cold crowd.

Aycliffe started brightly forcing a save from the keeper after 3mins. Shortly afterwards the ball was in the Ashington net but Jordan Laidler was ruled offside. Ashington came back at the home side and had shots but not seriously troubling James Winter in the Aycliffe goal. On 23 mins Aycliffe had a penalty shout turned down by the referee but two minutes later were awarded a free kick just outside the box. Laidler took the kick and his perfectly judged shot found the net.

As half time approached the snow came down heavier but the players battled on and on 42 mins a tricky run by Dennis Knight was ended when he was tripped in the box. Stuart Banks comfortably scored the resulting penalty.

As the players came out for the second half Aycliffe fans were relieved to see that the snow had stopped and we could still see the lines. Fears of an abandonment, unlike the lines, disappeared.

Ashington tried hard to pull a goal back with a shot deflected for a corner on 51 mins and further efforts off

Forthcoming Fixtures

Saturday 24 January - Marske United (away) 3pm
Saturday 31 January - Sunderland RCA (home) 3pm
Saturday 7 February - Penrith (away) 3pm
Saturday 14 February - Celtic Nation (home) 3pm

target. The nearest they came was on 70 mins when only a double save from Winter kept the visitors at bay.

Two minutes later Aycliffe got their third when Laidler scored after great pressure from Paul Garthwaite in the box. There was no return from that point for Ashington who had the misfortune of losing James Taylor to a knee injury shortly before the final whistle.

For Laidler that was his second brace in consecutive Tuesday nights. This, though, was an excellent team

performance with the defence in particular playing well in difficult conditions with Andrew Green outstanding at its heart.

Aycliffe had hoped to take the momentum from the Ashington game onto Bedlington but last Saturday's match was postponed due to the Northumberland side's pitch being frozen. Moving on, Aycliffe are scheduled to play Marske twice in a week, home in the League Cup and away in the League. Hopefully the weather won't be a factor.

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Monday After School Club

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Jesus is a Friend For All. For more details ring Gwen on 01325 301937

BIG WEEKEND FOR DURHAM WILDCATS

A big weekend lies ahead for Durham Wildcats as they prepare for an important double-header in the BBL. Durham has a tough test on Saturday facing 3rd place Leicester Riders, a match to be broadcasted on BBL TV, before hosting the Glasgow Rocks on Sunday at Newton Aycliffe.

With a 7-12 record and finding themselves in the middle of a tight playoff race between fellow seven and eight-game winners in Glasgow Rocks, Bristol Flyers, Manchester Giants and Sheffield Sharks, a successful weekend for the Wildcats is crucial if they want to increase their chances for postseason play. This Saturday will be the first matchup versus the Leicester Riders this season. The Riders

are on a five-game winning streak and are fresh from an 81-51 romp over Leeds Force in a BBL Trophy match last weekend. Leicester are an all-around strong team with a top-four ranking on offense and they are the third-best defensively in fewest points conceded per game.

The Wildcats will tip-off against Leicester on BBL TV this Saturday 24th January at 7:30pm. They will host Glasgow on Sunday 25th January at the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre at 4:00pm.

For information on ordering the match via BBL TV, visit bbl.org.uk.

Tickets for the home match against Glasgow are now available through godurhamwildcats.com.

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IDEAS INVITED FOR COUNTY DURHAM'S 2015 LUMIERE

Lumiere, the UK's largest outdoor light festival, is returning to Durham this winter for the fourth time, 12th -15th November 2015. Created by Artichoke, one of the UK's leading arts producers, Lumiere is commissioned by Durham County Council and receives additional support from Arts Council England and a raft of sponsors.

The festival brings together the world's most innovative artists and light designers in an artistic programme that is as thought-provoking as it is spectacular. Lumiere will again include creative ideas from people from or working in the North East; and Artichoke has announced an open call for applications under the BRILLIANT

commissioning scheme. Since its inception, Lumiere has become established as a landmark event in the North East cultural calendar. In 2013, the festival attracted more than 175,000 visitors, 51% from County Durham, 29% from the North East region and 20% from the rest of the UK.

Lumiere in Durham is much more than a four-day biennial. In the months leading up to each festival, Lumiere engages with hundreds of schoolchildren and community groups working on projects in preparation for the event. In 2013, these included sessions in schools about Lumiere's charity campaign, Litre of Light, a Philippines-based project bringing light into homes without electricity. The Other Side of the Wall, a project with all four prisons in County Durham, involved 100 prisoners whose work was exhibited in the Galilee Chapel inside the Cathedral, and subsequently inside each of the prisons.

Artichoke is again calling for creative submissions following the success of the BRILLIANT local commissioning schemes in 2011 and 2013. BRILLIANT offers an opportunity for people living in, or originally from, Durham and the North East to have their idea developed and produced as an artwork, using the medium of light, to be showcased at the festival.

Previous BRILLIANT winners include Durham-based builder Mick Stephenson in 2011, who has since gone on to develop further lightworks and was involved in the creation of the Litre of Light installation as part of Lumiere 2013. Other BRILLIANT projects have also included a series of neons based on the 11th Century Durham Proverbs by Durham teacher Beth Ross; Twist Design's Stained Glass Cars; and Sarah Blood's neon bird boxes and soundscape, Sanctuary.

Applicants for BRILLIANT 2015 should submit their ideas, together with an estimated budget by Monday 23rd February by midday, 12pm. Light should be at the centre of any idea and anyone can apply - no previous experience is necessary. The most important thing is how BRILLIANT the idea is. The commissions will receive funding and practical support from Artichoke.

Full details about how to apply can be found on Artichoke's website: www.artichoke.uk.com together with suggested locations. Questions about any aspect of the competition should be directed to brilliant@artichoke.uk.com. The two-stage process will

be judged by a panel, which will include representatives from Durham County Council, Durham Cathedral and Artichoke. The final awards will be announced in May 2015.

Helen Marriage, Artichoke's Artistic Director said: "It's wonderful to be bringing Lumiere back to Durham for a fourth time, especially during this United Nations International Year of Light. "We had no idea in 2009 that Lumiere would become a fixture in the region and make the economic impact that it does. It now has a world reputation too.

"As always, the programme will be a nuanced mix of the spectacular and more thoughtful pieces that respond to Durham's architectural landscape. And as always, the work we do locally in the months leading up to Lumiere, in schools, community groups and prisons, will be just as important.

This is a festival that has a legacy. Lumiere is about transformation, of places and perception. It lives on in the memory. It changes lives."

CLr Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council, said: "We are thrilled to be working with Artichoke again and to be bringing what is widely acknowledged as the UK's

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Could I through your newspaper say a big "Thank You" to JAJECS Electrical Contracting Services who willingly came out to The Cubby three times to mend a water boiler at NO CHARGE! Their service was excellent and I would definitely recommend Jon Patchett of JAJECS who can be contacted on 01325 301822, Mobile: 07730 893929.

Bill Blenkinsopp
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Vane Road School Lights Up!

On Thursday 29th January from 5.15 - 6.15pm Residents are invited to come along to see art/science work produced by the children displayed and illuminated, inspired by the famous Durham Lumiere event. We are serving refreshments, selling glow sticks etc and the finale is a performance by a fire dancer. Entrance is 50p per adult which can be bought in advance from the school office or pay on the gate. This is a Friends of Vane Road event and everyone is welcome.

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Test Doesn't Equip New Motorists for Driving

Road safety charity the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) and the Under 17 Car Club

Charitable Trust are calling for the UK driving test to be revamped to make it more

relevant to real world risks that young drivers face.

Currently the driving test does not include any testing of a driver's ability to cope safely with country roads, poor weather or driving at night – aspects both organisations know are the main risk factors in the first 6 months of driving. Road accidents remain the biggest killer of young people in the UK, higher than both alcohol and drugs. In 2013 191 people under 24 were killed and 20,003 injured as drivers and riders of cars and motorbikes. In the past five years there were 1,037 people under 24 killed and 120,958 injured on UK roads – while the overall trend has been falling, these figures are unacceptable.

Neil Greig, IAM director of policy and research, said: "The driving test needs to become a much more integrated part of a graduated licensing system that picks up on best practice from around the world. For instance, Austria has a 'second

phase' licensing system, where young drivers come back in the 12 months after the test for a further three interventions to examine attitude changes and skills."

Young male driver casualties have dropped by a third in in Austria as a result of the initiative. Safeguarding younger drivers forms an important part of the IAM Manifesto. It calls for road safety education to be part of the National Curriculum, supports a 12 month minimum learning period prior to taking the practical test, supports limits on peer passenger numbers, suggests that the practical test includes higher speed roads and supports a lower drink-drive limit for new drivers.

The IAM also wants to see learner drivers allowed on motorways so they can learn from an expert rather than on their own after passing the test. The IAM's Licensed to Skill report shows that 'driver or rider error' is a contributory cause in 68% of all road accidents.

The report also points out that while speeding, drink driving, mobile phone use, tailgating, road rage and bad weather are all important, none are as frequently reported as driver error as the cause of road accidents.

Neil said: "We cannot rely on technological advances such as black boxes alone to help bring our injury and death rate down on the roads – we also need a much more integrated training system that embeds continuous improvement into new drivers' minds."

John Peabody-Rolf, instructor at the Under 17 Car Club and IAM observer, said: "The driving test as it stands does not equip young drivers to go out on the road safely. You can go out and pass your tests knowing only the roads in a small local area. As such, it doesn't give young drivers the skills they need for a life on the road."

He added: "Young drivers are

often unaware that if you drive into a corner too fast and brake sharply, it is the worst thing you can do – the car is already imbalanced and will behave in a way you won't expect."

Through its progressive system of young driver development the Under 17 Car Club gives instruction to address this issue, as well as guidance on night driving and how to handle roads in different weather, lighting and grip levels, plus very importantly develop driver attitude, and understanding of risk and consequence.

John also pointed out the American model of young driver tuition, which includes driver education as part of the school syllabus. This part of the syllabus must be passed before going on to take the controls of a car. American driver tuition also covers the dangers of peer pressure and mobile phone use. The Under 17 Car Club schedule resumes for 2015 soon, with their marshals and instructors receiving their training in February. After that their programme of events for younger drivers aged from 11 upwards will start. For more information about the club, visit their website at www.under17-carclub.co.uk

Obituary

EILEEN GITTINS After a short illness on 17th January. Beloved Wife of the late Harry; dearly loved Mother of Paul and Jillian; Mother-in-Law of Neil; devoted Grandma of Emma, Lucy and Pippa the dog. Funeral Service at St. Mary's R.C. Church, Newton Aycliffe (date and time to be arranged, please contact John Meynell Funeral Service 301405), prior to interment at West Cemetery. Would family and friends please meet at the Church. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired to Cancer Research.

JOHN GRAHAM, Newton Aycliffe. 13th January, peacefully in St. Teresa's Hospice. John, aged 60 years, a loving Husband to Janet; much loved Dad to Paul, Claire, Lindsay and Gemma and a dear Father-in-Law and Grandad. Funeral Tuesday 27th January. Would friends kindly meet for Service in Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon at 11.00am. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu in aid of St. Teresa's Hospice may be given or will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6EN. Tel: 01325 318600.

BEWLEY, Walter Arnold (Bob), aged 86 years, peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on January 15th of Stanfield Road, Newton Aycliffe. Dearly loved Husband of Margaret; much loved Dad of Colin and Christine; loving Gramps of Jessica, Katie, Paul, Shaun, Jackson, Will and Sadie. Requiem Mass to be held in St Mary's RC Church on Monday 26th January at 10.30am followed by cremation. As an award winning gardener he would welcome your flowers c/o Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6EN

BLACKWELL, Winifred. Peacefully in Lindsfame Care Home on 13th January aged 86 years, of Newton Aycliffe. Beloved Wife of the late Mervyn; Much loved Mother of Raymond and Robert; Dear Mother-in-Law of Ann and Pauline; also a loving Grandmother of Jeff, Lisa, Sue and Christopher; Great Grandmother of Madison, Malana, Bailey, Benjamin and Scarlett Ann. Family and friends please meet for Service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Friday 30th January for 10.15am.

JONNY HART You were sadly taken from us on 15th January 2015. We shared great times and memories and losing you leaves a big hole for many. R.I.P. my friend, until we meet again. "Stay Free"! Rossy ('T')

BATEY, Marjorie of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully on 8th January, aged 76 years. Much loved Sister, Sister-in-Law, Aunty and Great Aunty. Would family and friends please meet for a Service at Neville Parade Methodist Church, Newton Aycliffe on Friday, 30th January at 2.00pm, prior to a cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu to Liver North.

Marjorie Local

Peacefully on January 15. Marjorie (Nee Robinson) aged 71 years. Much loved Wife of John; loving Mam of Blue the Dachshund; a loving Sister of Alan and Peter and Auntie of Vicky, Leslie and Leanne.

Will family and friends please meet for a Service at St Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe on Friday 30th January at 11.45am. To be followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations in lieu if so desired may be made for Rheumatoid Arthritis Research, plate provided in church.

Birthday Remembrance

George Smith

24th January 1932. We open our eyes this morning, we look to the Heavens above, we whisper happy birthday and send you all our love. So put your arms around him Lord. Don't leave him on his own. For today is George's birthday, his sixth away from home. Deep in our hearts you will stay, loved and remembered every day. Madge, Sue, Roly, Christopher, Fiona and Great Grandsons Charlie and George xxxx

THOMAS DUNN 21st January 1926. I miss you deeply and will be thinking of you on your birthday. Love always, Margaret

THOMAS DUNN 21st January 1926. Miss you always Dad. Thinking of you. Michael. Bev and the girls

THOMAS DUNN 21st January 1926. We miss you today as we did yesterday and will tomorrow. You are always in our hearts Father, rest well with the Holy Father. Gerard, Carolann, Jamie and your family in Scotland

Thank You

MIKE - 60th Birthday. Mike wishes to thank all his family & friends who attended the Navy Club on Saturday 17th to make it a night to remember. Thanks to all for the generous gifts and cards.

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Fostering Appeal

Foster carers are needed to care for vulnerable young people in County Durham.

Would-be foster carers can get details of additional support available under Fostering Plus at information sessions at Durham County Council's fostering and adoption resource centre, Langley Moor on Monday 19 January (5.00pm to 7.00pm) and Friday 30 January (10.00am to 12 noon).

Florence Coulter, fostering team manager, Durham County Council, said: "We are looking for foster carers who have a lot of understanding and insight into caring for young people who have had to cope with a lot in their lives. These children may be living in a children's home or may have moved around from carer to carer."

Fostering Plus offers extra help which includes comprehensive training and support, sharing experiences with other carers and working with dedicated experts to help a young person have a warm and caring home and a much better future.

Florence Coulter added: "Almost anyone can be a foster carer. You can be single, married, own your home or rent, employed or unemployed and from any background. The most important thing is you have the ability to care for children and young people."

More information is available at www.durham.gov.uk/fostering or ringing 03000 269 400.

In Memoriam

FRANCES MATTHEWS

25th January 2012

Your love we hold in our hearts so dear, Precious memories keep you near. Always in our thoughts.

TONY WARBURTON 24th January 2003. Treasured memories of a loving Husband, Father and Grandpa. Another year, the hour, day we will never forget. We think about you always with lots of love. Your loving Wife Felicity, Daughter Gail, Son-in-Law Graeme. Hugs and kisses Grandpa from Jack, Winston and Oliver. Forever in our hearts xxx

MOLLY ELLIOTT 27th January 2010. Thinking of you today. We love and miss you always. Pauline, Bruce, Michael and Stephen xxxx

MOLLY ELLIOTT 27th January 2010. Treasured memories of a dear Mam. In our hearts you will always stay. Loved and remembered every day. Love, Barbara and Rob xxxx

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Congratulations



Sean Harker



Happy 40th Birthday

Lots of love from Mam, John and Krystal

Happy 40th Birthday Dad

Love from Miya and Maria xxxx

Happy 40th

Love from Grandma Rita, Grandad Tom and all the family
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Louie Henderson



Happy 1st Birthday

20th January 2015

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

Michael Todd



Happy 21st Birthday

24th January 2015

Love you loads. Mam and Dad xxxx

LOOK WHO IS 21! Danielle Mercer



22nd January 2015

We couldn't be more proud of the beautiful young woman you have become.

Happy Birthday

Love, as always, Mum, Ian and Ryan xxxxx

Louie Henderson



Happy 1st Birthday

20th January 2015

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

LOUIE HENDERSON Happy 1st birthday to our gorgeous Nephew Louie Henderson on 20th January. All our love, Auntie Lee-Ann and Uncle Dave xxxx

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 the family xxx

MICHAEL TODD 24th January 1994. Happy birthday. Lots of love from Gran and all the family xxxxx

GORDON (GDOG) STACEY Happy 80th birthday on 28th January. Some may think they have the best, we KNOW we have the BEST. All our love.

LOUISE RYANS Happy 50th birthday. Love and hugs, Sharon, Gerard, Luke, Kim, Cameron, Gerard, Finlay, Bailey and Benedict xxxx

Stephen Armstrong



Happy 30th Birthday

My big handsome lad, I love you loads. Mam and Trev xx

Happy Birthday Ste

Love you, from Tom, Tony and Dad xxx

Happy Birthday

Best Daddy ever. Love from Keira Alisha xx

INDOOR BOWLS NEWS

Despite a poor return of nine points from their previous four games, Gt Aycliffe travelled to Park View determined to show what they are capable of.

They came very close to providing a major upset and in fact were unlucky not to take all eight points home with them. In the end they were beaten 1-7 but the score did not reflect the game as this was a very even match right up until the eleventh end.

At this stage Aycliffe were ahead on all three rinks and with ends running out looked on course for an 8-0 victory.

Unfortunately Aycliffe contrived to throw away all the previous good work as they succumbed to a late surge from the home side.

Rob Jones' rink were one shot up, but then lost seven over the last three ends. P Whittaker suffered a similar fate. This rink was also one shot to the good and lost out on the last end where they dropped five shots. It was left to D McDonald to salvage a point with a well earned draw though it should have been more as they stood three shots up with two ends to play.

Not a good day for the Aycliffe bowlers but surely a sign of better results ahead.

Final scores Park View first J Pickford 13-13 D McDonald, N Herbert 16-11 P Whittaker, C Chapman 13-7 R Jones

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SUPERB COMEBACK FOR AYCLIFFE GIRLS

High flying, unbeaten Lumley Ladies came to the Oak Leaf on Saturday in a dress rehearsal of the League Cup Final in May. We changed the formation to counter Lumley's attack with Molly Clark adopting the sweeper's role which ultimately worked!

On a difficult pitch the visitors quickly settled in and soon led 0-2. The girls battled hard in defence with Hallie Sylvester, Paige Spensley, Lottie Hall all clearing their lines until half time. It was vital that we scored the next goal and did.

A clearance from goalkeeper Courtney Wilson to Martha

Humble saw Chloe Ryan force her way through and slot in from a Lottie pass. Lumley now knew they were in a game but against the run of play they edged further ahead for 1-3. But yet again our girls took the game to them and simply never gave up. Charlie Nicol-Brown and Shannon Stapleton held firm in midfield, then Ebony O'Donnell found herself in the right place to tap in from 6 yards - 2-3 with 10 mins to go! Game on!

As Lumley struggled to hang on we pressed hard and defended brilliantly. We got our just reward with a 2 minutes to go when



great link up play by Lily Mansfield caused confusion in the Lumley box and saw Chloe shoot through a packed defence for a deserved leveller! We might well have won as we continued to harass the visitors'. Final score 3-3 but it felt like a win and gives the girls' great confidence as we push on. Well done all the girls on a superb comeback!

Durham Wildcats Lose by Narrowest Margin

Durham Wildcats played one of their best games all season and had chances to walk away with an upset win in Round One of the BBL Trophy, but again came up short by the narrowest of margins.

The 86-84 loss on 18th January at the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre was the fifth time the Wildcats were defeated by less than four points this season. Durham, for a fleeting moment, held a one point lead with only minutes to spare, but Worcester shot nearly 70 percent from within the three-point line and made the outside shots at crucial moments to help them secure a spot in the next round.

Davie, though frustrated having come so close to a major victory against the 2nd-placed team on the regular season table, felt that this was one of his team's best performances of the season. A major reason for Durham's all-around great play was the effectiveness of new defensive schemes, the focus for Davie this past week.

"We did a lot of great stuff tonight," Davie said. "A lot of the things we worked on defensively started to kick in during our good spells. We were able to entice Worcester to take plenty of contested three-pointers (13-36, 36.1 percent) and we managed to get out in transition for a lot of easy scores."

"Credit to our guys for sticking to the new game plan. It's difficult to grasp new schemes when you are only facing yourself in practice. We gained overall confidence in the



game plan and in each other. Worcester are a very good team and they are going to do great things this year, and we again showed that what we do works against everyone in the league." John Puk started the game well for the Wildcats by scoring the team's first eight points. He finished the match with 14 points from 7-11 shooting and four rebounds.

Worcester began to pull away during the middle portions of the first half. With a 15-point lead and two minutes left in the first half, the visiting side were threatening to put the game out of reach for the Wildcats. But Durham ended the half on the 7-2 run and with momentum going into the break, down 42-32. That momentum would carry on to the second half, where the Wildcats slowly chipped away at that 10-point margin.

Durham worked hard to take a 77-76 with 4:03 left to play after a Panos Mayindombe layup following a Chris Jones steal. It was Durham's first lead since netting the opening basket. The Wildcats had the final possession with four second left and down two points, but the ball was knocked away from Jones' hands and rolled out of bounds at the final buzzer.

Mayindombe finished with 18 points and three assists and Jones added 12 points, eight rebounds and eight assists. Mayindombe was able to get to the free throw line nine times, making eight. Overall the team shot 17-21 from the charity line. Fran Urli also had 18 points and made big three-pointers down the stretch, going 3-6 from beyond the arc. Likewise, captain Ralph Bucci made three three-pointers to give him 11 points. He was the team's leading rebounder with nine. Joel Madourie had eight points from 4-6 shooting and Sam Martin had three.

The Wildcats return to regular season action on 25th January when they host Glasgow. The Rocks jumped Durham for eighth place in the BBL Table after their 89-86 win over the

London Lions on 16th January, putting the Wildcats in ninth place and currently out of the playoff picture. A win versus Glasgow on Sunday will put Durham back into playoff contention.

Tipoff versus the Rocks is set for 4:00pm at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. Tickets are now available online.

Aycliffe Swimmers in Tremendous Form

Over the weekends of 10/11th January 2015 and on 18th January 2015 several swimmers from Sedgfield 75 competed and triumphed again.

Peterlee ASC and Derwentside ASC had their last chance gala on 10/11 January to enable swimmers to have a "last chance" gaining N&D times. As a club we are proud that following amazing swims both before and during this gala we now have 7 swimmers who will compete at the Northumberland & Durham Championships. Over the weekend at the event held at the Louisa Centre in Stanley we had 10 swimmers compete in a total of 32 races. By the end of the weekend SD75SC swimmers had achieved 21 PBs, 10 gold medals, and 2 bronze medals. A massive achievement for all the swimmers who have seen their training pay off. The following Sunday 18

January many of those same swimmers were competing again. At the Billingham time trial 15 swimmers competed with two of them, Leah Smith and Jonathan Jones, competing for the first time.

As usual the team were in tremendous form and they came away with 47 PB's from 59 swims. As this was a time trial and not a gala there were no medals, however Sedgfield scooped a huge number of 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.

This weekend the club also had Hannah Featherstone competing at the Sunderland open meet. She had a fabulous meet & from 4 swims she got a new meet record in both the 100 & 200 freestyle & got gold in both the 100 & 200 backstroke. The times swum by these dedicated swimmers shows that regular training and hard work achieves well deserved great results.



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