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Important Meeting to Discuss Town's Future

Residents Invited to Help Complete Great Aycliffe's Neighbourhood Plan

The Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan (GANP) team would like to invite residents to attend a Special Meeting on Saturday 21st February 2015 from 10am till 12 noon in Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre.

Residents of Aycliffe have set the priorities for the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan. 1268 individuals took part in the first round of consultation and over 10,000 comments are being analysed. There are three priorities for the plan; to improve the retail offer, the environment and protection of the green spaces and also address the town's housing issues. Angela Corner, Community Neighbourhood Engagement Officer, will provide an overview of the first round of consultation and explain the next steps. There will be a chance to meet the GANP team who will try and answer your



questions. We now need public representatives to get involved in the next stages of the plan. Residents who are aged 14 or over, who can spare a few hours a month for three or four meetings, and would like to get involved in planning the future of the town, are being urged to attend and volunteer.

Angela Corner said "We have already received a lot of interest from residents including students from Woodham Academy, Greenfield Community College and St John's College.

It's great to see our young residents getting involved in planning their future and as the plan will be around for the next 20 years they will also be planning the future for their children."

If you require any further information, or want to get involved, but can't attend the event please contact Angela Corner by telephone 01325 300700 or email angela.corner@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

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Aycliffe Charity Needs Your Unwanted Furniture

Collections at your Convenience

A local charity are appealing for donations of stock to help support their affordable furniture scheme in Newton Aycliffe.

The DISC Furniture Scheme, based at Horndale Avenue on Aycliffe Business Park, is open to the general public and aims to help families on low income furnish their homes at low cost.

Business Manager, Julie Nisbet, said "As families on low income continue to struggle to furnish their homes, we take in saleable items, refurbish and offer it at affordable prices. Please think twice before throwing anything away. We currently need furniture, white goods and children's furniture, and are able to collect free



of charge. Collections are at your convenience and can be arranged at a time and date

to suit the customer."

The scheme is open to everyone however, and provides excellent opportunities for people to purchase 'distressed' furniture, with the aim of upcycling and experimenting with the growing 'shabby-chic' style.

The furniture scheme is managed by More Time UK Ltd, and it's staff pride themselves on offering a flexible service with a consistently high quality of work. In 2014, the enterprise was shortlisted for Employer Of The Year at the Aycliffe Business Park 'Make Your Mark' awards.

Volunteers are also paramount to the success of the project, and there are a range of opportunities, from customer service skills, sales and admin, to furniture operatives and drivers mate. If you would like to donate good quality, saleable furniture to the project, collections are free. To arrange collection of items, or to request a volunteering application form, contact Pat Smith (Furniture Coordinator) on 01325 731294 or email furniture@moretimeonline.com. More information can be found on their website, at www.moretimeonline.com

LIGHT FANTASTIC AT VANE ROAD

Following snowfall over-night Vane Road School Lumiere event was turned into a winter wonderland! Taking inspiration from Durham Lumiere, all year groups along with the Breakfast and After Schools clubs, contributed displays of work of illuminated, projects, covering many areas of the curriculum.

The displays included illuminated planets, pyramids, animal masks, an igloo and snow globes with the spectacular finale of a performance by two fire dancers.

Photo by Alan Clement.



Pancake Day Treats at St. Clare's

St. Clare's (opposite Thames centre) will be once again opening their popular Pancake Cafe on Shrove Tuesday, 17th February. You can enjoy a hot delicious pancake, with toppings, and a cup of tea/coffee for just £2, served between noon and 1pm.

Children can enjoy a pancake and juice for £1. In addition to this the amazingly popular film 'Frozen', the sing-a-long edition, will begin at 1:15pm in the movie hall. All seats priced at £1 and sweetie tuck shop available.

Everyone is welcome at BOTH or EITHER ONE of these events. Don't sit at home on your own, enjoy your pancake with company! If you are coming only for the film, please make sure to come between 1 and 1:15 to get your seats, and don't forget your singing voices.

Proceeds from these events will be shared between St. Clare's roof appeal and Church funds.

Surgery Staff Go Red for BHF



Friday 6th February was 'Go Red Day' in aid of the British Heart Foundation and Bewick Crescent Surgery staff decided to join in the fun.

Heart disease is one of the UK's biggest killers, and the Heart Foundation have pioneered research for over 50 years transforming the lives of people living with heart and circulatory conditions.

But so many people still need help from babies born with life threatening heart problems, to the many Mams, Dads and Grandparents who survive a heart attack and endure the daily battles of heart failure. Bewick Crescent surgery staff all donated money to wear 'Red' for the day, and thanks to Christine all enjoyed buying lovely cupcakes. A total of

£70 was raised in memory of the late Patrick Gallacher, a member of staff who died suddenly 3 years ago of an unknown heart condition. Anyone can join the fight for every heartbeat in the UK, every pound raised and every donation of goods to the British Heart Foundation shop in our town centre will help make a difference to peoples lives.

Labour Will Grow Regional Economies

Dear Editor

Last Saturday I attended the Labour Local Government Conference in Nottingham and you can read my full report of the conference at bit.ly/Lablocal15

The opening speech was given by Ed Miliband – he spoke very well, not at all the figure-of-ridicule the right-wing media make him out to be.

Particularly, he made two key promises which are relevant to our recent debate in the Newton News – viz that, if elected:

- Labour will devolve powers and £30bn funding to the regions to develop infrastructure and grow their local economies (not the bureaucratic, assembly-type devolution we rejected in 2004, but local initiatives based on the Combined Authority).
- Although there will be no immediate increase in the total 'pot' to councils, a Labour government will rebalance the funding formula for councils so that it recognises again local *need*.

It is too-cynical to dismiss governments as 'all the same'. Under the last Labour government the County Durham economy was one of the fastest-growing in the country, with an employment rate of 73%.

So the choice for north-east voters in May is stark – between more-of-the-same, or for a genuine opportunity under Labour to grow our local economy and protect council services.

John D Clare

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Saturday 14th February - "F.M."
Was this our best pub gig ever? Probably!

What can you say about F.M.? This was rock and metal utopia, a classic journey through the rock and roll hall of fame. They did the lot, Kaiser Chiefs, Foo Fighters, Sabbath, AC/DC, Zep and no real cheese, OK they did "Whisky in the Jar", but hey!! F.M. put a great amount of effort into this gig, sometimes mid week gigs just don't seem to have the same WOW/OOMPH. The atmosphere was great as was the music, a superb night. What is particularly pleasing is that F.M. don't always take the easy option, ie: instead of sticking to "Sweet Child Of Mine", they did "Welcome to The Jungle", so its nice to hear. How long have FM been around now? Many a year and on this performance many a year to come.

Thanks lads you were awesome

Saturday 21st February - "REVENANT"

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PRESENTATION NIGHT FOR TOWN'S AIR CADETS



1407 (Newton Aycliffe) their annual presentation Squadron ATC recently held evening. The squadron

Squadron Marksman badge and Cdt Tinkler and Weir gained their Wing Marksman badges for their skill with the No8 rifle. The second half of the evening saw the awarding of the squadron's trophies for 2014 by Deputy Wing Commander Sqn Ldr John Scott and Mrs Dorothy Bowman
Best Probationer: Cdt Bain
Scott Shield for Most Improved Cadet: Cdt Appleton
Tom Downs Cup for Endeavour and Service: Cdt Pears
Scott Trophy for Citizenship: Cdt Lakey
Sports Trophy: Sgt Armstrong
Crabbe Cup for Aircraft Recognition: FS Lowe
Laverick Memorial Trophy for Shooting: Cdt Weir
Sedgefield Veterans' Trophy for Attendance: Sgt Addison
Boddy Trophy for Best NCO: FS Lowe
Fryer Shield for Cadet of the Year: Cdt J. Hastie

continues to perform excellently, as highlighted by the number of awards and certificates gained by the cadets during 2014. With many parents in attendance, proceedings began with the presentation of five 1st Class badges to Cadets Addison, Bain, Hastie P, Nelson and Smith, which marks the first step up the academic ladder. 1407 squadron provides cadets with many opportunities and nationally recognised awards and qualifications. Six bronze and one Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Awards were presented, along with 12 ELA Workplace Hazard Awareness certificates and 15 Provisional Radio Operator certificates. Cdt Thomson gained her

Certificates of Merit were also awarded to Cdt Smith for making an excellent start to his cadet career, Cdt Powell for showing strong improvement and Cdt Hillary for exceptional keenness. Cadet J. Hastie was promoted to Corporal and Sergeant McCormack was promoted to Flight Sergeant. The night was an excellent celebration of the achievements of all the members of 1407 squadron. The squadron's Commanding Officer, Flt Lt Karin Scott, would like to thank all of the staff and civilian committee for their hard work and commitment to the squadron.

Demolition of Police Station



Signs have gone up on the old Town Centre Police Station showing it is now being demolished.

We have tried to obtain details from The Police Commissioners Office, without success but through County Councillor Jed Hillary have discovered the plot is "under offer". It is reasonable to assume the land it stands on

will be sold, but whoever has plans on using this valuable town centre site will be loathe to reveal their intentions at this stage. Usually the answer we get is that it is "Commercially Sensitive". It is pleasing to note progress is being made after four years and the town may soon benefit from a new facility. Newton News will keep readers informed of any development.

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Open Day at the T.A.

Your local TA - 124 Recovery Company at Northfield Way, Aycliffe Business Park are having an Open Day on Saturday 21st March, from 10am to 4pm.

Join us as we open our gates and welcome the local community and businesses inside to see what life is like in the Army Reserves. There will be vehicle display stands, entertainment by members of the Company and something for all ages. Bring along a friend, your parents, or even your boss! We don't mind.

ENTRANCE IS FREE. Tickets can be booked on Eventbrite via the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/124-recovery-company-open-day-tickets-15663373572>

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Children Can Get Crafty at the Library

If you're looking for something to do over the half term holiday, why not come down to the Library on Thursday 19th February from 2.30pm – 3.30pm and have fun making your own mask.

This craft session is suitable for children aged 4 to 11 and due to demand places must be booked in advance by calling into the library or phoning on 03000 269 519. The cost is 50p per child.

STUDENTS VOLUNTEER TO HELP PLAN TOWN



Woodham Academy students Niamh and Meghan

As part of the Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan, students in Year 11

at Woodham Academy have volunteered to sit on the Thematic group which will make decisions about the future spending and facilities provided by the plan.

At Woodham Academy, students are part of the decision making process at all levels. There are six democratically elected students from each year group that sit on the Year Council and two that are put forward to sit on the School Council.

Every year there is an application process at the end of Year 10 for one student to become Associate Student Governor at the school to represent the student voice within the governing body. The students who will represent the school as part of the Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan are Niamh Broad and Meghan Cumming, both currently sit on the School Council.

Sarah McGinnety, Associate Assistant Head Teacher at the school says 'The youngsters' input is vital to the process which is planning the future of Great Aycliffe for the next 20 years. The students are looking forward to shaping the future of their community.'

BHF Quiz Night Raised Over £1270

On Saturday 8th February a Charity Quiz Night for The British Heart Foundation was held at Aycliffe Scout Hall organised by Jon, Bernie and Joshua Patchett with lots of support from families and friends. The family wanted to raise funds for this great charity as Jon had received life saving treatment at James Cook Hospital, 2 years ago after suffering a heart attack.

Thanks to Mary and Graham Thurm for setting up the room and clearing up at the end, also to the bar staff at Scout Hall who had a busy night.

Over £1270 was raised, and everyone enjoyed a Pie and Peas supper supplied by Walkers Butchers and served by Bernie and Denise Howson with our lovely nieces Jessica, Georgina and Eve.

A great quiz was led by brilliant quiz master Ian Banks with congratulations to the winning team "Trippet".

Raffle prizes and donations were received from Aycliffe Fabrications, Darchem Engineering, JAJECS Electrical, Services, Ian Larnoch



Associates, Finley Structures Jewsons, Edmundson Electrical, UPEX Electrical, Knaptons Insurance, Black & Decker, Specialist 4x4 Services, Barclays Bank and all

our friends and families. Raffle tickets were sold on the night by Joshua and Eve Patchett with help from Andria and Danielle.

A huge thank you to everyone

who donated prizes, helped with the organisation and all who came and made it such a great night, without you we couldn't have done it, and it may become an annual event.

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Hall Garth Hotel
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Newton News Gets Results

Dear Sir,

Thank you for placing the "Looking for Handbags" appeal in your paper. I have had a great response.

The event is on 27th February at Hall Garth Hotel. Auction starts at 7.30pm.

Carrie Wilson
Sales Manager

Popular Family Disco at the Scout Centre

Newton Aycliffe Scout Supporters Association send a big thank you to all those who came along and enjoyed our Live Music Night on 31 January. We had a fabulous night and hope you did too. We would especially like to thank Pipe Dream, Keith Morrison and Derek Reed and all others for singing for us. Rolly for the sound, the Candlelitter's for coming along to give their support and Neil Mason for making it happen.

All these people gave their services without charge to help raise much needed funds to keep the Scout Centre open. If you would like more live music please visit our facebook page and let us know.

Our next event is a Family Disco on Saturday the 21st February, bring the whole family sit back and relax while KDO Disco entertain the kids with an evening of music and games.

Hotdogs and Mocktails will be on sale and the Tuck Shop will be open. Tickets from the bar: £2 per person, under 3's free.

The Family Disco is always popular so make sure to get your tickets early. And don't forget our newly refurbished bar is open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings and from approx. 12.30 at weekends, we welcome new members and would love to see you there.

Come Dine Experience with Rose Lodge

Rose Lodge Care Home will be hosting a fine dining experience and opening it's doors to guests to take part. This follows the home's very popular 'Come Dine With Me' themed lunch events, where chefs go head-to-head to prepare lavish three course meals for guests who vote for their favourite menu.

Care Manager, Nicola Wheatley, said: "Our head chef David wanted to change it up this year, so instead of making it a head-to-head competition we are bringing our chefs together to work as a team. These events are always a lot of fun and very popular so we are really looking forward to our first Dining Experience event."

Guests will be given a choice of two menus featuring a tomato and mozzarella or smoked duck breast salad starter, pan fried chicken with wholegrain mustard cream sauce or oven baked cod with herb crust main course and a lemon tart with vanilla cream or key lime pie with fruit coulis and cream for dessert.

The Dining Experience event is on Thursday 26th February at 2pm. Tickets are £3. Early booking is advised to secure your place. Tel: 271301 or email roselodge@cwch.com.

HIGH MARKS FOR ROSE LODGE CARE



Residents at Rose Lodge are celebrating after performing strongly in a nationwide survey of care home residents. The results show Rose Lodge was given an overall performance rating (OPR) score of 964 out of 1,000. This compares favourably to the national average of 872.

Now in its third year, the Your Care Rating survey is the country's largest and most authoritative survey of care home residents. The nationwide survey gives residents a voice, putting their care at the heart of understanding more about how well care homes perform. Over 21,000 residents in 1,034 care homes across the UK took part. Each care home was given an overall score based on resident feedback across four broad themes; Staff and Care, Home Comforts, Choice and Having a Say, and Quality of Life.

Rose Lodge achieved scores of 986 for quality of life and 975 for staff and care meaning the residents of Rose Lodge highly rate the standard of care they receive and feel they have a real input in the care they receive and in how the staff provide care and support.

Manager Nicola Wheatley, said: "It's great that our residents value the care they receive at Rose Lodge. Our scores are really positive, which

shows that life for our residents is happy and fulfilling. While we're really pleased with our scores, we obviously want to get even better and the survey helps us do that by giving us direct resident feedback. Families can also see at a glance which care homes are committed to raising standards and being transparent as they take part in the survey. Every care home resident should be able to speak up about their care and this is what the Your Care Rating survey does – it gives them a voice."

Rose Lodge care home provides residential and dementia care for the elderly and is owned by care providers Countrywide Care Homes. All of this year's results for every care home surveyed are displayed on the Your Care Rating website (www.yourcare-rating.org). The website also shows how homes that took part in the survey last year performed.

Be Sure To Get Your Newton News

In addition to circulating homes and businesses in Aycliffe, quantities of Newton News are available at various public outlets every Friday.

This is mainly for visitors to the town who need local information and want to catch up on recent news. It is also for those, who for some reason, did not get their usual delivery.

If you live in Newton Aycliffe or the surrounding villages and do not receive a delivery, please let Newton News office know and we will try to ensure that you do in future Telephone 300212, e-mail: paul@newtonnews.co.uk

You can pick up copies of the Newton News from: McDonalds, Heighington Spar, Redworth Hall Hotel, Oak Leaf Sports Complex, Boating Lake McColls, Pease Way Surgery, Bewick Surgery, Iron Horse, Stevens (Neville Parade), Cycleways, Tesco, The Cubby, Coffee Pronto, Gretna, Woodham Golf Club, Eden Arms Hotel, PCP Centre, Save Garage, Agnew Community Centre, Woodham Post Office, Greenlea Garth Shop, Greenfield Gallery, Silverdale Shop, The Xcel Centre, The Work Place, Aycliffe Truck Stop, Ruff n Tumble, Planet Leisure, Redworth Hall and the Public Library, not forgetting our agents Youngs in the Town Centre or Walkers, Simpasturegate.

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ASDA FOUNDATION COULD HELP AYCLIFFE COMMUNITY SCHEMES

Asda Bishop Auckland has helped to provide a grant of over £13,000 for Auckland Youth and Community Centre. The Centre provides young people with a range of activities and learning experiences, as well as low cost child care, a youth club, skills workshops and CV writing classes. Ashley Casey, community life champion at Asda Bishop Auckland, applied for the funding through the Asda Foundation – the supermarket’s charitable organisation, which supports projects and good causes throughout the UK. The store supported the centre with various fundraising activities and healthy eating classes in-store. The money will help repair the roof and security system of the community centre and fund new skills equipment. Set up in 1988, the Asda Foundation aims to have a positive impact on local communities, by providing support to a range of local good causes, chosen by Asda community life colleagues across the UK. Julie Ward of Asda added: “We see the foundation as one of the many ways to give something back to the communities that support us. That’s why we lend a hand to the wide range



of good causes with which our colleagues are involved, sharing their passion and helping to make a difference through a variety of projects across the UK.” The Asda Foundation’s ‘Chosen by you... Given by us’ scheme gives customers the opportunity to nominate then vote for three local not for profit organisations to receive a tiered donation every two months. It also supports Asda colleagues who have already raised money for their chosen cause through their store or depot, and require additional support. To find out more about the Asda Foundation, see: <http://charities.asda.com/asda-foundation/>

Heighington Launch “PAL” Litter Scheme



Heighington Parish Litter Group’s (HPLG) first Coffee Morning was very well attended on Saturday 7th February. Heighington Village Hall was packed with people who had come to see the presentation of Heighington Parish Environment Awards and to hear about the launch of the Heighington Parish PALs scheme. The Chairman of HPLG, Peter Smyth, welcomed visitors and invited Councillor Gerald Lee, Mayor of Darlington, to present Heighington Environmental Awards to Joan and Kim Trotter in recognition of all the work they had put in to the regular litter picks around the parish. The Mayor also presented Anne Dobson with the MacLean Silver Rose Bowl (HPLG’s premier award) and a certificate. Anne not only regularly clears litter from Redworth village, she also works tirelessly at raising funds and organising events in St. Michael’s Church and Redworth Village Hall. Valerie Bedocs then explained the PALs scheme which aims to get people to pledge to pick up a piece of litter a day. This does not sound like the sort of movement that will change the world, but all the

most important events in history started from very small beginnings. The majority of us hate to see litter about the place but feel helpless to do anything about it. The PALs plan enables us all to do something and if we were all to sign up to be a PAL we can make a huge difference. Not only will we improve our environment we will save millions of pounds a year that is presently spent on clearing away our litter. The concept of PALs grabbed the imagination of our visitors on the day and they willingly signed up to become a PAL. Anybody who missed the coffee morning does not have to worry there will be many more opportunities to sign up to be a PAL. Heighington Parish Litter Group has been carrying out monthly litter picks for ten years now and we reckon we have filled nearly 4,000 large bin bags of rubbish from the verges around our parish in that time. We know we have made a difference and now with the launch of Heighington Parish PALs we are certain we will be able to make an even bigger difference in the future. We would like to thank everybody for their support and enthusiasm

Major Improvements for Vane Road School

As readers may have seen in the National media, the government has agreed to spend money on refurbishing and rebuilding schools in the North East of England. Head Teacher Kieran Pavey contacted Newton News to announce that Vane Road Primary has been successful in its application to be one of these schools. There is very little information at this stage as the Department for Education will need to survey each project over the next couple of months, decide the priorities (they said Vane



Road is fairly high priority) and then formulate a plan. The application through the Government’s Priority Schools Building Programme 2 identified issues Vane Road have with asbestos, heating, appropriate layout and insulation. The school

will either have significant refurbishment or a total rebuild. Kieran said: “I am not sure how they would address all these issues without a full rebuild”. It is great news for the children of Vane Road both present and future. The school is currently

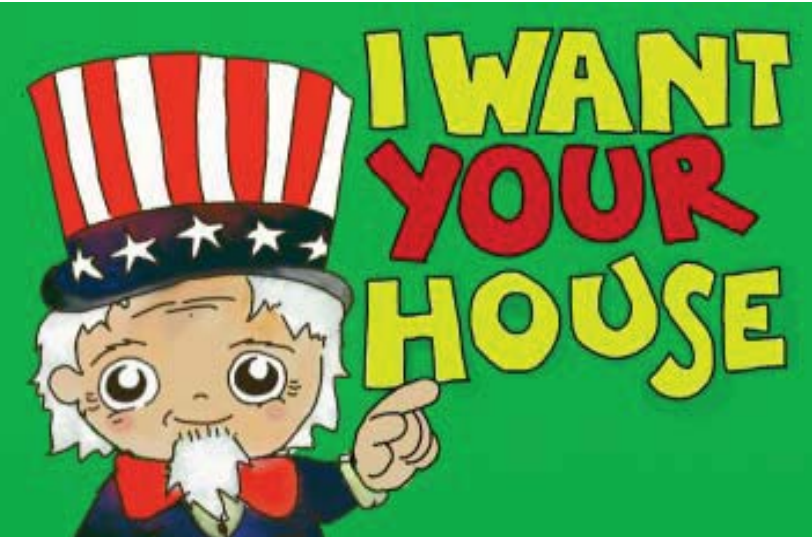
is such a state of disrepair due to many years of neglect and through the difficulties the presence of asbestos poses. It is simply not acceptable to allow this situation to continue and with this grant we will be able to provide an environment to enable pupils to grow, develop and thrive”. Counc. Jed Hillary said: “As the Local Authority Governor for the school, I am delighted to hear the school has been scheduled for redevelopment. This heralds a new chapter for the school and there are exciting times ahead.”

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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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Newtonian Starts On-line Game Forum

Luke Sadler, (25) who attended Greenfield School is currently taking an Open University degree in Software Development in his spare time. He is creating a multi-platform game (meaning you can play it on PC, Mac, Apple iOS and Android). He wants to bring in people from the Aycliffe area to help children and young adults grow their skills in game or software development.

This can include:

Creative writing. Finding out how stories are told in game play and finding skills that are transferable from standard story telling.

Music composition. Writing music for games. How the music of a game can be used

to help in telling parts of story, such as emotion and whether someone is a 'good or bad guy' to replace some written words.

Artistic skills. Game characters and objects are just wire meshes with an image for a skin. Modifying and assigning those textures and meshes correctly is what really makes a game look good. Being able to use software packages such as Photoshop can mostly be used for this.

Math. Mathematics can play a large role in creating games, especially when creating code 3D Modelling. Using software such as Blender and 3D Studio Max.

He is thinking of setting up and leading writing contests from an online forum he set up. The link to that forum, to which he will be adding to frequently is: <http://siege-game.boards.net/> He hopes to involve students at Greenfield and Woodham in the near future. People getting involved in this will have the chance to have their work put into the actual game

Link to the game via a tinyURL [www.tinyURL.com/siege-game](http://www.tinyurl.com/siege-game)

Full URL: <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/905746092/siege-a-multiplatform-game>
email: Siege.the.game@gmail.com
com Twitter: [www.twitter.com/mylogon](https://twitter.com/mylogon)



Youth & Community Centre Personnel on "Away Day"



On 10th January the Management Committee, Staff and Volunteers of the Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre got together at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex for an 'away day'.

They took part in various workshops looking at the positives and negatives of the Centre. The aim was to clarify and unify our collective vision for the Centre - what it did, why it was essential for Newton Aycliffe and where we wanted it to go in the future.

To do this the group worked through the SWOT Analysis

(Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) which produced lists of 'grumps' and good ideas. These lists were then collated to give a working list of problems and their solutions.

The day finished with a 'PESTLE' analysis, establishing context and looking into the future; this last exercise, given the current climate, was necessarily worrying, but through highlighting the areas of concern the group agreed there are also many reasons to look to the future with confidence. The large number who attended helped highlight the skills that staff and trustees hold, the

determination and passion all involved have to help drive the organisation forward to become a high-quality provider.

The group thanks the Oak Leaf staff for providing an excellent lunch for a reasonable price and extended a big thank you to the Great Aycliffe Group of County Councillors who funded the event, and to Carl Marshall who led it what was a very promising, useful day. If anybody would like to have their say regarding the Centre and how they can best serve the Aycliffe Youth and Community please feel free to email: info@nayc.co.uk or pop in and put your comments into the suggestion box.

No Chance of Main Line Stop at Aycliffe

Dear Sir,
As an Aycliffe Village resident I have no objection to the principle of re-opening the old Village main line station, and agree it would be very convenient to catch trains to go North or South and would certainly help those that have to commute on a regular basis. I do, however, have a number of concerns and it is those concerns that will, I believe, make this idea a non-starter. When the station was closed

originally it was because of lack of economic use and at that time few people from this area had need to travel regularly to Newcastle or Durham.

Times have changed and so have people's mode of transport. The re-opened station would require a significant car park and I cannot envisage where that would be, to serve both up and down lines.

The roads through the Village are narrow and parking is a problem even now without the addition of all day parking by those using the Station. The popular trains would coincide with children leaving in the morning to local schools and bus collection points and returning in the afternoons.

The bridge over the Skerne in the Village is not designed for high volumes of traffic and if this idea did get the go ahead would need significant upgrading.

The only answer would be to find another approach, other than through the village itself, this would be an exceptionally difficult route to find, even if land could be purchased and new bridges over the river and tunnel under the railway could be built. This of course would add dramatically to the very significant cost of re opening the Station itself.

For these reasons and in the current economic climate I believe this project, however well meaning, would not receive the funding to proceed. Roger Curtis

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS Promise of Spring



Despite the cold weather and ice the Woodland Trust reports signs of Spring all over the country.



To my Fiance Colin

*Thank you for being my rock.
I love you so much and always will.
Michelle xxxxxx*

Bev

*Happy Anniversary on Valentines Day
Lots of love, Rob xxxxx*

To my Angel Marie

*It's just 357 more days till we say "I do".
Love you always, my sweet valentine.*

"SuperDan"

*Happy Valentines Day.
All my love, Carrie xxxx*

June

*Happy Valentines Day my Sweetheart.
Love you always, Rob x x x*

"W.W."

I still love only you.

John Palliser

*Happy Valentines Day. Always and forever.
Your Wife, Melanie*

Linda

Still fall in love. From your Scarecrow xxxx

Sarah Travis

*Happy Valentines Day to my Amazing Wife.
I love you with all my heart. Paul xxxxx*

Rachel Grieves

*Happy Valentines Day.
Lots of love from Paul xxxxxxxx*

To Caroline

*Lots of love to my gorgeous Wife on
Valentines Day. Vincey xxx*

To Lisa

*All my love to my wonderful wife
on Valentines Day! J.P. xxx*

To Joanne

*Happy Valentines Day
Love always, Stuart xxxxx*

Craig Jackman

*All my love on Valentines Day
and every day. SJ xxx*

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C.D.C.F. Anniversary Celebrated at the PCC

A year of celebration was launched on Friday February 6th 2015 as County Durham Community Foundation reached its 20th anniversary, distributing millions of pounds to good causes. Youngsters from the Education Centre for Children with Down Syndrome at the PCP Centre, one of many organisations supported by CDCF since June 29th 1985, kicked off the 20th anniversary with a balloon launch. CDCF manages almost 200 funds in County Durham and Darlington, giving out over £28m to individuals and organisations and is holding



Left to right: Barbara Gubbins, Hayley Tolley with Jack, Lyndsey Clark with Lily, and Mark I'Anson

a series of events to mark its 20th birthday. Chief Executive Barbara Gubbins said: "We are delighted to be launching our 20th anniversary celebration in Aycliffe with some of the children we have been able to support. We are all very proud of how the funds we manage are changing lives for the better and making a lasting difference to the people of County Durham."

The Education Centre for Children with Down Syndrome provides personalised educational strategies for each child alongside advice and training for those who are responsible for their care. Set up in 2005, the centre has benefited from almost £15,000 in grants from CDCF. Based in Aycliffe with an outreach group in Hexham, Northumberland it welcomes children from across the North of England, with one full time worker and 10 part time workers, 28 volunteers and 70 members. The centre's founder, Maggie

Hart said: "The grants we receive from CDCF are vital. They have helped us grow so that we now support more than 50 children and their families. We are honoured to be involved in the 20th anniversary launch and the children are very excited."

Among other events planned to mark CDCF's 20th anniversary is a black tie dinner at Durham Castle on April 17th with businesswoman and philanthropist Dame Stephanie "Steve" Shirley as guest speaker, and there will be a special service at Durham Cathedral on June 29th, to mark the full 20 years of charitable giving. CDCF chairman Mark I'Anson said: "For 20 years we have been bringing people together to achieve their potential, fulfil their aspirations and build thriving communities. Our goal is to give something back to the community by building a long-term endowment to support the people of County Durham and Darlington in the future".

SLUG BAIT ALMOST KILLED OUR DOG

Dear Sir,
On the afternoon of Friday 6th February my wife, Maxine, and I were walking our dog Pippa, a 9 month old black Cocker Spaniel, along the new path which runs along side the rail track from Aycliffe to Shildon. Along the way Pippa, unaware to us, ate something in the grass area along the right hand side. Pippa seemed fine until we got to Shildon and started walking back. At first her back legs were dragging a little, her claws scraping along the ground as she walked, then if she was stood still her back legs started to buckle and give way. After another few minutes she started to collapse. Distraught, we carried her the rest of the way to the opening just past Greenfield roundabout, where I left my wife with Pippa so I could run home to get the car to take her to the vets.

A big thank you to the kind woman who stopped, while I was heading home, to offer assistance to my wife. We took her straight to "Value vets" at Cobblers Hall where they began treating Pippa for eating a toxic substance. Upset, we went home to await any news which turned out to be quite serious and she needed to be taken to Wilson Vets in Bishop Auckland, to be monitored and treated



overnight. We feared the worst, but thankfully Pippa pulled through and we took her home on Saturday afternoon. We were told it was most probably Slug Bait, which will kill in less than 24 hours if not treated! The reason for this letter is to make dog walkers aware of the risk of their pets picking anything up which would harm them, and to make dog walkers

who use that pathway aware of the hazard. A big thank you once again to the kind motorist who stopped and offered assistance and to Value Vets for their help, and a very big thank you to Wilson Vets at Bishop Auckland for their overnight care and treatment of Pippa, for which she may not have survived. L. Hamilton

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 25th February 2015

Environment Committee
Recreation Committee
7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

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

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

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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



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COUNTY NEWSBITS

compiled by County Councillor John Clare

The bit.ly links are shortened weblinks; type them into your browser to go to the relevant webpages.

- DCC Flooding provision remains on track: bit.ly/DCCFlood
- DCC replaces the alcohol hospital liaison service: bit.ly/DCCDrugAndAlcoholService
- DCC sets out a £52m investment programme: bit.ly/DCCinvestment
- Like the Great North Air Ambulance's new Facebook page and browse some of the furniture in their Newton Aycliffe shop: <https://www.facebook.com/gnaasfurniture>
- My report on the Alcohol Harm Reduction Conference: bit.ly/DCCAlcoholHarm
- The public consultation on the Durham Police & Crime Plan ends 15 February: bit.ly/DPCCconsultation
- Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan event, 21 February at 10:00, Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre: bit.ly/GANPevent
- Consultation on the proposed University Technical College on Aycliffe Business Park ends 27 Feb: bit.ly/NAUTC
- There will be new rules on displaying tobacco from 6 April 2015: www.durham.gov.uk/underagesales.
- If you are on certain benefits with an old boiler, Warm Up North can give you a new one: bit.ly/DCCWUN
- GAMP is doing amazing work to help people into employment: bit.ly/GAMPETG
- Durham Wildcats play Worcester Wolves – tip-off 4pm Sunday 15th February, Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre.
- E Nesbit's Railway Children-themed half-term activities at @NRMSHildon next week include a free film, arts and crafts activities: <http://ow.ly/IRxIM>



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Councillors Sarah Iveson and Jed Hillary will be in attendance at St. Mary's Meeting Room, Burn Lane on Saturday 14th February from 11am - 12 noon.

Roman Stars in TV Show

Roman of Aycliffe, International market leading shower designer and manufacturer, have supplied the brand new TV series, Bad Builders: Bang to Rights with one of their wetroom solutions. The TV Show is a brand new three part programme that strives to help people whose lives have been turned upside down by unreliable contractors, who left their home in ruins. Dominic Littlewood is the man who seeks out the dodgy workmen, quizzes them about the dreadful work they have done and he then helps to fix the destroyed homes. This feel good programme helps the families to get their homes finished, with the help of builder Chris Payne and designer Pippa Jameson giving the home a makeover. Roman helped a family in Wiltshire who trusted the wrong builder and were left with an unfinished and dangerous extension to their home for seven years. The single parent with a disabled son moved in with her sister as she couldn't care for her son by herself, as Josh is severely disabled; suffering from epilepsy and has learning difficulties. The extension was to provide a bedroom and wetroom on the ground floor for Josh, as going up and down the stairs could be very dangerous when he suffers from epilepsy. Having to go up and down the stairs to his bedroom and to use the bathroom meant that Josh had to be assisted 24/7. The extension was an easy build and should have only taken 12 weeks to complete but the builder left the it unfinished and in a hazardous leaking mess. As the family had spent all their money on the extension they couldn't afford to employ another builder and had to live with the dangerous eyesore for seven long years. Bad Builders: Bang to Rights TV show came to change their lives for good and finished the extension that they so desperately needed. They built a bedroom in the extension for Josh and installed a wetroom using one of Roman's Wetroom Panels to make the shower easily accessible. Roman offers a large collection of Wetroom Panels which present complete inclusivity for the whole family, it means no doors to open and no handles to pull, just wide and easy access into the showering area. David Osborne, Managing Director of Roman, commented: "This is another great TV show that we are extremely proud to be involved in and we will continue to donate product to the families in up and coming series of the programme where needed. By supplying our Wetroom Panel, Josh now has wide and easy access into his shower, no longer has to negotiate the stairs and doesn't have to be assisted 24 hours a day."



Volunteers Helping Young People Learn to Read

Beanstalk at Aycliffe is part of a national literacy charity that recruits, vets, trains and supports volunteers to work in primary schools with children who have fallen behind with their reading. Our vision is a nation of confident children who can read and grow up to lead successful lives. BEANSTALK READING HELPERS work with children on a one-to-one basis, giving them their full attention and support to improve reading levels, increase overall confidence and inspire a lifelong love of reading. Each Beanstalk reading helper works with three children and sees each child for two 30 minute sessions a week, during term-time, for a whole year. Together, they read, play and talk. With Beanstalk's support the child's approach to learning and enjoying reading is often transformed. We work across England through 17 branches in the North, Midlands, Greater London and Kent. We have over 100 staff and more than 2,400 volunteers, who support over 7000 children a year, but there is still much more we can do. Our aim is to reach out to 10,000 children by 2017. The opportunity to make a difference to a child's life is huge in this volunteering role and also an excellent way to gain experience for people wanting to work with children or in schools. We do ask that the volunteer is able to commit to two sessions



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Brief description of Business

(Please use a separate sheet if required)

For further information, please contact Paul on 01325 300212 or email paul@newtonnews.co.uk

Councillor Turns His Back on Aycliffe

Dear Sir,

Cllr Gray's rambling letter is full of inaccuracies and does not identify what he has done for Aycliffe during his 24 years' service as a Councillor and School Governor. However, as the matters he refers to took place before Councillor Kate Hopper and myself were elected, it would have been more appropriate whilst he was still a Durham County Councillor himself to have raised these concerns with the previous representative Dorothy Bowman, including Livin who own Silverdale house. Of more concern is that Cllr Gray is no longer an 'Independent' thinker and now speaks for a Party that would inflict damage on Aycliffe's local economy if elected. He stated that UKIP is the 'perfect party' and is 'best placed to deliver positive results'. Will he now explain to Great Aycliffe residents how UKIP's policy of withdrawing from the EU would be positive for Hitachi's European hub and our local businesses? At the 2013 elections he was elected to the Town Council as an 'Independent' Councillor, so he may now want to consider doing the honorable thing and resign, as others have, then rebrand himself as a UKIP supporter and stand under their banner. Eddy Adam County Councillor Aycliffe West Division

a week (1.5 hours a session) for a full school academic year. Our website is www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk or I can be contacted for further information. Emma Rose St Cuthberts House Block 3 Floor 1 Suite D & E St Cuthberts Way Tel: 0845 4500 344 Mob: 07815490307 twitter @BeanstalkYorkNE and facebook on https://www.facebook.com/BeanstalkYorkNE

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Bobbin Shed Artists Exhibit at Greenfield

Last week saw the busy opening of a fantastic new exhibition in Greenfield Gallery. Becky Sunter, Sarah Oatley and Jane Riley are three artists exhibiting their textile creations as the collective "The Bobbin Shed."

After a hectic three days installing artworks, which include textile bird sculptures, large woven wall hangings and intricately embroidered textile landscapes, the artists were joined by family, friends, colleagues and more at a bustling preview event. Becky, Sarah and Jane are based at Lingfield Point in

Darlington, where they create work and run courses from their studio The Bobbin Shed. They each work in different areas, with textiles as the common thread!

Jane builds life like birds from recycled fabrics and weaves colourful tapestries, where Sarah stitches and patches to make art, quilts and more. Becky uses traditional looms to create woven pieces.

The exhibition is on display here at Greenfield Arts until Wednesday 4th March – we are pleased to be able to support these local artisans and the fantastic work



Former Cadet Promoted to Pilot Officer



Michael Scott, a member of staff at 1407 (Newton Aycliffe) Squadron Air Cadets, has recently graduated from his Initial Officer's Course at RAF Cranwell.

The five day course taught leadership, communication skills and squadron management. Having completed the course, Michael now holds the rank of Pilot Officer in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserves (Training). On the squadron he is the adjutant; doing lots of the paper work and assisting the Commanding Officer.

1407 Squadron has around 35 enrolled cadets. We are always looking for staff to help deliver the varied and exciting range of activities to the cadets.

If you'd like to help the young people in your community, whether teaching on a parade night, being part of the squadron committee or going in to uniform like Michael then get in touch. Visit our website for details: www.1407aircadets.org

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Staff at Roman of Aycliffe, got involved and showed their support for the British Heart Foundation's "Wear It Beat It" campaign.

They showed support for the fantastic cause by wearing red, whether that be red shoes, red tie, red lipstick, Welsh Rugby Shirt or English (change strip!). Roman's Managing Director, David Osborne, and many other rugby fans in Roman proudly wore their red tops to support the British Heart Foundation and of course the first game of the Six Nations, England vs Wales.

The company also set up a kissing wall. Staff put on some red lipstick (including the

men!) and kissed the Shower Enclosure, then signed their name to show they are in full support of the campaign. Roman received many generous donations from their employees, and their friends and family members to help fund lifesaving research.

David Osborne commented: "Here at Roman our staff jump at the chance to take part in raising money for worthy causes, such as the British Heart Foundation. Rugby is also a big passion of ours so wearing red to support both causes on Friday was an extremely popular choice of clothing in our factory and offices!"

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

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News from Durham Tigers Rugby Club

A new and imaginative approach to coach development is being introduced throughout the region on 21st February at Sunnysdale Leisure Centre in Shildon. It marks a significant milestone in the progression of the game in the North East. Initially the focus of Rugby League in the North East was on participation. It was felt elite players would always come out the "heartland" of the game. The game now recognises that players from what were regarded as "development regions" can, with the right support, reach the very top. However much of this depends on the quality of coaching provided by community clubs such as the Tigers and this is the new approach.

John Simpson, chair of the Tigers said "We want our coaches to match the best in the country. This new approach ensures this will happen. It means in the near future England squads may be coached from our area." John went on to comment "This is a win, win situation. All our players, irrespective of ability, will benefit from the skills which our coaches will develop. It will give players the confidence to take those vital steps required to go on to a professional career. The

North East has been successful in turning out quality players in many sports and it is now the time for this to happen in Rugby League. With the player development plans in place, and the support from Newcastle Thunder, the sky is the limit for our lads."

Michael Heap who is co-ordinating the programme throughout the North East backs up John and suggested "the game has perhaps belatedly recognised the North East provides a vast pool of untapped talent. We now have the structures in place to make use of this talent."

The Tigers are gearing up for the new season and on the lookout for new players of all ages and abilities. John said "whilst the new initiative is on elite player development the core activity of community clubs like the Tigers is to get kids playing sport. We want to extend a warm welcome to everyone who wants to get involved in this great game."

People who are interested in knowing more about what the Tigers have to offer should contact the Club secretary on 01833 641143 or simply turn up at training which is takes place at Sunnysdale Leisure Centre in Shildon on Saturday morning starting at 10 am.

TOWN RUGBY CLUB HITS NEW HEIGHTS

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club tightened their grip on 3rd place in Durham and Northumberland Division 3 with a superb 6-try victory at rivals Seaham. Aycliffe were able to select from strength in the backs, although there were a few forwards unavailable. The weather was excellent but the pitch was very heavy underfoot.

As usual in games between these two sides, the forward battle was ferocious, but Jeff Hodgson and Niall Kelly were able to match anything thrown at them by Seaham. The hosts looked strong around the fringes and in midfield, but Aycliffe's defence stopped them making too much ground. Aycliffe scored first when the backs broke the defensive line and Hodgson was on hand to score under the posts. Luke Tinkler added the conversion. The game was nip and tuck for the next few minutes, but Aycliffe struck again; Gareth Parsonson's cross kick was picked up by Luke Crossen who headed for the line, he was brought down but was able to offload the ball from the ground to the supporting Stuart McIvor, who scored his first try in a number of years. The hosts were not to be set back by this, and, with Aycliffe down to 10 men following a sin-bin, they scored three penalty kicks. At half time, the score was 12 - 9 to Aycliffe.

The next score would be crucial and it was Aycliffe who got it when Crossen sprinted down the wing, Tinkler's excellent conversion extended the gap to 10 points. Seaham kicked another penalty but Aycliffe's backs were now rampant. James Thacker broke through the defence for Adam Gascoigne to touch down under the posts and Tinkler scored a solo try to make the game safe. Throughout the game Ash Elliott and Andy Littlefair had again put sterling tackling displays. With 5 minutes to go, Aycliffe were able to give debuts to Tom Hogan-Wharton and Ryan Atkins, who rounded off the scoring with a try in the corner from his first touch. The game ended with Aycliffe triumphing by 36 - 12.

This was probably the best all-round performance of the season by Aycliffe and great spirit was shown throughout the team against strong opposition. Aycliffe's next match is on February 21st at home to Prudhoe and Stocksfield; kick-off 2:15.

Aycliffe Rugby is sponsored by S Cars and Whitehouse Funeral Service.

UK's Best Known Disabled Athlete Visits Woodham



As part of her role as a trustee of the Tony Blair Sports Foundation the famous paralympian Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE, DL visited Woodham Academy.

Last year, the school joined forces with the foundation to launch a two year sports leaders' programme in Boccia, Tennis, Basketball, Cricket and Athletics for Year 10 and 11 pupils at Woodham.

Tanni was born with spina bifida. She is considered to be one of the most successful disabled athletes in the UK. She

graduated from Loughborough University in 1991 with a BA (Hons) degree in Politics and Social Administration. She was Christened Carys Davina Grey, but her sister referred to her as "tiny" when she first saw her, pronouncing it "tanni" and the name stuck. Tanni gave an inspirational talk to students at a special

assembly where she related details of her highly successful journey through sport to coaching and elevation to the House of Lords as a Baroness. Students asked questions and were impressed with this remarkable woman's modesty and simple approach to life, which more or less says "If I can do it so can you!"

AYCLIFFE F.C. LOSE AT PENRITH

Newton Aycliffe lost out on their return to action after last week's enforced winter break going down 2-1 at Penrith. With both sides having been deprived of much recent action it was perhaps not surprising that the teams took a while to get going.

Penrith were seeking their fifth win in a row in the Ebac Northern League Division 1 despite not having played at the Frenchfield Stadium since 27 December. An uneventful first half was lived up on 37 mins when Richie Archer scored his first goal for the club. A fantastic right foot shot from just outside the box. The keeper got a hand on it but there was too much power behind the shot to stop it.

Penrith began the second half in positive fashion with Aycliffe being restricted to some dangerous moments on the break. The equaliser came with 20 minutes left, Grant Davidson heading home a corner from the near post. Minutes later Davidson might have repeated the feat but an excellent save from James Winter in the Aycliffe goal tipped his effort over the bar.

After taking & holding a lead for a large chunk of the game Aycliffe might have thought that at least a point would be theirs to take back along the A66. It wasn't to be however & with just a few minutes remaining Penrith snatched the winner.

Next Saturday Aycliffe return home to Moore Lane Park & will be keen to get back to their winning ways against Celtic Nation.

Forthcoming Fixtures:

Saturday 14 February (H) Celtic Nation ko 3 pm

Tuesday 17 February (A) Sunderland RCA ko 7.30 pm

Saturday 21 February (A) Whitley Bay ko 3 pm

Saturday 28 February (H) Billingham Synthonia ko 3 pm

Crossfit Community "All Out" for Luke's New Leg



Just over 10 years ago when he was 14 Luke Watson suffered an accident when his go kart left the track and crashed into a barrier. The impact shattered his ankle, fracturing and rotating the talus bone. Major surgery followed and Luke was wheelchair bound for three years. He was unable to go to school and had home tuition for two years leading up to his GCSE exams.

Complications meant the blood supply to Luke's ankle had been affected causing the foot to drop and the bone to die. More surgery followed where he had a metal cage built around his leg from toes to knee with a number of pins and pistons attached. The pistons had to be turned daily for 6 months to raise the foot back into position which solved the foot problem but as the bone had died his leg had stopped growing, and more surgery was needed. The cage went back on for another 6 months but this time the leg was surgically broken and the pistons turned every day to stretch the leg and stop the bone healing until the leg had reached the correct length. Luke also had a double ankle fusion at the same time in an effort to stop the pain from the ankle joint.

Unfortunately all this was in vain, as he still had problems walking and the pain and high



Luke Watson

levels of medication were getting too much - seriously affecting Luke's quality of life. He took the brave decision to elect for a below-the-knee amputation in 2013.

Rehab was tough but he battled through it and learned to walk with an artificial leg but needed to regain lost confidence and fitness. He tried Crossfit in Nottingham where he lives. Luke says "The Crossfit Nottingham coaches have been fantastic but the problem I face is my prosthetic leg not being compatible with exercise and it is causing problems with joints in my good leg and the knee and hip in my other leg. Unfortunately as good as the NHS have been they haven't got the funding for a specialist leg."

Luke needs to raise £8000. and when CrossFit All Out in Aycliffe heard of Luke's fund on Sunday 25th January they hosted a Throwdown with CrossFit Catterick, Sunderland and Nottingham, raising £200. Terry Anderson, owner of CrossFit All Out said "Luke was inspirational, to see him working hard and overcoming boundaries was uplifting and the crowd of Crossfitters were fantastic. He achieved his first rope climb that day, something a lot of fully able people aim for! We are very proud to be part of such a supportive community and wish Luke all the best for his future." The Fund has raised nearly £7000 so far and you can donate to Luke's fund at www.gofundme.com/LukeWatsonCFN

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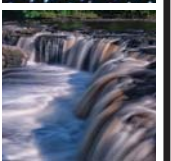
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Turbinia FC in Touching Distance of the Top

With no games played last week in the Crook and District League due to weather, FC Turbinia returned to action with an away fixture against Barnard Castle's "Castle Rangers".

The game started slowly with The Turbinia having the better of chances, Luke Williams forced a great save from the "Ranger's" Keeper and Daniel Keane saw his effort just run wide of the post, but it wasn't long before "The Tub" opened the scoring, when a knock down from Keane found Paul Hepper in space who rippled the back of the net.

Turbinia's lead did not last long when the referee played on after what was thought to have been a clear foul on a Turbinia defender. The Ranger's attacker was left one on one with the keeper and calmly finished, but this did not deter the away side, who carried on playing their trademark passing game. A through ball forced the best out of Michael Moir who successfully squared the ball across to a darting Luke Black, finishing in style.

The second half was a very different story as FC Turbinia despite playing uphill played a very calm possession game, holding onto the ball and bidding their time until the chances came thick and fast. Daniel Keane saw the ball fall to his feet when the goalkeeper fumbled from the corner, and scored his goal easiest of the season, Daniel Dixon, burst past the last defender leaving him with only the keeper to beat, but as

seen on many other occasions, Dixon calmly took the ball around the opposing keeper and rolled it over the line. Keane bagged his second with a powerful strike into the roof of the net, only to be followed by what was the goal of the game from Man of the Match Charlie Armstrong with a 25 yard screamer.

Substitute Josh West made an instant impact down the right hand side and was taken down inside the box, West converted and reaped the reward for his efforts. Castle Ranger's pulled back with a consolation, but as the game went on "The Tub" had several more chances, but only converted the one, after some fancy footwork from Daniel Brown created enough space for him to loft the ball towards the far post, to find the oncoming West who finished with his head for his brace.

A great second half performance, means that FC Turbinia stay in touching distance of top of the table. This week FC Turbinia have a Valentine's date with Crook Wanderers at home on Simpasture Playing Fields, Kick Off 1.30pm and it would be great to see plenty of people cheering the team on. FC Turbinia are holding a mid-season Fundraiser on the 27th February 2015 where Comedy Hypnotist Adam Knight will be performing. Tickets are available, but be sure to get them quick as this is one not to miss! For more details please get in touch with Paul Soakell on 07848 932989 or p.soakell@sky.com

Mixed Fortunes for Youth Teams

With the weather picking up it was good to get back into action with most teams enjoying a run out at long last!

The Under 15's Falcons welcomed Middlebeck Juniors to the Oak Leaf and stuck to the formation they used last time out. It worked for the first 10 minutes and Juniors were matched in all areas but U15s soon found themselves 2-0 down in quick succession. The boys soon found their feet and got a goal back though Sam following a good run from midfield, we then grabbed a equaliser though Liam Walls. But missed chances allowed Middlebeck to take the initiative and scored twice in 5 minutes for a 2-4 half time lead. Three changes were made at half time to try and get a foothold on the game. The start of the second half was a proper old fashioned midfield battle with both sides going in full blooded and then an injury to our striker meant we had to change the team again as Danny went up front. The visitors grabbed their 5th goal to cement their lead but Danny reduced the arrears by scoring late on. The Manager is really proud of what the lads are now doing on the pitch and the way the team is going forward. Final score 3-5.

Under 14's hosted Redcar Town Blues and from the start were up against it only having the bare 11 due to sickness and holidays. The boys started the game very well passing the ball about the pitch and getting at the Redcar defence. A couple of chances came our way early but unfortunately weren't able to pt them in the back of the net. Redcar responded with their first shot on target put the ball in the back of the net. The boys tried to lift their game again and were still the better

team but Redcar managed to get another goal which in fairness was a very good finish. Half-time 0-2. The second half saw a shuffle of formation and Aycliffe found themselves playing good football, have more of the ball and put pressure on the away team, all this led to Bailey Howarth grabbing a goal back. Game on! Legs were starting to get tired as the lads pressed on and with no subs to bring on, Redcar managed to get another goal which was almost saved by stand in goal keeper Brad Bird. A great effort from the lads who were the better team and didn't deserve to lose. Final score 1-3. Man of the Match was S. Brown. Difficult game for the Under 13s at home against Cleveland Juniors who took an early lead. The U13s managed to equalise and for the next 10 minutes had the lion share of the ball. Unfortunately Cleveland wanted it more today and raced into a 4-1 half-time lead. A change of formation after the break saw a more attacking style but it took some time to adapt and Cleveland added another 2 goals. The team started playing better and added 2 goals as thoughts of a comeback were on the cards - it wasn't to be as Cleveland held out for a final score of 3-6. Goals from Keiran Todd, Josh Richardson and Connor Gillard.

The Under 13 Girls' travelled the short journey to South Park to take on their nearest neighbours - Darlington Spraire Lasses. On a heavy pitch, the girls did well with their passing game and within 5 mins they were in front as a Lottie through ball found Lily who fired low into the far corner from the edge of box! Martha was strong in the tackle in midfield and Hallie was heading clear with more confidence. Spraire had a left sided player who began to cause our defence problems down the wing and scored to level after 15mins. A quick response saw Chloe strike from outside the box which bobbed in front of their keeper for 1-2. As half-time approach we pressed and Lily's neat pass saw Chloe squeeze in the third from a tight angle. Paige and Molly held firm with some great clearances. Courtney was impressive between the sticks finding success with her long kicks. The second half saw Spraire have a real go and take the game to us and before we knew it was 3-3! A poor Spraire keeper clearance saw Chloe pounce to make it 3-4. Spraire refused to give up and soon equalised as their winger took control. She again caused havoc and nudged them ahead 5-4! With time running out neat passing from Charlie, Shannon and Ellie saw Chloe force her way through only to be brought down. Stonewall penalty as they say! She stepped up to make the final score 5-5. Well done all the girls!

Derby day as the U12 **Eagles** take on Heighington AFC which always promised to be an eventful match and this one lived up to expectations yet again. First half saw the lads have most of the possession early on creating a couple of good chances. Heighington then started to come back into the game making it a tough hard first half. HT 0-0. Second half saw the Eagles under pressure but grit and determination and bragging rights were up for grabs!. Baileigh 'Mini Master' Downes put the Eagles 1-0 up, followed by Lucas Baker, then our super sub Harry Breakon secured a great 3-0 win. Man of the match went to Adam Moffat. Under 11's Eagles played the Falcons today in a 11-a-side friendly. This was the first



football since December 18th! The game itself was played by two sets of cracking lads. Both teams tried to play good football. The Eagles took a 3-1 half-time lead. But the Falcons didn't give up and fought their way back into the game looking the stronger. With some very good goals and neat passing the Falcons came out on top 5-3 winners. A good run out for all the boys and lots of positives. Well done both teams and a very well done to the fantastic referee!!

Under 10s Eagles were at home today to Stockton Town Yellow. What is usually a close game turned into a land slide victory, with some great fluent passing and the will to want every ball. Some good goals from some good passing. Unfortunately all the above described Stockton Yellow who deserved the win. FT 1-4. Bad day at the office and hopefully lessons learned. Man of the match went to both Kieran Walton and Georgie Johnson. Under 10 Falcons had a lunch time kick off. Great first half attacking as we also welcomed

two new team members, Finley and Declan. Strong in midfield with the addition of Declan and Finley in goal which gave Ben the chance to play up front! Great goal from Ben with the cross fired in by Leon. 1-1 at half time. Good start to the second half but some scrappy goals saw the boys go 3-1 down but the Falcons got it together as a team and battled on! Great play by Leon creating chances to strike. Unlucky on the counter attack 6-1 full time. Leon was awarded man of the match and great play from the new players! Not a fair result but watch this space!

The U8s Eagles unbeaten run in the league continued with a hard fought win at home to a solid Billingham side. The boys played some really positive, passing football and held their shape when defending, eventually running out 4-1 winners. Keep up the fantastic work boys. Keep up-to-date with all our fixtures and results by visiting our website: www.naycafc.co.uk

CROSSFIT QUALIFY FOR "BATTLE OF THE BOXES"

A team of five athletes from "CrossFit All Out" in Newton Aycliffe have recently qualified for a European competition to find the fittest "box" (aka gym) in Europe, with a second team of five from CrossFit All Out qualifying 52nd!

Over 100 teams entered for this prestigious title and after only a year since opening, to qualify for the Finals is a significant achievement in itself.

Terry Anderson, owner and Head Coach of CrossFit All Out says "We are very impressed at how well both of our teams have done, it's not something we take for granted, we are constantly trying to strive for achievements within CrossFit All Out and we do take it pretty seriously. The support of all our members both competitors and non-competitors is great and we know the support at the May Finals in Colchester will be just as fierce as always.

We look forward to seeing where the competition takes us as a team and hope it inspires others to enjoy the competitive side to CrossFit. We welcome all new members and whether they choose to compete or not, we aim to support them to achieve their goals."

Terry Anderson, Colin Wooster, Ash McFee, Kelly Jones and Yasmine Meite will compete in the Finals in Colchester, Essex on May 31st.

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<p>Mini Activity Session</p> <p>Thursday 19th February</p> <p>9.30am - 11.00am</p> <p>4 - 7 years</p> <p>£2.40 members</p> <p>£2.90 non members</p>	<p>Rackets & Bats</p> <p>Friday 20th February</p> <p>11.00am - 12noon</p> <p>8 - 15 years</p> <p>£2.00 members</p> <p>£2.50 non members</p>

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PUBLIC RESPOND TO FLYTIPPING CAMPAIGN

A campaign to stop flytipping has sparked a positive response from the public after more than 460 incidents were investigated in December 2014. As part of Durham County Council's Operation Stop It, officers responded to 462 reports of waste being dumped illegally throughout the month and 18 CCTV cameras

were set up at flytipping hotspots in order to gather evidence to use for prosecution. Following investigations, seven duty of care letters were sent to people reminding them of their responsibility to dispose of waste properly, two flytipping cases were progressed for prosecution, one warrant was issued for arrest and one case was awaiting a court date. Operation Stop It sees the council work with Durham Constabulary,

Environment Agency and Crimestoppers. Launched in November 2014, it is the biggest crackdown on the illegal dumping of waste ever seen in the county. The campaign also aims to remind householders that they are legally responsible for ensuring that anyone they use to dispose of their household waste - including furniture, household appliances and building materials - is properly registered with the Environment

Agency as a waste carrier. Businesses are also reminded of their responsibility to check that the licences of the waste carriers they use are correct. Meanwhile, throughout December the council's neighbourhood protection team issued 34 fixed penalty notices - 30 were for littering, one was for dog fouling and three were for flytipping. The neighbourhood protection team is tasked with combatting crimes against the environment, which include flytipping, dog fouling, stray dogs, littering and antisocial behaviour. The team also handed out 47 community protection warnings - warning letters - and 14 community protection notices to properties with untidy gardens and yards. The notices give recipients 28 days to address the problem or face further action. The taskforce responded to 27 reports of antisocial behaviour and it was called to 117 incidents passed from police airwaves, while 40 alcohol seizures from underage children were carried out. Ian Hoult, neighbourhood protection manager, Durham County Council, said: "While prosecution is always a last resort, we take all enviro-crimes extremely seriously and will not allow the minority to spoil the environment for visitors and all those who do respect where they

live and work. "We work closely alongside Durham Constabulary, Crimestoppers and the Environment Agency to tackle flytipping and we regularly carry out stop and check operations to make sure all waste carriers are licenced. CCTV cameras are also proving to be an effective tool by providing robust evidence to help successfully prosecute those who dump waste. "The message is clear - we will not tolerate enviro-crimes like flytipping in our county and anyone found to be committing these offences will face action." People are also being reminded about the importance of having their dogs microchipped so they can be traced and returned to their owners if they are lost after wardens removed 124 stray dogs throughout the month. Residents can take their household waste to their nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) or arrange a bulky waste collection from the council by calling 03000 261 000. More information is available at www.durham.gov.uk/HWRC. Enviro-crimes can be reported online at www.durham.gov.uk or by calling 03000 261 000 and unlicensed waste carriers can be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers at www.crimestoppers-uk.org or by calling 0800 555 111.

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13-2-2015

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Woodham's Three E's



Woodham Academy is trialling electronic reading tablets in some of its classrooms as part of a drive to embed the 'Three E's' in the school: e-reading, e-writing and e-arithmetic.

Despite some public apprehension to the contrary, young people still find reading popular. However, more and more are accessing literature through different media, such as laptops, phones and tablets. Woodham Academy recognises the need to keep reading relevant, and points to recent government statistics which suggest that regular reading is perhaps the single most effective way learners can improve their comprehension and vocabulary, as well as developing a greater understanding of the world around them.

As part of an initiative to raise literacy standards across the school, e-readers are being introduced in some English lessons as a way of encouraging students to read. A group of students have been studying digital texts in order to compare them with traditional paper-based ones. There are lots of advantages in reading digitally, such as portability - e-readers are incredibly lightweight and

can fit thousands of titles on one machine; discretion - no one knows what you are reading, so children with different reading abilities can remain anonymous; convenience - users can highlight texts, increase font sizes or background tones and take notes; plus the dictionaries and thesaurus mean readers can instantly look up any unfamiliar words. Students have already enjoyed reading bestselling titles, as well core curriculum classic texts, such as Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck. As part of the continually blooming reading culture within the school, students can take part in the loan an e-reader scheme. Josie Marsh, the Reading Coordinator said, "This is a fantastic opportunity for any student to try out an e-reader and to sample different texts."

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Beautiful Lake, but Potentially Dangerous



Dear Sir
 'The Moor' Nature Reserve at Cobblers Hall next to the new housing development is going to become (when it has had time to establish itself) one of the most beautiful places in the town. Looking at the lake, however, which is more than a metre deep in the middle, it is clear that it could also be a dangerous place. The County Councillors have insisted that there is a substantial fence around the perimeter, and that there are two lifebuoy stations. The latter

will be useless, however, if vandals continue to think it is fun to throw these into the middle of the lake. Parents and teachers of local children and teenagers are urged to speak to them, not just about keeping safe around water, but also about leaving safety equipment alone - which could be the difference between life and death for someone else.

John D. Clare.
Editor: We have been in touch with Keepmoat the developers, but to date have received no comment.

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



This photo was taken of the sunset on Sunday 7th February by Deborah Wilson. The photo captures the vibrant colours and you would think the woods on Woodham Way were on fire. Send your favourite photo to syd@newtonpress.net

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New School for Elmfield Unlikely

Dear Sir,

In Alderman Gray’s latest missive, the statement that Labour County Councillors Adam, Dixon and Hopper intend to fund a public building on the former Elmfield School site is wholly inaccurate. The derelict plot has lain unused for several years but only now, and without any formal community consultation, is Alderman Gray proclaiming that he wants a new school built on it.

There was no mention of this specific pledge in his election leaflet when Alderman Gray stood as an Independent candidate in the recent 2013 DCC local election. Moreover, given that the majority of sites earmarked for housing development are at the opposite side of the town; existing Aycliffe West school buildings are in relatively good condition, and based on the projected primary school-aged pupil numbers, it is unlikely that funding for a new school could be secured in the very near future, regardless of a council’s political balance.

A significant proportion of the town’s housing stock, including the new-build scheme currently underway and newly built properties in Aycliffe West, is in the social letting sector. Would a key UKIP policy that states, “Social housing should be prioritised for people whose parents or grandparents were born locally” be the answer to Alderman Gray’s concern about empty homes?

By definition, in a town that has been gradually peopled by generations arriving from far and near, that narrow criteria has the potential to close the door to affordable social housing for a fair few existing residents who may come to need it, as well as more recent and future generations. That will do little to stimulate the local economy, let alone bolster

the sustainability of our schools. Readers should not be misled by Alderman Gray’s inaccurate comments regarding the withdrawal of DCC funding from community buildings at a time when the County Council faces savage budget cuts by the Tory-led Coalition government. Silverdale House has never been designated as a public building and the current closure of one side of the building is not due to the withdrawal of DCC funding. Unsurprisingly, George omits the fact that prior to the 2013 DCC boundary changes, Silverdale House was in fact situated in the Shildon East Division. Councillor Eddy Adam and

myself did indeed pledge in their election leaflet to support established community associations and local residents - including the users of Silverdale House, and we are equally dismayed by the lack of activities for local residents who live in close proximity to it. However, their concerns should be addressed to the former Shildon East Councillor Dorothy Bowman. Meanwhile, if parents and carers living nearby get in touch, we can signpost you to various activities available for children and young people that are within reasonable distance of your area.

Kate Hopper
County Councillor

Thank You

MARJORIE BATEY The Brothers and Sisters of Marjorie wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for kindness and sympathy shown through their sad loss of Marjorie. Thanks for letters and cards of condolence, which were a great comfort. Special thanks to the Rev. Emma Morgan for her lovely Thanksgiving Service, a great comfort. Freeman Hospital Chaplain, Rev Nigel Goodfellow for LiverNorth and his words of comfort and freindship for Marjorie. The Co-op for their help and guidance; to Don Walkers for the lovely buffet and finally, thanks for the generous donations to LiverNorth and the Methodist Church and all to all who attended the Service. It was a full house, Marjorie would have been so proud.

Obituary

BENNETT. February 1st suddenly at home. Ben (Athol) aged 73 years of Aycliffe Village. Much loved Husband of the late Kath; dearly loved Dad of Helen; dear Father-in-Law of Sandy; an adored Grandad of Ben and Sam; loving Brother of Alan and Ernie. Also a dear Brother-in-Law and Uncle. Funeral Wednesday 18th February. Would family and friends please meet at 1.15pm for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon. Family flowers only.

CHOPPIN, Newton Aycliffe, 4th February, suddenly at home. Alan, aged 78 years. Dear Husband of the late Eileen; much loved Dad of Caroline and David; Father-in-Law to Janet and much loved and adored Grandad of Andrew, Laura and Gemma. Will be sadly missed but never forgotten. Funeral on Wednesday 18th February. Would friends kindly meet for Service in Wear Valley Crematorium at 9.30am.

IVY WHITE, aged 81 years, passed away peacefully on 5th February in Darlington Memorial Hospital. Beloved Wife of the late Bob; much loved Mam of Pauline, Michelle and the late Paul; also a loving Nana. Funeral on Friday 20th February. Would family and friends please meet at 10.45am for a Service at St. Clare’s Church, Newton Aycliffe prior to burial at the West Cemetery, School Aycliffe. All floral tributes welcome. Everyone invited for refreshments after the Service at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex.

TONY DOBSON 26/4/1972 to 4/2/2015. It is with much sadness we announce the death of Tony, much loved Husband of Leanne; devoted Dad to Courtney and Amber; cherished Son of Brenda and Ken; Brother of John, Bryan and Andrew; a dear Brother-in-Law, Uncle, Son-in-Law, Nephew and Cousin. As a family we would like to invite you all to attend a celebration of Tony’s life on Wednesday 18th February at 12.15pm ay Neville Parade Methodist Church followed by Interment at West Cemetery. Unusually, at Tony’s request, there is a dress code of strictly casual, either Newcastle United Shirts or Black and White in respect of Tony and his beloved Newcastle United Football Club. Refreshments will be available afterwards at Moore Lane Sports Club, all are welcome. Rest in peace Tony, we love you.

Carter
Peacefully on 27th January, in the care of Aycliffe Care Home. Joan Elizabeth aged 94 years. Beloved Wife of the late Jimmy, a much loved Aunt and Great Aunt and a loving and special friend of Doreen. Will family and friends please meet for Service and cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Friday 20th February at 2.00pm.
“A true Aycliffe Angel”

In Memoriam

COLIN MACCORMACK (Mac). In loving memory of my beloved Husband. Rest peacefully bonnie lad. Till we meet again. My love always, June. God bless xxx

COLIN MACCORMACK (Mac) In loving memory of our wonderful Dad and Grandad. Miss you every day Dad. From Ian, Heena, Andrew, Tila, Rachel and Phillip. Loads of hugs and kisses from Rebecca, Cameron and Haley xxx

COLIN MACCORMACK (Mac). Two years have passed and we think of you every day. Miss you so much my friend. Sleep tight. Rob & June

PAUL STEVENS 17th February. Your name we often mention, our thoughts are with you still. You haven’t been forgotten Paul, what’s more you never will. Loved always, Mam and Dad xxx

PAUL STEVENS If tears could build a staircase and thoughts a memory lane, I would walk right up to Heaven and bring you back home again. Missed always, Julie and family xxxx

JOE BARNETT In memory of Joe, 12th February 2002. It has been thirteen long lonely years since you left us, but I will always love and miss you. Yours forever, Eva. Your family think of you always and miss you

JOE BARNETT In loving memory of Joe. When we look to the stars and see a twinkling star. We know that you are with us, watching over from afar. We love and miss you. Betty and family

JIM SMITH 15th February 2012. No finer man this world could hold, two helping hands and a heart of gold. You left a place no one can fill. We love you always. Loving Wife Elfride. Dad and Grandad Karmen, Nadine, David, Daniel, Owen, Ronnie, Karen and family

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 Email: syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Congratulations

Morgan Hutchison



Happy 18th Birthday
11th February 2015

Happy 18th Morgan, you can finally buy ya old man a pint, all our love Dad, Shellie, Callum, Georgia and Bobbi-Lea xxxxx
To a much loved Grandson, Morgan, on your 18th birthday, lots of hugs and kisses Nan and Grandad xx
Happy 18th birthday Morgan, lots of love Auntie Michelle, Uncle Chris, Jack and Joe xx

Cloe Livermore



Happy 21st Birthday

Wishing you a very happy 21st birthday Cloe. We couldn’t be more proud of you. All our love, Mam, Dad, Curt, Rob and all your family xxxxx

Karen Smith



Happy Special Birthday to the First “Pretty Newtonian”, Featured in Newton News in 1970s

Lots of love, Ronnie, Emma, John, Aimi, Craig, Marc and Kristi xxx
Happy Birthday Grandma We love you, from Meika and Chloe xxx

Happy Birthday Karen With love from all your family and friends xxxx

Morgan Hutchison



Happy 18th Birthday
11th February 2015

Happy birthday “Bonny Lad”. Love from Mam and Paul xxxx
Happy birthday Morgan. Love from Tallulah and Joules xx
Happy 18th Morgan. Love from the Meltons xx
Happy birthday to a fantastic Nephew. Love from the Davisons xx
Happy 18th. Love from Caera and Steven x
Happy birthday to our keencumber Morgan Hutchison. Love from Nan and Grandad xxx
Happy birthday to our “20” chicken nugget!! Love from Nanny Chris and Uncle Vic xxxx

Amber McCabe



Happy 13th Birthday

To a gorgeous Daughter and Sister who is turning a teenager. Happy 13th Birthday. Lots of Love Mam, David, Jordan, Caden and Finton xxxx

Amber McCabe



Happy 13th Birthday Amber

A wonderful Granddaughter. All our love Grandma and Granddad. xxxx

ZOE Happy birthday on Valentines Day. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Bobby and Sunny xxxxxxxx

BURKITT Happy 2nd birthday Benjamin. To a special little boy. Lots of love and kisses. From Nana and Grandad Burkitt xx

STEPHEN HOWEY Happy birthday Stevie!! Hope you have a lush day! Roll on the Champagne!! Love you loads xxxxx

STEPHEN HOWEY Happy birthday Dad. We love you so much. Love, Poppy and Thomas xxxxx

MASTER HOWEY Happy birthday love always, The Girls, Hess, Sally, Milly, Kelly and Goss xxxx

BECKY LOUISE ALLEN 13th February. Happy 21st birthday to a very special Niece and Cousin. Love you to the moon and back. Auntie Mandy, Uncle Gary, Danny, Darren and Jenna xxxx

ARNOLD - CHURCH Simon and Alice, congratulations on your Engagement. Love from Mam, Dad and Ruby

Ex Woodham Student Secures American Football Pro Contract

A former Woodham Academy student is about to touchdown in Germany after securing an American Football professional contract.

Jack Curry, 19, is off to play with the Cologne Falcons after passing a trial and full medical with the German Football League team.

The initial eight month contract starts in March and as well as his salary, the club will also fund Jack's accommodation, flights and healthcare. He will play at their 12,000-capacity Müngersdorf Sportpark, Ostkampfbahn.

The dream move follows a five-year love of the sport, which started when Jack, played in his school team at Woodham Academy in Newton Aycliffe.

The team competed in the British American Football League, where they were beaten finalists three years running before being accepted into the American High School League of Europe and playing in matches as far afield as Sicily.

It was here Jack was noticed by ex NFL player and current Sky Sports presenter Cecil Martin, who invited him to play for Team Europe in San Antonio, Texas. His two week stay was followed by three months with the Bielefeld Bulldogs in



the German Football League Division 2, which led to the move to the Cologne Falcons. Jack qualified last year with a BTEC Level 3 in Sport at Bishop Auckland College, who provided financial support for his US trip.

He said: "I really enjoyed my course and learned so much, and very much appreciated the help the college gave me with the US trip, covering the cost of accommodation and health insurance. The experience of going over to Texas showed everyone how serious I took the sport and that it wasn't just a phase. It helped me realise I could follow my dream - to play American football at a higher level and make a career out of it."

Katy Graham, the college's Learning Area Manager for Sport & Public Services, is delighted at his pro contract success. She said: "It is certainly a first for the college - one of our graduates becoming a professional American Football player, but if anyone deserves it Jack does. He is totally committed, very determined and was talent spotted by a former NFL player who is now a TV pundit, which is a great accolade in itself. We wish him

every success in his sporting career."

TWO GREENFIELD STUDENTS SELECTED FOR COUNTY FINALS

Students from Greenfield Community College enjoyed a day of sport at Spennymoor Leisure Centre last week. Pupils from Ferryhill, Whitworth Park, Greenfield and The Oaks competed throughout the day. Over the course of the event two Greenfield students were selected to represent Sedgfield in the County Finals later this year. Well done to Conor Radford and Stephen Robson, and good luck in the County finals.

The day included Taekwondo with Russell Shaw (Spennymoor Taekwondo Club), New Age Kurling with Allan Gregson (Newton Aycliffe New Age Kurling Club

& World Champion), Wheelchair Basketball with Lee Fawcett (Darlington Wheelchair Basketball club & Paralympic athlete), and Boccia organised by Sedgfield's Young apprentices. An enjoyable day was had by all. After half term Wheelchair Basketball will be available at Greenfield Community College as an additional club for interested students alongside the range of great extra curricular sports activity for students and the community. Greenfield students have over 10 different free clubs & academies they can attend every week, details of the activities can be found on the Greenfield Moodle page. Come along and join in our success and have fun!

AYCLIFFE JUNIOR TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS REACH SEMI FINALS



Local Table Tennis Players Connor Elston and Emma Smith both took part in a national 2 star table tennis tournament last Sunday. Both play for Bishop Auckland Table Tennis club and practice at Greenfield sessions on Mondays.

12 year old Emma reached two semi-finals in the under 13's plate event and the under 15's plate event just losing out on a place in either final. Connor who is 13, again did really well reaching the semi-finals of the under 18's plate event losing out to his clubmate before reaching the quarter finals of the under 15's.

For more information on the Table Tennis club checkout the club's website www.bishopaucklandttc.co.uk or call Matt 07411 018856.

Aycliffe Swimmers in Northern Championships



Back, left to right: Zac Hodgkinson, Niall Coulthard, Matthew Bradley, Peter Golightly
Front: Rebecca Hall, Jessica Hall, Hannah Featherstone

The Northumberland and Durham Swimming Championships were held at Sunderland Aquatic Centre on the 7th and 8th February. Representing Sedgfield 75 ASC were Mathew Bradley, Niall Coulthard, Peter Golightly, Zak Hodgkinson, Hannah Featherstone, Jessica Hall and Rebecca Hall. They competed in seventeen events

and made a total of thirteen finals. Niall had an outstanding weekend taking gold in the 200 Freestyle and silver in both the 100 Breaststroke and the 50 Freestyle in the twelve year age group. Mathew took bronze in the 100 Breast and was fourth in the 200 FS and 6th in the 100 Backstroke in the Open events. Zak was reserve finalist in the 50 Back stroke in the fifteen year age group.

Jessica Hall won silver in the 50 backstroke and sixth in the 50 Freestyle and was placed tenth in the 100 Breaststroke in the twelve year age group. Rebecca Hall was placed seventh in the 100 Breaststroke in the fourteen year age group. Hannah Featherstone took the bronze medal in the 800 FS in the Open event.

From a coaching perspective the results were very good but what was most pleasing was that all of the swimmers improved their times going from heat to final. Every one is looking forward to the next championship on the 28th February and the 1st March.



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