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Excitement Grows for Town's New Festival

Arrangements are gathering pace for the Aycliffe Festival, Week from 3rd to 12th July replacing Great Aycliffe Show.

The Festival will be filled with a whole range of exciting local community events, including family fun days, open days, coffee mornings, a brass band concert, sports competitions, dance displays and a science event, all aimed at involving

children and adults in a ten-day community celebration in venues throughout the Parish, with something for everyone.

The Town Centre will also be hosting live performance events on Saturday 4th and Saturday 11th July, with further details to follow. Any community groups interested in taking part on either of these dates should contact Marie Robinson at the Town Council Offices.

Any organiser who would like to hold an event during the Festival period may apply for potential financial assistance, if it is needed, from the Town Council.

The closing date for applications is 31st March, although it may be possible to complete any required additional paperwork after this date. The Festival Co-ordinator, Marie Robinson, is available at Great Aycliffe Town Council Offices to discuss any ideas for events, or answer any queries.

Further details are available on the Town Council's website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk
Application forms may be obtained from the Town Council Offices, telephone 01325 300700 or e-mail festival@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

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Charity Night at Big Club

Newtonian Louise Wilson and her family are organising an event at the Big Club in aid of Prostate Cancer UK in memory of her father Keith Wilson.

They are hoping to raise £1000 and are holding a raffle of prizes donated from a number of businesses including a signed football from Manchester United!

Louise's Dad was a big family man with lots of friends and he loved a party and the event itself is a few days after what would have been his 65th Birthday. The family are using it as a celebration in his memory with a night of laughter and fun for a man who was a huge Newcastle United season ticketholder. Unfortunately they were unable to get a raffle prize from NUFC which would have meant a lot to the family, but others have generously gifted prizes which will be drawn on the night. Tickets now available from the Big Club at £5 each.

STOP PRESS

County Plan "Flawed" says Inspector

An interim report by an independent Inspector of Durham County Council's Master plan calls it "unsound" and has given the Council six months to review its submission or withdraw it completely.

Newton Aycliffe featured significantly in the plan and its future is now in doubt, particularly moves to create jobs by expanding the Business Park and building new houses for a larger population.

The Council's full response is expected, but meanwhile this report has been received with great disappointment by County Councillors.

Have Fun with the Legion Club Line Dancers

Are you looking for something to do? Are you sick of just watching TV? Do You Want to become more active but can't be bothered with exercising or going to the Gym or are you bored with the same old, same old? Do you enjoy Live Music or Dancing or both?

If you answered yes to any of these, then come along to the Royal British Legion on Thursday Nights at 7.45pm on your own or with friends and have some fun, everyone is welcome to listen or dance with a friendly bunch of people.

The evening starts at 8 o'clock with Angie the dance instructor, who has 18 years dance experience and is a fully qualified BWDA Line Dance Instructor. She decided to take three exams to get this qualification five years ago when the line dancers were left without an instructor and the dance night was about to close. Angie will keep you up to date with all the latest country music dance chart hits and says "It is a fun and friendly way to exercise and meet new friends; it can also help to keep you feeling young and healthy".

At 9pm there is a live Country and Western Act on stage for 45 minutes to entertain you whether you are a dancer, listener or both, and they return back on stage for a further 45 minutes at 10.30pm, with raffle draws and bingo during the



interval.

The Cover Charge is just £3 for a full evening of entertainment which includes a free Raffle draw ticket. Extra tickets can be bought along with an optional short session of fun bingo called at the interval. A fully licensed bar with snacks, soft drinks and tea or coffee are also available.

The night's events are organised with the help and hard work of four volunteers Josie, Margaret, Richard and

John who books the artistes along with two members of the club committee Keith and George. John can be contacted on 01325 307041 or Angie on 01325 301077

Everyone is welcome every week with Thursday February 26th being no exception when we celebrate our 18th anniversary with a party night. Fancy Dress or Western Dress is optional so get yourself along for a fun fantastic night of entertainment.

Valentine's Day at Defoe Care Home



Defoe Court celebrated Valentine's Day by decorating the home throughout with hearts, roses and beautiful trailing decorations. Some residents enjoyed Valentine's Lunch with the special person in their lives, we also made our own photo booth and invited residents to have their pictures taken.

TV Comedy Man Returns to Aycliffe

Les Gibson, comedy impressionist, often called 'The Man Of A Thousand Voices' is bringing his characters to entertain the people of Newton Aycliffe once again.

Les has an unbelievable talent in impressions, from sports personalities like Beckham, Fabio Capello and Sir Alex Ferguson, soap characters such as Corrie's Kevin Webster and Roy & Hayley, right through a spectrum of TV favourites including Gordon Ramsey, Ant & Dec, Louis Walsh, Lord Sugar and loads more.

Les will be supported through the night by local band 'TOXIC' Popular throughout the UK where they have performed at countless major Hotels & Holiday Parks, Toxic are also regular visitors to British Military bases across Mainland Europe.

Their breathtaking 'Live' show features a state of the art Sound, Light and Lasers as well as a magical mix of songs by Lady Gaga, Amy Winehouse, Scissor Sisters, Kings of Leon, Lily Allen, The Killers, DJ Sammy, The Jam, Madonna, Eurhythms, Abba, Bon Jovi, Bryan Adams, Journey, James



Morrison, The Black Eyed Peas and many more.

This event will take place on Saturday, 2nd March at Newton Aycliffe's 'Big Club'. The evening starts at 7pm and is a tickets only event. Tickets are available now at £10 and are being sold on a 'first come, first served' basis. Tickets will only be available on the door if there are any left unsold on the evening.

For tickets please contact either David Brassell (07870 777 779) or Jim Barr (07899 862 079).

This evening of entertainment is to help raise funds for Heighington AFC Boys so should you wish to help support a local club please feel free to bring along friends and join in the fun!

BUS TRIPS TO THE THEATRE

The Friends of Senior Citizens from Neville Parade Community Centre invite you to join them for a theatre trip to Middlesbrough on Wednesday 15th April. The bus leaves St. Clare's Church at 1.30pm picking up at Byerley Park School at 1.10, Railway Station at 1.15, Simpature at 1.20, Aycliffe Village at 1.35 and Heighington at 1.40pm. Theatre and bus costs £20. Ring 313924 to book. A bus is being arranged to go to Ferryhill Stage Society's "Spring Extravaganza" on Saturday 21st March leaving at 2.15pm. Cost £14 including transport. Ring 313924.

On Saturday 15th February Ferryhill Stage Choir gave an excellent Concert with songs from the Shows. Unfortunately it was poorly supported even though we had a fantastic tea provided by Walkers of Simpaturegate.

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Vist the Cafe at the Centre

Anyone shopping at Tesco's can call in at the Youth & Community Centre opposite for a lunch/snack, Monday to Friday, 10.00am until 2pm. Freshly cooked Panini, Bacon Rolls, full breakfasts, Toasted sandwiches etc. The Cafe will also be making home cooked dinners in the not to distant future.

THE TURBINIA

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Saturday 21st February - "REVENANT"

Sam Hauxwell Review: "The blistering set takes in AC/DC, Saxon, Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden, Ozzy, Scorpions, Metallica, Rainbow, Guns 'n' Roses etc . . . not always the usual choices but a mixed bag of METAL mayhem!!!"

The Frigate is a fantastic bar to see any live act, but when Revenant come knocking at the door, it's a different experience altogether. What makes Revenant stand out from the rest is the years of experience and musicianship put into play during their live performances. Arguably one of the greatest local bands I've ever seen, they never disappoint their audience which is full of bikers and a loyal following. Revenant have a fantastic setlist, which is even enjoyed by those that wouldn't consider themselves metal fans, I personally wouldn't have ever thought of myself as a metal fan but coming from the Frigate on Saturday night, I found myself singing their setlist long after they'd finished their mind blowing performance. Black Sabbath, Rage Against the Machine and Metallica are just some of the bands they cover songs from, chewing it up into their own sound and spitting it back into the audience's ears as a kick-in-the-balls stamp on their live covers. Wherever they go Revenant create an atmosphere like no other, and it's often hard to find a band with music skills as high as theirs, with the ability to get the audience pumped and feeling like they own the world. Revenant own the current local music scene, for no other band has yet managed to reach their live music experience, it's a phenomenon that is only understood by those who have seen them, my only advice is to watch out, for when Revenant change your world".

Saturday 28th February - "FEED THE BEAR"

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LOCAL FAMILY'S APPEAL TO HELP DISABLED CHILDREN

Well-known local Artist John Palliser has been forced to close his studio and put his work on hold to become a full time carer in support of his wife Melanie. She has been the driving force in getting all the services in place the children need, even though she is registered disabled with hyper-mobility syndrome, scoliosis and arthritis of the spine. The couple have 4 children aged 5, 8, 13, and 17. Their 8 year old son Kain has Autism which includes sensory and communication issues. 13 year old Callum has ODD, ADHD, Dispraxia, and learning disabilities.

The organisations who help look after the children's care have concluded their current home is too small to meet their needs. Kain shares a room with his 5 year old brother and his 13 year old disabled brother which is proving detrimental to their well being. Kain also suffers from night terrors and needs a bedroom of his own that can be adapted to suit his needs where he can chill out and feel safe.

The Children's occupational services are trying to obtain a DFG Disabled facilities grant with which it is hoped will build the additional bedroom space, but this grant is not allowed to be used to pay for the land it is to be built on. With the help of Phil Wilson MP the County Council have agreed to



Callum, Melanie, Kain and Saxon Palliser

sell the land for about £6,000 but the family have no way of raising the cash.

Charities approached are no longer able to provide funding for land purchase. Melanie & John are working with local councillors Eddy Adams & Kate Hopper to find a charity

or loan company to fully fund the purchase so the building work can go ahead quickly as the situation is now becoming desperate.

If you have any ideas or can help Kain get his bedroom in any way, please contact Newton News on 300212.

Chairman's Medal for Community Champion

A tireless community worker, who is dedicated to supporting people in need, has been recognised for her work by being awarded a Chairman's Medal.

Susan Sadler, founder of Lifeline Community Action has been chosen by Durham County Council Chairman; Cllr John Robinson as the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) recipient of this year's Chairman's Medal.

Having first started encouraging a small group in her home, Susan has been the driving force behind Lifeline Community Action. Lifeline Community Action is a registered crisis intervention charity that

works across the GAMP area. In the last year they have been able to support over 2000 people. Most of the people benefiting have severe financial problems, are in financial crisis and/or in crippling debt.

Camilla Louise Shergold, who nominated Susan for the Chairman's Medal, said: 'It doesn't seem that Susan has a day off. It's not all plain sailing, she has never given up, when many others say, it's too difficult.'

The Chairman's Medal has been County Durham's top civic award since it was introduced in 2007 and Durham County Council Chairman; Cllr John Robinson will be holding a

ceremony on 13th March to present awards to 'individuals for voluntary effort or 'outstanding charitable organisations'. There will be 14 winners, representing each AAP area across the county.

Cllr Robinson, said: 'I want this presentation event to be a celebration of the achievements and effort that people of our county put in every day - a little time to reflect on the excellent work that people do for each other.' GAMP received 19 nominations for this year's Chairman's Medal with Cllr Robinson selecting the overall winner from a shortlist of three applications. GAMP Coordinator Brian Riley, said: 'I was extremely pleased with the number and quality of the nominations that GAMP received for this year's Chairman's Medal. The final decision on who received a Medal must have been a difficult one for Cllr Robinson to make.'



Brian Riley also added: 'On behalf of GAMP, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work that all those nominated do in our community. I would like to single out for a special mention, the other two applicants that were shortlisted for the medal, these are; John Hilton (Honest John) and the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP).'

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON AYCLIFFE'S UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

The proposed University Technical College is to be built on Aycliffe Business Park and opened in September 2016. The new College sponsored by Hitachi and Gestamp Tallent, will be open to students aged 14 - 19 years old and offer specialist education and training in engineering and advanced manufacturing.

A period of consultation is underway with an opportunity for the general

public to express their opinions. Two meetings are to be held at the Xcel Centre on 24th February the first from 4pm - 4.30pm and then at 6pm - 6.30pm.

If you are interested in going to the meeting please e-mail: alison.ohara@sunderland.ac.uk stating which meeting you will be attending.

The Questionnaire can be completed on-line by visiting: www.sunderland.ca.uk/utc/consultation

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Outstanding Out of School Club



Woodham Burn Out of School Club opened in 2003 and has continued over the years to provide an invaluable service to parents/carers and their children. The club has strived to build on its excellent reputation in providing before school, after school and holiday care for children aged 3 to 12 years attending Woodham Burn Community Primary School and the surrounding areas.

During the club's most recent Ofsted Inspection it was again awarded "Outstanding", the inspector stated: "The quality of interactions are outstanding and staff successfully promote children's development as they have excellent knowledge and understanding of how children learn."

The children were described

as "happy, secure and settled. They show high levels of confidence and independence as they are eager to learn." The staff were highly commended throughout, the inspector adding "Staff strive to promote the best possible outcomes for children and maintain the already exceptional standard."

The leadership was described as "inspirational" and "within her role she strives to provide high quality care and education for children and their families." Mrs Rowe the head teacher said: "I am delighted with the outcome of the inspection. The club is an enormous asset to the school and this judgment is well deserved."

Woodham Burn Community Primary School will be offering full time/part time

and wrap around nursery provision from September 2015, please contact the school office on 01325 300230. To find out more information about the club please do not hesitate contact us on 01325 300080.

ELMFIELD POLITICAL ROW LESS THAN HELPFUL

Dear Sir,
What is to be done with Elmfield site? Weeks after broaching the subject and having read all manner of correspondence in this publication no sensible suggestions have come forward. We are told that a covenant exists on the land promoting education yet we are informed that there is no need for another school locally.

So we have a beautiful piece of land situated adjacent to a desirable area overlooking a fantastic lakeside vista which is not being used because of political disagreement. It is hard to draw any significant conclusion from this but it does explain why it takes so long to achieve anything. If this impasse is to continue perhaps we should be looking at alternative utilisation for the land ie:

Enlarge the park to include the land and devise something educational to erect on the land such as a wildlife or botanical centre. Remove the covenant and put in a skate park, BMX track or something adventurous. Whatever the final decision it must in some way benefit the community and blend in with the surrounding area.
Ken Robson

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GREENFIELD COLLEGE IS ON THE BALL!

A popular sport facility is set for a major refurbishment thanks to funding received from Great Aycliffe and Middlesbrough Partnership (GAMP). The well used 3G Pitch at Greenfield Community College opened in 2004 and has over 50,000 visits a year; however, as a result of the high demand the current 8-a-side floodlit 3G surface is now becoming worn. GAMP has allocated Area Budget funding and a contribution from the Neighbourhood Budgets of Cllrs Eddy Adam, John Clare, Mike Dixon, Joan Gray, Jed Hillary, Kate Hopper and Sarah Iveson, along with substantial match funding from Greenfield

Community College to provide a new playing surface. Greenfield Community College is a well-established site for Community Sport. Since the opening of the current football facility in 2004 a number of strong partnerships have been developed. These partners use the 3G pitch regularly, and are growing each year. Partners include: 3 Football Clubs, 12 Primary Schools, Martin Gray Football Academy, Sedgfield School Sport Partnership, and many community groups of all ages. The 3G Football Facility is also available and staffed for over 40 hours per week for community use, 5pm to

10pm Monday to Friday, and weekends from 8am. Brian Riley, GAMP coordinator, said: "This is a fantastic project that will provide a first class sports facility for Greenfield Community College and provide a valuable resource for the whole town." David Priestley, Executive Headteacher for Greenfield Community College, said: "The first ten years have been about building a community

sporting culture of participation and strong club links across the area. It is our plan over the next ten years to sustain participation rates, introduce more girls and women to football, increase the number of disabled users, and develop more coaches and more competitive opportunities for all". It is anticipated work on the 3G Pitch will begin over the summer with the new facility opening in early autumn.

FAMOUS HYPNOTIST COMES TO AYCLIFFE

Adam Night, star of TV & Stage brings his hilarious show to The Turbinia on Friday 27th March at 7-30pm. Advance Tickets £6 or £8 on the door. Adam has over 25 years experience as a top quality entertainer, performing corporate events for Barclays, 20th Century Fox, Virgin, and many more.

We are raising funds for FC Turbinia, for strips and equipment to enable them build on their sensational season where they are currently top of the league and in the semi-final of the Colin Waites Cup.

If you want a very funny night out, there is only one place to be. Tickets available now behind the bar in the Turbinia. (01235 313034) FC TURBINIA are currently looking for a shirt sponsor, if you are interested being part of the team's success story, please get in touch

Families Wanted to Host Foreign Students



Co-ordinator Gloria (left) presenting certificates to students Irene from Italy and Anna from Germany, with host family Sue and Dave Curran looking on.

Many years ago a family answered an appeal in the Newton News for families to host foreign youngsters who had won places on an exchange programme. They enjoyed the experience so much they have continued to host youngsters from many countries for 20 years. Susan Curran and her husband Dave say their family have all enjoyed meeting the young people who are between 16 and

18 and welcoming them as part of their family and not as a guest or a lodger. In return they have learnt about customs and cultures of other countries which they would not have known about. "We've been invited to a Vietnamese wedding and have recently returned from visiting our student from last year who lives in Germany", said Susan. EF Foundation who organise the exchanges are looking for other host families in Newton Aycliffe who could welcome a youngster into their family.

"We certainly recommend it, and to find out more call local co-ordinator Gloria on 0191 4109993, said Susan. Shge added: "Hosting is a wonderful experience, and we now have friends all over the world and our students think of us as their English family returning to visit often. We are looking forward to our two German 'daughters' coming over later in the year.

Gloria is always on hand to answer any questions. The students attend local schools, all of which Gloria arranges, she organises fun days for them during the year and helps families choose a student who would fit into the family offering to host.

GARA Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Great Aycliffe Residents Association (GARA) will take place on Thursday 19th March 2015 at 7pm in the Committee Room at St Mary's Church Central Avenue.

Current members of the Management Committee are: Chairman Syd Howarth, Vice Chairman Ken Robson (ACORN Residents' Association), Treasurer Barry Hutchinson, Secretary Arun Chandran. Committee: Derek Atkinson, Bill Curtis, Bob Fleming, Paul Kjenstad Fr Michael Whalen, Chris Wheeler, plus Affiliated Members: Margaret Robson Friends of Senior Citizens (Neville Community Centre), and Friends of West Park, The Lakes & Dales Residents Association, Horndale Residents Association, two representatives of Great Aycliffe Town Council's Youth Council.

All County Councillors are automatically invited to all our meetings.

We are looking for more people to join the Committee. In addition all Organisations, Charities, Interest Groups are invited to be affiliated members of the Great Aycliffe Residents' Association. It is free. You will be entitled to one representative to serve on the Management Committee.

We can co-opt members (non-voting) with skills and knowledge that are of use to

the Association and that will enable it to fulfil its objectives. The Great Aycliffe Residents' Association provides a public forum for residents to voice their concerns and, where possible, to instigate action on their behalf.

The Association seeks to work with Councillors and other public representatives for the good of the whole community. Come along have your say. Nominations to arumchandra@aol.com Address: 88 Honister Place, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7DN. Telephone: 313224 or e-mail syd@newtonpress.net Tel 300212 by 12th March.

P.A.C.T. Meeting

Police And Community Together



There will be a PACT Meeting at Aycliffe Village Hall on Saturday 28th Feb from 11am to 12noon.

PC Alan Thompson and PCSO Richard Scott are your community police officers and they welcome all residents to come along and get updates on what's going on and raise any concerns they may have. Partners from all agencies will attend when available. For more information visit the police Facebook Site and www.durham.police.uk

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 4th March 2015

Policy Committee
Resources Committee, 7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

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

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

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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

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AIR CADETS GAIN FIRST AID SKILLS

Fourteen Air Cadets from 1407 (Newton Aycliffe) Squadron recently completed the St Johns Ambulance Youth First Aid course. The weekend of training saw them learn CPR, bandaging, situation management and many other potentially life saving skills. Each cadet will receive a badge for their uniform as recognition of their hard work. Some of the cadets will get to put their new skills to the test at an upcoming First Aid competition. If you're aged between 12 and 17 and want to learn new skills, experience adventure and make new friends then take a look at our website for more information: www.1407aircadets.org



Joe Ewin Memorial Trophy Open Darts Competition

Saturday 28th February 2015

£200 ADDED TO MENS
£50 ADDED TO LADIES
BLIND PAIRS £3 per person

Open from 11am
£5 fee required by 12.30 prompt

Tel: Gary 07977 390655

Turbinia, Sid Chaplin Way
Newton Aycliffe DL5 7PA

Greenfield College Go Solar

THANK YOU

Great First Year for Friends of West Park

Two solar panel systems have recently been fitted to Greenfield Community College, Newton Aycliffe bringing educational opportunities and renewable power to the school.

Greenfield’s Executive Headteacher David Priestley said: “As a school we decided to look at solar PV panels for a number of reasons. Firstly it allows us to reduce our energy cost which means we can redirect the saving to buy additional resources for students, but it also means we can enhance our students understanding of renewable power, energy use and the need to reduce carbon emissions with real-life contextual learning.” “We have a role to play in our community to help students understand how long-term global challenges, like climate change and protecting our environment, are affected by personal, local and national initiatives and that by using power generated by the sun, we are playing our part in contributing to change for the better.” The solar PV systems are owned and will be managed, maintained and run by Engynious Clean Power (UK). In total over 400 panels will provide 106kWp which is expected to generate nearly 25% of the school’s daytime electricity demand and save the school around 78 tonnes of carbon every year. The lower price of the energy generated by the solar power will mean that the school should see savings in the first year of over £3,500 which will rise as mains supplied electricity prices increase. Engynious UK director Gregor Loukidis said:



“Our programme gives schools, which do not have capital to spend,a fantastic opportunity to reap the benefits of solar power, to look at energy supply and reduce their energy bills and their carbon footprint at the same time.This project is a long-term partnership and will deliver schools an immediate saving and long-term benefits.” The ingenious programme is run in co-operation with SEEd, the national charity that encourages schools to embrace sustainability into what they do and teach. Ann Finlayson, CEO of the sustainability and environmental education charity, SEEd, said: “We can’t all afford solar PV or find the time and resources to apply for it but by working with Engynious schools have an opportunity to buy solar energy more cheaply than they currently pay for electricity so it’s a no risk, no cost option that helps schools develop their sustainability education.” One of SEEd’s network members is the local charity, OASES, which promotes sustainability and outdoor learning to schools in and around Durham. By working with Engynious, it is hoped that schools across the County will take up more opportunities to extend their environmental

education and explore the generation, use and conversation of energy.

Dear Editor,
May I, say a Big Thank you to all of my fantastic family, my terrific friends and lovely neighbours for all the kindness and support shown to me over the last few weeks.
Thank you to everyone who has phoned or sent messages, which have been a great comfort to me. Many thanks to all of the Legion Line Dance mates, especially the people who said prayers for me in church. Your loving kindness is greatly appreciated. I hope to be back with you all before too long - miss ya!
Audrey Humble

Friends of West Park held their AGM at the Royal British Legion club on Tuesday 10th February. The only change to the management team was the succession of Alf Tomlin to the role of Vice Chair where he is expected to bring new vigour to the position.
Chairman Ken Robson remarked “It has been a great first year and the Friends can be very proud of progress made, We begin our second year in a positive financial position and with lots of proposals and projects to pursue.”
Working alongside volunteers

and in collaboration with other organisations we believe the park has a bright future, building on improvements made in our first year, litter picking, cleaning out the lakes and planting bulbs. It is hoped that in partnership with Great Aycliffe Town Council, livin, Mears and others that walkways can be installed to provide viewing areas, and also playgrounds. Members called on the public to help eradicate dog poo from the park where the Friends aim is to encourage more families to visit and take part in recreational pursuits.

As winter releases its icy grip on the park, bulbs planted in 2014 should be showing signs of new life in the coming weeks. As trees become proudly dressed with leaves it is expected that the numbers of visitors will increase to view this beautiful transformation.
Ducks and geese will be looking forward to entertaining a new army of people coming along to feed them. If anyone would like to get involved in our activities please contact Chairman Ken Robson on 01325 321471 or Secretary Arun Chandrun on 01325 313224

Crafting for “Preemies”
(Premature Babies)

Lysa Lyth, unexpectedly lost her Nanny, who was the light of my life and a fun woman who used to make things for all the premature babies and grandbabies her friends and family were having.
Lysa was a 27 week gestation preemie herself and received a lot of her yarn when her grandmother died. She didn’t know what to do with it until a year later, when she founded “Crafting for Preemies”. Her aim is to send hand made items to ALL neo natal units in the country, and further if possible. Even though the babies are very small, they deserve help to give them a fighting chance. Lysa wanted to do it on her own, but as time has gone by she realises that accepting other donations means much more can be achieved.
“Our goal is now on a much larger scale, and I am very proud to say it is going well at the moment!” said Lysa. She lives in Darlington and her family who lives in Aycliffe is giving support, but she could really do with more community

support,
“There are still hospitals we have not reached, despite donating nearly 1000 items last year!” said Lysa.
Contact details on:
www.craftingforpreemies.co.uk

DEMENTIA
AWARENESS

Dementia awareness weekly group “New Pathways Together” will meet in the Youth Centre (opposite Tesco’s) on Wednesday 25th February 11.00am until 12.00.
We will be arranging bus trips and Ken Fox will be giving a short presentation of pictures relating to Aycliffe in days gone by. People are welcome from towns and villages around Newton Aycliffe.
If you are feeling lonely please call in. Follow this meeting with a lunch or snack freshly cooked at reasonable prices in the Centre café.

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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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Heighington Matters

I am conscious of 2014 being the centenary of the First World War and whilst I cannot honour any of the servicemen who fought in this war for obvious reasons my mind has turned to looking at ways to recognise the duty and service of those few elderly people who served in the 1939 - 45 campaign

So to all readers, do you know of anyone who lives in the Heighington and Coniscliffe Ward who either served in the armed forces or the Aycliffe Angels during World War 2. If so please send me their contact details as I am organising an Afternoon Tea in Redworth Hall Hotel on April 16th to honour those people who gave up much of their youth to protect this great nation of ours. I am delighted to confirm that the Queen's representative, the Lord Lieutenant, Sue Snowden has kindly agreed to attend and she will be presenting a certificate to the ex servicemen and ladies.

I also extend an invitation to you all and I hope that you will make the time to join us in our own prestigious Redworth Hall Hotel to show your appreciation to a generation that sacrificed so much in terms of loss, devastation, and hardship all of those years ago. Cost for the afternoon tea will be free to our Second World War guests and £12.50 per person to our paying invitees. Contact me to provide details

of anyone you know who has served and also to purchase tickets for this auspicious and pleasant occasion.

Thank you,
Cllr Gerald G. Lee
01325 314622
Gerald.lee@darlington.gov.uk

Planning for Town's 2015 Panto

After the huge success of their 2014 Panto the Acorn Players have chosen "Jack and the Beanstalk" for the 2015 Show. Anyone interested in joining our friendly group and being part of this year's production please come along to a meeting at the RAFA Club on Barrington Road on Monday 23rd February at 7.30pm.

There are lots of areas where you can assist including acting, dancing, scenery, front of house staff etc.

We bring a lot of happiness to the people of Aycliffe so please be part of it. You are never too old, as a senior citizen last year took the part of "Clarissa the Cow"!

Look out for news of our forthcoming event in June for one night only!

More details on the Players from Anne Harland, President on 01325 787503.

Room 13 First Birthday



On Friday 13th February, we celebrated the first anniversary of the opening of Room 13 at Greenfield Arts. Over the past year work in the space has gone from strength to strength as we explored SOLE and enquiry based learning.

We were honoured to be approached by Professor Sugata Mitra when he won his \$1 million TED prize to develop a self-organised learning environment (SOLE) at Greenfield. Katy Milne, Director of Arts & Creativity said: "This is where the teacher takes a step back and sits outside the room while the young people explore a big question with each other using the internet, and the results are incredible."

Since opening there have

been more than 160 SOLE sessions in the space, led by more than 30 different staff members at Greenfield Community College. The room has had international visitors from 7 different countries, and been observed and admired by educational colleagues from more than 10 other schools and organisations across the UK.

Young people from age 5 to age 16 have explored more than 20 subject areas, answering big questions and continuing to learn. Our fantastic Engineheads have led 6 SOLE sessions for teachers and staff, and shared their findings and experiences at 3 conferences. After this great first year, we are looking forward to expanding and building on the success of Room 13, exploring the SOLE research with Newcastle & Northumbria Universities, and continuing to share our findings in the global educational world.

Thank you to Professor Sugata Mitra for choosing to work with us and develop one of his 2013 TED Prize winning labs here at Greenfield. It is a privilege to be one of the seven labs across the world exploring SOLEs as part of this School in the Cloud TED Prize wish.

For more information about Room 13, and the SOLE research follow the School in the Cloud blog via our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership in Aycliffe

A two-week mini Green Dog Walkers campaign will be taking place in West Ward Park in Newton Aycliffe from Monday, 23 February. Organised by Durham County Council's Civic Pride team, assemblies and educational sessions will be held at St Francis Primary School, Woodham Burn Primary School and Stephenson Way Primary School.

There will be a dog microchipping session on Saturday, 7 March from 10am until 2pm at Newton Aycliffe RAFA Club in Barrington Road. Signage will also be put up to encourage people to report dog fouling, fixed penalty notices will be issued to anyone who fails to clean up after their pet and a Golden Ticket scheme will also be running, giving residents who are seen cleaning up after their dog the chance to win a £25 voucher in a free prize draw.

The campaign is being sponsored by Great Aycliffe Town Council and social housing provider livin'. Civic Pride officers and representatives from the town council and livin' will be visiting the schools while

Stray Aid will help with the microchipping session.

Steven Cooper, Great Aycliffe Town Council's environment officer, said: "While enforcement is a key tool in tackling irresponsible dog ownership, educating young people about the consequence of failing to clean up after their pets should help cut down similar problems in future."

"It's good to see the three organisations working together to combat the issue and I would urge any local people who haven't had their dogs microchipped to come along to the free session, which could

pave the way to similar events in other parts of the town."

Robbie McCormack, communities' coordinator, livin', added: "We're proud to be sponsoring this important campaign, which we hope will help educate people and raise awareness about being a responsible dog owner."

To report a dog fouling offence in confidence go to www.durham.gov.uk/dogfouling or call 03000 261 000.

To find out more about how to join the Green Dog Walkers scheme visit www.durham.gov.uk/greendogwalkers or call 03000 261 000.

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COFFEE LIVENS UP CHARITY FUNDRAISER

St Mary's Church are hosting a fundraising Coffee Morning next month, with all proceeds donated to Newtonian Paul McGeary's charity push as he looks to raise £10k for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research.

Paul, 33, was diagnosed with Leukaemia in November 2014 and has spearheaded a campaign with almost £6k raised, and other events planned throughout the year to help him achieve his goal. The Coffee Morning, organised by church volunteers Marie Matthews and Paul's mother Mary Warke is on Saturday March 21st at 10am. Entry is free and everyone welcome.

The usual teas, coffees, cakes and biscuits will be available throughout the morning at a small charge; there will be a raffle on the day with various prizes on offer.

Mary said, "We have all watched as Paul organised various events to raise money for the charity and we thought we would do our bit by opening our doors to the community at the same time. We thank Father Whelan for allowing us the use of the church for this event and are confident it will be a success. We welcome everyone to support this event, and we're looking forward to an enjoyable morning."

Anyone unable to attend the event, who wishes to donate, can do so online via the secure charity page: www.justgiving.com/PaulMcGeary2

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YOUR NEWS ITEMS PRINTED FREE IN NEWTON NEWS

Some readers are under the impression Newton News makes a charge for printing stories about events in the community involving businesses and town organisations.

Whilst other publications may charge for this service your community newspaper DOES NOT and never has demanded payment for news items.

If your organisation or company has newsworthy information they wish to share with our community please get in touch. We would be happy to hear from you and take photos/video footage if required. Remember Newton News has a 16,500 circulation weekly, delivering to each household in Aycliffe and the surrounding villages. We also deliver to over 280 companies on Aycliffe Business Park and leave copies for people to pick up in public places.

We also have a very active website where current and past issues of Newton News can be viewed. Our popular website attracts local, national and international views each week from people around the world.

Feel free also to send in any news and photos by email to syd@newtonnews.co.uk - We look forward to receiving your next piece of good news.

*Items received are subject to space being available and the content acceptable. The editor retains the right to refuse items that are anonymous or unsuitable for publication.

Cancer Support Group Celebrate 1st Year

The Aycliffe Cancer Support is now celebrating its first year after being started by Allison White. Over the year 21 members have attended the meetings. They have enjoyed day trips which helped to get them out of the house just for those few hours to help gain confidence back. "We are all good friends now and most of us feel we have known each other for years. When first diagnosed with cancer some people don't know what to say to each other especially family and friends and this leaves them feeling lonely and that is it is important to run this group". said Allison. She thanks everyone for their continuing support and encourage anyone affected by cancer whether a patient, carer or relative to come along to see what they do. If you don't have the confidence someone from the group will

meet with you first just to make you feel a little better, but there is no need to worry it is not a group where you are forced to talk about your illness, and you can simply just come along and listen Speakers come from Macmillan Welfare Rights, a Dietician, Age UK and there are many more to come. This year the group hope to have more trips as it helped so many people, lifting their spirit to keep fighting. The next meeting is 5th March with a lady from Healthwatch, who ensure you get the best health and social care in County Durham. If anyone can help with funding to support our group activities please contact me or for more details - Allison 07762 258696 The meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month at Neville Parade Community Centre from 6pm until 7.30pm - Refreshments available.

Celebrating Chinese New Year



On Monday 9th February, County Councillor Kate Hopper visited the JAFFA After School Club at Burnhill Way Methodist Church. The children were learning about the Chinese New Year and were sampling an assortment of authentic Chinese food including a 'Fortune

Cookie' and some freshly cooked Stir Fry. The children also tried to use chopsticks to eat the Stir Fry and Councillor Hopper gave some useful tips on how to use them. The children enjoyed the experience but not all the different types of food.

National Politics - A Cynical Pursuit

Dear Sir,
As we approach the general election, I note politicians of all colours are, as usual participating in a blame game mainly designed it would appear to hoodwink the electorate. At national level Labour are blamed for emptying the coffers with no regard for the future of our great country. Meanwhile they are very busy pouring scorn on the efforts of the coalition government while at the same time refusing to put forward useful policies which may be helpful. The Conservative party have introduced measures which have benefitted the rich and impoverished poorer elements of our society. Liberal Democrats have alienated themselves by refusing to

follow through on promised university fee reforms. UKIP, while displaying amateurish policies continue to gain ground as voters become more and more disaffected by the infighting and misleading comments from all parties. Greens - We have all seen in recent times how efforts to save the world from climate induced extinction has resulted in extra costs to UK plc whilst we have observed China, India, USA and other countries unshackled by the burden of environmental costs, benefit from low energy prices and wages, to the detriment of the UK economy. Overpaid politicians seemingly don't know what voters want and don't appear to care as scandal after scandal

is uncovered at the very heart of the establishment, going back years. Prudence seems to be a very lonely and forgotten ideal in the corridors of Westminster which seems to only represent the views of Scotland over the rest of our nation. Can I point out that the previous two administrations were happy to warmonger and meddle with tinpot states who have a history of barbarity whilst tying the hands of our troops to ideological niceties. Was it not one of these Scots- led governments that left us almost broke and bailed out the Bank of Scotland? Our reward for bailing out Scottish people and institutions was a demand for preferential treatment or a threat of leaving the union which was only narrowly averted, and will probably raise its head again at the next greedy opportunity. As I wait for electioneering pamphlets to be delivered to my door, promising everything, I shall be reviewing those earlier promises which have not been delivered. Local Politics unproductive blame game, innuendo and half-truths are again appearing in the columns of the Newton News from local politicians - point scoring. This makes for very tedious and boring reading as many of us have been forced to endure this twaddle for years. May I make a suggestion that those thirty councillors representing our town and those County Councillors who represent us at Durham, write letters to the Newton News, pointing out what they have managed to achieve for their electorate in their current term, without harking back decades or engaging in a blame game with others. This should have the effect of encouraging us to vote for industrious representatives whilst examining the record of those who are less industrious. We have unique opportunities available to our area and to take advantage of this we need unique individuals to drive progress in every field, including politics. Name and address supplied

Autism Students in Photo Competition



Pupils from an Aycliffe School have embraced a photography challenge organised by Tyne Tees SEN branch of Teaching Personnel. The school at the North East Centre for Autism, Newton Aycliffe entered the local competition to encourage pupils to use photography as a way of expressing themselves and to engage in a community project. Each entry was a single photograph, encompassing the theme 'Change'. Published photographer and Theatre Royal representative, Anthony Dorman, judged the challenge and presented awards to Lauren Stephens (aged 19) - 1st prize, Cameron Smith (aged 15) - 2nd prize and Emily Stoker (aged 15) - 3rd prize. Anthony said; "The quality of the photographs were excellent and you can tell a lot of thought went into each and every photograph taken." Each pupil received an award and framed picture of their photo. Winning photos will be displayed in the head office at Teaching Personnel. Neil Clarke, Branch Manager at Tyne Tees SEN Branch said "It's been a complete and utter pleasure working with the pupils at Aycliffe School. The photographs have been framed and put in our office which has really brightened it up, so thanks so much to all the students who contributed."

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International Evangelist Visits The Xcel Centre

Xcel Church are hosting their annual Influence Conference from the 6th - 8th March 2015 and are delighted to announce the speakers for this year are the renowned Canon J John of the Philo Trust and Pastor Ray Bevan from Kings Church, Newport. Canon J John is an internationally recognised speaker, evangelist, social activist and writer. He is a remarkable communicator of the gospel, bringing it to life in a fresh and contemporary manner. Having spoken around the globe we are privileged that J John has chosen to come to Newton Aycliffe. Pastor Ray Bevan is also a great communicator who has spoken around the world. He is known for bringing the powerful, life-changing message of God's word alive in both a prophetic and humorous manner. One thing for sure is that this years Influence Conference is guaranteed to be a powerful



time as we join together to worship and hear the word spoken by two of the funniest Christian communicators around. This Conference is open to everyone and we would love for you to join us. You can register via www.influenceconference.co.uk In addition to our speakers there is a full Kids Conference for those aged 4-11yrs. This years Kids Conference theme is 'Welcome to the Jungle' and runs alongside the main Influence sessions.



GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Customer Panel Meeting

The next meeting of the Customer Panel will be held on:
TUESDAY, 3rd MARCH, 2015
commencing at 6.00p.m. The Panel meet in the Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

The meeting will be to give an update of the Council's Aims and Targets.

We are always looking for new members. If you would like to know a little more about us and our work this would be a great meeting to attend. The group are informal and quite often have lively debates about a wide range of Town Council matters.

Why not come along and join us at this meeting – we look forward to seeing and meeting new members.

Further information can be obtained from Christine Walton on 01325 300700 e-mail: Christine.Walton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

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



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COMMONWEALTH DAY MONDAY, 9th MARCH

Great Aycliffe Town Council have registered to take part in the marking of Commonwealth Day by raising and flying the Commonwealth Flag at a small ceremony at the flagpole outside of St. Clare's Church.

The Mayor, Councillor Wendy Hillary, will read the 'Commonwealth Affirmation' and then, together with a representative of Newton Aycliffe Youth Council, will raise the Commonwealth Flag to mark this occasion.

Anyone wishing to attend the event should meet at St. Clare's Flagpole prior to 10 a.m. on Monday, 9th March 2015.

Ladies Afternoon Tea and Antique Stalls

Butterwick Hospice in Bishop Auckland is staging the first of their afternoon tea events for 2015 in Hardwick Hall in Sedgefield on Tuesday 10th March 2015.

The tea will be served in the resplendent "Coleman Suite" beneath the extravagant

Austrian Strauss crystal chandeliers. Doors open at 1.30pm and ladies are invited to browse the craft and retail stalls prior to taking their seats. The Butterwick Fundraiser has been generously supported by the BBC TV antiques expert, published writer and established artist "David Harper" as one of our guest speakers. David who now lives and works in Barnard Castle, travels extensively to film appearances on, Bargain Hunt, Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is, Cash in the Attic and Antiques Road Trip, to name but a few.

As our key speaker David will give us an insight into his life and loves along with his expertise and advice on the care and on the day valuations on a number of selected items. He goes on to explain how he inherited his love of antiques from his parents, who were keen collectors, and how his mother as a young girl worked on the rostrum of an auction house taking notes as well as logging all the bidders and buyers.

Our second speaker represents Harvey's International sausages who also originates from Teesdale. Harvey 's offer the most fantastic range of sausages made to their very own family recipes, using only the best free range meats and the finest fresh ingredients, seasonings and flavours to create all of our wonderful varieties that also include a gluten free range.

Later the hotel staff will present the afternoon tea to include a selection of finger sandwiches, homemade scones with clotted cream and jam as well as a selection of cakes and fancies that include tempting mini torte, cheesecake, and chocolate brownies, accompanied by a choice of finest blended tea or coffee of your choice.

Tickets are just £18 per head and must be booked in advance. All proceeds will go to the Butterwick Hospice in Bishop Auckland. Payment can be can be reserved and bought in advance over the telephone with credit/debit card. Please book early to avoid disappointment: Telephone Lynn Albury on 01388 603003 or email lynn@butterwick.org.uk.

Film Show

St Clare's Church FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW on Tuesday 24th February will feature the musical "ANNIE" starring Albert Finney and Carol Burnett. The zany, drunken antics of Miss Hannigan (Burnett) are well worth coming to see, and songs such as "It's a hard Knock Life" "Tomorrow" make it a real feel good movie.

Tea and coffee served at 1pm, included in the £2. The film starts at 1-15pm. A variety of chairs are set out for your comfort, and tables too so you can bring a spot of lunch to eat. EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME to join us and watch this pure feel good film in friendly company. Further details from Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755

Sugar Hill Pet Show



There was much excitement at Sugar Hill Primary School as Year 1 children rounded off their recent topic on pets with a huge Show in the school hall. Children and their families brought in all manner of animals, including many dogs and puppies, snakes, a rabbit and even stick insects.

All the children received a certificate for their efforts, and a great time was had by all. The Year 1 team would like to convey a big thank you to all children and their families for their brilliant support on the day.

Why Not Start Today?

Young people looking for training or apprenticeships can get help with the Start Today campaign organised by Durham County Council's One Point service.

It can match-up vacancies available for 16 to 19 year olds who are not in education, employment or training. The vacancies can be accessed in an on-line booklet at: www.help4teens.co.uk/start

One Point personal advisors can also give information, advice and guidance to young people who are unclear about their future career paths. They are available on 03000 261 111.

The campaign, now in its third year, saw 350 young people sign up to apprenticeships or training during January to March last year. During the same period, the on-line

booklet was accessed on the Help4Teens website by more than 35,000 people.

Newton News Service with a Smile

St Elizabeth's Mother and Toddler Group, Woodham [near the Huntsman pub] always knew Newton Press was a wonderful producer of our free, well read Newton News.

So it came as no surprise when we had a positive result from our notice in last week's issue where we advertised our group. We welcomed three new Mums and their toddlers accompanied by a Granddad and a Grandmother.

They all said they felt really welcome and thought the service provided was fabulous and that they would be back next week.

If there are any more parents and toddlers who would like to join this happy crowd we have five places left.

If you need any further information please ring Norma Wise on 01325 312930 or Chris Wilson on 01325 318430

DL5 BUSINESSES

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Please use BLOCK CAPITALS and RETURN to the following address:
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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

Faulty Street Lighting

Dear Sir,
Residents will be aware that a number of street lights in Newton Aycliffe have not been operating, and therefore I felt important to explain current issues. I have had a response from DCC street lighting department regarding two street lighting enquiries:

Ref: Stephenson Way – The fault was attended 28th January and identified that there is a major cable fault. Ref: 40528487
Honister Place – The fault was attended 31st January and again identified a major cable fault. Both faults are now with subcontractors who have a 35 working day turnaround from the report date. DCC apologise for any inconvenience caused but will endeavour to put them right as soon as possible.

I will monitor both of these fault requests to ensure the requirements are met. However, if residents identify any other problems such as: lights, fly tipping, pot holes, pavements, dog fouling or salt bins you can use DCC new web page Report It, follow this link. <http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/1160> get a reference number and a quick response. Cllr Eddy Adam
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Launch of Prom & Wedding Website

Two businesswomen from Newton Aycliffe have set up a new website for their new venture. Liz Lambert and Nicola Maull, both born and raised in Aycliffe, have created Prom and Wedding, an online boutique specialising in wedding and prom dresses.

The two have followed the ever-growing trend of businesses deciding to set up their trade online. It has been a quick progression from a discussion between the two to the full set up of the business.

"We first talked about the idea in October last year," said Liz, pictured (left) with Nicola. The website has been set up a few weeks now. It is just something different."

Business partner, Nicola, has a showroom in Yarm, which was opened as a base for her other business, Euphoria Boutique.

"People can visit us in person here if they want to try on their dresses," said Nicola.

While www.promandwedding.co.uk stocks what is on the website, Liz has encouraged people to get in touch if they have requests for something



different. Liz added: "If anybody wants a particular style or a particular colour for a dress that isn't in stock then we'll try our best to help."

The swift set-up of the business has been aided by the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) 'Step Into Business' project. A scheme set up to help fund new up and coming businesses. Liz has been quick to thank them.

She said: "I had help from my parents to help fund my half of the business but GAMP gave me £850 to help with the cost of setting up the website. "Nothing comes free nowadays and things like this are not cheap. It has been a huge help." GAMP co-ordinator Brian Riley said: "This project has given Aycliffe residents the opportunity to fulfil their dream of starting a new business. I

urge potential business owners to follow in the footsteps of Liz and Nicola.

"Aycliffe Residents are given excellent information, advice and guidance from the Business Advisors at South Durham Enterprise Agency about all aspects of starting a business," he added.

"They get a funding grant to meet start-up costs if they meet the criteria. Prom & Wedding is a fabulous example of Liz and Nicola grasping an opportunity to start a new Internet business.

"We wish them every success in the future."

You can visit the website at www.promandwedding.co.uk, or go to their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/weddingandprom

Students Take the Gestamp Apprenticeship Challenge



Woodham Academy is working with Gestamp Tallent for the fifth consecutive year as it looks to recruit more apprentices to its international engineering and manufacturing company. Students have the opportunity to work with a real life employer in a Lord Sugar style challenge. Over a five week period, they will compete in a range of challenges linked with business.

These challenges will be judged on a weekly basis by representatives from the company. Students will visit the plant and go through a series of interview tasks at the plant. Gestamp will decide the overall winner of the Apprentice competition and award opportunities to successful Woodham Academy students, who have made a positive impact. Gestamp Tallent offer

apprenticeships in Tool Making, Maintenance and Business. These apprentice opportunities offer students the ability to carry on studying in the workplace whilst also having the option to continue studying up to and beyond degree level. We wish all the students involved in this challenge the best of luck. Pictured below are some of the interested students alongside, David Pearson, Training Controller at Gestamp Tallent Limited, and Michael Nelson, Head of Technology at Woodham Academy. Deputy Headteacher Jonathan Lumb said 'This is another amazing opportunity for Woodham Academy students to be involved with an International company. I am sure they are going to get so much out of the 2015 programme.'

The Eden Arms is Back on the Menu



The aim of the new Manager at The Eden Arms is to put this hotel on the map as a first choice venue for the local community. Owned by Shearings this once very popular local hostelry has been used mainly for people staying overnight, taking bus tours in the UK.

Laurie Simpson took over as manager a year ago and is intent on offering Newtonians this venue for marriages, socials, birthdays, receptions, Christenings etc.

A special rate of £2015 for 2015 weddings in currently on offer and Laurie has lots of other ideas including the Special Valentine's Night he held last Saturday.

He placed an advertisement in Newton News and was oversubscribed. A special room was set aside for this romantic evening with a

five course meal with wine included in the price and everyone enjoyed the quality and atmosphere. Next year a bigger room will be provided to meet the demand.

The Windlestone Suite has a large dance area and can seat 90 people. The bar now offers a meal deal - 2 for £10 including the famous "Eden All Day Breakfast"! Afternoon Tea and scones is also being promoted at £8.95. It is great to see The Eden Arms back in business and the enterprise of the new manager is welcomed.

Handbag Auction

Raising funds for
MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Friday 27th February
Doors open for viewing at 6:30pm
Auction starts at 7:30pm

Come and join us for our annual Charity Handbag Auction at Hall Garth Hotel - a selection of designer, new, pre-loved and used handbags all up for auction with all proceeds going to Macmillan.

Bring your old Bra to donate to an uplifting cause.

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AYCLIFFE'S PRO GOALKEEPER OFFERS EXCLUSIVE PRIZE

Newton Aycliffe's most successful and best known sports star is offering an exclusive coaching session to one lucky primary school.

Goalkeeper Ross Turnbull, who started his career at Newton Aycliffe FC before playing for clubs including Middlesbrough, Cardiff and Chelsea, is returning to the town to hone the skills of a group of youngsters.

His former Chelsea team mate, England midfielder Frank Lampard, has recently published a collection of children's books. Leading County Durham supply teaching agency, SupplyMatch Recruitment, is donating sets of the books to primary schools across Newton Aycliffe to tie in with World Book Day 2015 on March 5th.

Inspired by Ross, who is living his dream as a professional footballer, students will have to write a short story about their own hopes and wishes for the future.

The pupil judged to have written the best story, by Ross and a panel of literature lovers, will win a coaching session at their school with the goalkeeper, who currently plays for Barnsley in League One.

Ross said: "I spend a lot of time travelling around the country, going to and from matches, and reading is one of the things



I enjoy most to keep my mind occupied on the long journeys." Managing Director of SupplyMatch Recruitment, Gail Anderson, who is originally from Newton Aycliffe, said: "It's an honour to get Ross involved in something as important as World Book Day.

"It's an amazing opportunity for pupils across the town to have a coaching session with a footballer who has played in the Champions League with Chelsea. He knows and loves Aycliffe, as it is where he was born and brought up".

"He thinks it is crucial young people learn to love reading as no matter what they end up doing as adults, it is a pleasure that can last them a lifetime.

Schools who are interested in taking part should e-mail Gail at gail@supplymatch.co.uk for more information.

AYCLIFFE RUNNER EARNS GOLD

The North East Indoor Championships were held in Gateshead at the weekend and Northern Champion, Rachel Bennett from Aycliffe, strolled to victory in her heat in 8.07 seconds only to see her UK ranked No 2 competitor smash the Championship record in her heat in 7.88 seconds.

In the semi final Rachel continued with her recent good form earning herself a place in the final in 8.07 seconds. The final proved to be a titanic tussle with the UK ranked No 2 athlete, as both competitors produced a memorable race which resulted in Rachel claiming a narrow victory equalling her club record and PB in 7.96 seconds to earn North East gold.

Some of the club's senior members competed in the Ann Johnson Absent Friends Memorial run on Sunday 15th Feb in Billingham. The first Shildon runner home after completing the 5 mile course was Andrea Draper in a time of 42.03, next was Phil Crow in 44.02 closely followed by Michelle Williams in 44.19, with Tanya Williams coming home in a respectable 53.34.

Saturday 14th Feb saw the 100th running of the Hackworth Park parkrun. The organisers were aiming for 100 runners to mark this milestone but were overwhelmed by the response with 242 runners of all ages from all over the country completing the 5km run. Numerous members of the running club competed, volunteered or supported the event. 18 Shildon club runners completed the run with 1 first timer (Emma Flynn) and 2 PBs achieved by Lizzie Wood and Cameron Stainsby. Well done to everyone involved and a huge thank you to everyone



Rachel Bennett

who turned out to support. For full results and information as to how you can get involved simply go to www.parkrun.org.uk.

Shildon Running and Athletic

Club is open to anyone from the age of 7 upwards providing that the child is in year 3 at school. If you are interested in joining the club then go along for a free tryout session.

For details of club nights and times to suit your age group, check out www.shildonrunning.co.uk or email secretary@shildonrunning.co.uk.

You can also log into Facebook and like our page to see more reports and photos and generally keep up to date with what's going on in your local club.

Hackworth Park run is open to everyone, is free to enter and takes place each Saturday morning starting at 9am prompt. To register simply go to www.parkrun.org.uk.

Water Polo Results

Sedgefield Water Polo Club from Aycliffe sent two young teams up to Newcastle to play the Northumbria University Women and Men's teams.

The young Sedgefield girls team was superbly led by Carol Mohan who hasn't played competitively for a few years, but before that played over 100 games for GB and is the only British girl to ever be the leading scorer in the European Championships.

In a very competitive game the young Sedgefield team managed to come out on top 8-5. The goals scored were shared between Mohan, Panna Csano 14, who is from one of the great countries of Polo Hungary, Emily Pilkington 15, Holly Short 18, Ashley Boardman 21 and Rhiannon Foulds 18.

Young goalkeeper Jessica

Webb 11 was voted player of the game for a very mature performance in goal. The other members of the Sedgefield team were Poppy Stephenson 11, Hollie Turnbull 13, Kate Harrison 12.

In the Men's game Sedgefield dominated from the start with their tremendous fitness and fast Counter attack overwhelming the much older student team 19-9. Mathew Calvert 20 and ex GB junior led the team with great maturity scoring and creating many goals.

The goals were spread throughout the team, consisting of James Pratt 17, John Pratt 16, Adam Courtley 17, Ben Turnbull 16, Connor Keeble 14, Michael Cousins 14, Kris Egginton 14, Richard Murray 14, Ben Stephenson 13, Adam Woods 19, Sebastian Reichel 18, Jake Plant 15.

Aycliffe Running Club

Aycliffe athletes were busy last weekend as there were two big events going on and some members even opted to take part in both.

Last Saturday saw the 100th event in the Park Run series at Shildon's Hackworth Park and attracted a field of 246 runners and over 20 of these were from Aycliffe Running Club.

It was the Ann Johnson Absent Friends Trail Race the following day. This event was organised by Billingham Marsh House Harriers and is over 5 miles.

Matt Heron was 1st home for the club, 23rd in 35:21, followed by John Burnside, 35th in 36:41

Sandra Collins was 1st lady home for the club, 70th in 40:38 and was also first in the F/50 age group, followed by Kelly Smith, 91st in 41:53.

In the final meeting of the NYSD Harrier League at Richmond, Martyn Knox was the only runner from Aycliffe club finishing 73rd in 44:48 and congratulations to Alan Wilks who took silver in the North-Eastern Masters Cross-Country Championships at Darlington. His time was 25:54.



Matt Heron

Turbinia Back on Top!

This week FC Turbinia welcomed mid-table Crook Wanderers to Simpature Playing Fields and as previous occasions the home side were quick out of the box, forcing a great save from the Crook keeper in the opening minutes. The Turbinia applied pressure and opened the scoring after 8 minutes when Jordon Steele was found unmarked inside the box and neatly finished. It wasn't long before the lead was extended when an in-swinging cross from Luke Black found Daniel Dixon at the back post surging in front of the defence to score with his head.

Much of the first half was played in and around the visitor's box, with many chances being created so it was no surprise to see "The Tub" increase their lead to three before the halftime break. Steele drilled a shot, low and hard towards the far post, to be finished by Daniel Keane with an exquisite inside flick sending the keeper the wrong way.

The second half was a similar story as FC Turbinia dominated the game and despite a number of changes from the Crook side, they could not halt the home team's advances. A second from Daniel Keane came early closely followed by his third to secure his second hat-trick of the season.

The on-looking crowd were treated to a second amazing goal when a cross was cushioned on the chest of Jordon Steele who then struck the dropping ball on the volley with precision into the bottom corner from outside the box. FC Turbinia continued to push forward with chances rattling both posts and the bar, but credit to Crook Wanderers who never gave up and were gifted a goal of their own with 10 minutes to go as they caught the home side out with a counter attack.

The day was Turbinia's who in securing all three points, returned to the top of the Crook and District Division 2 Table, due to West Auckland WMC Club playing in the Albert Vickers Cup.

This week FC Turbinia are away to Darlington's Hole in the Wall with a 13.30 kick off

at Carmel School. They hold a mid-season Fundraiser on Friday 27th February when Comedy Hypnotist Adam Knight will be performing. Tickets are still available for £6 but be sure to get them quick as they are selling fast and this is one not to miss! For more details please get in touch with Paul Soakell on 07848 932989 or p.soakell@sky.com



Hat Trick hero Keane

All About Clippy Mats

A Special Coffee Morning is to be held at St. Clare's Church on Saturday 28th February from 10am - 12 noon.

Bring your friends to see a demonstration and display of Clippy Mats and hear the story behind the design and inspiration in their production.

On sale will be home baked cakes and scones with a range of books for 50p each. All ages welcome.

FREE JUNIOR FOOTBALL COACHING AT GREENFIELD



Students at Greenfield Community College continue to find success in partnership with the Martin Gray Football Academy. The academy continues to support the academic achievements of members of the school's football academy through mentoring sessions and high quality football coaching.

The Martin Gray Sporting Academy has been set up to operate at a very high standard and is offering half term courses for young people from Newton Aycliffe to get involved.

Coaches from the academy offer a wealth of experience in their chosen field, sharing with you their talents and giving

you the highest standard of coaching.

Our coaches all come from a football background with many being ex-professional Premier League footballers themselves. Martin has a wealth of experience in coaching, managing and playing football and holds the highest accreditation of coaching; the UEFA Pro License.

The Martin Gray Football Academy also offers an opportunity for something radical, exciting and different which will improve engagement, enhance learning and enrich the life of each individual child in schools.

The Martin Gray Football

Academy is offering an exciting new course aimed at children aged between 5 and 10 years old. This new course will be held every Tuesday at Greenfield Community College, and will last for 5 weeks, starting on Tuesday 24th February 2015, 5.00pm – 6.00pm. The course will offer coaching to suit all abilities and is open to anyone in the age range stated.

The facilities at Greenfield Community College are fantastic and our new course will be held on the 3G surface. The entire 5 week course is FREE OF CHARGE. We hope to see you all there on Tuesday 24th February 2015, at 5pm

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AYCLIFFE YOUTH FOOTBALL RESULTS

Under 15 Falcons were away at Nunthorpe in a must win game, but it was the hosts' who took a deserved lead. After stern words at half time and some tactical changes the Falcons found the equaliser though Grant Holmes - then with minutes to go Andrew Matthews netted the winner. Great result but not the performance.

The Under 13s travelled to face an under strength South Park Rangers side low on confidence. It was anything but an easy win with SPR asking all the questions early on and to be honest they were unlucky not to get at least 2 goals. Aycliffe rode the storm and managed to get their noses in front and build from there on in - with only 11 players themselves, lacked a little confidence. The team played well although still panic a little when in possession. Well done and 3 welcome points. Goals from Josh Richardson (4), Chloe Ryan (3), Keiron Todd (2) and Tom Baptist (1). Man of the Match was close but went to Joe Hind with an excellent display on his debut.

The Under 13 Girls were not in League action and played their part in an excellent friendly with the Under 12 Falcons at The Oak Leaf on Saturday morning. Great individual and team performances from both sides and refereed very well by young Matthew Morton. This game showed just why NAYFC is the success that it is! Well done everyone involved.

Under 12 Eagles had a tough game against Couby Newham Reds and although the boys started brightly for the first 10 minutes, found themselves a goal down. Then Riley Seaman, with a fantastic half way line strike, lobbed their goal keeper for 1-1. Second half saw the Eagles



go 2-1 down very early, after working really hard in the first half, eventually crashing 5-1. Man of the Match with a solid performance; Riley Seaman. Onwards and upwards for the lads who have set there sights on a top 4 finish!

Under 11 Falcons entertained Normandy and ran out 2-0 winners thanks to goals from Dylan and Clayton Edwards. Man of the Match went to Liam Horner. The boys played brilliant and they continue to improve

Under 11 Eagles - A fantastic team performance away to Saxon Juniors, the Eagles were unstoppable. Goals from Kian Cook (3), Adam Lowe (3), Rhys Williamson (1) (debut)

and Evan Thompson (1). Man of the Match was also Evan Thompson in defence but it could have been a number of the boys. Everyone played their part. 3-8 the final score.

Under 8 Falcons were away to a very good Trimdon Village side who have won every league game. The boys started

really well but somehow found themselves 2-0 down but pulled a goal back through Travis Dixon. Second half saw the boys dominate but lost their shape and conceded to go 3-1 down. The boys never let their heads go down and Travis Dixon pulled a goal back. We were on top and looking for the equaliser but instead got caught on the break and conceded a fourth. Man of the Match was Travis Dixon. Game ended 4-2. The second game was pretty even. Falcons went ahead with a superb goal off the post from Alex Beattie. Trimdon pulled one back just before the break. Second half was neck and neck until the last 2 minutes when a loss of concentration saw a 1 on 1 with the keeper and they scored the winner. Man of the Match was Alex Beattie.

Under 8s Eagles unbeaten run finally came to an end against Wynyard who triumphed 5-4. A very close game played in great spirit, well done Wynyard for pressing hard and working well. Aycliffe boys were disappointed at the final whistle but must now show how to bounce back. Heads up, we are proud and another opportunity next week!

Keep up-to-date with all our fixtures and results by visiting our website www.naycafc.co.uk and follow us on Twitter @NAYcliffeYthFC and on Facebook www.facebook.com/NewtonAycliffeYouthCentreAFC

Aycliffe Again Surrender Lead



For the second Saturday in a row Aycliffe surrendered a lead to lose 2-1 to a Cumbrian team. Following last week's loss at Penrith, Valentine's Day saw us give Celtic Nation a present of their first away win of the season.

The game was preceded by a perfectly observed minute's silence for Aycliffe fan Brian Starforth who passed away recently. Once underway both teams struggled to make an impression on a heavy pitch. The crowd had to wait patiently for action but the game suddenly came to life five minutes before half-time. Dennis Knight opened the scoring by beating the offside trap & lofted the ball over the keeper into the net. A minute later Stuart Banks came close to adding a second seeing his shot blocked. In the dying moments

of the half Aycliffe had another chance when the Celtic Nation keeper had to race out of his box to beat Knight to the ball. The clearance fell to Banks whose shot was cleared by a covering defender.

As the second half got underway there were more chances for Aycliffe. On 53 mins Zak Boagey fought off challenges in midfield & took a long range shot which flew just over the bar. Ten minutes later Jordan Laidler made his way through the defence but shot wide.

From that point it all went wrong for Aycliffe. Celtic Nation's equaliser came on 67 mins with Dean Crozier scoring after good work from centr-forward Simon Tucker. Ten minutes later Celtic Nation grabbed the winner with Aaran Roberts capitalising

on confusion in the Aycliffe defence. To make matters worse Aycliffe centre-half Mark Stephenson was shown red for an altercation in the aftermath of the goal.

Aycliffe piled forward in the closing moments with even keeper James Winter moving into the opponents box for a corner. The equaliser, however, did not come leaving Aycliffe 19th in the Ebac Northern League Division One table. They had an early chance to make amends with a home game against second bottom Sunderland RCA on Tuesday 17th February.

Forthcoming Fixtures
Saturday 21 February (away) Whitley Bay (3pm)
Saturday 28 February (home) Billingham Synthonia (3pm)
Saturday 7 March (home) Durham City (3pm)

Woodham Star Selected for Great Britain Squad

Joe Howarth, a Year 7 student at Woodham Academy, has enjoyed major success in Taekwondo recently. Joe is a very keen, lively student, who is a vital member of the Sports Academy at Woodham; and has been selected in three sporting academies.

Not only is he performing exceptionally well within school and the Sports Academy provision available, but also in his preferred sport of taekwondo. Having started fighting competitively three years ago, Joe has won medals in all major championships he has entered, winning gold in a regional Chi Open competition, Irish Challenge and finishing 3rd and picking up a bronze medal in the British Taekwondo National Finals in the past two years.

Due to Joe's performance, attitude and desire to improve he has been selected to be part of the Great Britain Cadet Development Squad, training in Manchester on a monthly basis and attending holiday camps in the school holidays.

Liam Clough, Director of Woodham Sports Academy, said "Joe's achievement is fantastic. His attitude and desire to improve, in all sport and PE is very refreshing and has already had a major impact within the Sports Academy. What is extremely pleasing



is that Woodham Academy students are now getting national recognition for their sporting talents. Within the Sports Academy we have people competing at regional, national and international level. This can only be positive for students as it helps raise the bar and creates a challenging environment that can only help breed successful sporting performances.

What makes Joe's achievement even more impressive is the fact that he is still very young at 11 years old. The exciting thing is what he will go on to achieve during the next five years". Everyone at Woodham Academy is exceptionally proud of Joe and all the athletes in the Sports Academy.



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The WASPS Simpature Residents will be holding a social evening on Tuesday 24th February at 6.30pm in the coffee lounge of Simpature Court.

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The next full meeting of the group will be held on Thursday 5th of March at 6.30pm in the coffee lounge when we will report progress of our forthcoming events. These include our IT facility, community trips and events planned for the upcoming Aycliffe Festival.

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COMBINED AUTHORITIES BUDGET AGREED

The final elements of the North East Combined Authority budget have been agreed. Members of the authority met this week to discuss the proposed transport grant to Nexus and resources for securing inward investment. Decisions on both issues were postponed at the neca meeting on 20 January to allow further consideration to take place. Following this, members of the board have now agreed the two outstanding matters, namely:
• the approval of the transport grant to Nexus of £64.5m for the delivery of transport services in Tyne and Wear; and
• that contributions for the £70,000 base budget for inward investment are shared equally between the seven local authorities.
Members also agreed that increasing the level of support for inward investment would be considered at the next meeting. Cllr Simon Henig, chair of neca, said: "I am very pleased that these remaining budget issues have been agreed. "This will enable us to move forward and focus on delivering the transport and economic priorities needed to encourage investment in our region, promote successful businesses and bring new jobs."

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52,500 foster families in homes across the UK. With a rising number of children coming into care, and around 13 per cent of foster carers retiring or leaving the service last year, there is a need to not only recruit more foster carers but also better utilise the current pool of foster carers. More foster families are particularly needed to provide homes for teenagers, children with disabilities and sibling groups.

In 2013/14: 3,340 children lived in foster care in the North East; 39,600 of the young people in care in England were aged 10 or older; 5,595 children with disabilities were living with foster carers; 1,520 siblings from 535 fostered sibling groups in England were separated, where the aim was for them to live together;

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7,190 children who were fostered were placed over 20 miles from their home. Without enough foster families willing and able to offer homes to these groups, some children will find themselves living a long way from family, friends and their school. It could also lead to them being split up from brothers and sisters, or being placed with a foster carer who does not have the right skills and experience to meet their specific needs. These pressures can lead to relationships breaking down, and children having to make regular moves between homes. Some young people will also be living in residential care when fostering has been identified as the best option for them.

Jackie Sanders, director of public affairs at The Fostering Network, said: "Fostering can be an incredibly rewarding career and lifestyle choice for

those who do come forward, opening their hearts and homes to children and young people who need security and stability.

"Fostering is also a challenging job, and when the match between foster family and child is not right, it becomes even more difficult. A wider pool of foster carers enables fostering services to be able to match the needs of each child more closely with the skills that each foster carer brings, and to find the right home for each child, first time.

"However, as well as recruiting new foster carers, fostering services must look at the foster carers who are currently available to them in their local area. Where existing foster carers have space in their homes, it may be possible to retrain and support them to look after different ages of children with a variety of different needs.

"Children and young people

come into care for a wide range of reasons, but all come needing professional, dedicated and compassionate support. Foster carers are remarkable people who open their homes to some of society's most disadvantaged children and young people. Fostering services approved over 7,175 new foster families in England alone in 2013/14, but recruitment remains an ongoing challenge to replace those who leave and to meet the needs of the children coming into care.

"We urgently need people who have the right skills and qualities to foster to come forward and make a long lasting positive difference to the life of a child. In particular, foster carers are needed to provide homes for teenagers and children with disabilities, and to help sibling groups stay together."

Details of fostering and more information about becoming a foster carer are available from couldyoufoster.org.uk

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STAY SAFE WHEN YOU GO SHOPPING ON-LINE

As more of us regularly head online to shop, Durham County Council's Fair Trading Team has issued some top tips to raise awareness of the pitfalls and scams residents may face when internet shopping.

Acknowledgement

EDDY MILLER The family of the late Eddy Miller would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for all their kindness and sympathy shown throughout this sad time. A special thank you to Joanne Scott for all the love, help and support she has given Eddy and all the family over the past few years. You really did become a big part of our Dad's life and we cannot thank you enough. Big thank you to the Co-op Funeral Service for all their help and guidance; to Bill Sims for a lovely tribute and memorable Service; to Amanda from the Legion for a lovely buffet and family thanks for the generous donations to Dementia UK. Love from all the family xxx

The advice comes after Safer Internet Day on Tuesday (February 10), which aims to promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology and buying online. Joanne Waller, head of environment, health and consumer protection with the council, said: "Online shopping can save our residents a lot of time when buying the products they want and can often provide a much-needed bargain. "Unfortunately there are those who aim to exploit online shoppers and we want to ensure our residents are safe when buying over the internet. We hope the advice we've provided will raise awareness of the scams that may impact our residents and make sure their finances and wellbeing aren't at risk." To help residents be safer when clicking to buy, Durham County Council's Fair Trading team have the following advice when buying online: **Reputable and secure sites** Before you type your card details into a website ensure that the site is secure. Secure

websites will have 'https' in front of the web address as well as a padlock in the address bar to show that the payment process is safe. **Beware of 'too good to be true' deals** If you find an unbelievable price for high-quality goods and luxury brands, the chances are that you won't get what you expect. The products you receive may be counterfeit and poor in quality, or you may find that you don't receive anything at all, instead finding yourself out of pocket by buying from a fake website. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is. **Recurring payment scams** When buying online, you may think you are buying a one-off item only to find that you have committed to paying monthly for years. Make sure you read the terms and conditions of the retailer before purchasing, or if you are the unfortunate victim of a recurring payment scam, contact your bank or card provider to stop the payments if the merchant refuses. **Rights when paying by card** If you have purchased an item at an individual price of £100

or more with a credit card, your credit card issuer must come to your aid and deal with your complaint if something goes wrong. **Buying goods on internet auction sites** When you buy something from an internet auction site, you are buying from a private individual or a trader, not the site. Your rights can be very

limited when buying through an auction, so be sure to use a site with a payment protection scheme which will not release your payment until you have received the goods. **Be wary of junk emails** Look out for phishing emails which detail offers or subscriptions and ask for your personal and financial information. Never go to a website from a link within an email and then enter your details, what you enter may be used for identity fraud.

Research your online retailer If you are unsure as to the reputation of the site you are looking to buy from, ask friends, colleagues or family members to see if they have used the site previously or do some research online to see if it has been mentioned favourably on sites you already trust. Find out more advice and guidance on how to be safer when shopping online by visiting: www.durham.gov.uk/onlineshopping

In Memoriam

JOHN ARRAN HUGHES 22nd February. 1971-1992. One thing that never changes in the busy life we lead is the love and memories we have for you deep within our hearts. You will always walk beside us in everything we do. Until we meet again our darling Arran, we will always love you. Mam, Dad, Garry, Vicky, Paul and Daughter Maxine xxxx **PETER REDDEN** 1971-2013. Sweet is his memory, dear is his name. Deep in our heart, he will always remain. Thinking of you always. Love from all the family

Birthday Remembrance

Arthur Eales



21st February 1915
100 Years Old Today
Wish I could give you a big hug and kiss for your 100th birthday Dad. You are always in my thoughts. I miss you, your Daughter, Joyce

CUNNINGHAM (Jimmy). Birthday memories on 21st February to a wonderful Son and Brother who is missed and loved every day. Our thoughts are with you every day. Love, Mam and Susan xxx

Obituary

STORR (nee Robson), Jennie of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully in the care of St. Teresa's Hospice on 11th February, aged 85 years. Loving Wife of the late Eddie; much loved Mam of Jeff, Marion and Deborah; Mother-in-Law of Christine and Darran; treasured Granny of Nichola and Great Granny of Izzy and George; also a loving Sister, Auntie and friend. Would family and friends please meet for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Monday 23rd February at 2.45pm. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if so desired, to St. Teresa's Hospice. **STOKER**, Peacefully on 13th February. Thomas William (Tom), aged 79 years. Much loved Husband of Joan; loving Dad of Marie, Stephen, Paul and Dean; also a much loved Father-in-Law, Uncle, Grandad and Great Grandad. Will family and friends please meet for Service and cremation at Darlington Crematorium on Wednesday 25th February at 1.15pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu if so desired, may be made to Macmillan Nurses and The Mara Unit, Bishop Auckland General Hospital, plate provided at the crematorium. **ELLEN MITCHELL** Died suddenly in hospital on 11th February 2015. Loving Wife of Walter; loving Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Will be sadly missed

Congratulations

Mackenzie Jackman



Happy 17th Birthday
All our love, Mum, Dad and the dogs xxxx
Happy birthday Bro. Lots of love from Madison and John xxx
Happy 17th Birthday Uncle Macca. All my love and gurgles Cayden xxx
Happy birthday Grandson. Lots of love from Nan & Davy, Grandie, Granddad and Rose and Granddad Jackman xxx

Fletcher Tyndall



Happy 1st Birthday
Lots of love from Gran, Grandad, Uncle Jordan, Auntie Becca, Uncle Glynn and all the family xxxxx

Cassie Bowtell



Happy 30th Birthday
Have a brilliant birthday Cassie. Lots of love from all the family

Christine Peacock



Happy 60th Birthday
21st February 2015
Happy birthday to the best Mam, Nana, Daughter, Sister, Auntie and friend to many. Have a lovely birthday. Love from family and friends xxxx

CHRISTINE PEACOCK
Happy 60th birthday Nana. We love you lots. Lots of love from your Handsome Boys, Damian, Logan and Reece xxx
MATTHEW FRENCH Happy 18th birthday on 25th February. With love and congratulations from all the family xxx
BENJAMIN BURKITT Happy 2nd birthday to our wonderful Son. Lots of love, kisses and cuddles. Mammy and Daddy xxxx

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Honest John Helps Heighington AFC Boys



Heighington AFC Boys Under 12's send a massive thank you to local community fundraiser Honest John. After approaching him in November 2014, and explaining our team was mainly Aycliffe boys who play from Heighington he was keen to help us raise much needed funds for our team Away strip. John got in touch to advise that he would be starting the fundraising in December, for which we were very grateful especially when he presented a cheque for £600. After receiving this very generous donation we contacted Single Source Supply, a local family run business to supply our self-designed strip. Within

a matter of days the Under 12's played their first game in their new Away strip. Without help from Honest John the boys wouldn't look so well presented, so we extend our gratitude with a very big THANK YOU from the entire team. Heighington AFC Boys are looking to recruit new players, and new coaching staff. If anybody is interested or requires further information please contact David Brassell on 07870 777779, or e-mail David.Brassell@hotmail.co.uk. Additionally, anybody looking to sponsor Heighington AFC Boys can also get in touch, we need local support.

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Football Team Reports from Moore Lane

The U7s played Bishop Auckland Aces, with a few players missing due to holidays. The first half was pretty even but in the second half we ended up conceding goals and losing the first friendly. In the second friendly Aycliffe played much better with both teams having good chances. Aycliffe won by scoring two goals. Men of the Match were: Connor Maitchell and Robbie Caygill. The Under 9's hosted Stockton Town Yellow at Sunnydale. Our visitors are a team we have enjoyed closely run games against over the last couple of seasons. The team lined up with Thomas in goal, Chloe, Harry at the back, Jake, Charlie, Jacob across midfield and Lucas up front. The first half was dominated by the home team but Stockton kept coming back and goals by Lucas and Jacob were matched by the visitors before Jake finished a good move for a 3-2 half time lead. The much strived for 2 goal lead came from Lucas' second goal early in the second half after a good ball from Zack, who was brought on at half time. Unfortunately the lead could not be held and Stockton levelled the game at 4-4. In the final moments Aycliffe pressed for a winner but it didn't quite come and ended in a draw.

U11's were away to Spraire with a few players unavailable and only one sub. The lads started well and attacked from the start, resulting in an early goal when Curtis played a great through ball to Jake, who with only the keeper to beat calmly placed the ball in the net. Spraire went on the attack after this keeping the Aycliffe defence under pressure for the remainder of the half and we were lucky to end 1-0 up. The 2nd half started at a fast pace with Spraire again testing our defence, who remained solid for

the first 10 minutes, then Spraire scored two in quick succession. After this we lost our shape and allowed Spraire to control the game. We had chances when we moved the ball about the pitch and used our wings to get forward; Dylan, Curtis and Jake all came close, but it wasn't our day. Spraire went on to score a further two to end the game 4-1. Man of the Match was awarded to Conlan who didn't put a foot wrong in defence the entire game. We are improving week after week, we just need to stay focused and remember our positioning. Well done everyone. U13's travelled to Guisborough looking for their 3rd win in a row. Short on numbers with only 12 lads available. We started brilliantly, playing great football and probably enjoying 80% of possession, so surely a matter of time before we scored, right? No, at half time, and not sure how, we were 3-0 down! The lads dug in and got a deserved

goal with Pattinson drilling home from 25 yds. Cayless came on with Lewis injured then Scott came off seeing Lewis 're-enter the game and the lads were awesome, getting a well deserved 2nd when Lawson bundled home from close range. We were now looking for an equaliser with 30 seconds left. Hynes broke free of the Guisborough defence to finish brilliantly 3-3 and the final whistle went! This was another fantastic team performance and more rewarding than a victory, showing so much spirit to battle back from 3-0 down. MOM went to Cameron Martin for his all out non stop effort.

The U14's played their 11th game of the season away to Guisboro. The home team took the lead within 5 minutes after poor defending from Aycliffe. We battled well to draw level on 24 minutes and then scored again with only seconds to go in the first half. The second half was end to end with both defences

playing well to prevent further goals, until Aycliffe was awarded a penalty with 15 to go. The penalty was converted putting the game beyond Guisboro and ensuring a well deserved 3 points to Aycliffe.

After several weeks without a game the Under 18s were back in action against Gateshead, a team who we met earlier in the season, losing 3-2. This time we were hoping for the result to be different and Gateshead showed up with only 9 men against our 11!

There was an adjustment in the back four due to an Aycliffe player falling ill. Aycliffe won the toss and elected to kick first, getting off to a rather slow start allowing passages of play from Gateshead. As the half went on Aycliffe began to get into the game exploiting the wide areas of the pitch with good play down the left side involving Card and Petroczy. Eventually the deadlock was

broken by Gateshead when we failed to clear our lines. This was the wake up call Aycliffe needed with a set piece down the left delivered by Card with plenty of pace. Fitzgerald got his head to the ball to draw Aycliffe level. Soon after we broke through, starting wide and cutting inside and Adam managed to slot past the keeper into the bottom left. Second half Gateshead played long balls up to their lone striker who was being marked out of the game and did not get many chances. Gateshead kept pushing hoping not to be caught on the counter, but this changed when the ball was played through to Taylor for him to slot home over the keeper to make it 3-1. Taylor then broke though with 15 minutes to go slotting past the goalkeeper, but this time being called offside. Full time result a 3-1 win for Aycliffe who have a free week next week. MOTM went to Howe for his outstanding work rate up the right hand side.

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