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## M.P. to Bring New Start Retailers to Town Centre

Newton Aycliffe town centre could soon be home to a whole host of new start up retailers selling anything from children's ware, handmade beauty products, to pet accessories and men's clothing.

A social enterprise based south of the region have been invited by the MP for Sedgefield Phil Wilson to develop a proposal based on the pilot scheme they ran on behalf of Stockton borough council which saw 54 new retail business started in a year in Stockton on Tees.

The proposal being developed will support first time retailers to try out a new business idea, by giving them support, mentoring, training and easy access retail space in Newton Aycliffe Town centre.

The town centre has undergone significant improvements over the last few years. The unsightly concrete ramp and oppressive

shop canopies have been removed and new paving, seating and a spiral staircase have been installed.

New retailers, including Aldi and Wilko's, have opened stores and existing businesses have been encouraged to expand. There are also other high street retailers who are negotiating space within the centre and a number of the retail units have now been taken. Last year the centre won an award for the most improved town centre.

Phil Wilson says "I was particularly impressed when I heard about the scheme in Stockton and how it had helped retail development in the borough. Business and enterprise is important to me, as is having a diverse and vibrant town centre. The town centre management have been working very hard to bring in new business and turn the town centre around over the last few years and the improvements have been tremendous. Now residents want more shops and I believe this scheme will complement the town centre's growing and forthcoming offer. It will also give local people the chance to try



out a new retail idea which could eventually become a livelihood for them. Supporting small and new business will be a priority for a forthcoming Labour government. It is important we have an economy that works for the many and as such these type of initiatives are welcomed"

The project is in early development stage but the idea is being welcomed by town councillors, residents and existing retailers.

Bryan Haladane from Freshwater said "The owners of Aycliffe Shopping Centre fully support will work closely with Phil Wilson and his team to promote this effort to bring new business offers into the town centre."

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Newton News have Easter Eggs to give away to TEN lucky winners of our Easter Competition. Watch out for next week's Easter issue of the Newton News for details of the FREE to enter competition. Closing date for entries will be Monday 13th April at 5pm. Winners will be published in the Newton News on Friday 17th April.

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## New Monthly Religious Meeting for Women

“Aglow International” Newton Aycliffe is hosting their first outreach event on Thursday 2nd April at 7pm at Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre. Aglow International have over 40 years experience in teaching, discipling and raising up godly women and effective leaders. Aglow International is an interdenominational group that supports women in their journey with God and their vision is to see ‘every nation touched, every heart changed’. This first event on Thursday 2nd April 2015 7pm will begin with a time of fellowship as we sit down together to enjoy a fresh homemade meal and refreshments which will cost £7.50 per person. The menu this month’s is: Mushroom Stroganoff (V), Beef Stroganoff, Beef Stir Fry served with rice or potatoes or half/half, peas, broccoli, cauliflower. Ploughman’s Salad. Booking is essential. Please contact Vicky 01325 491031 or 07582 734294 (please leave a message and we will call you back). Following the meal we will receive encouragement and inspiration from Aglow’s Area President Jennifer Nairns. We hope you can attend this month’s event but if not we will be holding a meeting on the first Thursday of every Month. Please do not forget to book your meal by 30th March 2015.

## Record Crowd at Rotary Model Railway Exhibition

The 6th Annual Model Railway Exhibition held at the Youth Centre, Burn Lane on Saturday 21st March was a huge success both in terms of the numbers of people through the door and the total of £2,500 raised for the Heel and Toe charity and Rotary charity funds. The event had 17 working layouts in scales from “n” to “1” representing periods from the mid 1920’s up to the present day, and modelling prototypes from as far away as Japan. Exhibitors came from as far South as Scarborough and as far North as Blyth. The seven trade stands did good business and the three



Preservation Society stands raised a lot of interest. The café did a roaring trade with emergency supplies of Bacon and bread rolls having to be rushed in as the day progressed. The new John Henry Jones Memorial Trophy for the best layout judged by the exhibitors was won by Colin Salmond from North Tyneside with his North Hetton Colliery layout, the trophy was presented by John’s widow Freda. John had been one of the original team organisers of this very popular event. The other new trophy “The People’s Choice” chosen by the public was won by the Shildon Model Railway Club with their “Welder’s Quay” layout.

### Easter Saturday Movie Treat

Enjoy the newly released movie ‘Paddington’ this Easter Saturday, April 4th, @ 2pm. Kidzflixs the cinema club based at St. Clare’s Church will be showing this family film about the comic little bear, looking for a new home after a deadly earthquake destroys his Peruvian home. We all remember this marmalade sandwich loving bear, so please come along for an Easter pocket friendly treat. There will be hot chocolate and cake on offer for 50p and also a sweet shop to buy your 50p mix-ups to enjoy during the film. To celebrate Easter, each child will be given a free ticket to have a chance at winning one of the many easter prizes on offer !These have been kindly donated by the Children’s Team. Doors open at 1.30pm for the best seats . The movie lasts 90 minutes and everyone is very welcome.

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**Friday 27th March - Day 1 of the Beer Festival**  
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**Saturday 28th March - Day 2 of the Beer Festival**  
**“This Machine”**

Gig-pit Review: “Well, I dont even know what to say, apart from . . . THIS MACHINE were absolutely amazing last night, one of the best, especially when the guitarists were on the tables and bar, haha! Every song was awesome, perfect sound and just all round excellence. It was the best atmosphere I’ve ever experienced, everyone was havin fun.”  
One of the most entertaining bands on the circuit, music by Motorhead, Van Halen, Metallica, Pearl Jam, Bon Jovi, Guns n Roses, Deep Purple, AC/DC, Billy Idol, Thin Lizzy.

**Sunday 29th March - Day 3 of the Beer Festival**  
**“Big Red & The Grinners”**

Where do you start trying to describe this band? If you’ve seen them, you’ll understand the problem. Maybe the best place to try to explain this phenomenon is from their beginning. They began as the brainchild of one of the band members, a seasoned player who had tired of a predictable and stale band scene in local bars and clubs. So, he set about finding some like-minded musicians who were willing to take a risk, be different and most of all, be unpredictable in the choice and style of songs. After putting together a band consisting of vocals, banjo, guitar, accordion, double bass and stand up snare and wah-wah washboard, a set was put together which featured influences ranging from Hayseed Dixie to serious American roots folk music. One of the unique features of this band, is how they appear to move seamlessly from the likes of an absurd version of Technotronic’s ‘Pump Up the Jam’ to Tony Rice’s bluegrass classic ‘Freeborn Man’, or from Jay Z’s ‘99 Problems’ to Kelly Joe Phelps masterpiece of folk ‘Window Grin’.

**Saturday 4th April - “Born Villains”**  
For more information on bands go to  
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## Pigeon Panic Over

Dear Sir,  
 Last Saturday the RSPCA received a call from a concerned member of public about pigeons trapped in a derelict building Churchill House and they could not escape.  
 We attended and also contacted the Fire Service, a cherry picker was used to assess the access to the building and we found that the pigeons can get in and out freely.  
 We received another call on Sunday but this time the member of public was going to use their own ladders to free the pigeons putting their own life at risk.  
 The RSPCA are aware of the pigeons and that they can access the building freely and that they are not trapped.  
 Mark Gent  
 (Chief Inspector)

# Residents' Association Contact County Council Over Removal of A167 Lights

**At the Public Meeting held on Thursday 19th March at St. Mary's Meeting Room at 7pm it was resolved unanimously that:**  
 This meeting supports the seven Great Aycliffe County Councillors in their efforts to retain the street lights along the A167 between the AIM and Rushyford on the grounds that the removals are contrary to agreed policy and this main arterial road cannot be categorised as "rural".  
 The meeting further expressed the view that the removal of lights would cause danger to road users, cyclists and pedestrians and does not take into consideration the current high usage and the future expansion of housing and industry this road will feed.  
**The Vice Chairman Ken**

**Robson was delegated to ask the following public questions at County Hall.**  
 The Great Aycliffe Public Meeting after hearing all the facts and figures, voted unanimously against the removal, and request the County Council consider rescinding their previous decision as the consultation process was deemed to be flawed.  
 It appears the decision to remove A167 lights was lost in the general policy to save on the cost of lighting.  
 It is only after it came to the notice of the general public how badly the A167 was being affected that the public outcry is now being heard by not only the residents of the Newton Aycliffe area. Other residents of settlements situated alongside the busy road are also beginning to express their displeasure at this decision. These settlements being Aycliffe village, Chilton, Ferryhill and Spennymoor.  
 Is the Council satisfied the policy change was understood and communicated properly to the general public?  
 How many members of the public were in fact consulted?  
 When Residents' Associations call for clarification do we not deserve attention with the officer and Cabinet Councillor, responsible for the topic, attending the meeting?  
 On investigation and having sight of the plans we seek clarification on the County Council's specific areas which they term "rural". Where they state lighting can be safely removed?  
 The following questions were asked by members of the Residents' Association:  
 As the A167 is a main arterial route through the County can

the Council please define rural areas along the A167?  
 Is this where there is no footfall?  
 Has the County Council discussed issues of Health & Safety, Road Accidents, dangers to cyclists and walkers plus potential increase in crime?  
 Why not turn off every other light?  
 Why not use alternative modern and much cheaper lighting to get the same monetary savings?  
 Why remove lampposts altogether?  
 If the AIM is closed at our junctions the A167 becomes the alternative route has this been considered?  
 The A167 is a main arterial route through the County carrying goods services and

workers between settlements and beyond. Would you agree that any disruption of traffic flow could have severe financial results on the local economy?  
 If statistics later show this to be highly dangerous and the wrong decision will the Council re-instate lampposts and is there a budget to cover this expense?  
 Is it not wrong when the "spotlight" is on Aycliffe Business Park as the biggest in our County and potentially the biggest industrial area in the north east to turn lights off to its approach?  
 What does this say to visitors and possible investors about Aycliffe Business Park?  
 Have risk assessments been carried out by the emergency services?</p></div>
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## Over 200 Take up Newton News Free Web Page Offer

Over 64 local businesses, 28 organisations and 119 shops have taken up the offer of a FREE page on the Newton News website.

These 200+ businesses and organisations have seen the benefit of a FREE page on the Newton News website, which is fast becoming a one stop shop for "everything Newton Aycliffe", from local taxi firms, public houses, job vacancies, takeaways, cottage industries and of course all the relevant local news.

The FREE page on the website shows all the information people may require to contact or visit the premises, as well as find out more information via a link to their own website, Facebook account, Twitter feed and LinkedIn pages. The businesses also have a contact name and the FREE page gives the opportunity for a description about the business/organisation as well as room for photographs and logos.

For multi-national and large businesses on the Aycliffe Business Park this is a great way for them to join the local community where they are based, to interact and share information.

To add your company or organisation to this ever growing list, visit the website, under the Local Business tab click "FREE Page for DL5 Businesses" - if you are an organisation or club the same applies - under the Organisations tab, click "Register Your Organisation Here - FREE".

For anyone who would like to view the current list of businesses on the Newton News website, under the Local Business tab click "DL5 Business Directory". Once in the directory, choose your category and select the business you would like to view. Clicking on a name of the business will open up the FREE page with the information supplied by the business.

The same applies to any visitor wanting a list of local organisations and clubs; under the Organisations tab, click

"Local Organisations". For more information about this incredible offer contact [paul@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:paul@newtonnews.co.uk)

## Use Empty Shop as New Home for Cubby

Dear Editor  
 Why can't they be offered one of the (many) empty shops in the centre, rent free - imagine the extra footfall in the centre, not just to Honest John but to the other shops too?  
 I don't know what bills they have to cover while in the Cubby, but if their outgoings could remain the same that would be more than ideal!

It has been mentioned that the Library is to be re-sited near the Leisure Centre - why can't the current Library be given to Honest John and the Cubby when the Library becomes empty? It would be a good use of the empty building with the bonus of car parking on site!

If Honest John and the Cubby were to close down altogether, so many people would be affected, and disappointed at this. Honest John has done so much, giving his own time free, and donated so much too so it is time that he was given something in return.  
 So, come on Freshwater - put your hand in your pocket and give something back to our community!  
 JEP Heighington  
 Editor:

*Common sense would dictate using the old Library for the Cubby, Honest John and other community uses, but the building belongs to another department and we understand the County Council pay a ground rent of around £40,000 per annum to Freshwaters, the town centre landlords.  
 Add this to the £350,000 the building cost and we begin to see why the Council needs to make savings. We said at the time it would have been cheaper to convert a large town centre shop like Woolworths, taken on a short term lease.*

**NEWTON NEWS**  **Newton Press**  
**Easter Deadline**  
 Thursday 2nd April - Easter Issue  
 Deadline: 5pm Tuesday 31st March  
 Friday 10th April - Back to Normal  
 Deadline: 5pm Wednesday 8th April  
 Please be aware of the opening times below and deadline times above to ensure your advert is placed on time and in the correct issue  
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## Fun Easter Entertainment

The "New Friends New Places Club" invite you to an afternoon of entertainment by fabulous singing artiste Shirley Mac on Tues. 31st March from 2pm until 4pm. Venue Navy Club Burnhill Way, Newton Aycliffe (opposite the Stephenson Way Cemetery ) admission £3.00. The bar will be open. Come along start your Easter hols with a good session of dancing and singing For further details ring 01325 308094.

## Must We Resort to Personal Attacks?

Dear Sir, Alderman George Gray's letter which defended himself against the previous vitriolic attack by Labour Councillor Eddy Adams is quite understandable as anyone has the right to correct misconceptions, errors and misleading statements particularly when they are made about themselves. We have, of course, seen similar personalised attacks of this nature before in the columns of Newton News and there have been letters suggesting a "banging together of Town Councillor

heads" from residents but our Councillors appear to have ignored these pleas for reasoned debate of the issues rather than personal vilification of Councillors. It seems to me that far too many of our Town Councillors are incapable of any rational or informed debate about almost any topic without resorting to slugging off one another, often through the columns of the Newton News. Time and again the issues seem to get forgotten and the personality clashes rise to the surface.

Town Councillors must understand they represent ALL of the residents of this town first and foremost and that includes the minority opinions and viewpoints. However, our Labour Party dominated Council seems to have forgotten that point and has over the last few years become something of a "clique" that will dismiss summarily any viewpoint that our independent or other Party Councillors may have. In other words, Labour does not listen.

I can well understand that it must be exasperating in the extreme for the non Labour party Council members who attend Council meetings to know that no matter what they may say or propose, the huge Labour majority renders their views irrelevant as the Labour view will always prevail even when it may not be best for our town.

The solution for us all is clear - At the next Council elections, we, the residents of Newton Aycliffe, must change the local political landscape and elect Town Councillors who will really put the interests of our town before the interests of their own political parties.

Dare I suggest we all consider voting for more Independents with no particular political affiliations but who have the interests of the town at heart? I fear this will not happen and we will continue to see the ruling Labour clique dictating affairs. Wouldn't it be nice though to see their majority slashed from our Town Council so that our Labour Councillors have to start listening to other viewpoints and even perhaps co-operating and talking to other party members? A coalition run Town Council, now there is a thought!  
V Crichton.

## EYESORE REMOVED



before



after

West Ward Councillors Eddy Adam and Kate Hopper have used the availability of Section 106 monies to remove and improve the environmental status of their ward.

In years gone by Arncliffe/Askrigg Place had a small lake with a viewing platform where residents enjoyed the abundance of wildlife that it attracted.

Sadly the lake was filled in and the platform became a target for vandals, subsequently the area had become an environmental eyesore.

The vandalised platform has now been removed the grass area reseeded, a seat and a bin installed. The area has now been returned to a relaxing and enjoyable place where

residents can once again take in the beautiful views across the Burn.

If residents of West Ward have an area of environmental blight please get in touch to discuss opportunities for future improvement. Cllr Eddy Adam 07900 701966; Cllr Kate Hopper: 07900 702365.

## Something for Everyone at the Scout Centre

A number of events are planned in April at the Scout Centre. The first will be a domino and pool handicap this will start on Saturday 4 April at approximately 2pm and run throughout the weekend. With free drinks and cash for the winners. Also this weekend will see the Easter Raffle, lots of lovely eggs will be waiting to be won. We also hope to be able to have a BBQ but this, as always, will depend on the weather.

We are holding the very popular Family Disco on 11 April. All are welcome to come along and enjoy the fun with KDO Disco providing the music and games for the younger members of the family. Tickets are only £2 and under three's are free.

On a more serious subject but one equally important the AGM is on the 28 April at 7.00pm, note this is a Tuesday evening not a Wednesday as usual. Members should be there before 7pm and this will be an opportunity for you to hear what's been happening and have your say. You will also be able to renew your membership on the night.

A little peek at May and it is hoped we can hold an Irish Night with a great local and very popular Ceilidh band to get you singing and dancing - more about this later.

If you are interested in coming to any of these events please call the centre 01325 318901 or call in to see us

## Situations VACANT

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Darlington North  
Newton Park

Great Aycliffe Town Council



### Appointment of Temporary Part Time Catering Assistant

Spinal Scale - Point 6-8 (£7.08-£7.21 per hour)  
(Approx. 6 months) - 21 hours per week  
Post No LB03 (Temporary)

Applications are invited for the above post which forms part of the team within the Oak Leaf Sports Complex. There is the possibility that this post may become permanent in the future.

The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 4 GCSE's, or equivalent, including English and Mathematics, together with previous experience of working within a catering environment. The post holders will work on a shift rota.

For further details or an informal discussion about the post, please contact the Leisure Manager Judith Thexton on 01325 300600 or by e-mail: [judith.thexton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:judith.thexton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

Closing Date for Applications:  
Noon on Friday 10th April 2015

Please note interviews will take place on Wednesday 15th April 2015. Application packs can be obtained by telephoning 01325 300700  
E-mail: [info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk)  
or from the Council website:  
[www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

Great Aycliffe Town Council



### Appointment of Casual Staff

Spinal Scale - Point 5 (£7.02 per hour)

Applications are invited for the above post which forms part of the team within the Oak Leaf Sports Complex. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 4 GCSE's, or equivalent, including English and Mathematics, together with previous experience of working within a customer care environment.

The post holders will be required to work as and when required. This post will require a Disclosure and Barring Service Enhanced check. The post holder must be 18 years or over, due to being required to work in licenced areas.

For further details or an informal discussion about the post, please contact the Leisure Manager Judith Thexton on 01325 300600 or by e-mail: [judith.thexton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:judith.thexton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

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E-mail: [info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk)  
or from the Council website:  
[www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

## Free Family Fun Day

The Horndale Residents Association, working in partnership with Newton Aycliffe Evangelical Church are holding a free Family Fun Day on Saturday 4th April 1pm-3pm at the Church Hall, Ladybower.

There will be face painting, egg decorating, balloon modelling, games, refreshments and hot cross buns, all this free, so why not join us and enjoy a fantastic afternoon.

Our next meeting is 1st April starting at 6pm with refreshments at 5.45pm held at the Evangelical Church Ladybower.

Our guest speaker is Allison White who runs Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group; she will talk about the work and help the group offers to those affected by cancer. I am sure this will be a very informative talk so please come along. We will also be discussing our Free Easter Fun Day. Philip Clark  
Chairman 07886 204199

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# Aycliffe Home Needs Your Vote for Beamish Project



Two homes owned by homes and communities business 'livin' are through to the final voting stages of Beamish Museum's 'Replicate my 1950's Semi' campaign. As part of the competition the museum offered

North East residents the chance to have their semi-detached houses replicated in a new 1950's town that is planned at the attraction as part of the Remaking Beamish Project. The homes of Alan and Jennie Pybus from

Newton Aycliffe and Mrs Stirling from Fishburn Village were entered and shortlisted for the project and will now be part of a public vote to decide whether their properties will be part of the town being rebuilt.

Mr and Mrs Pybus, moved into their four bedroom property in 1974 due to their growing family. With plans to demolish the house in the late 1970's cancelled, Alan and Jennie have seen their home modernised with new uPVC windows and a new roof and believe their home has stood the test of time.

Rachael Swales, Head of Communities for livin, said: "We're delighted two of our homes have made it through to the final of the competition. Each home has its own unique story and is well loved by our tenants. We're urging everyone to go online and vote and hopefully we'll see a piece of our local community recreated at Beamish."

The public is invited to go online and vote for their favourite properties at [www.beamish.org.uk](http://www.beamish.org.uk) or in person at Beamish Museum.

The residents will find out whether their homes have been chosen to be included in the 1950's town along with a parade of shops, police house, café, cinema and even a trolleybus system, on Wednesday 1st April.

# Woodham Academy Talent Show

Students from Woodham Academy were in top form last Tuesday evening when the finalists battled it out to be Woodham's Got Talent winners 2015. A near capacity hall was entertained by superb music and dance.

The evening kicked off with the Woodham Academy Jazz band in their own unique version of Pharrell Williams' Happy. Compering the evening was Y7 student Jessica Cherrie. The audience enjoyed dances by Daniel Wilkinson and Katie Leadbitter, Joanne Cunliffe and Jordan Goodwin, Lauren Lindsley and Catherine Milburn, Hannah Tarn, Amy Corking, Shakira Palmer and Abbie Kennedy.

There was excellent singing from Megan Harrison, Christie Brayley, Millie Robson, Meghan Cumming, Zoe Wheeler and Charlotte McAdam.

Saxophonist, Charlotte Kirton, pianist Zoe Barnett and rock band Broadcast Anarchy then entertained us with pop songs. The audience then were treated to a St Patrick's Day extravaganza by members of



staff at Woodham Academy. The judges returned with their verdict on a terrific night. Mike Summers, Durham County's Lead Inspector for Music, told the students and audience they should be very proud of their achievements and high quality performances. The judges had a difficult task but came to a decision.

Year 8 student Kira Watson was

awarded runner up dancer and Y11 pianist Sam Gittins runner up musician. Daniel Wilkinson was named Dance winner following a terrific solo dance. The night was finished off with the announcement of the winning music act and overall competition winners Hannah Bussey and Victoria Witton.

Their acoustic version of the Passenger song 'Let Her

Go' was a worthy champion! Following on from their victory Hannah and Victoria have been approached by Star Radio to perform in live shows and the pair have already been booked up for a Durham Schools' Live concert later in the year. If you would like to see some of the acts return to stage put July 9th in your diary for the Woodham Academy Summer Concert.

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## Parish Easter Services

Sunday March 29th - Palm Sunday  
Parish Service at St Clare's 10am

Monday 30th March - Healing Service  
at St Andrew's 7pm

Wednesday 1st April - Souper Lunch  
St Elizabeth's at 12.30pm

Wednesday 1st April - Passover Meal  
St Elizabeth's at 7pm

Thursday 2nd April Maundy Thursday  
Parish Eucharist with Stripping of the Altar  
at St Clare's 7pm

Good Friday 3rd April - Vigil Services  
An Hour at the Cross at St Andrew's 1pm  
An Hour at the Cross at St Clare's 2.30pm

Stations of the Cross at St Elizabeth's 3.00pm  
Holy Saturday 4th April

Coffee Morning at St Elizabeth's 10am  
Easter Day Sunday 5th April - Dawn Service  
at St Clare's 6am followed by Parish Breakfast

St Elizabeth's Holy Communion 9.30am  
St Clare's Family Service 10am  
St Andrew's Holy Communion 11am

## Councillors Impressed by Aycliffe ROF Memorial Plans

Six of Newton Aycliffe's Durham County Councillors - Jed Hillary, John Clare, Kate Hopper, Eddy Adam, Joan Gray and Mike Dixon - visited the former Presswork Metals factory, which is being turned into a mixed-use leisure facility by local family construction firm Finley Structures.

The company's Managing Director Julie Finley showed them ambitious plans to preserve the heritage and memory of the Aycliffe Angels, who worked at the Royal Ordnance Factory during World War II. Finley Structures will name the complex ROF 59, Much of the original brickwork as well as some

of the 1960s Presswork Metals building has been preserved, with the 21st Century steelwork creating a palimpsest effect of building through the ages.

Staff working at the new ROF 59 will wear overalls, like the Aycliffe Angels. Part of an old railway line, used to transport the munitions which was uncovered during foundation works, will be incorporated into other memorabilia features and archive photographs.

Cllr Hillary revealed how his parents - Bob and Millie Hillary - met in Aycliffe after working there during hostilities.

"It's really quite amazing," he said. "My mother and father actually met in School Aycliffe during the war, my father was stationed here with the Army guarding the place and my Mum worked here in the Ordnance Factory.

"We're steeped in history, but this area, where the Royal Ordnance Factory is an important place in the history

of the country. It provided munitions during the Second World War and to actually commemorate this is really important. I don't think people realise just how big a footprint the Royal Ordnance Factory had. There are still bunkers at the other end of where Hitachi is now, and some of the old munitions factories stretch down to St Cuthbert's Way.

Cllr Clare, well known in Aycliffe as a former History teacher at Greenfield School, said: "Just looking at the building you can see history growing before your very eyes, beginning with the roofline of the Royal Ordnance Factory walls. Above that you have a brick wall from the 50s or 60s and above that you have the 21st Century steelwork - is that not exciting?"

"It started off making bombs followed by post-war new town aims and the Presswork Metals factory, and now it is to be a leisure facility. Projects like this are integral to the success of Aycliffe Business Park"



Julie (left) and Gary Finley (right), from Finley Structures show Durham County Councillors Jed Hillary, John Clare, Kate Hopper, Eddy Adam, Joan Gray and Mike Dixon their plans to create a permanent memorial to the Aycliffe Angels within their reconstruction of the former ROF factory soon to be open to provide a new leisure facility for Aycliffe..

## Residents' Association Receive £9,465 Grant

Popular community group ACORN are thrilled to report that the Big Lottery Fund "Awards for All" scheme have kindly awarded a grant of £9,465 to "Build A Better Community" carry out events and trips for the local community and provide a meeting place where residents can come for advice or just a bit of good chat.

Of course ACORN are about much more than just entertainment, part of the work that we do is lobbying to improve the environment and infrastructure of our part of Newton Aycliffe and problem solving in the community.

ACORN can now announce that the group have been successful in securing funding of £500 from Durham County Council which will be used for the provision of flower tubs in the area.

April 7th sees the return of the eagerly anticipated Little ACORNS Petting Zoo in Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre featuring all manner of critters, face painting, balloons, inflatable bouncy castle, tombola, stalls and demonstrations from K9 pursuits Jet and Ben etc.

April 26th will also see the highly popular coach trip to

Whitby for the annual Goth Festival

How do you find out more about these events? Come along to the ACORN monthly meeting on the 9th of April at the Royal British Legion club 5.30 for the youth group little ACORNS or 6pm for the ACORN meeting.

Special guest speaker for the April meeting will be Ron Hogg our Police and Crime Commissioner, Ron is very people friendly and is always happy to engage with the public. Coming at a time when our old police station is being demolished it may well be a topical discussion.

As a group which incorporates Neighbourhood Watch and the Little Acorns section ACORN welcome the public to come along, join in the fun and try to influence improvements wherever we can.

The April 9th meeting will also be eventful as our third AGM. So if you want to come along to participate in the community activities or just have a coffee and observe, please feel welcome.

Ken Robson Chairman  
ACORN Residents Association  
01325 321471

## Fundraising for Panto



Anne Harland and Jan Woodhouse founder members of Acorn Players held a Book Stall recently to raise funds for the group and will be out again on Saturday 28th March in the Thames Centre. The November Panto will now be "Sleeping Beauty" and not as previously advertised.

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## GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 8th April 2015

Environment Committee  
Recreation Committee  
7.15pm

### QUESTION TIME

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

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

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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

# Partnership Backs Big Spring Clean Newton Aycliffe Mayor at Parade

Members of the County Durham Environment Partnership are backing the Big Spring Clean - and are calling on residents and community groups to follow suit.

The campaign, which was launched earlier this month (March) and runs until 18 April, involves a series of community litter picks at various locations around the county and in Darlington.

In the first fortnight alone, 13 clean-up sessions have taken place and 109 volunteers have collected 106 bags of rubbish.

Now the County Durham Environment Partnership, whose mission is to work together to make the county 'altogether greener', is showing its support for the campaign and is urging others to do the same.

Terry Collins, chairman of the partnership, said: "The Big Spring Clean is a great example of residents, community groups

and schools coming together to help enhance our towns, villages, public spaces and countryside.

"The amount of volunteers who have already taken part, and the number who are registered, is testament to how important a clean and litter-free environment is to us all and we would encourage even more people to lend a hand.

"As a partnership, we support a range of events and campaigns like the Big Spring Clean to make the county altogether greener and we will continue to focus on the problem of litter to mark this year's World Environment Day in June."

The Big Spring Clean is run by LitterFree Durham, Durham County Council's Civic Pride team and Darlington Borough Council.

For more information call 03000 261 000 or visit [www.durham.gov.uk/bigspringclean](http://www.durham.gov.uk/bigspringclean)



Our Mayor Wendy Hillary and her husband Jed joined Darlington Mayor Gerald Lee and his wife Ruth at Hartlepool on Saturday, 21st March at a military parade in the town. This followed a ceremony granting the Freedom of the Borough of Hartlepool to the Rifles Regiment.

The Band and Bugles of The Rifles played in Victory Square followed by an inspection and a formal parade around the town.



## Pyjama Red Nose Day



Back row: Chloe Iadbury, Craig Taylor, Fiona Henderson. Middle: Joanne Strain. Front: Elly Devenport, Paige Dixon, Hayley Slee, Naomi Eltringham

The staff at "The Worx" hairdressers at Cobblers Hall baked cakes to sell to clients and local businesses for a small donation to Comic Relief.

The staff dressed up in their Pyjamas all day and offered face painting to the little

ones! "We were all delighted to take part in such an amazing cause and would like to thank everyone for all their kind donations which raised an excellent £138 which has been banked with gift aid," said Naomi.

## Vane Road School's Cracking Creativity



Pupils from Vane Road Primary were encouraged to display their creative skills and decorate an egg for their Easter Egg Competition. They enjoyed an artistic afternoon demonstrating their abilities by working alongside classmates. Each of the children individually produced their personal exhibit for the competition, which was judged by the teaching staff on Monday 23rd March.

Mr Pavey, Head Teacher, presented all winners with a prize of a chocolate egg. Congratulations to everyone.

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## WWF Event at Brafferton Village Hall

Each year the World Wildlife Fund hold a global environmental awareness event called Earth Hour which asks members of the public, organisations, governments etc to take part in a big electricity switch off for an hour on the day of Earth Hour. We will be holding this community event on the evening of Saturday 28th

March at Brafferton Village Hall from 6.30 - 8pm with our Earth Hour being 7 - 8pm. Sunset is 6.28pm that night so it should be dark and children can come in onesies/pjs with facepaints (both optional) and bring their favourite stuffed animal toy for a picnic. There will be a general welcome with candle lantern making until lights off at 7pm for each child to use during

## Easter Bin Collections

the lights out. Activities around the hall. To include stuffed animal, picnic, hot chocolate and marshmallows, supper treats. There will be a Silver decorated tree and children can add their own wishes for the planet as a star decoration making their own stars to shine on the walls with torches.

Animal play section, with colouring for the children to draw animal shadows, sea creature section with shallow shower tray of sand, dinosaurs, with play dough to make footprint "fossils"

- Planet Quiz based on animals and nature
  - Reading Corner
  - Recycled Art Corner (making art from recycling)
  - Little Seed Heads to make and take home
- People need to bring: Torch/candles, Grown up drinks. A plate of your favourite supper treats to share at our indoor stuffed animal picnic (cookies, cake etc). Charge is a 'suggested donation' of £2 per family.

Bin collections will not be affected during the Easter Bank Holiday period. Residents can put their bins out on their normal collection day. Households which have collections on a Friday are reminded to put their bins out when they usually would as collections will still be taking place on Good Friday (April 3rd).

This includes refuse, recycling and garden waste collections (for those who have signed up to the scheme). Bins should be put out ready for collection by 7am on the allocated day. People can find out their collection days by entering their house number and postcode into the 'MyDurham' search box on the Durham County Council website at [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk) For more information please visit [www.durham.gov.uk/bincollections](http://www.durham.gov.uk/bincollections) and to subscribe to the garden waste scheme visit [www.durham.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.durham.gov.uk/gardenwaste) or call 03000 261 000.

## Ebac's Dynamism Recognised in Prestigious Business Report

Ebac Holdings Limited, the parent company of the Ebac Group, has been recognised as one of the 'fastest-growing and most dynamic businesses' in the UK.

The company is named in the landmark business report '1000 Companies to Inspire Britain'. The London Stock Exchange has identified 1,000 of the UK's most notable small and medium-sized enterprises for the publication.

Ebac, already an established manufacturer of dehumidifiers and water coolers, aims to double its 200-strong workforce as it expands its product range, having started producing Norfrost Chest Freezers at its premises in Newton Aycliffe, County Durham. Ebac will become the UK's only manufacturer of washing machines in the next few months, having invested £7million and many years of research and development into the new products.

'1000 Companies to Inspire Britain' is an annual celebration of some of the fastest-growing and most dynamic small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the UK. As well as



Pamela Petty

identifying 1,000 companies, the annual report examines in detail the opportunities and challenges facing SMEs and looks at the sectors and trends that will shape the future of the UK economy.

Pamela Petty, managing director of Ebac, said: "As an innovative and forward-thinking business it is very satisfying to be recognised in this way. "Ebac has ambitious growth plans and the move into chest freezers and washing machines demonstrates our commitment to British manufacturing and the contribution it makes to both the regional and national economy."

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## SHEENA STARTS KNITTING CRAZE FOR BABIES IN NEED



Sheena Stephenson really started something when she began to knit for Helping Hands 'Baby Basics' Friends started to ask her if they could help as well and before long she was given baby clothes and blankets from all over the town.

Sheena said, "It is amazing that there are lots of people willing to donate knitted or crocheted blankets, cardigans and matinee jackets. These will go into the "Baby Basic Packages" and will help keep babies warm. We will be very grateful for any further donations, as they will help lots of babies in Aycliffe and surrounding areas.

We are looking for creative people who can knit soft toys too. Please ring the Helping Hands charity number 07936 431262 if you'd like to get involved.

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47 West Auckland Road, Cockerton, Darlington, DL3 9EL T: 01325 489684



# Great Aycliffe Town Council

Council Offices - School Aycliffe Lane - Newton Aycliffe - Co. Durham DL5 6QF

Telephone: 01325 300700 • Fax: 01325 301053

Email: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk • Website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk



27th March 2015

## Aycliffe Festival

The concept of the Festival is to involve as many local groups, businesses and voluntary organisations as possible, encouraging them to organise an 'event' within the time-frame of the Festival and this has definitely happened!



So far, the events organised by the local community seem to be providing a wide variety of experiences and activities for children and adults throughout the Parish.

Currently, there are over 40 events scheduled to take place over the Festival period, Friday



3rd July until Sunday 12th July. We are still looking to make the Festival a huge success and will be taking applications from anyone who would like to organise something for the Festival. It doesn't have to be something the size of Glastonbury, it can be something really simple that would appeal to the

people of Aycliffe.

Even if your organisation doesn't need a grant, you can still benefit from our advertising campaign by letting us know when it is on as long as it is in the Festival period.

Any event will be considered, large or small, indoor or outdoor but it must be held in the Festival period in Aycliffe. If you are thinking about organising an event or just want to talk it through with us, contact Marie Robinson on 01325 300700 or festival@great-aycliffe.gov.uk.

The closing date for applications is Tuesday 31st March 2015, however, if you don't have your form completed by that date and you would like to stage an event please get in touch with us.



## MAYOR'S CHARITY CIVIC DINNER

The Annual Mayor's Charity Civic Ball was hosted by the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Wendy Hillary, on Friday, 20th February 2015 at Redworth Hall Hotel. Entertainment was provided by Dave Lynn with dancing provided by John Melvin.

The fund raising at the event was in aid of the Mayor's nominated Charities during her Year in Office and this year the Mayor has chosen Cruse Bereavement Care and County Durham School Benevolent Fund.

A special thanks must go to Barclays Bank who match funded the evening's fund raising when a total amount of £2,131.38 was made for the charities.

Mrs. Denese Cartwright, Vice-President of the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe gave an excellent response to the Mayor on behalf of the guests.

Councillor Mrs. Hillary would like to take this opportunity to thank Ebac (Norfrost) Ltd. for supplying a Chest Freezer to be raffled along with a voucher for meals from Redworth Hall. The Mayor thanked fellow Councillors and friends who have supported her during the year by donating gifts for the fund raising.



## Aycliffe Youth Council Start Aycliffe Festival with a Bang!

On Friday 3rd July, 10am until 2pm at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex there will be a range of amazing STEM activities for you to take part in.

The Full STEM Ahead is a really 'cool', or possibly 'hot', event with a Scientific, Technology, Engineering and Mathematical theme, yes it does sound boring, but read on!

Confirmed activities, so far are:-

**John Kilcoyne** (man in a shed, Brainiac) will give one of his Science shows – be amazed by science.

**Do you think you have nerves of steel?** Why not try and defuse a 6 foot exploding device! This aims to simulate the stresses and strains soldiers are put under when defusing explosive devices in the world's trouble-spots.

Recruits have just two minutes to make the device safe. If you cut the correct wire then it plays a tune; if you cut the wrong one, or run out of time, then it sounds a claxon and flashes a light.

**Test your skills with water tank ROVs** and navigate obstacles within the tank.

**There will be Formula 1 car(s)**, hopefully, including some that schools have designed and built themselves; a hand operated scalextrics racing track; robots / robot wars area; a range of motor bikes and additional bodywork (from a project with Daley Mathison, superbike rider).

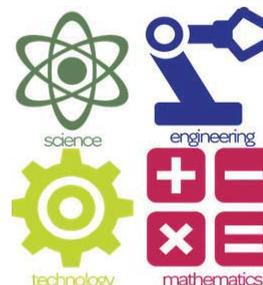
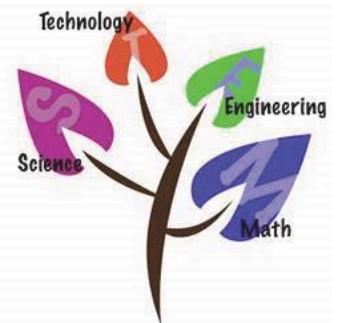
**Solve the crime** by using information within the crime scene.

Test your knowledge and win a prize with one of our challenges. A number of local companies will also be providing hands-on activities for you to try and there will be further information available if you are interested in pursuing a career in these areas.

The Youth Council are still working with companies and colleges to provide additional activities.

Amy Clements, Treasurer of Newton Aycliffe Youth Council said:-

“Aycliffe Youth Council, as a community of young people, is aware that not much is known about the STEM world. We are looking



to change that in our July event and one of our top priorities is getting younger people involved and educated, even those as young as Primary school, but of course we'll keep it very fun! With our exciting event, we want to teach everyone in the community that STEM is an alternative and incredible career opportunity.”

## 2015/16 Revenue and Capital Budget

**“Funding cuts and spending pressures leave the Town Council with no choice but to increase the Council Tax next year”**

The Town Council has recently set its 2015/16 Revenue and Capital Budget. The Council's finances are currently in a strong position and in the short term the outlook remains fairly positive with a balanced budget in place, savings continuing to be achieved in the current financial year, and healthy levels of reserves.

As a result, the Council will not need to make any reductions to services next year and the 2015/16 Revenue Budget was therefore prepared in a way that maintains existing levels of service.

However, the Council must also keep a close eye on what is likely to be an increasingly challenging future, and plan ahead now for the difficulties that lie ahead.

The Council is currently reliant on Council Tax Support Grant funding paid by the Government, via Durham County Council, of over a quarter of a million pounds and which amounts to nearly 20% of its Revenue Budget. It has been confirmed that this funding will be cut in the coming years by between 10% and 15% a year, and there remains a risk that it could be withdrawn altogether.

The Council is also facing a number of significant spending pressures including the increasing move towards the payment of a 'living wage' for council staff, increases in employers' national insurance costs from 2016, and possible further devolution of services from Durham County Council. Unfortunately, in order to maintain services, and absorb the cuts to funding and increases in costs faced over the longer term, the Council was left with no choice but to make a small increase of 1.98% in the Town Council Tax next year.

The increase enabled the Council to offset the additional costs of the recently agreed local government pay award, the cut to the Council Tax Support Grant, and a significant fall in pre-school funding income next year, whilst maintaining some surplus resources within the Revenue Budget via the contingency sum and contribution to capital reserves to meet the significant future budget pressures faced.

This decision has not been taken lightly, particularly in light of the on-going cost of living difficulties being faced by local residents, and following on from the four year freeze in council tax delivered by the Council between 2010 and 2013.

However, by agreeing, in principle to limit the proposed rise to less than 2% next year, the increase in the Town Council Tax Bill at Valuation Band A has been limited to less than £3 per year or 5p per week.

This increase will ensure that all of the important services provided by the Town Council to the community of Great Aycliffe can be protected and maintained for at least another year.

*Councillor Bob Fleming*

*Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee and Leader of the Council*

## MAYOR'S CHARITY CABARET NIGHT

The Mayor of Great Aycliffe will be holding a Cabaret Night at the Royal British Legion Club on Thursday, 16th April 2015 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

The event will be in aid of her nominated charities:- Cruse Bereavement Care and County Durham School Benevolent Fund.

Tickets are £5 each and will be on sale from the Council Offices and the Royal British Legion. The evening will host two cabaret artistes, pie and peas and a bingo session. A fund raising raffle will also take place in aid of the charities.

Tickets are limited and will be on sale on a first come first served basis.



## EASTER HALF TERM EVENTS

Great Aycliffe Town Council will again be offering a range of free public family events to keep families entertained over the school holidays.

### RUBBER DUCK RACE

The annual Woodham Burn rubber duck race will be taking place this Easter. This fun family event takes place along a stretch of Woodburn starting from the bridge at Humphrey Close and is suitable for children of all ages. Parental supervision is essential. The event is subject to suitable water levels and so it is suggested that you contact Great Aycliffe Town Council or keep updated on Aycliffe Moore Lane Eco Centre page on Facebook prior to the event. **The event is scheduled to take place on Friday, 10th April commencing at 10am;** anyone wishing to take place should meet at the footbridge which crosses the Burn near Humphrey Close.



### POND DIPPING

Pond Dipping has long been one of the most popular events in Aycliffe. This activity will take place at Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve. The ponds here are a little hidden gem that team with life. During our last visit there was an abundance of dragonfly nymph's but the star prize went to a huge water scorpion. **Come along on Sunday 12th April at 10am – 11.30am to see what we can find this time.**



## SENIOR CITIZENS' EXCURSIONS

The Senior Citizens' Excursions are one of the most popular events organised by Great Aycliffe Town Council. Each year, we organise a series of free excursions for the senior citizens (men or women aged 60 years or over) who live in our Parish. This year the Excursions will start on Monday 1st June and finish on Friday 3rd July.

The application forms and information booklets will be available from Tuesday 21st April until Wednesday 6th May from the Council Offices, Oakleaf Sports Complex, Recreation Centre (Beveridge Way) and the Library in the Town centre.

This year, residents have the choice of visiting the Lake District (Keswick), Northumberland (Hexham), Scottish Borders (Berwick), Scarborough, Blackpool or South Shields for the day with a three course meal and tea or coffee provided in a good quality venue, most with disabled facilities.

Some of the excursions have comfort breaks where tea or coffee with biscuits is provided by the Council.

The coaches provided are 49-53 seater executive coaches with toilet facilities. There is also a 53 seater executive coach with a wheelchair hoist to each destination. This ensures that even people with severe mobility problems can enjoy a day out. The hoist can be used to assist passengers who need to travel in their wheelchair, but may be used by anyone without mobility difficulties.

Each person who qualifies is entitled to one 'trip'. To qualify you must be aged 60 or over and must have lived in the electoral parish by 1st April 2015.

In 2014, we received 1337 applications so please make sure you apply in time to get the excursion date you would like. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 6th May 2015.



## PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRES

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Providing high quality care and education where every child feels safe, is happy and has fun in a safe and secure learning environment.

We provide full and part time places for children from their 3rd birthday and Nursery Educational Funded places are available the term after a child's 3rd birthday.

Until funding is available the cost is only £3.50 for a 3 hour session.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is used to plan and provide a range of play activities which help children to make progress in each of the areas of learning and development.

All children have access to the indoor and outdoor facilities throughout the day.

**For further information please contact Jackie Swainston on 01325 319880**

or visit our web site at

[www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/pre-schools](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/pre-schools)



## Neighbourhood Plan Update

The County Durham Plan (CDP) Planning Inspector Harold Stephens has said the Durham County Council's 20-year economic blueprint, the County Durham Plan (CDP), contains proposals which are unrealistic, flawed, not justified, deliverable or environmentally acceptable and unsound. However, after reading the full report it is clear that the comments are made predominantly regarding the Durham City area and the housing allocation as well as the Drum Industrial estate and the employment allocations.



### What implication will this have on the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan?

Although this means the CDP is currently suspended work will continue on the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan (GANP). It has meant that we have taken a step back and reviewed our progress so far to ensure that the work we have done, and will continue to do, is 'sound', 'realistic', 'achievable and deliverable' as well as 'environmentally acceptable'. This review may lead to a few minor changes for the GANP but we are not anticipating any major implications.

The first round of consultation has been complete and feedback is taking place. The Environment Thematic Group has been set up and will review the general comments made to ensure there are no gaps, nothing has been missed and will investigate



options to achieve deliverable planning policies. A Housing Thematic Group will be set up in approximately six weeks, which will complete the same processes.

Officers are currently trying to engage a company to undertake a soft retail assessment to clarify the difference between what residents have said they want during the consultation process and if there is an actual retail need from a business perspective. Unfortunately, to date, there has been no interest from the companies which have been contacted so far.

We will continue to keep you up to date with progress though our newsletter, the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan Facebook page, Newton News, Aycliffe Today and public meetings.

Once again the Neighbourhood Plan Team would like to thank everyone who has contributed so far to this vitally important piece of work and we ask that anyone who has any comments to make to contact Angela Corner 01325 300700 or [angela.corner@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:angela.corner@great-aycliffe.gov.uk) or leave a post on our Facebook page.

## MEMBERSHIP OF AYCLIFFE YOUTH COUNCIL 2014-2015

Aycliffe Youth Council have a small pot of money available to give grants to local youth or children's groups within the Great Aycliffe area.

### AYCLIFFE YOUTH COUNCIL - GRANTS AWARDED

Aycliffe Youth Council have given small grants to:-

- 1407 (NA) Squadron ATS • ACLE Scouts • WECAN Parents group
- The Woodham Gold & Country Club Junior section

If you would like to apply, please state the name and activities of your organisation, how much money you are requesting, what you are currently doing to raise funds yourself and what the money will be used for. The Youth Council will also need to see your recently audited accounts and/or most recent balance sheets.

Please put your requests in writing to Aycliffe Youth Council, c/o Great Aycliffe Town Council, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6QF.



Josh Blackburn



Niamh Broad



Lewis Brown



Thomas Burn



Amy Clements



Meghan Cumming



Billy Hardy



Alex Howarth



Charlotte Kirton



Francesca Moody



Britney Orme



Katie Osbiston



Thomas Roberts



Blake Reed



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Sunday 12noon to 10.30pm

Bar Meals Served  
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& 5.00pm to 9.00pm  
Saturday 12noon to 9.00pm  
Sunday 12noon to 6.30pm  
Extensive Menu from snacks  
to full meals & also a varied  
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Quiz Night every Tuesday,  
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for the over 50's  
Wednesday  
5pm - 6pm

£2.00 per session  
£2.50 non members

Improve your movement,  
flexibility, balance and  
endurance.

Meet new friends.  
Suitable for all ages.

## Oaklife

Over 50's Club

Tuesday 2pm - 3pm  
Thursday

9.30am - 11.30am  
£3.00 per session

£3.50 non members  
includes a hot drink

Activities include Bowls, Table  
Tennis, Archery, Badminton  
and much more.



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Suitable for any shape,  
age or fitness level.

**Tuesdays**  
5.30pm - 6.30pm

For further information please contact  
Instructor, Anne Cosgrove on 07762 148 661

## Pilates Sunday 6pm - 7pm Booking essential £4.50 per class

Regardless of age, ability or fitness level, pilates can help everyone move and feel better,  
creating a sense of well being.

## JUNIOR WEEKLY DROP IN SESSIONS

### SQUASH COACHING

Tuesday from 4.15pm - 5pm

Ages 5 to 7 years

£2.00 members £2.50 non members

Tuesday from 5pm - 6.10pm

Ages 8 to 15 years

£2.00 members £2.50 non members

### PASS - SATURDAY CLUB

9.30am - 11.00am

Ages 8 to 15 years

£2.00 members £2.50 non members

Try golf, basketball, badminton, archery, squash,  
table tennis and much more

### Indoor 5-a-side Football

Our 5-a-side court is available to book on the hour for 55  
minutes, 7 days a week. Prices start for £20.00  
per junior court & £35.00 per adult court,  
contact Reception now to book your court, a ball  
& bibs can also be hired.



### Badminton

We have 6 badminton courts available to book on the  
hour for 55 minutes, at various times during the week  
and also weekend courts. Prices start for £3.50 per  
junior court & £6.00 per adult court, contact Reception  
now to book your court, we also hire all equipment needed.



### Indoor Bowls Hall

Our bowls hall has 4 rinks, which are available to  
book from 9.00am - 10.30pm, 7 days a week Prices  
start for £1.85 per junior rink & £2.60 per adult  
rink, contact Reception now to book your rink, all  
equipment can be hired.



**Oak Leaf Golf Complex, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6QZ**



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18 hole course with floodlit driving range, buggy hire, shop and changing facilities.

Bar and catering available at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex.

Coaching from our PGA Professional and Golf Manager, Julie Welch

### SEASON TICKETS

Adult 7 day	£330
Adult 5 day	£285
Seniors (over 60) 7 day	£285
Seniors (over 60) 5 day	£235

### VISITING PARTY PACKAGES AVAILABLE

Driving Range £2 Small - £4 Large

### Green Fees Frozen

Mon - Fri £13 • Weekends £16

### JUNIOR SEASON TICKETS

18 - 21 (in full time education)	£180
14 - 18	£75
10 - 14	£55
Under 10	£35

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# ST. JOHN'S AND GREENFIELD IN FINAL

In the South West Durham Netball Tournament, the Year 7 & Year 8 teams from St John's School & Sixth Form College of Bishop Auckland performed extremely well in order to achieve silver medal place. St. John's receive Catholic students from Great Aycliffe.

Year 8 in particular played a nail biting semi-final against Teasdale which went to extra time due to a tie at the full time whistle. The girls remained calm and worked

together as a team to score the first goal which enabled them to qualify for the final against Greenfield. Year 8 were unbeaten last season but unfortunately a very challenging final against Greenfield resulted in second place.

Year 7 have gone from strength to strength throughout the netball season and played within the true spirit of the game showing improvement in their skills throughout the tournament



St. John's Netball Team

## Greenfield Netball & Basketball Champions

It's been a successful time for Greenfield Community College's Year 8 sports enthusiasts. The girls' Netball and Basketball teams are South West Durham Champions!

The Netball teams were successful at their championships held in Bishop Auckland. The winning teams were unbeaten throughout the night - beating St John's in the final 2-0. Well done to Sam Stamp and Abbi Greener - who were named players of the tournament! A big thank you to the Greenfield Sports leaders Amber Dolby, Sam Clark, Sophie Hayes, Millie Foster, Lucy Ryans & Becky Adams, who have helped to train the teams and officiate at the tournaments.

The Basketball team also dominated at their championship tournament at Durham Johnston School - beating Bishop Barrington in their final match. This is the 2nd consecutive year that the Greenfield team has won the championships - well done to all the players and to Molly Clark who was named player of the tournament!



Year 8 Netball Team



Year 8 Basketball Team

in order to win silver medal place.

"I extremely proud of the Netball success that St John's has shown throughout the year, all the girls are very

committed to practice and thrive throughout the league games and tournaments held. I have high hopes for the girls for next year's season." Miss Preston

## Friendly Win for Aycliffe Rugby Team

With no league fixture commitments Saturday saw Aycliffe rest most of their first team players and fielded a second team to take on a young and enthusiastic Westoe 3rd XV in a friendly.

Veteran and club legend Tommy Cooper featured at full back, back rower Andy Littlefair in the centres and were supported by a couple of guest Aycliffe oldboys from neighbouring Sedgefield.

The game started at a cracking pace with the early exchanges going the way of aycliffe who were soon 17-0 up after long range breaks from James Thacker and Andy littlefair.

For much of the rest of the first half Aycliffe rested on their laurels and did not compete with numbers at the breakdown this allowed Westoe's young backs, led by an impressive display by the scrum half to have some possession which they used to score two unconverted try's.

In the second half, following a half time team talk from Pete Ryans which included the coach asking the Aycliffe team to "Screw the Nail!" it worked! Aycliffe forwards began to dominate with strong runs from all of the pack and with quick ball the scrum half Mikey Dunn and fly half Gaz Parsonage used the possession well,

Aycliffe backs began to run riot breaking through in midfield at will with wingers Adam Gascoigne and Johnny Griffith finishing well. The score could

of been a lot more but the kicking shared by a number of players in the absence of the regular kicker was a mixed bag! An impressive win from a squad pushing for first team places.

Aycliffe travel to Seghill next week, a tricky fixture which Aycliffe will want to win to maintain 3rd place in the league and to continue current form which has seen 10 wins in the last 11 games.

Aycliffe Rugby is supported by S Cars, Whitehouse Funeral Service and thanks also go to match sponsors Smurfit Kappa Ltd.

# Last Minute Draw Snatched

It was heartbreak for Newton Aycliffe FC on Saturday as Morpeth snatched a 94th minute equaliser depriving the home side of two vital points. This result leaves Aycliffe 17th in Division One of the Ebac Northern League and with just three games left to play are six points above the relegation zone.

Despite Morpeth's excellent recent form it was Aycliffe who had the better chances in a goalless first half. After 17 mins Dennis Knight tricked his way through the defence & cut the ball back to Stuart Banks who saw his shot blocked. Shortly after Aycliffe skipper, Paul Garthwaite, fired over the bar.

Morpeth came close on 20mins when a Keith Graydon free-kick from 25yds tested Aycliffe keeper James Winter. The best chance of the half came just after the half hour mark when Richie Archer headed a cross

**FORTHCOMING FIXTURES**

Saturday 28 March (away) - Guisborough Town 3:00pm  
 Tuesday 31 March (away) - Ashington 7:45pm (League Cup SF)  
 Saturday 4 April (home) - North Shields 3:00pm  
 Saturday 11 April (away) - Ashington 3:00pm

just wide of the post.

Aycliffe's goal came on 57mins when a Knight free-kick found Mark Stephenson in the box. The centre-half powered a header into the net. It might have been two nil a few minutes later but Banks' long range shot struck the crossbar.

With full time approaching it looked as though Aycliffe were going to hang on for a much needed three points. However, Morpeth pressed on for the equaliser which came in the fourth minute of added time. The Aycliffe defence came under intense pressure to beat away two shots but Morpeth sub Sean Taylor pounced on the loose ball to fire home allowing the Highwaymen to steal a point.

Aycliffe now travel to top of the table Guisborough Town next Saturday for what will be another tough game. That is followed by the League Cup semi final at Ashington on Tuesday 31 March. They then play their final home game of the season on Easter Saturday, 4 April, against FA Vase semi finalists North Shields.

Newton Aycliffe FC would like to thank Gregg Little Testing Centre for their sponsorship of Saturday's game. The sponsors selected goal-scorer Mark Stephenson as Man of the Match. They also kindly donated MOT & servicing as raffle prizes which were won by Aycliffe supporters David Strickland and Mick Thompson.



## SIMPASTURE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The WASPS Residents' Association at Simpasture next Social Evening is on Easter Monday, 6th April.

As well as games and Bingo we will be drawing winners of our Easter Egg Raffle with teas, coffee, buffet provided, but bring some food if you wish to share.

At our next meeting in April dates of trips out will be revealed. Date announced later.

A Spring Sale is being arranged for Saturday 11th April from 9am - 1pm. Lots of items at bargain prices. Refreshments including cakes and pies at reasonable prices.

All events held at Simpasture Court Lounge - everyone welcome.

## TOP AWARD FOR ELACHI

Congratulations to Elachi in the town centre who have won a "Just Eat" Tried & Tasted 2015 award!

The popular Indian Restaurant has received great ratings and now have a certificate to display with pride as well as a posh window sticker to let potential new customers know how great they are.

The restaurant has over 100 reviews with an average score of 4.5 stars or above.



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# Aycliffe Resident Attends Queen's Churchill Reception



Richard May, a teacher from Aycliffe Village, attended a reception at Buckingham Palace, hosted by Her Majesty The Queen on 18th March. The Queen, who is patron of The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, hosted the event to mark its 50th anniversary as Sir Winston's living legacy. Since 1965, over 5000 British citizens have been awarded Churchill Fellowships, from over 100,000 applicants, to travel overseas to study areas of topical and personal interest. The knowledge and innovative

ideas they bring back are shared, for the benefit of their profession, their community, and, in lots of cases, the nation. For many people, a Churchill Fellowship proves transformational, and they go on to achieve great things - effecting positive change within society. Richard went on his Fellowship in 2000 to Scandinavia, Germany and Holland to lead a group of young people from the North-East on the Tall Ships Race 2000. Richard has stayed in teaching and saw the experience as vital in learning

to appreciate how children respond so positively to challenging environments and to adventure. Fellows from every decade represented the Trust at the reception, as well as representatives Memorial Trust in Australia, and the Winston Churchill Foundation of the United States. To mark its semi centennial, The Trust has just awarded a record number of 150 Travelling Fellowships - investing at least £1.3m in British citizens. This year's Fellows will travel to 58 countries between them, across six continents, where they will carry out a wide range of projects. The average length of a Fellowship is 6 weeks. Many events are being held throughout the year to celebrate Sir Winston's life and legacy. "We were delighted and honoured that the Queen hosted a reception to mark our anniversary year. Sir Winston's legacy lives on through our Fellows - individuals who, like him, have vision, leadership, a passion with a purpose, and a commitment to help their fellow citizens" says Jamie Balfour, Director General of The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.

# Rail Track Connection to Hitachi Factory

The final railway track component was installed on Wednesday 25th March, connecting the factory with the rail network. Network Rail, Hitachi and Story Contracting installed the last Pandrol Clip at the £82 million Newton Aycliffe site which will deliver the next generation of high speed rail carriages to the UK and Europe. The project has seen the installation of 7,000 metres of sidings and a new 1km long overhead electrified test track, along with the reconfiguration of the existing branch line and its connection to the site. Expected to be completed by mid-2015, work will now concentrate on the interior fit-out of the facility, which has already started. Phil Verster, Route Managing Director, Network Rail said: "Today's final fixing signals an important milestone in this exciting project. The Intercity Express Train will bring a step-change for passengers, enabling more and faster journeys. This facility is an achievement in itself and will continue to bring economic benefits to the north east as well as maintaining the region's proud rail heritage. "I would like to thank Merchant Place



franchise. Rail Minister Claire Perry said: "We are investing record amounts in our railways as part of our long-term economic plan. Connecting the Hitachi train facility at Newton Aycliffe to the track is a key step in roll out of the InterCity Express programme, which will create hundreds of jobs locally and thousands more across the UK supply chain. "The trains made here will transform passengers' journeys in the south west and north, with more seats on each train, more services, reduced journey times and improved reliability."

**P.A.C.T. Meeting**  
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Developments, Story Contracting and the many suppliers for all the hard work they've put in to reach this stage. Work to finish the signalling and power will complete later this year." Once completed, the facility will serve as a Hitachi Rail Europe facility for train manufacturing and assembly. It will be the base for the construction of the new Great Western Main Line and East Coast Main Line trains the company is building for the Government's Intercity Express Programme (IEP), as well as the new AT200 trains for Abellio's ScotRail

The next date for Shafto/St. Mary's Ward will Thursday April 23rd at 6pm at The Library on Central Avenue. Everyone is welcome to attend. PCSO 7430 Gavin Laycock Email: gavin.laycock@durham.pnn.police.uk

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# NAYFC Junior Match Reports Heighington AFC Boys Match Reports



Greatham 3-2 Under 16s (Challenge Cup Semi-Final). Aycliffe took the lead through Jimmy Cameron but Greatham equalised from a corner and soon went 2-1 ahead. Aycliffe fought back and deservably made it 2-2 before HT when Corey Denton fired home. Sadly, a needless free kick in stoppage time floated over everybody's head and under the bar into the net. Man of the Match went to Lewis Coatsworth.

**Under 15 Falcons** hosted Great Ayton. A Danny Walker top corner free kick made it 1-0. Ayton equalised with a shot from distance then took the lead through sloppy defending. Second half - much like the first, saw both sides having chances to score but it was Ayton who hit a third. With 5 to go the Falcons pushed hard but GA broke and scored 4-1. Andrew Matthews then pushed forward and let fly with a rocket into the top corner from 40 yards. Final score 2-4.

**The Under 13s** travelled to Great Ayton. A tight game, although we enjoyed the lions share of the ball, we failed to make it count but a much improved performance from last week. Chloe Ryan netted from close range in the first

half. 2-1 to the hosts' **Under 13 Girls** hosted Boldon Girls in a tight contest and had more possession in a goalless first half. The defence held firm and continued to clear their lines. The second half and all to play for as the Girls took the game to Boldon. A throw in from Becky Potter found Chloe Ryan who converted for 1-0. Courtney Wilson, keen to keep a clean sheet, made save after save. Chloe then added a second to seal the points as the Girls recent good run continues.

Richmond Town Blues 4-5 **Under 12 Falcons**. The Falcons came back from 4-1 down in an unbelievable last 15 mins against a team higher in league. A Hat-Trick from Cole Harrison, and a brace from Cameron Cook sealed what was a spirited performance from all 10 lads involved. Manager Darren Williams' was understandably delighted and heaped praise on all the Falcons! Jay Williams won Man of the Match (by the opposition) for an awesome display as stand in Goalkeeper. **Under 11 Falcons** were away to Normanby. The defence played well snuffing out Normanby counter attacks. Half time 0-0. Second half saw a corner flicked on by Alfie

Nichol-Brown and superbly headed in by Tom Jasper, 1-0. Normanby equalised via a corner, the ball was turned in by a Falcons player 1-1. Kieran Gillham almost won it with a cracking volley. Will shaded MOTM for a dominant midfield display first half and a tidy display in goal second half. Final score 1-1.

**Under 10 Falcons** played Durham Federation. Durham scored first then a Leon cross to Leo made it 1-1. Durham got it together and made it 2-1 at HT. Durham soon made it 3-1. With the clock ticking a chance! and Falcons made it 3-2 game on! Falcons had a change of attitude and drove on. Then a moment of brilliance from Declan and the goal came 3-3 final score. Great game, great team and great support! Declan was man of the match. Keep it up Falcons!!!

The impressive **Under 10 Girls** v Spraire Lassies. 4 goals from Hattie and 1 from Ocean Tia. Spraire grabbed a consolation goal. Final score 5-1.

Second game v Leam Rangers: UNBELIEVABLE game which at times was difficult to track, early strike from Leam to take the lead, 2 goals from Aycliffe 2-1, Leam equalise before Aycliffe go 4-2, in a blink of an eye it was 5-4. We got to HT 6-5. The second half carried on as we stretched the lead to 8-6 only for Leam to get back to a FT 8-7, goals: Ocean Tia (4) Hattie (3) and Olivia (2). These girls have what it takes, tougher games still to come though!

**Under 8 Falcons** had a tricky game against Trimdon Village. The boys were rewarded with an early goal by Dylan Stewart. Two top saves by Harry Bates saw them to half time 1-0 up. They finished the game off with 2 goals from Travis Dixon. Game finished 3-0 to Falcons. MOM went to Dylan.

Second game was hard work. The ball just wouldn't go in for Ryan Usher up front, Adam Shaw stood firm at the back. 0-0 at half time. The game ended with a 3-0 loss. MOTM Travis Dixon.

Fantastic result away at Wynyard for the **Under 8 Eagles**. The boys were positive and organised from the kick off and went on to eventually win the game 4-1. A brace a piece for Jayden Jones and Ashton Houlahan. Special mention to Daniel Heaton in goal, who had long periods watching but when needed pulled off some great saves and distributed well.

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**Heighington Under 7's** continued their impressive recent results at home to Newton Aycliffe Juniors on Saturday. The game got off to a great start for the hosts, Joe Neild sending Oliver Paylor clear who finished clinically. Aycliffe responded immediately with a great move and finish to make it 1-1. Joe Neild then put Heighington back in front, tapping in from a corner. The impressive Theo Callaghan, making his debut, made it 3-1 with a driven left footed strike. Aycliffe again responded to make it 3-2 with a great strike in to the top corner. Maddox Marcus had to be alert twice to deny Aycliffe getting an equaliser, before Tyler Woodward and Man of The Match Joe Neild wrapped things up. 5-2 to Heighington. The Second game was every even and a game of few chances, the chances that did come Heighington's way were foiled by the impressive Aycliffe keeper. Tyler Gibbon and Layton Collier particularly unlucky. Cameron Harris and Kenzie White were terrific at the back for Heighington. However, Aycliffe grabbed the

only goal of the game. 0-1 to Aycliffe. Man of The match was Harvey Yale **The Under 8's** gave their best performance of the season to win 3-0 away from home to Billingham Synthonia with one goal from Joe Neild and two from Ned Lewis

**Heighington Under 9's** played away against Darlington Young Bulls Under 10's on Saturday. Heighington won the first game 1-0 thanks to a James Kell goal. The man of The match award going to Jack Pilling. The second game Heighington went one better and won 2-0 courtesy of Curtis Wright goals. Man of The match was debutant Ewan who played both in Goal and out **Heighington u10's** lost 1-2 to Ferryhill, it was a closely contested game with the lads taking the lead with a classy finish from Callum Fraser after some neat build up play. The visitors then struck back with an equally impressive goal, the visitors took the lead in the second half and despite having the majority of possession the home side could not find a way back into the game. Another fine display with Leyton falconer receiving man of the match for the second week running.

**Heighington Under 12's** played Fishburn Park (Whitby). Heighington started off well, with good football, but Fishburn Park picked up the pace with some neat play breaking the Heighington back line, which saw them one on one with the keeper, and a fantastic strike put them 0-1 up. Heighington had some work to do, but before Heighington had switched back Fishburn had pounced again 0-2. Heighington started the second half strong and with some

nice football. They started to press and with a few chances but the Fishburn keeper stood tall. Heighington didn't let this stop them though, as Jacob Richardson eventually found himself with only the keeper to beat, to then be brought down in the box, Heighington found a lifeline but it just wasn't to be. Fishburn then pressed once again to finish the game off with a well worked goal 0-3. Man of the Match: Kieran Shingler

**The U14's** bounced back from

their first defeat in 2015 two weeks ago, with a 5-1 home win against Spraire Lads, who are a division up from us. Goals from Adam Scott, Liam Wright, James Le Poidevin, Trialist, and Jamie Barr. MOM was the trialist who played well throughout and made a real impact on top of his goal. Next week is our final league home match against second place Richmond, which is set to be a cracker, and will decide who goes on to win the Division 4 title.

## Darlo F.C. Supporters Club

With only seven games to go Darlington F.C. really have reached the business end of the season. This has been another topsy turvy week in the Evostik First Division North as we leap-frogged over table toppers Salford with a 5-1 away win over New Mills on Monday night. Then Salford did the same to us 24 hours later when they won away, with a last minute goal, to Prescott Cables. This is getting interesting, if a little frustrating!

This weekend we are away to Shaun Reid's Warrington Town as we all remember what happened last time we met. Northwich away on Tuesday night so two very difficult games, but ones which we can win and, hopefully, with Salford not playing Tuesday, send us back to the top of the league.

Next weekend we have two games in three days starting with Droylsden at home (Heritage Park 3pm kick off) on Saturday 4th April then away to Scarborough in Bridlington. The Scarborough game should get a big following being Easter Monday. This spate of games could have a big impact on who wins the title.

Off the pitch it's good to see that the fund to get us home has reached £225,000. Fantastic effort from all involved and hopefully we'll achieve that little bit extra so our new home can be a category B ground with a 3000 capacity.

I'm currently setting up an Aycliffe branch of Darlington Supporters Club. We'll meet once a month, plan away trips and any ideas to further the Club. Those interested in joining can email me at alanmbennett@hotmail.com Keep the faith.



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**NEW COUNCILLOR'S RECORD DEFENDED**

Dear Editor  
 May I correct a misimpression in last week's Newton News. Councillor Dan Summers, Town Councillor for West Ward, has been a very good councillor. When he was elected, Cllr Summers was 18 years old. We selected him because we valued the contribution that youth could offer. After the election, his attendance was good, he served on a number of outside bodies (particularly on the Aycliffe Youth Council, where he was highly effective), and he often

spoke at meetings on behalf of the people of his ward and younger people in the town. Last summer, Cllr Summers was given the opportunity to work abroad for a number of months. He took advice from senior councillors, and asked formal permission from the whole Council. We agreed, because we felt that a spell working abroad would widen his experience and make him a better councillor. During the time he was abroad, he drew NO allowance. Returning to Aycliffe, he again performed his duties well, and the residents of his ward can be proud of their young councillor. This spring, Cllr Summers was given the opportunity to turn the experience of last year into a career opportunity. Again, he acted properly, asking advice from senior members, who advised him to consider his options carefully - which is what he is doing at the moment. Cllr Summers is community-minded and politically principled. His behaviour in this matter has been impeccable throughout. He is now 20, at the start of his career and adult life, and only the worst misanthrope would not wish him well as he decides his future. It is unacceptable that he should have to do so against a background of what amounts to public hate-mail. And people wonder why no one wants to get involved in politics. John D Clare  
 Press Officer, Great Aycliffe  
 Town Council Labour Group

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Tesco recycle bins have been removed while awaiting new ones and flytippers are using this area to dump their rubbish, creating an eyesore and a potential fire hazard to customers and the surrounding area. Tesco recycle bins are emptied every week yet they have an excess of dumped waste on the floor and areas surrounding the recycling area. Around Christmas it was so bad it was spilling out onto the road and into car parking spaces. All Tesco ask is that the general public use this area responsibly. The bins are clearly marked with what should be put in them yet general household waste, commercial waste and even electrical items are being left in this area.

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# Anger at Public Meeting Over Removal of A167 Lamp Posts

The Public Meeting called by Great Aycliffe Residents' Association last Thursday to discuss the removal of lighting on the A167 was contentious and lively with no support for the County Council at all despite the money they would save. It is fair to point out that all County Councillors representing Great Aycliffe oppose the removal of lighting as they believe it is contrary to the policy agreed. There was much discussion about the lack of consideration for the number of road users bikers and walkers who use this road and the fear that a number of accidents will be the result of this folly. The Officer and County Councillor responsible John Reed, and Brian Stephens were invited but did not attend to answer the numerous questions asked by the general public. Thankfully, Councillor John Clare was able to give a detailed report covering the cost savings and a map indicating where lampposts were being removed. None of this appeased the anger in the room against the County Council who were called "daft as a sock with a hole". The Chairman Syd Howarth, read out a letter from the Business Park community who thought removing lights was beyond

comprehension as Aycliffe was focussed on promoting growth, jobs and the biggest industrial area in the north. The meeting at times became very rowdy indicating how very upset people were and there was a suggestion that the Council consultation process was dubious, left to website access and lost in the policy changing general street lighting. The communication of suspect policies via internet was questioned by those who do not have this facility. Comments on being misled and questions on why were the lampposts installed in the first place if only to be removed now? How could the road be less dangerous and require less lighting with more traffic on the road? Town Councillor Malcolm Iveson stated there was now alternative cheaper and brighter lighting available which would give greater savings and he was amazed the Council had given this no consideration. The general consensus showed an overwhelming opposition to the removal of lights and GARA was authorised to send the resolution to the County Council and also ask a public question in the Council Chamber. The resolution was as follows: At the Public Meeting held

on Thursday 19th March at St. Mary's Meeting Room at 7pm it was resolved unanimously that: "This meeting supports the seven Great Aycliffe County Councillors in their efforts to retain the street lights along the A167 between the AIM and Rushyford on the grounds that the removals are contrary to agreed policy and this main arterial road cannot be categorised as "rural". The meeting further expressed the view that the removal of lights would cause danger to road users, cyclists and pedestrians and does not take into consideration the current high usage and the future expansion of housing and industry this road will feed."

# Police Station Demolished



A few readers have sent in their photos showing the demolition of the Police Station. This one from John Williamson was received just before our deadline on Wednesday. More images can be viewed on our website www.newtonnews.co.uk

## Acknowledgement

THE FAMILY of the late Bill Tilley would like to thank everyone for their kind donations of £86.68 for the Alheimers Society. We would also like to thank the Rev. Emma Morgan for a lovely Service and John Meynell Funeral Service who did him proud **CAROL ANN REED** (nee Foster). Roy, Steven, Lara and families would like to express their sincere thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and support at this very sad time. With special thanks to the District Nurses and Macmillan Nurses for their compassionate nursing in Carol's final days. Also to Rev. Andy Craig for a comforting Service. A big thank you to Bryan Shepherd and the staff at Whitehouse Funeral Services for their sincere and professional services **RYANS** Andrea and Neil would like to thank our lovely family and friends for all cards and gifts received for our wedding on 14th March 2015. A big thank you to our five beautiful Granddaughter Bridesmaids, Amy, Chloe, Ellie, Eva and Sophie; our six very handsome Grandsons; Louise and Julie for the buffet, decoration etc; Mick for photos and last but not least John Melvin for a brilliant disco. It was a fabulous day and wonderful to share with very special people xxxx

## In Memoriam

**JUDY COLLEY** 27th March 2004. Always in our thoughts and hearts. Gone but never forgotten xxx  
**JEAN COOK** 30th March 2009. Treasured memories of a very special Wife, Mam and Grandma. Loved and remembered every day. Love from all the family xxxx  
**JEAN COOK** Cherished memories of a very special friend. Always in our thoughts. Pat, John and family

## Congratulations

**Connor Blakey**

**Happy 13th Birthday**  
Even though the teenage moods and defiance have already begun to start, you will always be a winner to me. For you hold a special place within my heart. Love you billions, Grandma

**Richard Shaw**

**50 TODAY**  
29th March 2015  
Happy birthday. Love from Mam, Martin and Marion

**Emma Taylor**

**Happy 18th Birthday**  
29th March 2015  
Lots of love, Mam & Dad  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
**Happy Birthday**  
to a special Sister,  
Love, Nathan xxxx

**Dan**

**Happy 18th Birthday**  
All our love, Mam, Dad, Jack and all the family

**Births**

**Rachel & Dave**

**"Poppy"**  
Congratulations on the birth of baby "Poppy", finally 1.13pm on 24th March 2015. Lots of love from Auntie Caz, Daniel and Bump

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## Obituary

**ROBINSON, Eleanor**, Newton Aycliffe. Eleanor, passed away peacefully in hospital on 20th March. Funeral to be held in St. Clare's Church on Thursday 2nd April at 2:45pm, then on to Wear Valley Crematorium at Coundon. "All welcome". Flowers or donations are welcome. (Private family reception afterwards). Eleanor was a dearly loved Mother of Laraine, Michele and Donna; Step-Mother to Carl; beloved Sister of Pam; beloved Dione and Ross; Nanna of Vikki, Neil, Michael, Kelly, Nicola and Marie; devoted Great-Nanna of Leon, Ashton, Aiden and Elise; wonderful Mother-in-Law to Brian, Paul and Ryan. She will be terribly missed by all who knew her. **AUDREY HARRISON** 22nd March, peacefully in Sedgefield Community Hospital. Audrey, aged 82 years of Defoe Crescent. Dearly loved Wife of the late Bill; beloved Mam of Linda, Wendy and Tracy; a much loved Gran of Joy, Jonathan, Ross, Katy and Lynne xx **BRADLEY HARRISON** Happy 21st birthday. We are so proud of who you are and what you have achieved, have a great weekend Son. Love of love, Mam and Dad xx **BRADLEY HARRISON** Happy 21st. Enjoy your weekend. Love, Curt, Megan and Buzz xxx **BRADLEY HARRISON** Congratulations on your 21st. Have a great birthday. Lots of love from Nana and Auntie Lynne xx **BRADLEY HARRISON** Happy 21st birthday. Lots of love from Auntie Ally and Uncle Andrew xx **BRADLEY HARRISON** Happy 21st. Hope you have a great weekend. All our love, Auntie Anita, Uncle Micky, Ross, Robyn and Reed xxxxx **BRADLEY HARRISON** Happy 21st birthday. Have a great birthday. Love you loads. From Nana and Grandad, Paul and Leanne

**FISK, PATRICIA** (Pat) 24/03/36 - 07/07/2000. No cards or gift to give only the memories of the gift you gave to us. You are so sadly missed on this your birthday, to a wonderful Wife, Mother and so much more. Love always, Tony, Susan, Michael & family xxx R.I.P.  
**KEITH WILSON** 1-4-2015. Treasured memories of our much loved friend Keith on what would have been his 65th birthday. Forever in our hearts. Mick & Kath Allen and Family xxxx **KEITH WILSON** 1-4-1950. Thinking of you Keith on what would have been your 65th birthday. Love and miss you as much as ever. We will all have a drink for you on Friday night. Love, Anna, Julie, Louise, Helen, James and all family and friends **DES WALKER** 29th March. Our birthday wish must be a prayer, this special day we cannot share. But in our hearts you are always there. Love always, Julia and the family xxxx **RONNY MAYOH** Happy 80th birthday on 28th March 2015 to a wonderful, caring and loving Husband and Dad. Lots of love, Rose, Maria, Christine, Ian and Anita **RONNY MAYOH** For my brilliant loving, caring Grandad on his 80th birthday on 28th March 2015. Lots of love, Kimberley and Maria Smith **GRANT EDGAR** On your birthday, 27th March. In our hearts your memory lingers, always tender fond and true, there's not a day dear Son, we do not think of you. Loved always, Mam, Paul, Lee, Andy and family xxxx

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**Rhianna Bonas**

**Happy 21st Birthday**  
1st April 2015  
Happy birthday to our amazing Daughter, so proud of our beautiful little lady. Love you always, Mam and Dad xx

**Happy 21st Birthday**  
**Rhianna**  
Have a fantastic day, love from all the Family xxx

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# AYCLIFFE JUNIORS FOOTBALL ROUND UP

**U8's** – Away at Greatham in a very close game. Good play from both teams - half time 0-0. Greatham broke the deadlock early in the second half and soon added another. A well worked move from Parker and Jason whose great cross was finished well by Lewis made it 2-1. Cody was strong at the bac, but as we pressed for the equaliser we got caught, final score 3-1. Kiera, Joe and Thomas all had good performances with MOTM to Sam Pary

**The U9's** swapped the pitch for the paths of South Park for a sponsored fun run this week. Taking part were Jacob, Jake, Ollie, Charlie, Lucas, Chloe, Bo, Sam, Aaron, Thomas, Zack and Georgia. All worked hard collecting sponsorship money and carried that hard work into the run. Jacob and Jake set the pace finishing in just over 25 mins with Sam and Charlie not far behind. By the time 35 minutes ticked over all had finished, even the parents! A big thanks to all sponsors who

supported the squad's fund raising efforts.  
**U10's** – Last game of the season at Primrose Hill. Due to family commitments etc, we only had the bare 7 with the team: Ted in goal, Ryan-Jay, Jake and Harry at the back, Sammy and Matty in Midfield with Charlie up front. Both keepers were in inspired form to keep the scores at 0-0 at HT. 2nd half and both teams had chances to score but just couldn't hit the back of the net. It was end to end stuff and a great game to watch. We finally got the breakthrough with Charlie Cayless finishing well. Matty Turnbull then got on scoresheet with a well taken goal, FT 0-2 to Aycliffe. Well done all and a great ending to a great season!

**U11's** – Away at Shildon who scored within minutes of the kick off and had the majority of possession and scored again. The lads started the 2nd half at a faster pace, but Shildon scored an early goal. We then played football, putting pressure on Shildon. Adam, made a run down the left and slotted in the corner of the net. Roles reversed and possibly our goal of the season followed, with a thunderbolt from Zack, from 25yds into the top corner. With 10 mins left Adam equalised. FT 3-3. A game of two halves, the team showed real character and a desire to win, coming back from 3-0 down, to win a point. MOTM: Zack, great game and a wonder goal.

**U13's** – Home to Wolviston, and we needed to mix things so, starting 11: Stoker, Barnes, Lawson, Martin, Wardle, Pattinson, Cayless, Sanderson Howes, Scott, Newberry and Hynes. A penalty early on, which Pattinson converted. Hynes scored, 2-0 and Scott was awesome in midfield.

Hynes got another, then we got caught, 3-1, but, 30 seconds on we got another, Hynes with a hatrick 4-1. We got complacent and conceded: FT 4-2. Great performance, much improved attitude and effort. MOTM to Ryan Scott., A mention for Lewis Hynes with a hatrick! Proud of you all today, keep it up for the remaining six.

**U14's** –last game, away to Cargo Fleet, already promoted. The conditions played a major part in the game. 19th minute and Regan Harker headed in to make it 1-0, unfortunately within 4 minutes Cargo were level after Aycliffe failed to clear the ball, HT: 1-1. 2nd half, a goal from Kian Fletcher after just 2 minutes to put us back in front. We failed to hold on and Cargo were level again and 5 minutes later in front for the first time. Cargo went on to score again and ran out 4-2 winners. Despite the defeat the U14's had a great first season finishing 4th overall. Well done to all and a big thank you to our sponsors Co-operative funeral services.

**U23's** – Away to Chester le Street St Cuthbert's. The squad was depleted due to a number of players being unavailable, so it was very unwelcome news when our keeper also had to withdraw at 11.30am due to illness. We wanted one and two touch football and within 10, Smith found the top corner 0-1. Howe got the 2nd, with a low strike, 0-2.

The football was great, Allison headed home for HT 0-3. We scored the 4th of the game with Oughton scoring from close range, FT 0-4 to Aycliffe. Aycliffe played some good football and came away with a deserved win which is their 5th straight win in the league. MOTM was Smith.

# Greenfield in Table Tennis Finals



Greenfield Community College U13 Girls' Table tennis team travelled to Freeman Quays to represent for 4 hours after school on Mondays. The team has been working hard at

weekly sessions based at Greenfield as part of the Sports Academy with most members of the team training for 4 hours after school on Mondays.

The team performed extremely well at the finals – winning all but one match, including some against the top teams from across County Durham. Despite a great performance, the girls lost the tournament to Durham Johnston School. The team included Emma Smith, Captain and a county level player, who was unbeaten at the tournament (Year 8), Sinead Hinton

(Year 8), Anna Cialis-Hodgson (Year 7) and Caitlin McCormack (Year 7). Emma started her table tennis career through the satellite Table Tennis club at Greenfield Community College run by Matthew Porter the County Table Tennis development coach. There is a community session for those interested (any age group & ability welcome) at Greenfield on Mondays 4:30 – 5:30pm. For more information about our Community table tennis opportunities call Greenfield's Sport Manager Lee Boynton on 07879 117224.

## Film Show

St Clare's Church FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW on Tuesday 31st March will feature "DEAD POET'S SOCIETY" Starring Robin Williams as a charismatic professor who breathes new life into a strict boys academy with his unconventional teaching methods.

Oscar winning actor Williams is always magic in any film role. 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 the film in friendly company. Further details from Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755

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## First Round KO in Newtonian's First Fight



Dave Cunliffe, Dave Ryan and Sam Robinson

Mixed Martial Arts fighter David Ryan did both himself and his coach, Dave Cunliffe proud at the weekend during his debut battle, winning by a KO in the first round!

David took up the sport as a hobby and the chance came for him to fight which he was more than happy to have a shot at. He worked extremely hard to achieve his personal goals, lose weight, get fit, and learn a new sport. This all paid off for him on the night when he landed a fantastic combo to end the fight in the first 2 minutes of the bout held at the Willington Last Man Standing event. Dave Cunliffe said: "David has done very well for himself and the team. We set targets and he achieved them, I'm over the moon and it's

the beginning of a real team. Watch this space!

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