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## Labour Candidate's Invite to a Cuppa in Town Centre Shop



Last Saturday Phil Wilson launched his general election campaign opening his new campaign shop in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre. He says "It is an honour to serve as the MP for the community where I have lived all my life. My children went to local schools, my father was a coal miner for many years and my mother was born in Fishburn. My local roots run deep and I am Labour's local man! Phil says he wants to share the aspirations and ambitions of local people and see our young people get on and go as far as they can in education or at work. "I have worked very hard for the people of Newton Aycliffe and the wider Sedgfield constituency. I led the campaign to ensure Hitachi brought their train-building factory to the area, when the Conservative-led Government wanted to abandon the plan. By

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# Cuppa with Labour Candidate in Town Centre Shop

*Continued from Front Page*

working together with other partners, we were successful against the odds, in securing the factory and with it hundreds of good jobs for local people" said Phil. He added: "I have worked to achieve fairer decisions on public and school transport. I have campaigned successfully to see the Town Centre redeveloped which has seen significant improvements. I am continuing to work alongside the town centre management and other partners to strengthen the retail offer. I have fought against Eon's plan for a massive wind farm near Bradbury, Mordon and Chilton. "I have sought to be a strong voice for Sedgefield on many issues that are important to my constituency; speaking up on housing and rogue private landlords, exploitative employment practices, transport, manufacturing and the future of County Durham." "I've worked with schools across the constituency and I am a big supporter of the

NHS, free at the point of need. I am a strong supporter of local business, the police and our armed forces. But most importantly I speak up for individuals and their families. I may not always receive the answer they want, but I will always try. That is why I run a fully staffed constituency office that has helped thousands of people". "I want to continue to serve all the people of Sedgefield constituency as their Member of Parliament and I really hope you will vote for me either by post or at the ballot box on May 7th." Phil Wilson's campaign centre will be open to the public, Monday – Friday 10.30 – 3.30 pm. Either Phil or someone from the campaign team will be on hand to answer questions about Labour's policies, political and local issues, and about the wider general election campaign. Tea and coffee is on hand so residents are encouraged to pop in and have a chat and a cuppa.

## Standards are Lower Under Unitary Authority

Dear Sir,  
It will be over four weeks since I phoned County Hall Highways cleansing department to report the horrendous amounts of rubbish along the main footpath from the PCP Centre to Burnhill Way. I also reported the constant overspill of rubbish bins at Neville Parade and the large amounts of dog muck from the top of Greathead Crescent leading to the Co-op Store. Sad to say - nothing has been done about this, but it doesn't surprise me as standards since we became a Unitary Authority have dropped very low! May I also mention car parking down main roads and bus routes along Shafto Way? This is making the roads very dangerous and until someone is killed or injured nothing will improve. Why don't the Council cut back the grass verges to provide more lay-bys to relieve the problem? Mrs J. Lawler Greathead Crescent.

## Cancer Victim Kieran Goes Blue for Charity



Kieran Maxwell from Heighington is fundraising for the Ewing's Sarcoma Research Trust by getting his hair dyed the colour of Ewing's Sarcoma BLUE. When you have cancer the one thing that makes it obvious you are an oncology kid is that you lose your hair or it becomes so fine and frizzy or it grows back patchy and its things like this that make it obvious to everyone what you have been through. Kieran's hair has grown back so weak and frizzy its awful so to do anything with, as it was so strong before, which is why he wants to dye it now. If he manages to raise the full amount of £250 he will also dye his beard! His mam Nicola is in charge of the colouring and will be taking a video and photos which is going to be fun. Kieran is doing this as

treatment and survival for his type of cancer hasn't changed in over 25 years. He has fought this disease twice and lost a leg and part of his lung. "I have been very lucky" said Kieran. Ewing's Sarcoma like most rare childhood cancers is severely under-funded, but with your help and support we can help those in the future diagnosed with this cancer and also those like Keieran who are still fighting. Through Virgin Money Giving, you can sponsor Kieran and donations will be quickly processed and passed to charities. Virgin Money Giving is a not for profit organisation and will claim gift aid on a charity's behalf where the donor is eligible for this. "I really appreciate all your support and thank you for any donations". said Kieran.

## Hundreds Join North East Devolution Debate

Hundreds of people have attended a series of events aimed at shaping devolution proposals for the North East. Residents, business leaders and representatives from the public, voluntary and community sectors are among those who have taken part in a consultation on the area's priorities for devolution. Following an initial meeting with business organisations, a number of public events have been held in each of the seven local authority areas which make up the North East Combined Authority (neca). Around 290 people have joined the debate at the events – which began on 12 March in Gateshead and ended today (26 March) in Northumberland. Cllr Simon Henig, chair of neca, has also met with North East MPs and Lords to discuss proposals for the devolution of decision-making and funding. He said: "Over the last few weeks we have met with a wide range of people who all share the same passion

and belief in the North East. The feedback has been very supportive of devolution and we believe that together we make a powerful case for the North East and that we can make a real difference in terms of how decisions affecting our area are made. "I thank all those who have taken the time to come along to these events or who have given their feedback online. "All of the comments we have received will now be taken into consideration as we develop our final proposals for discussion with the Government." As part of the discussions the groups have looked at how devolution could benefit the area in relation to a number of issues, including investment and funding for transport, infrastructure, employment, training and economic development. The combined authority will provide an update on the outcome of the consultation and on discussions with the Government after the general election in May.



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## Newton Press - Proud of Newton News

Newton News, successor to "The Newtonian", founded in 1948, has been at the heart of the Newton Aycliffe community throughout its existence. Newton Press took over printing and publishing your local newspaper in 1968 and has grown alongside the development of the new town's businesses and residential area.

Newton News is run by Newton Press, a family business, who all live here and are very proud of our involvement with local businesses, organisations, schools, churches and clubs all of whom regularly send information for the interest of Newton Aycliffe residents. We don't employ journalists as all the news we require comes from the townsfolk and organisations that serve Aycliffe. This is the appeal of Newton News - we are a unique community newspaper and our Honorary Editor, Syd Howarth, founder of Newton Press in 1963, checks the copy to ensure it is suitable for publication, only editing where necessary. He is also active in the community life of Newton Aycliffe leading and joining in local campaigns in representing views and opinions of residents. We value the support of our readers and their contribution to the columns of the Newton News, which make this a true community newspaper. Newton News is looking to expand and is considering printing a free monthly magazine supplement to be delivered with the Newton News to all business and residential properties in Newton Aycliffe . . . watch this space.

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# 100k Ride for Charity

Keely Madgin cycled 100k on a stationary bike in Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre last Monday to raise money for Zoe's Place a children's hospice in Middlesbrough. Her partner James can be seen behind her training on a running machine to keep Keely company. She completed the ride in 2 hours 34 minutes.

Keely decided on this personal challenge as it is something she could not have done a year ago and she specially wanted to do something to help a small local charity.

Over the last year, after joining the Leisure Centre gym and Slimming World she has lost 4 stone and dramatically improved her fitness.

If you would like to help a link to Keely's just giving page is: <https://www.justgiving.com/Keely-Madgin1>



# Aycliffe Dance School's 2nd Performance at the Albert Hall



This Easter weekend, locally based dance school KDANZ will be performing at The Royal Albert Hall for the second time! After a tremendous experience performing Avatar in 2014 KDANZ will travel to the capital this year to perform a piece based on the Film saga "Twilight".

The group of 45 have been working on the routine since Christmas and recently performed "Twilight" at the Gala Theatre in Durham with fantastic feedback.

The school has been so busy recently with performances at the Wildcats Basketball games and Durham Gala as well as competitions in Sunderland.

Principal Kay Harrop, says the opportunities to perform on stages such as Royal Albert Hall don't come along often.

"I am so proud of all my dancers and cannot wait to share this experience with my husband, our children and the whole KDANZ family," said Kay.

Representing KDANZ and the town doesn't come much better than this. A parent said "The opportunities at KDANZ are limitless and so varied! I saw last year's performance and had to get my girls involved. KDANZ is such a friendly dance school I already feel part of the family. This will be a memory for our children to last forever." Should anyone be interested in hiring the dance studio for parties etc or to join our classes please contact Kay on 07900 365892

# PCP WELCOMES NEW CHAIR OF TRUSTEES



re-trained as an adult literacy tutor and also began supporting students as a Mentor at Van Mildert College, University of Durham. Melanie also has practical experience of being a carer and understands the challenges this can bring. Carol Gaskarth, PCP Chief Executive says "We are sorry to see Carol step down as Chair after making such a difference during her time in the role, however I am looking forward to working closely with Melanie. PCP is a fantastic charity and will look at ways to be even more innovative and creative in our approaches to support people in the future to help us achieve our mission of 'Health Wellbeing and Learning for All'."

Further details from PCP Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF tel: 01325 321234 email: [enquiries@pcp.uk.net](mailto:enquiries@pcp.uk.net) visit: [www.pcp.uk.net](http://www.pcp.uk.net) or find PCP on Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: /PCPAndCentre

The Chair of the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP), Carol Briggs, has stepped down after 13 years, over which time she has seen the charity grow into a highly respected organisation with focus on improving health and wellbeing.

Carol Briggs has been with PCP since the very beginning and was delighted when in 1998 the idea of a few like-minded people became a reality with the building of the Pioneering Care Centre. Now PCP delivers a wide range of projects and service across County Durham, Tees Valley and in Sunderland. Carol is not hanging up her hat completely and will remain a board member and Trustee where her knowledge, experience and dedication will continue to serve the organisation well into the future.

Carol is handing over the mantle to an equally experienced and skilled board member, Melanie Fordham as PCP's new Chair of Trustees.

Melanie has been a Trustee since 2007 and has had a successful career in health service management, from Disability Officer in Middlesbrough to

Director of Commissioning and Performance for Sedgfield Primary Care Trust. Therefore Melanie brings valuable practical experience of strategic management and governance. After early retirement Melanie

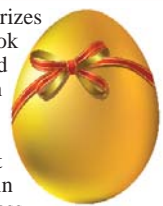
# C.A.B. Moves to Pease Way Surgery



The new Newton Aycliffe Citizens Advice Bureau premises opening is Tuesday 7th April. The bureau has moved from The Pioneering Care Centre to 2 Pease Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 5NH and will be open for gateway drop-in sessions each Tuesday from 10-1pm and also on a Friday 10-1pm from 17th April.

# FIND THE GOLDEN EGGS COMPETITION

Newton News is giving away Easter egg prizes to the lucky first TEN drawn. Simply look through this issue of the Newton News and find the eight golden eggs (as the one shown here) and write down the name of the advert that they appear in. Email your entries to: [paul@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:paul@newtonnews.co.uk) or hand in at Walkers Butchers (Simpasture), Youngs in the Town Centre or our office: Newton Press, St. Cuthberts Way, Aycliffe Business Park DL5 6DX. Closing date for entries is Monday 13th April - winners will be announced in the 17th April edition.



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# Woodham Students Scoop Top Award

A group of students from Woodham Academy literally found themselves in the limelight recently when they attended the Northern Echo School Award 2015.

The learners, John Clough, Owen Dickinson, Jessica Beenham and Jennifer Hathaway, were at the Excel Centre in Newton Aycliffe to support their school's Wildlife Club in the Care and Conservation category, but found themselves unexpectedly in front of the cameras on two other occasions as Woodham Academy scooped the prestigious Innovation and Inspirational Student Awards. As to their own efforts, the youngsters didn't look too disappointed at having to settle for runner-up; after all it was a tiring day, and there is only so much adoration one can take at one time.

Jessica, John, Owen and Jennifer all had a terrific day. As the doors of the building swished open the four intrepid conservationists were confronted with the spectacle of an enormous, dressed, table and row upon row of elegant glass flutes brimming with sparkling orange juice. For some of the hopefuls the temptation proved to be too much, and they had to be politely asked to go easy by their minder, Mr Heaven; worried as he obviously was by the effect so much glitz, glamour and unadulterated sugar might be having on his young wards, and their precious teeth. Happily, there were numerous other attractions to be had, and a few complimentary apples from the reception served to distract them until the double doors finally swung open to reveal the cavernous interior, decked out as though for a party.

Once inside, the young explorers began immediately adapting to their new environment, rooting around until they had unearthed a host of delicacies, including more orange juice ("Try mixing that with water") and various items of confectionary ("You might want to take some of them home, and have them later"). Onlookers must have been amazed they found room for the lavish buffet: but they did, and they did themselves and their school proud, and if there had been an award for waste (not-want-not) management then Woodham Academy surely would have been going home with a third gong.

The show itself was excruciating – not because they weren't impressed by the cutting edge lighting effects, the pitch perfect



sound-system pumping out chart topping anthems, or the friendly wit of the presenter, but simply because they were convinced they were going to win and wanted to get to the part where they got to jump up and down and run onto the stage to accept their long-overdue recognition. As things turned out, by the time the youngsters heard the news that they were not to be the recipients of a new trophy for the trophy cabinet, they were probably ready for a rest anyway, as they had by then already accompanied their school's Assistant Head Mrs Sarah McGinnety and Year 11 student Emma Sandford-Hodgson to the podium to accept their respective awards.

Some of the students were already familiar with the scheme run by Mrs McGinnety, whereby Woodham Academy pupils are mentored by one of six manufacturing/ engineering companies situated on the industrial estate, in order to gain hands on experience of working life; and one of them knew Emma, who, apart from 'excelling' at English and Art is also a talented singer, and has recently secured a weekend job singing and dancing for children dressed as Elsa from Frozen.

Emma, who is described by her school as 'a brilliant student and ... a genuinely nice person' has been giving up her time to mentor younger students, and has overcome numerous obstacles to get where she is. All of the Wildlife Club members were unanimous in their verdict that, in these two categories at least, the awards had been given to the right people.

After a long day the students were happy to travel back to school to tell everyone what they had been up to; yet even here there were new experiences to be had, this time in the form the 60s Jamaican Ska on Mr Heaven's car stereo. Indeed, so impressed were the orange-fuelled individuals by the scintillating sounds on offer, he had to reluctantly agree to burn them a disk, just to keep them quiet.

## Rare Albino Mole Caught at Woodham



Brian Sowerby of Pestguard Newton Aycliffe has been a professional pest controller and mole catcher for over 30 years. He catches moles on golf courses, lawns, farmer's fields, airports, etc.

In all that time he has never caught an Albino Mole until 27th March in a customer's rear garden in Woodham.

Albino moles are very rare and Brian has known only two others caught in the Dales.

There are a lot of moles about this year - more so than previous years, mainly down to milder weather and lack of snow and frosts.

It's coming to the breeding season, so expect a lot more activity on lawns and gardens where you will see shallow runs just under the soil and grass tunnel mounds which is males looking for mates.

If you have a problem with moles contact a professional mole catcher ASAP as your lawn or garden will end up looking like a farmer's ploughed field.

Brian Sowerby, Pestguard

## TIME FOR LIGHTS OUT ON COUNCIL CABINET SYSTEM?

Dear Sir,  
I attended the meeting hosted by Great Aycliffe Residents Association to discuss the DCC proposal to remove the majority of the street lights, and poles, on the A167 past the New Town. In the absence of the DCC responsible Cabinet member, the relevant Chief Officer (all without apology) Councillor J.D. Clare explained on behalf of the Council Labour Group that the decision was based on the need for the Council to balance the budget in the face of a reduced (but fairer) distribution of Government funding.

That is, as ever, all blame should be placed on the Coalition Government. Councillor Clare is a historian but he appears only to be aware of the history of the current Coalition Government. Everything before 2010, is of no consequence and the fact that New Labour bankrupted the public finances has, in his mind, no current effect. Back to the G.A.R.A. meeting. I was bemused that all the local Labour Councillors in attendance were urging the public to complain about the DCC Cabinet decision. It then transpired that consultations had, perhaps, taken place (J.D. Clare was aware and had noted it on his website). However the other Labour Councillors appeared to be unsure on this point.

Later, I read in the D&S Times of Friday 20th March 2015 that the DCC's Corporate Director for Children and Adult Services had to apologise for only briefing Labour Councillors about an important decision before it was made public. I then realised that the problem almost certainly lies in the New Labour decision that Durham County Council should be governed by a Cabinet elected by Councillors (in Durham's case, a Politburo elected by the local Labour Parties) and that most of the rest of the Councillors do not get to vote on major proposals at Council level. That is, the majority of the elected Councillors and therefore the majority of the electorate have been disenfranchised by New Labour's 'Soviet' system of local democracy.

Unfortunately, it would appear that the Cabinet and the Council Officers are unable/unwilling to properly consult or brief other interested parties

(the Public and Independent Councillors). There again why bother, the Politburo has voted and they do not need to heed any contrary opinions!

The question now arises, what can be done to stop the A167 lights being switched off and the light poles being PERMANENTLY removed? May I suggest that, if I were a Labour Councillor I would resign, if not over this matter but also over the fact that DCC closed its Care Homes while a Councillor admitted that the Private Sector could provide the care places cheaper and STILL MAKE A PROFIT.

The Council should have been opening Care Homes, running them as efficiently and profitably as the Private Sector, and using the money saved to

subsidise our services/cut our Council Tax, not closing them. Unfortunately, as I see it, the only option for the general public is to threaten the future of the New Labour Politburo. A large protest vote for, say, UKIP at the General Election would soon make them realise that they have to heed local Councillors.

It would also make our current MP sit up and take notice of the opinions and wishes of the electorate in Newton Aycliffe and its surroundings and attend meetings on matters which are important enough for his Labour Councillors to attend to try and rally support against its own Cabinet. Sadly, Democracy is not thriving in New Labour's County Durham. A.P.G. Welsh

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# AYCLIFFE ACCOUNTANTS DOUBLE CLIENT BASE



An ambitious accountancy firm is targeting major growth in the next year after seeing turnover jump by more than half. Matthew McConnell and Jonathan Tait are partners in the Durham franchise of national network Certax, and have been based at the HUB Workspace since August 2013. Since their move to Aycliffe Business Park 18 months ago, Certax has doubled its client base to 700 and seen turnover jump from £195,000 to £352,000. Five employees have been taken on, and the aim is to take on at least two more members of staff this year and increase sales to £400,000. Their long-term aim is to snap up Certax franchises in other areas of the region and eventually create a Certax North East practice. "We're already one of the best performing Certax franchises. There are around 200 in the UK but we're currently the only one in the North East, so it's our aim to target Newcastle, Sunderland and Teesside," said Mark Certax Durham moved to Aycliffe with just one Apprentice on its books, but now employs six people including administrator Hannah Race, payroll clerk Bethany Wade, accounts assistants Bradley Wilson, Brogan McDonald and Josh

Baker and Robert McCarthy, who's joined the firm from HMRC as tax manager. Matthew said: "We've taken on a lot of young staff on Apprenticeships and we feel that's been hugely beneficial for the company. "They get to earn while they learn and they'll come out of it with a qualification at the end of it. "It has enabled us to grow significantly in the last 18 months and we're looking to take on two new Apprentices this year." Certax Durham is now dealing with a range of clients, from sole traders up to £5m-a-year companies. Matthew added: "When we first started out we were dealing with a lot of young start-ups and small firms with turnover under £100,000, but now we're dealing with some really major firms, of sales between £2m and £5m. "We deal with a lot of firms in the construction industry, where we look after the accounts for the business itself but also do the tax returns for all its employees. "I think a lot of our success is down to the fact we like to

give the best service possible. I know that's a cliché, but we're conscientious and pay great attention to detail. "We do the full financial package for clients. We can look after insurances and mortgages as well as accounts so our clients can come to us for everything. "We can also look after tax claims for capital allowance and research and development. Certax Durham can help Aycliffe businesses with audits, self assessment tax, payroll and VAT returns, accounts for sole traders, partnerships and limited companies, personal and business taxation planning, company formation, corporation tax compliance and planning, inheritance tax planning, Inland Revenue representation, periodic management accounts and reporting, financial projections, accounting for charities, training in accounting and book keeping, raising business finance and computer-based accountancy software systems. • You can contact Certax Durham on 01325 315666, email info@certaxdurham.co.uk or go to www.certaxdurham.co.uk



There will be a PACT Meeting at Aycliffe Village Hall on Saturday 11th April from 11am to 12noon. PC Alan Thompson and PCSO Richard Scott are your Community Police Officers and they welcome all residents to come along and get updates on what's going on and raise any concerns they may have. Partners from all agencies will attend when available. For more information visit the Police Facebook site and www.durham.police.uk



**CANCELLED**  
The Ward Surgery for Neville, Shafto/St. Mary's for Saturday 11th April is cancelled due to purdah in the run up to the General Election.

# GREENFIELD STUDENTS FEAST ON MATHS!



Recently a group of students from Greenfield Community College, Aycliffe Site, spent the day at a Year 10 Maths feast, a national event organised by the Further Mathematics Support Programme. This is a national event which combines mathematical, communication and teamwork skills and offers students another way to express and develop their enjoyment of mathematics. Greenfield's team joined 14 other teams from across the North East at the Durham Science Centre in Pity Me for a day of maths activities. The programme was set out as a menu – with a starter task, hors d'oeuvres, main, dessert and petit-fours! Greenfield's team won the 'Main' course - a challenging problem solving activity and were joint winners of the 'dessert' which was making the Columbus Cube Tower. The students had a great day, representing Greenfield with their attitude and excellent behaviour – well done!

# Welfare Partners Hold AGM

Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership hold their AGM at Agnew Community Centre on Thursday 22nd April at 7pm following the Public Consultation on plans to extend the Centre which has become the organisation's HQ. The proposal is to provide a community welfare hub to service the Agnew and West Ward area of the town. The new build, if it obtains the funding, will accommodate a food bank, and become a distribution point for food and household goods for Helping Hands. The extension will also help increase nursery places and offer other vital welfare services. Everyone is welcome to the Consultation and the AGM afterwards. GACAP seeks to open the partnership to everyone - All statutory and volunteer welfare groups are invited to send representatives to the meetings.

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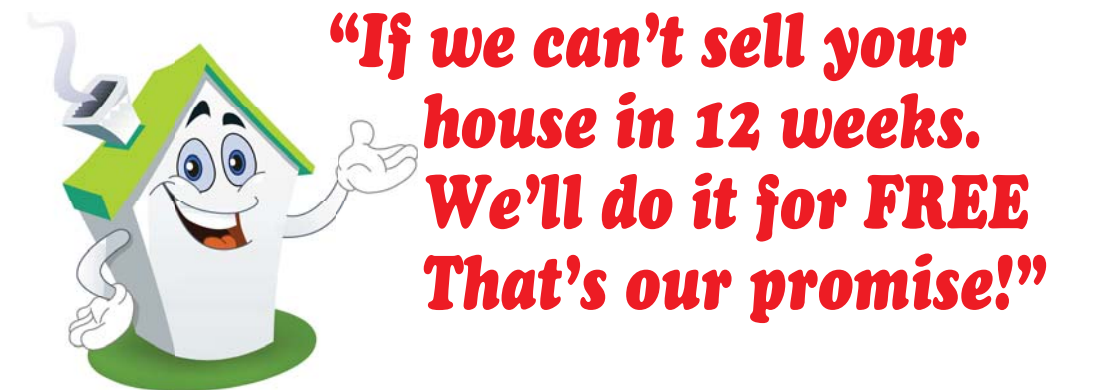
Asda in Bishop Auckland chose Helping Hands as the charity to receive donations made by their customers to their Easter Egg Appeal. Linzi Nicholls (pictured) said we are overwhelmed with the support Asda's customers have given us. It really does help make our job a joy to do. We know that there are some very disadvantaged children in the area and we will do our best to make sure these eggs are delivered in time for Easter.

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# RIGHTS RESPECTING DAY AT GREENFIELD Gold Medallist Ruby



Greenfield Community College's Aycliffe Site celebrated diversity with a Rights Respecting Day for all students. Normal timetable was suspended as students had the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities and workshops focussing on diversity. The day, which was organised by Helen Duffy-Hare, Progress and Guidance Leader, centred on the areas

protected by the equality act: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation.

The intended impact of the day was for a consistent message around school to embrace the difference in others. The aim was to see a reduction in the use of discriminatory language and give students the confidence to challenge / report this as appropriate. An additional aim was to give students a broader and deeper understanding of the inequalities which exist, their role in ensuring future equality and the benefits to all of living in a diverse society. A range of external organisations and visitors worked with young people at

Greenfield for the day. These included representatives from organisations Stonewall, Prevent, Show Racism the Red Card, Guide Dogs, DISC, and Durham Agency Against Crime amongst a busy programme. Students took part in drama activities, workshops and Paralympic sports.

Christine Stonehouse, Head of School at Greenfield said: "At Greenfield Community College we are proud to be a Rights Respecting School and we actively promote positive and inclusive values. We seek to embed these values into everyday life but this Rights Respecting Day provides quality time to gain a deeper understanding of diversity and to promote mutual respect as we prepare our students to be happy and successful in our increasingly diverse society." The day was a great success, with students and staff learning a great deal with positive comments. Each year group learnt something new about equality that challenged their perceptions and will support them in the future, one Year 10 student said: "It was a positive day which informed us about other cultures and religions. I feel more equipped

to deal with situations that may arise in the future. It has opened our eyes to views and opinions from all perspectives, instead of just accepting what the media says."

Helen Duffy-Hare, Progress & Guidance Leader said: "We would like to thank all of our guest speakers who were fantastic, engaging and inspirational. The afternoon sessions were buzzing with discussions, reflections and ideas of how we can continue to celebrate diversity in school."

## Messy Easter

Messy Easter on Saturday 11th April at St. Clares Church will include basket making, card craft, painting and cooking activity. We begin at 4pm with an Easter Story, song and prayer (please come early enough to register.)

Tea will be at 5pm and then we end with a GRAND Egg Hunt, hopefully outside! Again Messy Church welcomes all families, mams, dads, grans, uncles- everyone. There will be a collection plate at the back of church to enable the work of Messy Church. All donations welcome.



On Friday 20th March 2015 Ruby Watson, age 10, represented Aycliffe Village Primary School and Sedgfield District at the Sainsbury's School Games County Final Gymnastics Competition, gaining 1st place and bringing home a gold medal and commemorative plaque.

The competition was held at South Durham Gymnastics Club in Spennymoor, with Ruby taking part in the Open Section, for gymnasts who train more than 2 hours per week. Gymnasts in this section competed as individuals rather than in teams. Competition was stiff with competitors from some of the region's top clubs such as Deerness, Athena and South Durham with a very high standard. Gymnasts had to perform a floor routine containing set elements, and a vault. Scores were combined and Ruby scored a huge 19.10 out of 20, with an almost flawless floor routine and a solid landing on vault. All the children and teachers at Aycliffe Village Primary School are really proud of Ruby's achievement.

## Open Art Exhibition at Greenfield Arts



Last week we celebrated the 15th "Open Art" exhibition in The Greenfield Gallery at Greenfield Arts. The exhibition, which takes place every year at this time, showcases the work of the talented people working in and around Newton Aycliffe.

After the quickest install on record, thanks to the fantastic Cree volunteers, the exhibition is now open and getting some great comments from visitors! Over 50 artists are involved this year, with more than 120 works on display. Paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, textiles and sculptures show the range of creativity and ideas from artists across the North East of England.

This inspiring exhibition is a riot of colour and images – and provided a great opportunity for a group of Year 1 students from Aycliffe Village Primary School who visited last week! The children loved seeing the range of work on display, and were inspired to create their own artworks with our Gallery &

Programme Assistant. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our celebration and Craft Fair for the exhibition last week – we had a great time! The exhibition is now open until Wednesday 22nd April – for more information visit our website [www.greenfield-arts.co.uk](http://www.greenfield-arts.co.uk)

## GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

**Wednesday 15th April 2015**

**Policy & Resources Committee, 7.15pm**

### QUESTION TIME

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

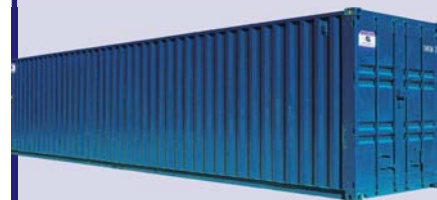
If members of the public have any questions it would be appreciated if they could make them known prior to the start of the meeting. Agendas/Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. ([www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk))

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".

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### TUESDAYS

**\*\* NEW TIMES \*\***

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3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm with Nicola Tel: 07791 909376

### WEDNESDAYS

Navy Club Bluebell Way  
9.30am, 5pm & 7pm with Ann Tel: 07724 467517

### THURSDAYS

**\*\* NEW VENUE - NEW TIMES \*\***

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# AYCLIFFE ANGELS' PHOTOGRAPHS



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Dear Sir,  
Having read the article in Newton News regarding the proposed memorial to the Aycliffe Angels by Finleys Steel, I remembered that two photographs that came to light after the death of my mother Rhoda Waine. She worked at the factories as one of the "Angels" and worked in the area where that terrible explosion occurred. She spoke highly of a woman, who she said rushed straight into the shed to try to help. I hope some use can be made of these pictures.  
Ian Waine  
*EDITOR: We will add the two photos to Newton News website archives and invite readers who have old photos to bring them to our offices, we will scan and return.*

# HOLIDAY INN ELECTRIC CHARGE POINT PROBLEM

Peter Smith, Customer Services Manager for Charge Your Car; with a unit at The Holiday Inn has replied to complaints over it being out of use.  
"The Charge Point was originally supplied by the (now defunct) Plugged in Places government funding scheme with no obligation to the hotel. They are not, in any way, responsible for its maintenance or repair. It was reported some months ago by a driver there was a fault on the unit and since then a firm of engineers has visited the site four times to try and correct the problem but have so far been unsuccessful. Unfortunately this has proved problematic as they are the only UK company licensed to work on this make and model of Charge Point (made by a French company called SGTE who have been less than helpful with fault diagnosis) We are now in a legal dispute with them over these works. We have now secured assistance with an Irish company who are licensed to work on the units and are now in the process of raising an order for the works totalling around £18,000 to be completed. I appreciate that drivers have been left frustrated by the unit being out of service and we apologise, but every effort is being taken to attempt to repair the Charge Point".  
Peter Smith

# Litter at Entrance to Town



Dear Sir  
I walk to work every day from Aycliffe village to Tallents and on the nice spring mornings it is quite pleasant.  
As this is one of the main entrances to Newton Aycliffe and the Business Park it should be a good advert for the town, but the amount of litter and over flowing bins along the A167 and "Bowling Ball Boulevard" Central Avenue, is a disgrace.  
Peter Chappell



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# BAT SURVEY TRAINING

The Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership is offering a free bat survey training course for volunteers on Wednesday 8 April at 7.30pm in Barnard Castle. The course, led by Tricia Snaith from Durham Bat Group, will cover an introduction to the bats of County Durham, details about the methodology used to survey bats, instructions on how to use bat detectors and some practical experience of surveying bats!  
The course will consist of an indoor introduction and then a practical outdoor session. The hope is that volunteers will use the skills gained on this course to help the Heart of Teesdale survey the bats around the Teesdale area throughout this summer. However this course is open to everyone and there is no obligation to volunteer afterwards.  
This event is free of charge. Please ensure you bring waterproof clothing and sturdy footwear. No previous experience is required and equipment is provided.  
For more information and to book a place, contact Susie Lane, Community Officer on 03000 264903 or susanne.lane@durham.gov.uk



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## HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE'S SUMMER OPENING TIMES

Opening hours at Household Waste Recycling Centres in County Durham are being extended throughout the summer.

From Wednesday, 1st April until Wednesday 30th September, the household waste recycling centre (HWRCs) at Heighington Lane will be open seven days a week from 9am until 6pm. John Shannon, strategic waste manager at Durham County Council, said: "Extended summer opening hours mean residents can access household waste recycling centre sites for longer, particularly after they finish work, and they can dispose of larger items, free of charge."

Residents using a van, pickup, minibus or towing a trailer to dispose of their household waste must use a waste permit. Visit [www.durham.gov.uk/householdpermit](http://www.durham.gov.uk/householdpermit) or call 03000 261 000 to apply for a waste permit.

Waste produced by businesses and landlords (commercial waste) is not accepted at household waste recycling centres and must be disposed of by a registered waste carrier. For further details on household waste recycling centres visit [www.durham.gov.uk/hwrc](http://www.durham.gov.uk/hwrc) or call 03000 261 000. For business waste collections visit [www.durham.gov.uk/commercialwaste](http://www.durham.gov.uk/commercialwaste)

## Local Firemen Wanted

County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Service have begun a recruitment drive. Retained or part-time firefighters are currently needed in Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor.

Steve Cummings, district manager said: "Recruit is an ongoing issue, as people leave the area as personal circumstances change. Most people work during the day, so finding daytime cover can be especially difficult. It is crucial for the area that we have retained firefighters who live close to the station. We hope to attract people from all walks of life, who may not have considered taking up this important role in the past, to apply and go through the training."

Retained firefighters must: Be over 18-years-old; Have good all-round fitness levels; Live within five minutes of the station; Be flexible about when they can work; and be able to attend a weekly drill night. Retained firefighters are paid an annual fee of between £2,158 and £2,877 based on being available the standard 120 hours per week. They also receive an hourly rate for time spent at an incident or in training, as well as a disturbance payment per call out. Aside from the financial rewards, current retained staff speak of the job in terms of putting something back into the community, carrying out a very worthwhile role, enjoying being part of a team, being motivated to stay fit and healthy and benefitting from first-class training.

Andrew Wells a retained crew manager in Sedgefield, said: "None of us has to do this; we are here because we want to be. Because of my working hours I have spare time during the day and I thought that training to become a retained firefighter would be a very worthwhile thing to do."

For more information or to arrange to join in a drill session at Spennymoor or Newton Aycliffe Fire Stations please call: Newton Aycliffe Fire Station - 01325 312531 Alternatively, email district manager Steve Cummings - [scummings@ddfire.gov.uk](mailto:scummings@ddfire.gov.uk) Or visit the service website [www.ddfire.gov.uk/can-you-be-retained-firefighter](http://www.ddfire.gov.uk/can-you-be-retained-firefighter)

## Agnew AGM

Agnew Annual General Meeting is on April 9th at 7pm at the Agnew Community Centre in Morrison Close.

We would love to see you on the night and if you have not visited your Community Centre then why not take this opportunity to look around and talk to our trustees.

Katy Milne, Director of Arts and Creativity at Greenfield Arts, will talk on Community Partnerships after we get through the necessary legal Charity Agenda stuff. In attendance we will have our Town Mayor, County Councillors and Town Councillors so please come along. After the meeting we will be serving light refreshments and there will be a chance to chat.

## County Council Review Services for Childcare

Durham County Council's Cabinet will discuss a new approach to providing childcare services for the under-fives, designed to improve the lives of some of the county's most vulnerable children and their families.

Proposals for the future of County Durham's children's centres will be decided on Wednesday, March 18 and if given the go ahead, plans could see the emphasis shift from specialist buildings to community venues, in a drive to reach families which most need support.

A consultation on proposals has already taken place and all comments and submissions will be considered by Cabinet. The recommendations are designed to ensure the under-fives, particularly in the most deprived areas of the county, are ready for school life. The paper outlines how, despite some successes, the current reliance on children's centres had failed to deliver the improvements hoped for.

If plans are given the go-ahead services will be taken farther into communities, focussing on the places families already go. It is hoped this will be beneficial to parents who would no longer be expected to travel to specialist venues.

It's an approach backed by Durham County Council's Early Years Strategy (<http://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s39311/item%2012%201%20Early%20Years%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>) which aims to ensure help reaches where it is most needed to improve outcomes for the under-fives.

CLr Ossie Johnson, Cabinet member for children and young people's services, Durham County Council, said: "We are committed to providing high quality services to support families and their young children to be both healthy and ready for school, so that they can achieve their full potential."

"We recognise that children's centres play an important part in this and we propose to change the way we work to target support to children and families who need it most."

## J&C COACHES

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### Yorkshire Dales Tour

Saturday 25th April 2015  
£14.50 adult, £12.50 child  
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### Thirsk Medieval Tournament

Saturday 13th June 2015  
£22 adult, £15 child  
includes entry ticket

### Seaburn Classic Car Show

Sunday 14th June 2015  
£14 adult, £6 child  
includes entry ticket

### Lake Windermere & Ambleside

Saturday 25th July 2015  
£12.50 adult, £11.50 child

### Northumberland Tour

Saturday 27th June 2015  
£14.50 adult, £12.50 child  
Locations: Bamburgh, Seahouses and Holy Island



### Yorkshire Lavendar

Saturday 4th July 2015  
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### Whitby Regatta 2015

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## Who Will Take Over the Police Station Site?

Following the demolition of the Police Station readers are naturally asking who will be taking over the site and for what purpose.

We contacted the Police Commissioner's office who said they have marketed the site and identified a preferred purchaser. Legal contracts are not completed yet, but should be completed after demolition, after which they will announce the purchaser with some certainty.

A spokesperson said: "We have been very careful not to state who the purchaser is beforehand because they could pull out before completion. We will wait until everything is signed before releasing this information."

## Easter Egg Appeal for Local Hospice



Kendra Hulbert at Lifestyle Fitness Newton Aycliffe and Dani Kerr from Sunnysdale with the impressive display of Easter Eggs brought in as a result of their St. Teresa's Hospice Appeal.

## Petting Zoo

A little reminder for everyone that Little ACORNS are holding their Petting Zoo on Tuesday April 7th starting at 10:30 and finishing at 2:30. It's in the sports hall of the Leisure Centre Entrance is £1 per person and under 16's must be accompanied by an adult. This year we have all sorts of animals some old friends and some new ones, there will be entertainment and stalls galore so why not come along and meet old and new friends. Can't wait to see you all there.

Also a reminder that ACORN hold their next meeting next Thursday, 9th April, Little ACORNS starts at 5:30, adults 6pm it is also our AGM and guest speaker is Ron Hogg.

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# Students Tour Shepherd Hitachi Site



Students from both sites of Greenfield Community College had the opportunity to tour the new Hitachi site recently. Twenty students put their names forward as being interested in construction and were chosen to go on the visit, which was organised as part of the Shepherd Construction Open Doors project. The group had the opportunity to "access all areas" on their tour which started viewing samples in the cabin to compare to what they saw on site, and

included the office block and newly installed turntable. This was a great opportunity for Greenfield students to see how the construction industry works, they asked questions throughout and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Mark Kilcran from Shepherd, who met the students on the day said: "We thoroughly enjoyed having the pupils on site and we hope that some were inspired to explore career opportunities in construction and engineering."

## WE WILL GET ALL THE ANSWERS

Due to restrictions at Public Question Time at the County Council Meeting on 1st April Ken Robson, Vice Chairman of Great Aycliffe Residents' Association could not ask the numerous questions the public wanted answered on the removal of lights along the A167. (See Newton News 27th March)

He was restricted to just three questions and as there was some important information still required Syd Howarth (Chairman of GARA and Editor of Newton News) put all the questions in writing to the Council for answers under the Freedom of Information Act and when received these will be communicated to readers.

# SOUTHDALE OFFER TO SHARE SUCCESS WITH LOCAL SUPPLIERS



Construction and development specialist Southdale is using more than £11m of new contracts in the North East to create opportunities for local supply chain companies and subcontractors, and to create jobs and apprenticeships. Aycliffe-based Southdale has secured the work, including new projects on Tyneside, where it will build 116 homes, including:

- 67 homes across a number of South Tyneside sites for South Tyneside Homes, starting in May, in a contract valued at £7,000,092.
- 49 properties for the St Mary Magdalene and Holy Jesus Trust in Claremont Road, Newcastle, starting in

July. Craig Knowles, North East Region Operations Director at Southdale, said: "The overwhelming majority of the benefit from these contracts goes into the communities in which we are building homes. As well as developing homes for people to live in, we ensure that we use almost exclusively local supply chain companies and labour, and create apprenticeship opportunities for young people. "Much of the work we conduct is at least part funded by the Homes and Communities Agency, the HCA, and we thrive on their values of creating strong apprenticeship opportunities across the North East. "These projects are part of a strong start to 2015 for Southdale in the North East and we are looking to build upon this as the year continues." <http://www.southdale.co.uk>



Gordon Henderson will give a talk entitled 'Pompeii' to Aycliffe Village Local History Society in Aycliffe Village Hall at 7pm on Wednesday 8 April. All welcome - members £1 non members £3 to include tea/coffee and biscuits. Enquiries: 01325 301093.

## New Artwork for Greenfield's Campuses



Greenfield Arts have been working with Greenfield Community College across both campuses to create a new feature for both reception areas and celebrate the merge of the two sites. The artworks have been made from many small elements created by all staff and students that create one whole final piece. Visual Arts classes at the two campuses worked with professional artist Vicky Holbrough to explore materials, design and create the elements of the artwork. The students have shared their ideas and plans with the rest of the school at each site, giving each student at the school the opportunity to contribute an element to the artworks, celebrating the strength of working together as a team. Vicky Holbrough is an experienced artist, based in Darlington, who has created artworks which are on display in public locations across the region. Her work has often focussed on exploring materials and multiples, a strength which has been utilised to great effect with these artworks! The two artworks ("Flourish" and "Synergie") are now finished, installed and visible to staff, students, parents and other visitors to the school in the 2 reception areas – a visually stunning representation of the creativity and strength of the school to be enjoyed by all.

# FRIENDS OF WEST PARK

The next meeting of the "Friends of West Park" will be held on Tuesday 14th April, 2015 at 7.00pm in the Upstairs Lounge at the Royal British Legion. All residents most welcome. Refreshments will be available

## Situations VACANT

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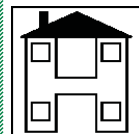
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## Public Consultation

**Agnew Community Centre**  
**Wednesday 22nd April**  
**From 6pm - 7pm**  
**EXTENSION PLANS**

Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership and Agnew Community Association are working together to bring to the area a much needed facility to help those in need of short term welfare help.

To view the plans of this exciting extension to your community centre you are invited to a meeting at the Agnew Centre on Wednesday 22nd April between 6 and 7 pm. Partners and Trustees of both organisations will be available to discuss the plan with individuals.

You are further invited to stay for GACAP's first AGM on the same date at 7pm.

There will be refreshments available between 6 and 7 pm and after the AGM which we anticipate would last no more than 40 minutes.

If you are unable to attend the consultation, plans will be on show in the Agnew Centre for 28 days during normal opening hours 10am - 5pm - Monday to Friday.

Your views are important to us so come along and tell us what you think about this exciting new building project on your doorstep.

north east autism society

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## A&E Team Cycle for Air Ambulance Charity

A group of Accident and Emergency specialists will complete a charity cycle ride in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS).

The 14 strong-team from James Cook University Hospital will take on the 160 mile coast to coast ride from Whitehaven to Whitby on April 28.

The group of doctors, nurses, consultants and healthcare assistants, aptly named the "A&E Wheelers" hope to complete the physical challenge in three days.

Nurse, Louise Smith, 28, from Norton, said: "We are

all really looking forward to it and we want to raise as much money as we can for the air ambulance. We work with the team frequently, so we know the great work they do and some of our doctors make up part of the GNAAS crew."

Although no official target has been set, the group are positive that people will get behind their fundraising for the charity that operate three air ambulances across the North East, North Yorkshire and Cumbria.

Miss Smith, a mother-of-one, said: "We are a close-knit unit and will pull together to make sure everyone is able to finish.

We haven't been able to do much training as a group as we all work different shifts at the hospital but we have trained individually and are all excited and nervous for the challenge ahead."

GNAAS' deputy director of operations, Jane Peacock, said: "We often land on the

helipad at James Cook and work in conjunction with this brilliant team. We want to say a big thank you to them for their fundraising, as well as wishing them good luck in the ride."

To sponsor the team, visit <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AEWheelers>

## ENJOY LINE DANCING AT THE LEGION CLUB



Award winning Country & Western Duo, Luke & Mel appear at the British Legion Club on 23rd April to celebrate St. George's Day. There will be a buffet so please bring a plate! You can learn Line Dancing every Thursday from 8 - 9pm with our fully qualified teacher - only £3 with free raffle. Artistes for April include Dave Lesley, County Cousins, Jackie Hudson, Luke & Mel and Darren Knight.

## News Items Printed Free in Newton News

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

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

If your organisation or company has newsworthy information they wish to share with our community please get in touch. We would be happy to hear from you and take photos/video footage if required.

Newton News has a 16,500 circulation weekly, delivering to each household in Aycliffe and the surrounding villages. We also deliver to over 280 companies on Aycliffe Business Park and leave copies for people to pick up in public places.

Feel free to send in any news and photos by email to [syd@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:syd@newtonnews.co.uk) - We look forward to receiving your next piece of good news.

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

## Help for Macmillan



Thanks to everyone who baked cakes; and friends who helped on tombola and raffle stalls last Monday for our Macmillan Coffee Morning at Simpasture Court which raised £253.

## Social Media Volunteer Wanted for GACAP

Do you want to get some practical experience in the field of Media Communications? GACAP (Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership) is looking for a Communications Officer, to help keep our social media sites updated (Twitter, Facebook etc.) and to write articles and keep our partners informed through our monthly newsletter. We are looking for a volunteer with good communication skills both verbal and written to assist with the on-going development of our project helping disadvantaged people in Great Aycliffe.

You'd be working from home for a couple of hours a week to suit you. Experience can be added to any CV to strengthen future job applications. Please contact Secretary Joan Clark at: [gacap001@gmail.com](mailto:gacap001@gmail.com) Tel: 01325 307522

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<b>Junior 14-18</b>	<b>£75</b>
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# Heighington Boys AFC Results

**Heighington Under 7's** travelled to Darlington Spraire lads on Saturday hoping to keep up their impressive form. The boys played three 20 minute games and were at reduced numbers due to holidays. The first game Heighington Played some exceptional football and ran out 5-2 winners Theo Callaghan grabbed 2 as did Tyler Woodward and Joe Neild got 1. Oliver Paylor playing in defence for the first time had a fantastic game at the back and made sure Maddox Harcus in goal had little to do. The second game was more of the same and

Heighington won 2-0 with a solid performance Joe Neild grabbing both the goals. Layton Collier and Tyler Gibbon were outstanding and were both unlucky not to score. The third and final game saw Heighington go 1-0 up with a fantastic free kick from Theo Callaghan, Heighington had chances to put the game to bed with Maddox Harcus, Layton and Tyler Gibbon all going close. Spraire lads scored twice in the closing stages both goals a little controversial to say the least. Man of the Match award went to the entire squad who were fantastic in all 3 games

No game for the Under 9's this week but we held a Raffle drawn at Bay Horse pub at Heighington, on Saturday 28th March. We would like to thank following businesses, for donations and raffle prizes: Black Horse pub, Tudhoe Spennymoor, Clems Fish and Chips restaurant, Bishop Auckland, and Back Water Bacon, Gateshead plus all customers, and staff from the Bay Horse. £155 was raised and all 32 prizes were claimed. Under 12's game saw Heighington host Coublay Newham Reds (CNR) who are currently sitting 2nd in the league. CNR started off with a very fast pace and Heighington were quite rightly taken by surprise, CNR pressed until that breakthrough came, and Heighington were punished with a fantastic strike 0-1 only minutes into the game. Heighington started passing the ball around but CNR were soon putting pressure on them, winning the ball back at every opportunity and the pressure soon paid off 0-2. Heighington kicked off 0-2 down but within minutes CNR score again - 0-3. Heighington had almost given up at this point, but with some neat footwork Heighington started to play as they know how, but before they could get on the score sheet CNR had pounced again, 0-4. After a few words from management Heighington picked up their game with some good football, but were still under pressure after starting to create some chances. CNR then put a string of passes together breaking the back line and putting another goal in the back of the net 0-5. Heighington had emerged from half time playing better football only conceding the one goal, but just not enough to make the difference. Man of the Match: Kieran Shingler

**Under 14s** - A big thank you for the efforts of our team this afternoon, who despite losing 2-1 at home to Champions Richmond Town in the league decider, put a shift in, especially in the second half, after being 2-0 down at half time. We reduced the deficit after Roman Alves scored a neat shot into the left hand corner of the goal, and continued to lay siege on the Richmond goal, but could not get the any more goals. That leaves us as runners up, but still our best ever placed finish in a league season, so well done to everyone. MOM was James Le Poidevin, who was a menace all day down the left. All age groups are always looking for new players, so If you would like to get involved with any of our teams please contact David Brassell on: 07870 777779 or david.brassell@hotmail.co.uk We are Recruiting new players for the U14 team for next season who are starting to train now, contact Mark Stapleton, on 07443 621876 if you are interested in becoming involved

## LOCAL SPORT

### Aycliffe Runners in Rome Marathon



Vivian Pow, a former police woman, has now run eight marathons. She ran the Yorkshire Marathon just a year after being diagnosed with bowel cancer and undergoing surgery and chemotherapy. When the cancer returned she had her whole colon removed but within 3 months ran the Darlington 10K in a PB time. She has just competed in the Rome Marathon in which she finished in 4:03:40, knocking more than 15 minutes off her PB time. An amazing inspiration which proves that cancer does not have to stop you from achieving great things. Accompanying Vivian on

her trip to Rome were Judith Porter, who finished the course in 4:30 and Amanda Garvey Kovac who finished in 5:45. On the same day, two of our members competed in the Blakey Blitz Fell Race. This is a tough race over 17K and 855m of ascent. Dez Fielding came in 10th in 95:05 followed by Matt Heron, 31st in 107:32. In the Sedgfield Parkrun John and Jack Heywood both got PBs, finishing in 23:21 and 32:50 respectively. Finally, competing for the first time in the Thirsk 10 and in perfect weather conditions, Mark Wade finished in 62m:34s in 81st position.

### RUN COMES TO END FOR RUGBY CLUB

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club's run of victories in Durham and Northumberland Division 3 came to an end with a narrow 24-20 defeat at 4th place Seghill. A win would have guaranteed Aycliffe finishing in the top three and, although they were missing a number of backs, they were confident of a result against another of the top teams. Aycliffe began brightly with their forwards maintaining good possession as they kept the ball away from Seghill's young backline, Neil Morgan won a number of turnovers and put in a great stint of tackling. No score was forthcoming despite this early pressure, and Seghill fought back. Aycliffe suddenly became very hesitant and were unable to stop the hosts scoring two tries for an early 10 - 0 lead. Aycliffe now began to find their game and, despite struggling in the scrums, they soon had narrowed the gap after some good rucking by the forwards saw Niall Kelly touch down in the corner. Soon after, a kick from Gareth Parsonage fell short but into the arms of Adam Gascoigne, who sped down the wing for another try. The half-time score was 10-10 and the game finely poised. Aycliffe were still on top at

the beginning of the second half and from a turnover, Gascoigne was able to step through the defence for a try; the conversion by Gareth Parsonage came back off the post. James Thacker made a number of breaks, but the Seghill defence was always able to make the last ditch tackle. The pressure continued and more good rucking saw Liam Kelly score a try to give Aycliffe a 20 - 10 lead. Seghill were not beaten yet and attacked constantly and were rewarded with a converted try to reduce the gap to 3 points. With the game into the last 5 minutes, the Seghill scrum-half showed a bit of magic with a chip over the Aycliffe backs, the ball bounced back into his hands and he was able to score under the posts. The conversion meant that Aycliffe needed a try, and they attacked fiercely but Seghill's defence just hung on and they ended up 24 - 20 victors. Despite the heartbreak of the late defeat, Aycliffe gained 2 bonus points and a win in their next league match, at home to Washington on 11th April, will confirm third place in the league for the 3rd time in 4 seasons. Aycliffe rugby is supported by S Cars, Smurfit Kappa Ltd and Whitehouse Funeral Service

## Ten Medals from Derwentside Meet

Sedgefield 75 had 7 swimmers competing this weekend at the Derwentside Development Meet. Between them these swimmers came away with a total of 10 medals between but it was the PBs for the swimmers which were even more impressive. Competing in a total of 31 events the swimmers achieved an amazing 22 personal best times. Emily Alderson won gold and PB'd in both her events, 100 and 200m freestyle. Peter Golightly also came away with 2 golds in the 100 and 200m breaststroke and a bronze in the 50m breaststroke and a place in the NERs with a PB in the 100m breast. Katelyn Craig won 3 medals, silver in the 100m freestyle, and bronze in both the 200m freestyle and 100m backstroke. Amy Gittins and Kate Carmichael both won medals the 200m freestyle, Amy claimed a silver and Kate, took away a bronze. Other swimmers representing Sedgefield 75 were Carla and Kate Abel who both achieved personal best times in all their events and Lauren Chatt who also had PBs in some of her races. As always the entire team were a credit to the club and all came away with great results gained from their hard work during training.

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Election Candidate

Dear Sir,

It never surprises me the  
blunders that sometimes  
happen in politics and what  
I have learned today is no  
exception to the rules. My  
opponent Scott Wood of  
the Conservative Party  
released a press release on  
the 26th March, it is shame  
that he failed to include the  
text for the blanks that the  
Tory Party HQ had left out  
for him.One thing we can learn  
other than it is a gaff  
was that as per usual the  
Conservatives just don'tunderstand the constituents  
and are no more than a  
puppet party in the north  
east.I write every single  
press release completely  
myself because I am no  
professional politician. It  
may not be as suave as the  
Labour or Conservative  
Parties but at least you  
know you get something I  
have actually taken the time  
of day to write.The Conservatives clearly  
don't care enough to write  
their own so why would  
they care about you as a  
constituent? For those who  
haven't seen it so far here is  
the link. http://linkis.com/  
co.uk/BiEIM  
John Leathley UKIP  
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causes. Ring Honest John 316  
630RSPCA North Tees & District  
cats and kittens for adoption,  
fee applies to cover 1st and 2nd  
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ID chip. Please Tel 311 215

## Obituary

WILLEY Kenneth (Ken) of  
Newton Aycliffe. Passed away  
peacefully on March 28 aged  
87 years. Much loved by Jean  
and all the Family. Service at  
St Clares Church on April 8 for  
2.30pm. No flowers by request.



# I Choose Democracy

Dear Sir,  
The Town Council elections of 2013 overwhelmingly returned Labour councillors. So I was very disappointed to see that democratic outcome dismissed in last week's Newton News as 'the ruling Labour clique dictating affairs'. We are not a 'clique' – we are the legally-elected majority! The letter went on to complain: 'the Labour view will always prevail even when it may not be best for our town'. But who gets to judge what is 'best for our town'? The four opposition councillors? A vocal lobby group? Last week's correspondent? The democratic answer is that Town Council decisions should be the decisions of the elected majority as determined

by a vote. Anybody who finds this 'exasperating' simply does not understand democracy. When the electors returned Labour councillors, they were declaring that they wanted the Council to make its decisions according to Labour values. We are proud to be Labour, and honoured to be mandated to do so.  
John D Clare  
Press Officer, Great Aycliffe  
Town Council Labour Group

## Acknowledgement

**SHEILA BRODIE** The family of the late Sheila wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown to them during their recent bereavement. Also for the cards, letters of condolence and flowers. Special thanks to Dr Clarke and all the staff at Pease Way Medical Centre. Thank you to Rev. Graham Morgan for a comforting Service; Elm Ridge for floral tributes and to all the staff at Seaton Leng in Darlington for the funeral arrangements.

## In Memoriam

### John Robert Farmer

2nd April  
I know a smile I would love to see, a loving face so dear. I know a hand I would love to hold, a voice I long to hear. I know a heart so thoughtful and true, I know them all, because I loved you. Miss and love, your loving Wife, Mary xxx

#### Dad

It isn't what we write, it isn't what we say, it's how we feel inside Dad as we think of you today. Goodbyes are not forever, goodbyes are not the end. They simply mean we'll miss you until we meet again. Love you lots, Paula, Brett, David and Christine xxxxx

#### Grandad

You left a place no one can fill. We miss you now and always will. Love you, Jack, Jayden, Harry and Oliver xxxx

**JENNIE TARVIT** 7th April. Treasured memories of a dear friend, Jennie. Always remembered by Silvia and Vic  
**TOMMY HARBOTTLE** Died 7th April 2005. It's hard to believe that it's been 10 years since we lost our lovely Dad. Happy memories remain in our hearts and your laughter and smiles will live on forever Dad. Vera, Lavinia and Andy xxx  
**ARNIE LINDLEY** 7th April 2012. We think of your face again. Loved always, Wife Pat and family xxx  
**ROBERT REDHEAD** (Bob). 1st April. 3 years since you left us Son. Silent thoughts of times together, special memories last forever. Sadly missed and loved. Loving Mother Laura  
**BRIAN FIRTH** 3rd April 1999. Forever in my heart, always on my mind. Words cannot say how much I miss you. Love you, Wife Hazel xx  
**WENDY GRAHAM**, 5th April 2009. My loving Wife Wendy, miss you with all my heart. Love you forever. Loving Husband Charles xxxxx  
**WENDY GRAHAM**, 5th April 2009. Miss our Sister and Auntie always in our thoughts. Love, Kay, Mike, Michael, Sean and Zoe xxxxx  
**WENDY GRAHAM**, 5th April 2009. Memories of a special Sister, miss you. Love, Mandy xxx

**DENNIS GARTLAND** 3rd April. You were a Husband in a million, why did you have to go? You meant the world to me, I really loved you so. If I had one choice today, my choice would not be hard, I'd wish that I could have you here, to give you a birthday card. Your loving Wife, Irene xxx  
**DENNIS GARTLAND** 3rd April. We miss your smile, your kindly ways, with you we spent some happy days. We miss you when we need a friend, one we always could depend. If only you were here today, then this to you we could say, Dad, have a happy birthday. All our love, Denise, Allan, John, Lyn and Ian xxxxx  
**DENNIS GARTLAND** 3rd April. Birthday wishes we send today. To a star in the sky, not far away. Engraved in gold on a cloud above, just for you Grandad. With all our love, Christopher, Emma, Becky, Sam, Lauren, Isaac, Belle and Rose xxx  
**KARMEN** 5th April. Your special day we cannot share, but in our hearts you are always there. Love from Mam, Nadine, David, Denise, Owen, Ronnie, Karen and family

## Thank You

**MRS CHEETHAM** would like to say a big thank you to all of the pupils, parents, governors and staff at Byerley Park School, for their kind words and generous gifts on the occasion of her retirement.

## For Sale

"ALL SORTS" selling anything and everything for Charity. Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10am to 1pm at St Clare's Church. New stock arrived, 50% discount  
**DIGITAL** Rockjam keyboard on stand. 128 tone effects. Bargain £120. Tel 01325 300313  
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**CANE SUITE** good condition, £50. Tel 01325 314358  
**HOTPOINT** VAT20 tumble drier, £60. Tel 07789 502173  
**BRAND NEW** double divan with quilted Damask mattress, can deliver, £120. Tel 07789 113343  
**EDEN** mobility scooter with lights, indicators, brakes. Can be used on the road, £450 ono. Tel 01325 324309  
**RISE & Recline** electric chair, red moquette, good condition, £90 ono. Tel 01325 308094  
**CHILDRENS** fitness equipment, strider, rowing machine, bike, £25 each. Tel 01325 308094

## Congratulations

### Rachel Addison



#### Happy 40th Birthday 4th April 2015

To our wonderful Daughter on her 40th birthday. Hope you have a great day. All our love, Mam, Dad, Neil, Jill and Ava

#### Happy Birthday Princess, Love, Gary

### Edie Hodgson



90 Today - 3rd April 2015  
Have a lovely day. Lots of love, June and Family, Ken, Jackie and Family  
xxxx

**FRASER REK** Happy 10th birthday on 4th April, 2015. Lots of love from Mam, Jessica and Sam xxx

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# KEEPING SAFE AT WOODHAM ACADEMY



Students in Year 9 at Woodham Academy took part in a PSHE day on Thursday 5th March which was themed around the topic of 'Keeping Safe'. The students undertook a series of workshops which allowed them opportunities to explore sensitive issues and devise strategies to keep themselves and others safe. Issues included E Safety, abusive relationships, self-harm and legal and illegal drug consumption. All sessions were led by experts and the event was supported by

a variety of services including the Youth Centre, Harbour, If U Care Share and One Point. "It is always a positive experience working with young people to raise awareness of our work. This is an issue very close to our heart and we are keen to spread the message across young people in County Durham so that they are aware of how they can access the support out there in the community", said Allison Younger from If U Care Share Foundation.

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# Aycliffe FC In Danger Zone Derby Match Win Secures Sports Club's Promotion

A heavy defeat on Saturday to league leaders Guisborough Town leaves Newton Aycliffe still dangerously close to the relegation zone of Ebac Northern League Division One. Aycliffe are 17th, five points above the relegation places with just two games left to play. However, some of the teams below have games in hand so it looks as though it's going to be a tense Easter at Moore Lane. Aycliffe held their own for much of the first half of this match played in blustery conditions. At times both sides struggled with the conditions but with the visitors missing a number of key players it was always going to be tough going for them. Guisborough had the first serious chance after 23mins when Bythway shot wide. It wasn't all one way though and on the half hour Aycliffe had a good chance to take the lead. A great ball forward from Zak Boagey put through Dennis Knight whose delicate shot flew just wide of the post. Earlier in the season Aycliffe had an awful habit of conceding a goal just before half-time. That seemed to have been cured but reappeared in this game. Three minutes before the break a long ball forward caused confusion in the Aycliffe defence who failed to clear. The ball fell to Curtis Round whose shot struck the inside of the post on its way into the net. Any hopes Aycliffe had of rescuing a point from the game were dashed in a second half where much of the damage was done by two of their former players, Danny Earl & James Risborough. Guisborough's second goal came after 54mins when Risborough struck home a shot after the ball had been cut back from the right. It was Earl's turn on 67mins when he beat the defenders & buried a powerful shot past the Aycliffe



**Forthcoming Fixtures**  
Saturday 4 April (home) North Shields - 3:00pm  
Saturday 11 April (away) Ashington - 3:00pm

keeper, James Winter. The final blow for Aycliffe came with fifteen minutes left. Winter fumbled a low shot & in the scramble that followed he brought down an opponent, conceding a penalty which Earl scored. The end of season run-in doesn't get any easier for Aycliffe with next Saturday's opponents being FA Vase finalists, North Shields. Shields achieved a fantastic semi-final victory over Wiltshire side,

Highworth, to earn their place at Wembley on 9th May. Before that, however, they visit Moore Lane for Newton Aycliffe's last home game of the season. Aycliffe have themselves a cup semi-final to look forward to this Tuesday when they play Ashington in the League Cup. This is the first of two away games against Steve Harmison's team as the last league game of the season on 11 April is against the same opponents.

Derby Day came a week early in Newton Aycliffe as the Sports Club took the short trip to Simpasture Park to play local rivals The Huntsman. With just 3 games to go, the away side knew that a win would see them safely promoted in their first season in the Wear Valley Sunday League and all but finish any hopes The Huntsman had of doing the same. With the bragging rights up for grabs it was the home side who started the brightest and took control from the off. It wasn't until the 25th minute that the deadlock was broken and it was the hosts who took advantage when Ollie Gell lobbed Sports Club Keeper Andy Hartley from 25 yards. However, the lead was short-lived as it took just 5 minutes for The Sports Club to equalise, Jonathan Clegg storming through the defence and getting the ball to Chris Jones who slotted home to

make it 1-1 going into the break. The Sports Club started the 2nd half brightly when a corner from Anth Campbell found the head of Chris Jones to make it 2-1 just five minutes after the break. However, the depleted team, short on numbers, showed signs of tiredness in the 2nd half and The Huntsman began to dominate piling pressure on the away side. On the hour mark they got their reward when the Sports Club defence failed to clear the ball and a low cross found its way into the box for Shaun Sproates to smash home the equaliser. With the pressure mounting, it looked like The Huntsman would go on to take all three points, but couldn't make their dominance count failing to hit the target a number of times. Tough Tackling on derby day With less than ten minutes



on the clock remaining a long ball over the top found Chris Jones who outpaced the home sides centre half, before bearing down on goal and slotting home the winner and completing his hatrick. With 4 teams going up from the 3rd Division, this win secured Newton Aycliffe Sports Club a place in Division 2 for the 2015/16 campaign. With 2 games left to play, the runners up spot is what the Sports Club will be aiming for with Darlington Rolling Mills looking favourites to secure top spot, but all still up for grabs. Newton Aycliffe Sports Club would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors for this season, which includes Eddie Hall Installations, Amazing Results Estate Agents and PEC packaging. We would also like to thank Glenda Hall and PFP Wealth Management and not forgetting the Committee members and Sports Sections at Moore Lane Sports Club for all the help and support during our second season together which has seen successful back to

back promotion campaigns. Thanks everyone for your support. Team:- Andy Hartley, Craig Hannant, Darren Griffiths, Mark Craggs, Jonathan Clegg, Paul Cook, Sam McKerr, Anthony Campbell, Gareth Boyes, Chris Jones, Darren Bosomworth  
Subs (Unused): David Hall

## NAYCC JUNIOR FOOTBALL

**Under 16's** hosted South Park. Corey Denton cancelled out South Park's opener, blasting it past the keeper. Jimmy Cameron fired home for a half-time for 2-1. Glyn 'toffee' Marley left the keeper stranded for a final score of 3-1. MOM went to Harry Laverty. **Under 15 Falcons** played host to Hartlepool Youth. A great Liem Walls cross was headed home by Grant Holmes. Hartlepool equalised from distance. 1-1 at half time The visitors took the lead from a

shot of distance, then a great corner by Danny Walker found Sam Pearson who headed in for 2-2. Hartlepool got the luck from a long clearance and they taped in to make it 2-3 which is how the game finished. Whinney Banks away for the **Under 14's** and within 25mins they were winning 5-0 and then they switched off as the hosts managed to get 3 quick goals before half time. Before they knew what happened it was 6-4 to Aycliffe! Unbelievably the hosts managed another 4

goals making the score 8-6. Credit to the the lads who never gave up and managed to draw 8-8. Goals Bradley Bird (4) Bailey Howarth (3) & Lewis Breckon (1). MOM was Bailey Howarth. **Under 13's** travelled to Cargo Fleet in their penultimate game of the season and found themselves on the end of a 5-2 defeat. Goals from Chloe Ryan and Cameron Nicholson. **Under 13 Girls** travelled to Lumley in a dress rehearsal for the League Cup Final on April 18th. A match to forget as they lost 5-1! Much work needed between now and then but it's a Cup Final and you never know! Chloe Ryan netted the consolation goal. **The U12 Falcons** made the long trip to Whitby to face Fishburn Park., but didn't turn up and quite simply didn't deserve to win. A very disappointing result after last week's heroics was only made better by some team building spirit by all Falcons travelling by bus together and spending a few hours in Whitby afterwards with fish & chips, arcades and plenty of banter!

**Under 12 Eagles** 3-2 Hardwick with goal scorers Adam Moffat, Baileigh Downes and Iain Jex. MOM went to James Palmister. **Under 11 Falcons** travelled to Shildon AFC. and started brightly but conceded a well taken half volley from the edge of the box, 0-1. Kieran Gillham swung in a corner, met by Tom Jasper who headed superbly into the top corner 1-1. The boys conceded very quickly from kick off 1-2. A Declan Scott screamer made it 2-2 at half time. 3 second half goals were conceded within 15 minutes. A late Will Mawston penalty made a final score of 3-5. MOM was Tom Jasper. **Under 11 Eagles** defeated Saxon Juniors 11-2. Adam Lowe managed to score 6 goals which was reward for some clinical finishing and determination. Joe Halford score twice following some great team link up play. Kian Cook slotted in after the ball came off the post. Rhys Williamson scored a brilliant

lob. Callum North scored a great individual goal, taking it past nearly every player on the pitch! MOM was shared between Joe Halford and Adam Lowe. **Under 10 Falcons** started well but found themselves a goal down to Willington. They came fighting back and an assist by Leon made it 1-1. Loss of concentration and the Falcons were 3-1 down. Great talk at half time saw fine runs by Declan and Leon, but the Falcons could not finish. The counter attacks and a penalty punished the boys. 5-1 full time. MOM went to Leon. **Under 10s Eagles** were in a League cup semi final against Golden Flatts who took a deserved lead to go in 1-0 at half time. A difficult day as the boys never really got going. James Sear was man of the match. Full time 0-2. Good luck to Golden Flatts in the Final. **Under 10 Girls** played South Durham & Cestria with Ocean Tia opening the scoring. Cestria equalised only for Hattie to net for half time 2-1. Cestria then dominated for a final score 2-3. Second game against Norton & Stockton saw a much better performance with Hattie hitting a superb hat trick. Full time 3-0. **Under 8 Falcons** made it to the Final of the Challenge Cup by beating Norton & Stockton Ancients Blacks away from home. Dylan Stewart netted a hat-trick while man of the match Travis Dixon bagged 4 goals! Great achievement boys! 2nd game was a very difficult and different game. Norton had the same team from 1st game and it showed as they raced to a half time 4-0 lead. Changes were made and a better 2nd half by the lads but they just couldn't find the net. 5-0 final score. man of the match was Adam Shaw. Is your child interested in playing football? If so, Newton Aycliffe Youth FC offers fantastic facilities in a family, friendly environment. Contact Bernard Borsberry on 07939 045242 or visit our website: www.naycafc.co.uk

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