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Lifeline for Western Area Community Centre



Helping Hands part of the Lifeline Community Action charity is offering a lifeline to the underused Western Area Community Centre known as Silverdale House. For a number of years local hardworking volunteer, Dorothy Bowman, has used the centre to bring many different types of activity for the benefit of residents, starting with the Junior Neighbourhood Watch. This organisation still has the leasehold from housing association Livin. However in the last year

while Dorothy has been treated for a serious illness the building and many of its activities have ceased. Plans evolved for West Cornforth Partnership to take it over and provide courses, but came to nothing so Lifeline Community Action, an active Church in Newton Aycliffe, stepped forward with their proposals to breathe new life into the centre. A meeting was held last week of all interested parties including the landlord and County Councillors and it looks very likely Silverdale House will re-open soon in partnership with the existing leaseholders to provide a very active programme to attract the community through its doors. Much renovation work is required before this can happen, but 'Helping Hands' with its many committed volunteers are eager to get

started to provide recreational facilities for every age group focussing on social inclusion. The Drop in Cafe will remain and courses to be offered include a Job Club, Money Management, along with fun activities including crafts, singing and dancing. A Dementia Club run by Dorothy Bowman is also part of the scheme. Susan Sadler, founder of Lifeline and helping Hands said: "We will have an 'open door' policy where users of the centre become friends". Dorothy Bowman added: "We want to serve the whole community and provide something worthwhile in a safe environment". There is a possibility with the assistance of Livin that the exterior appearance may be softened to be more inviting.

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Quiz & Meal

Woodham Golf Club is kindly hosting a quiz night on behalf of the Butterwick Hospice, so if you enjoy a good quiz come and join us here on Thursday 21st May at 7.30pm. You will also enjoy a two course meal included in the price. Mandy, the manager, said the Butterwick is very close to her heart and is pleased to help in any way. Tickets cost £15 from Pauline at the Butterwick Hospice. 01388 603003.

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TOWN CENTRE FLASH MOB FOR CHARITY WORKER ALWYN

Recently, Lifeline Community Action masterminded a flash mob in Newton Aycliffe town centre much to the amazement of shoppers and it was all done as a complete surprise for Alwyn White.

Alwyn the "Helping Hands" Manager thought she was going to town to try and help more people, but instead strangers started walking up to her and saying things like 'hi are you Alwyn' and then went on to give her a red rose and thanked her for all the hard work she does for others in our town.

As she walked out of the Thames Centre hordes of friends popped up from 'nowhere' and gave her a gift of appreciation. It wasn't long before she needed help to carry all the gifts.

The crescendo ended at the top end of town near Cafe Pronto where people had gathered to sing to and cheer their role model. Everyone involved in the flash mob really enjoyed themselves and Alwyn was obviously overwhelmed by people's kindness and generosity.



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Saturday 18th April - "1 0 1"

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Tony Blair 100% Behind Labour Party Leader

KEYNOTE SPEECH AT XCEL CENTRE



Labour Party candidate Phil Wilson introducing Tony Blair

Tony Blair breezed into town this week to give a keynote speech at the Xcel Centre, supporting the Labour Party Leader Ed Milliband and the election campaign.

In front of an invited audience with full media coverage, national and local, the former Prime Minister gave an inspiring statesman-like speech which received a standing ovation from the Labour Party faithful.

Our former MP focussed mainly on the referendum to take Britain out of the European Union, dismissing it as an absolute folly which would seriously affect our region and the country's future economy.

He pointed to the number of jobs reliant on our membership of the EEC and asked the question if Hitachi and other foreign investors would have based factories here if we weren't members. Tony Blair said: "The business case against exit from the European Union is obvious. Over half our trade

is with Europe. I am about to visit the Hitachi plant in Newton Aycliffe – a fantastic vote of confidence in the economic future of the North East and a great tribute to Phil Wilson our local MP.

They came here to access the European market. There are millions of UK jobs dependent on that access. I agree that not being part of the single currency is not, at least in the short and medium term, going to imperil the supremacy of the City of London as the world's greatest financial centre, but leaving Europe altogether, is quite another thing".

Newscasters from the BBC, ITV and Sky News posed questions which Tony Blair fielded with skill demonstrating the qualities he has as a highly competent communicator.

Funds to Tackle Domestic Violence

Ron Hogg, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, has announced Durham will receive £0.7million over two years from the Home Office for three projects.

The first project will be to tackle domestic violence. The second project will be to introduce a new initiative which offers an alternative to prosecution for offenders, known as Checkpoint. The third grant will be to support the introduction of a multi-agency responder scheme within the Dales.

Mr Hogg said: "This is excellent news. Domestic violence is an under reported issue that causes misery for people and I am pleased that the Force will be able to use this funding to help tackle it. Durham has previously been praised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for the way it handles domestic abuse and this grant will strengthen work in this area for the benefit of victims.

"In relation to the Checkpoint project, I have previously announced this as Durham leads the way in tackling offenders. It is believed to be the first of its kind in the Country.

The project will involve offering offenders a chance to engage with services to help to turn their lives around and address the root causes of their offending rather than go through the criminal justice system. However, if they break their contract they will of course face prosecution.

"In respect of the multi-agency responder scheme, this again shows our commitment to work in innovative ways with our colleagues from the other emergency services to ensure we continue to provide a quality service to our rural communities in the face of reducing budgets."

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DCC Question Time Restrictive & Formal

Ken Robson Vice Chairman of Great Aycliffe Residents' Association attended the County Council meeting last week to ask questions about lighting being removed on the A167 which has caused great concern to both residents and the business community. Syd Howarth Chairman of GARA and reporting on behalf of Newton News accompanied Ken and found the Council Chamber to be too formal, restrictive and intimidating for the purpose of asking pertinent



questions on Council

policies. The public meeting had seventeen questions, which they delegated GARA to ask, but the council restricted Ken to only three. This gave little opportunity to convey the full concerns and views of the public which the County Council say they had properly consulted. The fact that GARA were asking questions on the consultation indicated how much people were unaware of that process. The Council had notice of the three questions and had stock replies ready for the Portfolio member to answer with no redress from the questioner. GARA were just expected to accept what the Council said, but they will not, and have asked for all the questions the residents asked to be answered under the Freedom of Information Act. We will communicate these answers to our readers when received. In the meantime there are suggestions that our Town Council should lead a protest and indeed take over the lighting cost on the approaches to

Newton Aycliffe, estimated to be £10,000 per annum. This would give them the opportunity to investigate much cheaper and more efficient road lighting to show the County Council there are other ways to save money. After reading the original consultation document it appears the whole question of reduction in lighting costs comes under "Street Lighting" and this is why it is flawed. Nowhere in the document does it mention the A167 main road. People could be forgiven for thinking street lighting only pertains to streets where you live, cul de sacs, avenues, closes or crescents NOT roads and this is where the confusion has arisen. Why wasn't the A167 mentioned specifically in the consultation? Did the Council hope it wouldn't be noticed? Well, they were wrong and there are public protests from Chester-le Street all the way down to Newton Aycliffe and in view of hostile public opinion the policy must be revisited.

Care Home Aids Dogs Trust



Animal lovers at Rose Lodge Care Home hosted a foodbank collection for welfare charity Dogs Trust. Residents, staff and visitors to the home, which provides residential and dementia care for the elderly, donated dog food items and parcels so that the pups in the charity's care can enjoy extra 'creature comforts'. A representative from the Dogs Trust visited the home to collect their donations and brought along Jeremy the beagle to meet with residents and staff at the home. The collection was suggested by staff members due to the popularity of animals with residents at Rose Lodge. As well as two home pets Toby the Cockatiel and Nixon the cat which are cared for by the residents, Rose Lodge has also welcomed visits from a mix of domestic and exotic animals, from miniature horses, dogs and rabbits through to barn owls, lizards and snakes as part of an ongoing animal therapy programme at the home. Nicola Wheatley, Care Manager at Rose Lodge, said: "We thoroughly enjoyed working with the Dogs Trust and thank everyone for their support."

Golden Anniversary for Town Methodists



In 1955 the Methodist Church moved to its present location at the corner of Greville Way & Neville Parade. In 1959 the building was extended by adding the large hall. In 1965 the building was extended further and this month we celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the third phase which is the present Church building. On Friday 17th April we are hosting "An Evening With Adrian & Bridgett Plass". This will start at 7.15pm and will be preceded by a Faith Supper from 6pm. On Saturday 18th April we have a concert by the Durham Police Choir starting at 7pm. Tickets. On Sunday 19th April we have a Celebration Service led by Rev. Graham & Rev Emma Morgan at 10.30am. At 6pm there will be a "Songs of Praise" Celebration. We extend a warm welcome to everyone to come along to one or all of the events, especially if you used to attend the Church in years gone by. We would love to see you again.

Newton News Find New Home for Honest John



Newton Press has helped Honest John again in finding a new home. We were instrumental in getting him into the Cubby where he has operated successfully for over a year. When the Cubby heard they would have to close due to the County Council's termination of their lease, John's Charity Stall was in danger of closure for the second time. John thought he would only have till October to help local charities, but Newton Press heard that DISC the charity operating a furniture Scheme next to the Blue Bridge would be willing to help. John met Liane Robinson and room is being made for him within the furniture warehouse area at no charge. John is absolutely delighted with the arrangement even though it is not in the town centre. John said: "This is great news and to keep the charity stall going is marvellous - I am so grateful to DISC for their generous offer and to the Howarth family at Newton Press for their efforts. There is good parking facilities at DISC and they too have a cafe where people visiting John's stall, to bring and buy, can get hot and cold food at very reasonable prices just as they do at the Cubby. People will also have the opportunity to view the large range of second hand furniture and household goods DISC have on offer. DISC is a regional charity helping young people into work offering training courses, work experience etc. DISC has been helping people for over 30 years and their communities in the North to deal with unemployment, poverty, crime, addiction, homelessness and family breakdown. They believe that aspiration, hope and dreams provide the foundations for change and offer services that can help fulfil hopes and ambitions. Every day DISC sees people overcoming huge personal difficulties, their inspiring stories is their motivation to provide high quality and effective services. John recent donations include £250 to WeCan Parents Group, £150 for Youth Centre Little Gems Play group, £700 to the Aycliffe Boxing Club, £200 for the Under 7's Football Team and £250 to The Cubby. John thanks all who support

his charity stall both donors and buyers and hopes this will continue in his new home at Disc when he moves .



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NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR AYCLIFFE BEFRIENDING SERVICE

PCP's Health Buddy service was at the centre of an assessment which looks at management and resources, service user involvement, matching processes, and the outcomes achieved.

The Approved Provider Standard (APS) is the national quality standard designed specifically for mentoring and befriending projects, it is externally assessed by the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation therefore PCP were delighted to successfully achieve the Standard, which lasts for 3 years.

Carol Gaskarth, PCP's Chief Executive says "PCP has been delivering mentoring and befriending support in County Durham for over 2 years and I am very pleased that our supportive approach

and robust systems enabled us to gain the Standard. The Assessor spoke to staff, volunteers and most importantly clients to see how they found the service, PCP passed 'with flying colours' which demonstrates how valuable the service is to people.

Social isolation is a real problem for many people in our community and the Health Buddy Service helps to tackle some of these issues. Evidence suggests that those with strong social and community networks are more likely to be healthier and happier. Social isolation is associated with poor physical, mental and emotional health so we need to do what we can to help people become more active.

The Health Buddy Service provides a volunteer 'Buddy' who can visit people in their home, support them to attend a local group or help them to attend appointments. A regular friendly face and a chat can bring so much happiness to people and help to improve their relationships locally.

Thanks to the staff and volunteers involved in providing such a high quality mentoring and befriending experience, your hard work is appreciated by both the organisation and those who use the service."

The Health Buddy scheme is currently funded through the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership and offers flexible, short term assistance to people over 50 years of age from trained volunteer Health Buddies.

The Health Buddy scheme is also looking for volunteer befrienders, if you live Bowburn, Coxhoe, Trimdon, Fishburn or Sedgfield, are patient and reliable then this could be an ideal opportunity for you. A full training and support package will be provided by PCP.

For further information contact tel: 01325 321234 email: healthbuddy@pcp.uk.net website: www.pcp.uk.net. Or find PCP on Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: /PCPandCentre

Evidence on Street Lighting Required

Dear Sir,
I would like to add to the debate with respect to the current debate over street lighting for the A167. Last year I spent 7 months working in West Berkshire, and the comparison between the A4 which traverses that county and the A167 are a fair one to make.

Both former prime routes through similar sized counties, now bypassed through a parallel motorway. Along the route, towns with industrial areas, similar in size to Newton Aycliffe in the form of Newbury and Thatcham; with a similar ribbon development of villages between them.

The street lights along large sections of the A4 are switched off between midnight and early morning. Surely it would not be difficult for Durham councillors to ascertain evidence from their West Berkshire counterparts how successful that scheme has been? They can then make a decision on the basis of some evidence

For my part, I would welcome the scheme to save money by switching off the lights when not needed. It would be a small inconvenience to those few (any) who walk along the footpaths between the towns at the dead of night and also be of little consequence to the small number of drivers at that time.

I suspect that the objections to switching off lights are as a result of human nature. Few of us like having things taken away from us, even though we may have no proof as to whether they are beneficial. I recall similar comments about safety and the new form of low energy street lighting in Newton Aycliffe when that was introduced. I live in one of the first streets to benefit from it. The horrible orange glow of the old lamps has gone and the street looks a far more attractive place at night whilst contributing less to light pollution. It is no less safe than previous.

Rob Kirton, Woodham Gate

FREE COURSES AT THE PIONEERING CARE CENTRE

The Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe is the Hub for the "Colour your Life" project which provides access to creative and informal learning activities for the improvement of mental health and the development of emotional resilience.

Details of new courses coming soon are as follows:- Introduction to Sculpture - Starts Wednesday 15 April, 1 - 3pm for 10 weeks. Explore some of the many techniques using casts and moulds.

Learn to make a series of sculptures using unique 3D materials

Illustration and Collage - Starts Friday 17 April, 10am - 12noon for 10 weeks. Create your own visual representation of images, objects and experiences whilst exploring collage, painting and drawing with ink, pencil and pen

Dig Art Family - Saturdays between 10am - 12noon from 18 April. Garden fun for all the family making artwork from materials gathered from the garden. Make outdoor sculptures using reflective, tactile, musical and recycled objects.

Dig-in Gardening - Mondays 10am - 12noon (ongoing through till Autumn) Learn about and take part in wildlife and flower gardening and growing your own vegetables

Healing Voices - Starts Friday 8 May, 1 - 3pm for 10 weeks. Use your voice freely and confidently in a fun and informal singing group with a relaxing sound bath beforehand to help you unwind and de-stress!

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- Home Maintenance

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programme please get in touch.

Keep up to date with new courses online at www.colouryourlife.org.uk

Twitter: @CYL_CoDurham and Facebook: ColourYourLife. LearnCreateDevelop.

To register an interest or to book your place on any

of the Colour your Life courses get in touch with the Colour your Life team at PCP on 01325 321234 email: colouryourlife@pcp.uk.net or call into the Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4SF. Please book early to avoid disappointment as places are limited.



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Selected Not Elected!

Dear Sir,
The Town Council Election in 2013 was not as Counc Clare reported - an overwhelming result for Labour.

The Labour councillors were selected rather than elected as there was no opposition in some wards. Nearly half the councillors got a free ride so how can he say the electors got what they wanted?

Let's hope next time round more candidates stand against Labour and at least give them a run for their money.

I sent in a letter asking the Town Council to consider making awards to people who serve our community. As Press Officer could Councillor Clare inform us what the Labour controlling group decided?

Maud Gray
Former Councillor.

Asda's Helping Hand



Lifeline Community Action (LCA - Helping Hands) would like to extend a HUGE thank you to Asda Foundation for their generous donation of £500!

LCA receptionist, Linzi Nicholls (right), visited the store in Bishop Auckland last week to receive the cheque, presented by Ashley Casey Community Life Champion.

Linzi said, 'Donations are crucial in helping LCA develop and continue making a difference to people in need in our community. The money will help to enable us to reach a larger number of people requiring our services'.

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Excitement at Petting Zoo



Whilst Tony Blair brought a little excitement to Newton Aycliffe at the Excel Centre and at Hitachi, local residents group ACORN excited the children of the town with the spectacular Annual Petting Zoo at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre.

The popular event brought people from far and wide to see Rabbits, Chickens Gecko, Tortoise, Birds of Prey, lizards and dogs.

Little Acorns the junior section of the group sponsored by "awards for all" Lottery Fund grant put on a show to be proud of supported by Newton Aycliffe leisure Centre and their staff. Great Aycliffe Town Mayor Wendy Hillary graciously opened the event. From the beginning of the event at 10.30 am a steady stream of visitors entered the hall, from small children in prams to elderly people with sticks, and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the event. By lunchtime over 350 had come along to hold and enjoy the antics of the animals.

Jet and Ben the police dogs loved by schoolchildren across the county patiently endured hugs and kisses under the watchful eye of their handler while K9 Pursuits gave a demonstration of how well-trained dogs can behave and do tricks. Local entertainer Professor Nincompoop gave



Local Disabled Group Meet Paralympians

The Options group based at the Pioneering Care Centre recently attended the Paralympics GB Sports Fest at Durham University, offering them a unique opportunity to discover more about disability sport and inviting them to try it for themselves.

They took part in a range of sports including football, shooting, tennis, rowing, swimming, table tennis and cycling and met triple Paralympic champion Stephen Miller and wheelchair fencing star Gemma Collis.

Sports Fest aims to capture the enthusiasm and excitement sparked by the London 2012 Paralympic Games and the record-breaking success of British Paralympians at Sochi 2014.

Sports Fest North East, hosted by The Graham Sports Centre at Maiden Castle, Durham University, was the fifth event in the series and it marked the first time that the event has come to the region. The Options group members



said they felt inspired by the experience and the event made them think about trying out new sports.

Options is a high quality person-centred service providing a way for disabled people to have more control over their lives and participate more fully in the community in which they live.

Social care workers refer disabled people into the service which offers daily

support and opportunities to enable them to achieve their personal goals. Options members develop personal development plans which can include access to education, training, leisure, volunteering and employment.

An Options Social Club which takes place every Thursday from 6pm also within the Pioneering Care Centre is open to all disabled adults and includes hydrotherapy

pool sessions, table tennis, bingo and internet access.

For further information contact the Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net website: www.pcp.uk.net. Or find PCP on Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: /PCPAndCentre

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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.

a wonderful magic show with balloon sculpture which kept children spellbound. Meanwhile Harry Potty transformed children's faces with depictions of fairies and animals. So popular is Harry's face painting that he rarely gets finished on time. Little Acorns Petting Zoo was the best ever. Keith and Rebekah made a marvellous job of organising all the various participants with Sarah and Ellie working hard all day painting nails.

Spotty Dog and Syd the Squirrel drew crowds of excited children everywhere they appeared in the town centre.

Winners of the 'Name the Chick' competition were 'Chickaddee' by Evie - 'Beth and Freya' by Kaitlyn Hill. Many thanks to all our volunteers and members who put so much time and effort into these popular events and with over 500 people attending the Zoo it will have a rosy future going forward.

Ken Robson
ACORN Residents

CAB OPEN NEW OFFICES



CAB Staff and volunteers: Anne Watson, Joanne Petroczy, Pamela Nicholls, Ken Garbutt, Susan Phelan, Tracey Wills.

Part of Pease Way Surgery on Stephenson Way is the new offices for the Citizens Advice Bureau in Newton Aycliffe. Opened this week the premises are light and airy with a nice welcoming atmosphere. The volunteers were so pleased when they saw how much better the facilities were for the clients and the reaction of the clients was very good too. There is so much more space that it makes it feel so much more comfortable.

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Safer Homes & Bike Marking

Members of Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Policing Team will be holding a Safer Homes event at Defoe Crescent, Newton Aycliffe on Saturday 18th April 2015 starting 10:30am.

Crime prevention advice and equipment will be available and referrals to the Safer Homes scheme will be available to be made so officers can provide security checks to peoples homes. Bike marking will also be available. Everyone is welcome to come along to the event.

Community Grants Fund

Groups in the Newton Aycliffe and Middridge are set to benefit from a new pot of funding dedicated to small community minded organisations.

The fund, which has been developed by the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP), will provide a valuable source of funding to all non-profit making organisations in the area.

The overall aim of the Community Grants Fund is to provide support for groups to organise the activities they would not normally be able to finance.

Groups can apply for up to £750 and applications are sought from charities, community groups and any non-profit organisation for projects that will directly benefit the area and improve the lives of local people. Examples of what can be funded include:

- Young people's activities during school holidays
- Social activities for older people
- Equipment that supports a particular activity
- Community events

Brian Riley, GAMP coordinator, said: "A key priority is to help support the local community and voluntary sector."

"Building on the success of previous small grants schemes, it is hoped that community groups will access the funding and deliver a wide range of positive activities."

Funding is open to local voluntary and community groups working within the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership area. Groups can apply for amounts between £250 and £750. Groups can only make one application for this funding, and funding will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

All applications will be considered, especially those which meet GAMP's priorities which are: activities for young people support to the voluntary and community sector, including older people and employment, enterprise, education and training.

We welcome all voluntary and community groups to apply and while we would encourage match funding, we will consider fully funding an activity.

Application packs are available from GAMP by calling 01325 327 441 or by emailing: gampaap@durham.gov.uk

PCC's Back National Campaign to Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation

North East Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are backing a national campaign to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). CSE is a form of sexual abuse that involves the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under the age of 18 into sexual activity.

Today, the world is being asked to unite against the issue as part of National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day. Working under the campaign title #HelpingHands, people have been asked to write a pledge on their hands and show their support for the day by posting a picture of it on social media.

The region's three PCCs; Northumbria's Vera Baird, Durham's Ron Hogg and Barry Coppinger for Cleveland teamed up to say STOP to CSE. Their picture will be shared across social media.

PCC Vera Baird said: "It's incredibly important everyone is aware of CSE and the signs to look out for so victims are given the help and support they need and those responsible for it are brought to the police's attention. "Safeguarding children is a major element in helping to reduce harm to the most vulnerable in our communities and is a priority for me."

"I've recently supported calls for age-appropriate relationships and sex education to be made a statutory component of the curriculum."

"It's vital young people identify when they are in a situation causing them harm, be it physical, or through coercive or controlling behaviour, recognise that it's completely unacceptable and that they should seek help. They will always be listened to and given the protection they need. This is vital to them having positive relationships in their future



PCCs Ron Hogg, Barry Coppinger and Vera Baird

lives.

"I will ensure that within Northumbria, we will continue to work with a variety of people and organisations, including schools, parents, carers, social services, charities and local authorities, to identify victims of child sexual exploitation which will in turn lead us to offenders."

PCC Ron Hogg added: "As recent reports around the county show, child sexual exploitation can happen anywhere. In County Durham and Darlington, a range of partner agencies are working together to raise awareness of the campaign."

"As part of this, the public are being encouraged to write their own positive messages on their hands, and share these photos on social media in a bid to stop more young people becoming victims of sexual predators. Advice is also being shared to parents, to help them spot the signs of child sexual

exploitation."

PCC Barry Coppinger said: "Raising awareness of and tackling CSE is an absolute priority for Cleveland Police and our partner organisations and we are working hard to safeguard vulnerable children and young people - and to deliver training and awareness raising among staff and professionals."

"In every local authority across Teesside, we have established groups of professionals which focus on helping and protecting those most at risk of CSE, however tackling CSE is a shared effort and everyone has a responsibility to spot signs of abuse and act to protect the most vulnerable in our communities." Anyone with any information or concerns is asked to contact police on 101.

Advice and support is also available via Victim Support on 0845 277 0977 or Childline on 0800 1111.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 22nd April 2015

Council Meeting

QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 20 minutes has been also 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.

With the exception of the Annual and Extra-Ordinary Council Meetings members of the public can submit a written question for the Council Agenda as long as it is submitted 7 clear days before a meeting.

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

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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

Thanks Tesco

Tom Berney of Skirlaw Road is disabled and in a wheelchair, trying to cope while his wife is recovering from heart surgery.

He has asked Newton News to express his thanks to Tesco staff who go out of their way to assist him as much as possible when he is shopping.

They help him with his trolley and load his shopping into his car. "I just want them to know how grateful I am for their help" said Tom.

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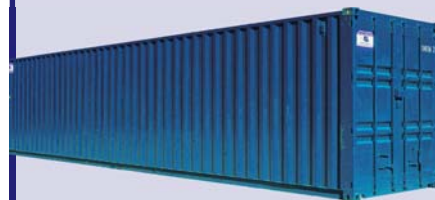
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600 BIKERS ON EASTER EGG RIDE



Charlotte Icton, Olivia & Emily Wingfield Jones waiting for the bikers on the A167

Easter Sunday is a very special day as a mass of Bikers travel from Durham to Darlington delivering donated Easter Eggs to poorly children who find themselves in hospital over the Easter Break. This is a fantastic event for such a good cause and many people turn out to cheer the bikers on and it's an amazing sight to see. This year kids dressed up and Union Jacks with balloons were put out as over 600 bikers rode along the A167 at Aycliffe Village. In 2013 the Police announced they could no longer marshall the event and that it would no longer be possible, but the bikers rallied round and decided to go it alone and thankfully this yearly event is still going strong.

POND DIPPING AT BYERLEY PARK



Pond Dipping has long been one of the most popular public events in Aycliffe and so Great Aycliffe Town Council have organised this activity which will take place at Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve. The ponds here are a little hidden gem that team with life, during our last public event here last summer there was an abundance of dragonfly nymph's, water beetles and tadpoles 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 during this free activity, we will be meeting at the ponds on site which are visible from the Middridge Road. Please bring your nets, buckets and wellies if you have them.

DURHAM POLICE ELECTRONICALLY TAG MORE OFFENDERS

Durham Police have announced that they are buying an additional 90 electronic tags for offenders, following a successful pilot scheme. In December 2014, the force bought 10 tags and put them onto 15 separate offenders who had committed burglary and shoplifting offences, and volunteered to wear them. The tags are monitored remotely. This pilot showed that the offenders with the tags didn't commit any crimes, despite them having previously amassed 467 separate offences between them. The tags led to 3 arrests, following which the police took no further action. Only one subject has reoffended since the tag was removed. PCC Ron Hogg said: "I am pleased that the force is investing in more tags to put on offenders. Both public and businesses need to feel safe, and offenders need to know that they are being monitored. This directly supports my objectives relating to reducing crime and increasing public confidence. "This is also a good example of how the force is going digital by investing in

technology. It also offers up the opportunity of working more closely with our partners in probation services." Detective Inspector Andy Crowe said: "We are looking to issue additional tags in the coming weeks. I am pleased that the pilot project worked successfully. The aims of the project are to stop reoffending and support rehabilitation, meaning fewer victims of crime. "The tags we have bought cost only a fraction of the money compared to the tags that most other forces have bought, and this will be one of the biggest initiative of its kind in England and Wales. It means that officers do not have to spend time visiting offenders and can spend their time on more important tasks."

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Enviro-crime Round-up

One hundred people have received fixed penalty notices (FPNs) after being caught littering. The FPNs were issued during February by Durham County Council.

A further six people received FPNs for failing to pick up after their dogs and council neighbourhood wardens also dealt with 189 stray dogs during February.

Six FPNs were also given to people who failed to comply with litter clearing notices in relation to untidy yards or gardens.

Residents are reminded that they can take household waste to their nearest recycling centre and can arrange for bulky waste collections by contacting the council.

To arrange a bulky waste collection people can contact Durham County Council on 03000 26 1000.

PLAN TO HELP PEOPLE IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

Organisations across County Durham and Darlington have developed an action plan for improving the support for people in a mental health crisis as part of a national Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat. A large number of organisations* including NHS commissioning groups and trusts, councils, the ambulance Service, police and fire services and voluntary sector groups, came together to sign the concordat in November 2014 and have now developed a joint plan of action for how they will work together to improve services.

The Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat is a national agreement between services and agencies involved in the care and support of

people in crisis. It sets out how organisations will work together better to make sure that people in crisis receive urgent mental health care and support.

In February 2014, 22 national bodies involved in health, policing, social care, housing, local government and the third sector came together and signed the concordat. It focuses on four main areas: access to support before crisis point; urgent and emergency access to crisis care; quality of treatment and care when in crisis; and recovery and staying well. The Health and Wellbeing Boards in Durham and Darlington established a multi-agency task and finish group to take forward the local declaration and development of a prioritised action plan to ensure outcomes for patients

in a mental health crisis continue to be improved. The top priority areas of focus are as follows:

- Improved processes for patients detained under the Mental Health Act in regards to the provision of places of safety arrangements through System Resilience Funding.
- A review of protocols for people presenting with mental health problems and intoxication from alcohol or drugs, including a designated place of safety in an appropriate setting.
- A review of data sharing proposals between health and the police to enable effective strategic planning and operational delivery.
- A review of the demand within County Durham and Darlington in terms of police time spent in street situations

and in people's homes or public places responding and dealing with people in mental health crisis.

- In Darlington the action plan will be monitored through the local Mental Health Network who will monitor the actions through its focus on the wider mental health strategy "No health without mental health" Local priorities include:
- Supporting the parity of mental health through the delivery of an effective action plan to deliver the Crisis Care Concordat.
- The co-production of effective preventative services that address mental health needs earlier.
- A continued focus on improving access and choice to psychological therapies.
- Implementing a recovery approach which includes the intention to develop a recovery college.
- Building on the important role Primary Care plays in preventive mental health approaches.
- Development of a person centred care programme approach (CPA).

Cllr Lucy Hovvels, Cabinet Member for Safer and Healthier Communities, Durham County Council and Chair of the County Durham Health and Wellbeing Board said: "The action plan which has been agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board will bring real improvements to the lives of people in County Durham and Darlington who experience mental health crisis. The concordat has helped us identify gaps in the service which has informed the development of priority actions in the plan as well as areas of good practice that will have the greatest benefit for people in County Durham."

Cllr Veronica Copeland of Darlington Borough Council said "The action plan represents a genuine joined up response to meeting the needs of those in a mental health crisis, which can only improve individual outcomes. The commitment to include people and their families and supporters in the development and delivery of the action plan will ensure its success."

Darlington's Clinical Lead on mental health Michaela Young said: "I fully support this vital and important piece of work that aims to tackle the serious gaps in our service, most notably for vulnerable young people and adults with mental illness in crisis. The use of police cells, as an only option for a place of safety for young people, must be addressed." For more information about the concordat, visit www.crisiscareconcordat.org.uk

Middridge Spring Clean



Once again, Middridge joined the Durham County Council 'Spring Clean' initiative and on Sunday 29th March, all five of the Parish Councillors and our Clerk, along with six volunteer villagers, did a wonderful job of cleaning up the litter from around our beautiful village.

We are very fortunate to have considerate residents who don't drop litter but

unfortunately, we suffer from motorists travelling along the busy road who throw out everything from cigarette ends and packets, drinks cartons and bottles and food packaging. As we now possess our own litter grabbers, we are more than ever determined to beat the litter louts and keep this Conservation Village in pristine condition.

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Lake Windermere & Ambleside

Saturday 25th July 2015
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Northumberland Tour

Saturday 27th June 2015
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Locations: Bamburgh, Seahouses and Holy Island



Yorkshire Lavendar

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Bungee Jump for Town Cancer Charity



On Easter Sunday members of the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group travelled to support Niall Smith who was on a sponsored Bungee Jump for the group from the Transporter Bridge in Middlesbrough.

He raised a fantastic £250 and we wish to thank him for supporting our group. He lives in Sedgfield and is a student at Teeside University and he decided to help us after bringing his girlfriend to our meeting.

Our next meeting is on 7th May at Neville Parade Community Centre with Guest Speakers Michelle Muir who is a fundraising Manager for Macmillan. She will explain how grants are given to cancer patients who are having financial difficulties and also what other things Macmillan can do to help. We then have one of our group members Chris from Newton Aycliffe who would like to share his cancer journey with everyone

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APPROVED GARAGES

Inspector's Report on County Plan Should be Reviewed

Calls for the Planning Inspectorate to review its report into County Durham's economic blue print for the future are mounting. In addition to a series of

business and organisation-led letters to the Planning Inspectorate and Government departments - a date for the council to outline its concerns to the Inspectorate is now set

for next week.

In February planning inspector Harold Stephens published his interim report into the plan, following a public examination process in the autumn. This interim report said the County Durham Plan was flawed, unrealistic and over ambitious. However, during a Westminster Hall debate on the subject - tabled by Phil Wilson MP - Parliamentary Undersecretary for State, Penny Mordaunt MP, confirmed the plan's ambitions were correct. In a letter to the MP the minister reiterates this view, stating "The inspector's interim findings do not mean that County Durham should be less ambitious, but rather the council need to do more to evidence that their strategy is the most appropriate compared against reasonable alternatives. Equally the inspector's interim findings are just that..."

These comments, along with consistent and mounting expressions of support for the plan from both businesses and regional organisations, underline the council's view that the plan's ambitions are sound - a stance reiterated by the North East Chamber of Commerce today. The organisation's head of member relations is Jonathan Walker: "The County Durham Plan represents a clear statement of ambition and appetite for growth. This is why businesses across the county have supported it."

"Durham boasts a vibrant and successful business community, yet so much more can be achieved if an ambitious plan is adopted. We are urging the Government and Planning Inspectorate to recognise this and to work towards a positive outcome for the county."

Philip Baker, planning director at County Durham-headquartered property and energy firm The Banks Group, said: "Along with the county council and many other local businesses, we were hugely surprised to read an interim report describing ambitious targets for economic growth in County Durham as being unrealistic and harmful to the City of Durham, and were especially concerned with the anti-growth philosophy which seems to have been applied therein."

"County Durham is the sixth biggest local planning authority in England by population and size, yet for a range of predominantly historic reasons, it lags behind other areas both in its present rate of growth and its prospects for growth in the future."

"A step change is required to give the people and businesses of County Durham the opportunities they deserve, but without a strategic, progressive, holistic approach of the type that the county council has been looking to progress for the benefit of the whole county, this simply won't be achievable. "Durham City is an historic place which requires new development to be sensitively designed and located, but there are clear precedents to follow in similar smaller cities such as Cambridge, where an

appropriate scale and style of growth is being successfully planned and implemented to the benefit of the city itself and the whole surrounding area."

"We would strongly urge all national and regional bodies to work together in support of reaching the overarching objective of securing long-term, sustainable economic growth for County Durham and the wider North East region." The interim report's criticism of the plan was unprecedented nationally, other council plans have been criticised due to their lack of ambitions. In response the council has sought expert legal advice.

Cllr Neil Foster, Cabinet member for economic regeneration at the county council, said: "We have been clear from the outset that we are committed to the ambitions of the plan and extremely disappointed that the inspector did not use a number of key opportunities ahead of the examination to raise the serious concerns referenced in the interim report."

"We are heartened however by the response of the business community, regional organisations and Government regarding finding a way ahead. "This support is particularly welcome ahead of our meeting with the Planning Inspectorate early next week."

"The legal advice we have received further underpins our belief that there is every reason to believe we can find a resolution to this matter by working with the Planning Inspectorate and Government. "We will explore every opportunity to do just that and look forward to a timely

meeting with Mr Osborne to press our case."

The plan was five years in the making and details proposals around the creation of 30,000 jobs and the building so over 31,400 new homes over the period it spans. It includes proposals for each of the county's 12 main towns and for rural areas. These are business-led predictions. Their criticism has provoked a strong outcry from employers and investors in the county and beyond. Led by Sir John Hall, some 30 signed a letter to Government requesting a date for the meeting promised by the Chancellor for the Exchequer, George Osborne MP, during a visit to Stockton. The date for this meeting has yet to be set. Amongst the details the council will discuss with the Planning Inspectorate and Chancellor are:

- The Inspector has suggested we reduce our ambition on bringing jobs to the area by

over 5,000, this goes against recent announcements and opportunities announced by the Chancellor regarding creating a northern powerhouse;

- The interim report significantly restricts the job opportunities expected for Aykley Heads in Durham which would assist in bringing much needed higher paid jobs to the area, as demonstrated by Atom Bank's recent decision to locate there;

- The Inspector's role was to advise on changes which would make the plan sound. The interim report has gone way beyond this by identifying sites and issues which were not discussed neither was evidence put forward. We believe they are therefore not relevant regarding whether the plan is sound or not;

- The Inspector has failed to consider relevant evidence in reaching his decisions and also dismisses nationally recognised data in his decision making.

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Scout Centre Family Disco & Karaoke

Newton Aycliffe Scout Supporters Association is having a Family Disco and Karaoke on Saturday 11th April at The Scout Centre, Bluebell way. Tickets are only £2 per person -under 3's free. The entertainment will be provided by KDO. So come along and join in the party and celebrate the end of the holidays in style. Non-alcoholic and alcoholic drinks are available at our competitively priced bar. The tickets are selling fast so book yours as soon as possible. We are also having a Ceilidh on the 16th May, this one is for the adults and is a time to let your hair down and have fun. The fantastic band Steam Radio will provide the entertainment and get you all dancing. Tickets are on sale now priced at £5. There are a limited number available as we need to have plenty of room to dance so get yours early. We would love to see you there. Tickets are available at the bar which is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings and Saturday and Sunday from approx. 12.30pm. Or you can phone 01325 318901 and reserve your tickets for collection.



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Day Out for New Group



The Dementia Awareness group went on an outing to Whitby for the day using the Community Mini Bus. On the way we stopped at Guisborough for morning coffee where the weather was warm and sunny. We enjoyed a Hadley's fish and chip lunch. The Dementia Awareness Group meet every Thursday from 11.00am until 12 noon at the Youth Centre opposite TESCO Newton Aycliffe. We welcome new members. to our meetings where we have speakers on all different subjects. During the summer we will be going on lots of outings, including Beamish. Ring 01325 308094 or 07967 901477.

Plant Sale & Fun Quiz

The Samaritans are holding a Plant Sale at 183, Woodland Road, Darlington on Sunday 17th May from 2pm to 5 pm. Plants for sale to brighten your garden with Cream Teas Cake and Book Stalls, Tombola and much more. on sale. Free admission, with parking areas signposted. A chance to meet friends, enjoy an afternoon out and get your garden off to a flying start. The annual Big Fat Fun Quiz is at Darlington College, Haughton Road, on Wednesday 3rd June at 6.30 pm. Quizmaster: Steve Rose. Admission including supper - £10, or £50 for a team of six. Tickets available from 13, Woodland Road, Darlington College or Gloria Wilson on 07803 581 646, bobandgloriaw205@hotmail.com

Extra Funding for Community Groups

Communities across County Durham and Darlington are set to benefit from £150,000 towards projects aimed at improving community safety and reducing crime, thanks to a new funding scheme to be launched by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Ron Hogg, Durham's Police and Crime Commissioner, has teamed up with local grantmaking charity County Durham Community Foundation to deliver the new Community Safety Fund, and presented a cheque to them at an earlier event.

Mr Hogg said: "This scheme was originally managed through my office, and I am delighted to confirm that the new fund will be administered by County Durham Community Foundation. "I have provided £100,000 of funding to the scheme, and I am pleased to announce this has been topped-up by a further £50,000 from County Durham Community Foundation, under the new grant administration arrangement." Barbara Gubbins, Chief Executive of County Durham Community Foundation, said: "This is an exciting new partnership which means that groups who have a particular focus on safety and crime reduction initiatives will be able to access additional funding. We have been able to increase the grant-making total by 50% through match funding that we currently have available. We look forward to working with the PCC and

his team." Mr Hogg added: "Ultimately this is excellent news for the area, as residents will benefit from even more community safety initiatives throughout County Durham and Darlington." From 1st April 2015, community groups and voluntary sector organisations will be able to apply for funding to help improve community safety and reduce crime by visiting the County Durham Community Foundation website. Details of the scheme will be announced at: www.cdccg.org.uk.

Easter Eggs for Butterwick



Woodham Academy Improvement Funds

Dear Sir, As the Conservative candidate I welcome news that Woodham Academy, Hurworth School and Cleve Cross Primary School will receive funding to improve their buildings. This is part of an extra £367 million that the government has allocated for investment in buildings at over one thousand schools across the country. The improvement fund targets schools that need additional money for repairs, or to help them expand. This money will be used to ensure that Woodham Academy get their roofs replaced so that with all of our schools they deliver the best education and pupils can fulfil their potential and get on in life. Investment in schools is key to our long-term plan for education - our aim is that every child will have a good-quality place in a local school. As part of this, £18 billion has been made available for investment in schools in England over this Parliament - more than double the amount Labour spent in its first two terms combined. I believe families in Sedgefield Constituency deserve local schools with facilities that provide the best learning environment. It is great news that, thanks to the difficult decisions this Government has taken to deal with our deficit, it has been possible to fund this boost for local Schools and address the needs of our children. As part of our long-term economic plan, we are delivering the best schools and skills for young people, with a million more children in schools rated good or outstanding than 2010. This announcement means that pupils in the Sedgefield Constituency will feel the direct benefit of our plan, and will get the investment in their education they deserve. Scott Wood - scott@scottwood.org.uk



Members of the social club New Faces - New Places which meets monthly at the Navy Club, donated a large number of Easter Eggs to our local Hospice, shown here being presented to their representative. The club enjoys outings and live entertainment is also part of the popular meetings. more details from Dorothy Bowman on 308094-.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

Notice is hereby given that:

A meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee of the Town Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on:

**WEDNESDAY, 22nd APRIL 2015
at 6.00pm**

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. Agendas and Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

Aycliffe Cadet Receives D of E Gold Award



Flight Sergeant McCormack with Air Commodore McCafferty

Wednesday the 25th of March saw Flight Sergeant McCormack of 1407 (Newton Aycliffe) Squadron Air Cadets head to St. James's Palace to collect his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

At the ceremony Flight Sergeant McCormack was presented with his certificate by Levison Wood (famous for walking the length of the River Nile) alongside His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

He also had the pleasure of meeting Commandant of Air Cadets Dawn McCafferty. The Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award is highly sort after when applying for jobs and stands you out from the crowd. To achieve the Award Flight Sergeant McCormack undertook multiple activities from a four day expedition in the Cheviot Hills to a week long camp at DTE Warcop alongside months of sport, volunteering and learning a new skill.

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(NEWTON AYCLIFFE) (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PROHIBITION OF STOPPING, PERMIT HOLDERS ONLY) ORDER 2012 (AMENDMENT No. 1) ORDER 2015

The Council on 02/04/15 made an Order under Sections 1, 2, 4, 32 and 35 and Part IV of Schedule 9, respectively, to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTA), as amended, the effects of which comes into operation on 13/04/15, the effects being: (A) Walworth School, Bluebell Way - removal of existing School Keep Clears (SKC) outside the school and introduction of a new SKC at the new pedestrian entrance. (B) Byerley Park Primary School, Staintondale - extension of the existing SKC at its junction with the school and No Waiting At Any Time (NWAAT) introduced on both sides from the existing SKC south eastwards to its junction and including its junction with Greenfield Way. (C) Alan Gray Court/ Carers Way - introduction of NWAAT on both sides with its junction with Burn Lane, west side from its junction with Alan Gray Court northwards to its access with PCC. East side around its junction with the access road into the shopping centre. Both sides of the access road into the shopping centre. (D) Newton Aycliffe Industrial Estate, Howden Road, Groat Avenue and Groat Drive - extension of the existing waiting restrictions south by 47m. Removal of the existing restriction in front of the parking layby on Groat Ave. Removal of existing restriction on the south side of Groat Ave. from 55m east of St Cuthberts Way, east for 30m, and from 120m east of St Cuthberts Way for 35m. Howden Rd, Groat Ave. and Groat Drive - existing No Waiting 7am-6pm has been removed and replaced with a NWAAT restriction. All other existing restrictions in this locality remain unchanged.

Full details are contained in the sealed Order which may be inspected at County Hall, Durham & Newton Aycliffe Library during normal opening hours & via the council website. Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or of any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the RTA, as amended, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act or of any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order may, within 6 weeks from 10/04/15, apply to make an application for that purpose to the High Court.

Dated: 10 April 2015



Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal & Democratic Services
County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL

Water Polo Results

Sedgefield Water Polo club travelled to Walsall for ASA National under 17 Championships for boys needing to win at least one out of two games to qualify for the semi final and finals at Manchester at the end of April. In their first game they were up against Midland Champions Solihull. Sedgefield started well and were two goals up at the end of the first period and the score at half time saw Sedgefield in control 7-2. In the third period Sedgefield loose their concentration completely after a number of player exclusions and the Midland team stormed back to lead 8-7. Fortunately in the final period Sedgefield regained their composure to once again finish the game in command and win 12-10. In their second game after a 4 hour break they were against London Champions Kent Invicta who had beaten Sedgefield 9 -5 in the first round. Sedgefield started poorly and were 6-2 down after the first period. Sedgefield were still 9-4 down at halftime. In the third period Sedgefield finally found their form to storm back and end the period only 12-11 down. In a frantic last period the lead was continuously changing until the last 5 seconds the London team clinched a 16-15 victory with a controversial goal. This means Sedgefield will be up against Exeter in their semi final, the winners of the other group and favourites if Sedgefield want to get to the final. Sedgefield have proved they can beat anyone on their day but need to be at their best. Player of the tournament for Sedgefield was Isaac Wass. The other members of the Sedgefield team were Richard Murray, Jake Plant, Kris Egginton, Connor Keeble, Ben Stephenson, Michael Cousins, Mathew Alderson, Daniel Armstrong, Mike Kelly, John Pratt and Ben Mason. If you want to play this really tough team sport and are a strong swimmer you can get some details on 07818 554449.

Aycliffe Branch of Darlo Supporters

With just a handful of games remaining things are really getting interesting for Darlington at the top of the Evostik North League. Wins over Northwich, Droylsden and Scarborough have pretty much turned the title chase into a two team race between ourselves and Salford. Salford have three games left, Darlington four, two home, two away. That game in hand, and just the three points separating the two clubs, suggests that this next couple of weeks is likely to be a tense affair. Darlo require the not so small matter of four wins out of four to secure automatic promotion, anything less means relying on Salford to slip up somewhere along the line. First up is Mossley on Saturday at Heritage Park, kick off 3pm. Mossley lie sixth in the table, just outside the play off places. But, having beaten other play off hopefuls in recent weeks this should be straightforward, shouldn't it? It's worth mentioning that we had a great day out at Scarborough (Bridlington) on Easter Monday. A great game between two even sides. The Boro fans were full of banter but there was no animosity between fans and we left tired but relieved. All the best to Scarborough on their ambitions to return to the football league and move home. We are organising an Aycliffe branch of Darlington Supporters Club. We will meet on Wednesday 15 April at 7pm in the Iron Horse. All are welcome to attend but if you can't make it please email me at alanmbennett@hotmail.com or follow on twitter @aycliffequaker and we'll make sure you're on the mailing list for events and travel. Keep the faith.

LOCAL SPORT

EASTER TOURNAMENT SUCCESS FOR TOWN'S YOUTH FOOTBALL



With a quiet hoilday weekend football wise, and only a handful of games, the Under 10's Eagles took part in the Easter Tournament at the Alun Armstrong Soccer Centre. After winning all but one group game, which was drawn, Aycliffe Youth found themselves in the semi-finals against Bishop Kings. Always a tough fixture, the Eagles were well organised and made it to the final 3-0. Willington stood between Aycliffe and victory. A great final was won 7-4 after a superb team performance. Special thanks go to the Management who helped in making this success possible. Well done boys! The Under 10 Falcons entertained Escomb who nudged ahead 1-0. A Great fight back by the Falcons as Declan fired in to make it 1-1. Ricky and Simon made changes at half time as Leon drilled in for 2-1 Falcons! On a high, they brought in waves of attack! Ben fires in a third, some great crosses and shots from Declan, Ben, Leo and Leon results in a fourth. A great game ended 4-1. Falcons were unstoppable as most of the play was in Escombs half. Declan was named man of the match. The Under 8 Falcons match was brought forward to Saturday - home to Seaton Carew who were up for it from the start. An early goal saw the Falcons go behind but managed to get an equaliser just before half time with a well struck shot from Cole Gaskarth. Second half saw Seaton come out wanting the game more and deserved to go ahead 2-1. Defeat looked likely but with minutes left Falcons won a penalty. Dylan Stewart blasted the ball into the back of the net. Full time 2-2 Man of the match went to Dylan Stewart. The second game ended 2-0 to Seaton Carew. Man of the match went to Adam Shaw with some fantastic tackles in defence. With four games left in the league before the cup final, there is still plenty to play for. Is your child interested in playing football? If so, Newton Aycliffe Youth FC -

an FA Charter Standard Club, offers fantastic facilities in a family, friendly environment. Contact Bernard Borsberry on 07939 045242 or visit our website: www.naycafc.co.uk

Aycliffe's Last Game Will Decide Their Fate

Newton Aycliffe FC still don't know if they will be playing 1st Division football next season after a weekend which saw them lose to FA Vase Finalists North Shields. Meanwhile Bingham Synthonia's win at Penrith on Easter Monday means that the last game of the season next Saturday will determine Aycliffe's fate. As ever North Shields brought a large and enthusiastic following to Moore Lane Park. As well as booking their trip to Wembley they are still in the 1st Division title race. Aycliffe held their own for most of the first half despite North Shields having the majority of the play. Aycliffe suffered a major blow on 45 minutes when Craig Garthwaite brought down a forward in the box. The referee awarded a penalty and sent off the Aycliffe centre-half. Shields' Gareth Bainbridge took the spot kick but saw it brilliantly saved by Aycliffe keeper James Winter. For the second game in a row Aycliffe started the second half with ten men and it didn't take Shields long to press home the advantage. On 50 minutes Bainbridge's header hit the bar and Ryan Carr headed home the rebound. As in the first half the visitors had the better of the chances but Aycliffe came close to equalising with 7 minutes left. Stuart Banks saw the keeper out of his goal and tried a long ranged shot which went wide. Another close scoreline but no points for Aycliffe so their season will end and be decided at Ashington this Saturday.

Town Sportsman Brings Boxing Legend Nigel Benn to Durham

Boxing fans have a rare chance of getting up close and personal with ring legend Nigel Benn at a special event. All-round semi-pro sportsman Daryl Hall, from Newton Aycliffe, is bringing the boxing legend to County Durham for a sportsman's dinner at Willington Leisure Spectrum in May. It's one of only three public appearances Benn, now 51, is making in the region before returning to Australia where he currently lives. Benn, known as the Dark Destroyer is a former WBO middleweight champion and WBC super-middleweight champion, and became famous for his clashes with Chris Eubank in the early 1990s. Daryl Hall, currently a semi-pro footballer with West Auckland and a semi-pro Thai and cage fighter, said: "I know a few lads who put these shows on and I've never seen any in our area. We always travel to go and see them, so it's a bit of a coup for County Durham. "It's a great opportunity for boxing fans as he is a legend and has a real story to tell. It's also a good chance for all sports fans to see a real British sportsman and I can't wait to listen to him."

Daryl is well-known on the Northern League football circuit having had stints with Shildon, Crook, Sunderland RCA and Morpeth, and has spent the last six years with West Auckland which has included two FA Vase finals at Wembley. He juggles his football with boxing, and added: "I started boxing when I was 10-years-old. I was OK at it, but I had a choice to make between boxing or football and I went for football. "I left and then was asked to take part in a boxing fight recently and as it was something to train for, it went from there. "I've taken part in a few Thai and Cage Fights which is more for fitness, but for me there's no point training if you're not going to compete. I'm really looking forward to bringing Nigel to the area for what should be a cracking night of entertainment." After his boxing career, Benn became an internationally recognised DJ and appeared in the first series of the ITV reality TV show I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!. Benn, who has since developed a strong faith and is a Born Again Christian, now lives with his family in Australia where he has been studying theology, sports coaching and development. Tickets for the Nigel Benn dinner on Saturday May 2nd are priced £50, which include a meal, bottle of wine, waiter service, an auction and comedian, - available from Daryl Hall on 07880 693320.



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Film Show at St Clare's

St Clare's Church FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW on Tuesday 14th April will feature "BELLE" starring Miranda Richardson, Penelope Wilton, Tom Wilkinson and Emily Watson. The film is based on an extraordinary true story about Belle, with Gugu Mbatha-Raw playing a wonderful leading role as an 18th century English woman raised in a privileged family but denied her rightful place in society because she is of mixed race. 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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Luxury Small Ship Cruising

The Port of Tyne celebrated the start of its 2015 cruise season when the first cruise ship arrived at the North Shields Quay on Saturday 28th March. Each year over 600,000 passengers are welcomed at the Port of Tyne and with the British cruise market going from strength to strength, UK based Fred Olsen Cruise Lines and Cruise & Maritime Voyages are extending their



departures and destinations from North Shields. The first cruise to arrive at

the Port was 'Magellan' the proud new flag ship of Cruise & Maritime Voyages (CMV) named after the sixteenth century Portuguese explorer. Magellan joined the CMV fleet on 12th March.

Chris Coates, Commercial Director said: "The introduction of Magellan to our growing ocean fleet is another important milestone in the expansion and strategic development of the CMV presence in the UK and wider international markets which will increase our overall capacity to 115,000 passengers."

"Since launching Magellan's programme in November 2014, we have sold 65% of her capacity which clearly demonstrates the strong demand for smaller ship cruising in the British market." Remodelled in 2010 at the cost of £40m, the 221.3 metre long Magellan delivers the traditional 5 star British cruise experience offering fine dining, first-class entertainment with a stylish contemporary twist.

Newton News had the privilege of touring the ship and can report it is a fine vessel with every conceivable facility on board offering high standards of comfort and cuisine. Susan Wear, Port of Tyne Director of Corporate Affairs, said: "Cruise departures are growing with many more people choosing to start their holiday directly from the Port of Tyne and it is really good news that CMV and Fred. Olsen are both extending their departures to include new and exciting destinations like St. Petersburg, Morocco, Spain, and the Azores."

To mark the inaugural call of Magellan, Susan Wear presented Cruise & Maritime Voyages with a hand blown piece of coloured glass highlighting the Tyne's tradition of glass making. CMV cruises can be viewed on their website: www.cruiseandmaritime.com

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Earth Hour at Brafferton



Saturday 28th March saw families of Brafferton and the surrounding area celebrate Earth Hour in their pjs! We planned to switch off the lights at 7pm for an hour but we just didn't turn them on as dusk approached with the children busy making candle lanterns for themselves.

It got gradually darker and the children enjoyed running around and playing with their newly decorated lanterns and torches to light the way.

Children enjoyed playing in the sand and playdough with the various animals, sea creatures and dinosaurs; building towers and a crane with the recycling; reading the animals books and making their own star sun catchers, for the following day!

Highlight of the evening was the shared picnic and super special hot chocolate with Marshmallows, made from Acorn Dairy's organic milk. The evening raised £35, donated to WWF.

New Residents Move in



New residents are building a new home in Bakewell Place, right beside the houses which is unusual. Photo sent in by Tom Anderson of Bakewell Place.

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RAISING CASH FOR PANTO



Caitlin Swainston, Lani Swainston, Catherine Milburn, Charlie Maddison and Allanah Milburn of the Acorn players drama group in Aycliffe helping to raise funds for this year's Panto at a Car Boot Sale in Darlington. They are also holding a book and cake sale at Maddison Barbers. Any donations are gratefully accepted. The girls enjoyed the car boot sale although it was very cold.

Campaign Finds 30 Without Seat Belts

A four-year-old child was among those found not wearing an appropriate restraint during a week-long seatbelt campaign. Officers from the Cleveland and Durham Specialist Operations Unit carried out the campaign between Monday 9th March and Sunday 15th March. A total of 29 drivers were found not wearing their seatbelts in the Cleveland and Durham areas, as well as a four-year-old child, who was found to be travelling without an appropriate restraint in the rear of a vehicle when it was stopped in the Middlesbrough area. Prior to the campaign, police warned motorists that there are no excuses when it comes to a choice between life or death, having previously heard excuses such as "my clothes will get crumpled" and "it's uncomfortable". Inspector Ed Turner, from the Cleveland and Durham Specialist Operations Unit, said: "Whilst the majority of people do listen to our warnings, there is a hardcore of individuals that continue to ignore them and those people will now feel the force of the law. "It is inconceivable that

drivers would risk their own lives, let alone the lives of their passengers, especially children, travelling with them. Clearly the results of the campaign demonstrate the continued need for our officers to be out there on the roads, keeping people as safe as possible. In taking part in these campaigns we hope to educate people in addition to carrying out enforcement action." Common misconceptions around seatbelts include that the air bags will offer motorists enough protection for them not to be seriously injured, that they don't need to wear it as they are only going a short distance or it would be safer in the event of an accident to be thrown from their vehicle. Under current legislation drivers are responsible for ensuring that suitable safety restraints are worn by all passengers under 14 years old. Children must use an appropriate child car restraint for their weight until they are 135cm tall or their 12th birthday, whichever is first. Failure to wear a seatbelt now carries a fine of £100. If prosecuted the maximum fine could be anything up to £500.

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Amanda Chatha sent in this view from her back garden of the demolition of our police station. Send your interesting local photo to syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Birthday Remembrance

Lillias R. Smith

Birthday Remembrance 9th April

Our thoughts are with you on this day
Happy memories come to mind
Of one we loved with all our hearts
And will till the end of time

A Mum holds her children hands for a while
Their hearts - forever.

Loving and missing you always
Valerie & Michael
Elizabeth & Kathryn
Allan & David
Jacob, Bronwyn, Theo and Dylan

Karmen

5th April

Your special day we cannot share, but in our hearts you are always there. Love from Mam, Nadine, David, Daniel, Owen, Ronnie, Karen and family

Obituary

John Richard Prince

Suddenly in hospital on 1st April. John Richardson aged 75 years. Much loved Dad of Shirley and Julia; Father-in-Law of Jay and Adam; loving Grandad of Jonathan, Maxine, Louis and Mia. Will family and friends please meet for a Service in St Clares Church, Newton Aycliffe on Monday 20th April at 1.15pm, to be followed by interment in The West Cemetery.

SMITH, Doreen of Newton Aycliffe passed away suddenly on 3rd April, aged 86 years. Much loved wife of the late Jack; dearly loved Mam to Catherine and Jean; also a dear Nana and Great Nana. Family and friends please meet for Service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Thursday 16th April for 11.00am
ROSSITER 6th April, peacefully in hospital. Doris aged 95 years of Windlestone Walk, Newton Aycliffe. A dearly loved Wife of the late Les; loving Mam of Charlie, Val and Ian; also a much loved Nanna and Great Nanna. Funeral on Thursday 16th April. Would family and friends please meet at 1.15pm for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon.
SHELDON, Newton Aycliffe. 27th March, peacefully. Mary, aged 89 years. Dearly loved Wife of the late Bill; beloved Mam, Mother-in-Law, Nana and Great-Grandma. Sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Friday 17th April. Would friends kindly meet for Service in Wear Valley Crematorium at 11.45am. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu in aid of The Great North Air Ambulance Service may be given at the crematorium or will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6EN. Tel: 01325 318600.

HUTSON, ADA & DICK 4th and 19th April. May the winds of Heaven blow softly and whisper in your ears, how much we love and miss you and wish you both were here. Love and kisses from all your loving family to our wonderful Mam, Dad and Grandparents on your birthdays
GEORGE SMITH 9th April. My darling Brother. Thinking of you on your 67th birthday George and every day. Miss you so much. Love you always. Loving Sister, Margaret, Tommy, Nephew, Nieces and families

Thank You

MARIE DOUGLAS would like to thank all our family, dear friends and neighbours for all the cards and presents received for mine and Ray's 25th Silver Wedding Anniversary on Tuesday 24th March. Many thanks to you all for the beautiful cards and presents received for my 60th Birthday on the Wednesday 25th March. Love You All To Bits. xxxx
ANNE COLLEY Bob would like to thank all relatives, Sisters, Brothers and Grandchildren for their kindness and sympathy, beautiful flowers and cards. Also thanks to the Co-op FuneralCare for their comforting Service. Anne will always be looking down.
ELEANOR ROBINSON'S Family would like to thank everyone who attended her funeral on 2nd April. Our thanks also go to everyone who donated to "Save the Children". We are very grateful to Rev. Chris Pearson for the very moving Church Service and to Brian Shepherd, Jane Shepherd and Elaine of Whitehouse Funeral Services, for they showed great respect and sensitivity towards Eleanor and the family. Every detail was perfect and the whole funeral was carried out with immense dignity. All the staff at the Intensive Care Unit at Darlington Memorial Hospital were wonderful and particular appreciation goes to Ronny and to Karen, who went above and beyond their duty of care. Finally, we would like to thank the policeman, who gave way to the Funeral Cortege and demonstrated the sign of the cross. This small gesture meant so much to us on such a sad day.
BARBARA OLIVER I would like to thank my family, friends and Rob, for cards, gifts and flowers I received on my 60th birthday. Bless you all for making the day a special one. Love, Barbara xxx

Congratulations

Kelsey Leigh Boyle



Happy 18th Birthday
10th April 2015
Have a great day.
Love you lots, from
Dad and all the family

Emily Wharton



Happy 16th Birthday
14th April 2015
Lots of love from Mam,
Billy, Brad and Layla xxx

Danielle Elkin



Happy 21st Danni
Hope you have a fab day.
From Nanna's Grandads
and all the Gang xxx
Happy 21st Birthday
Danni
Have a great day on 12th
April. Love and kisses from
Daddy

Audrey Toman



Happy 80th Birthday Mam
Have a great party. Lots of
love from Pam, Syl, Les,
Julie, Jim, Carol, Grandkids
and Great Grandkids (too
many to mention) xxxxx

Well Done

WELL DONE to Anna and friends, you did a great job with the Prostate Cancer Charity Show. We all had a great night and you put on a fantastic raffle. Thanks also to all the artists that made it a big success, (all Willers Mates at the Big Club)

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
2BUDGET Performance Tyres, 225 x 40 x 18, no repairs, 7mm, £40 ono. Tel 320865
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Sylvia Symington (nee Toman)



Happy 60th Birthday Sylvia
Have a great party. Lots of
love from Mam, Pam, Jim,
Carol, Les and Julie xxx

Acknowledgement

JOAN STOKER The family of the late Mrs Joan Stoker would like to express their thanks, firstly to each and every one of the staff on Ward 52 at Darlington Memorial Hospital. The care, kindness and compassion they gave our Mother and all of our family was outstanding, and we thank them all from the bottom of our hearts. Our thanks also to all the staff from the Co-op Funeral Service, The Reverend Chris Pearson and Carol Gittings Floral Tributes. A huge thank you again to Amanda and staff at the Royal British Legion, thank you all so much for the many cards of condolences, letters and floral tributes. Heartfelt thanks to all friends and family who attended Mam's send off, and for all the love and support we needed. Donations kindly given raised £95.00 for the Kidney Dialysis Unit at Darlington Memorial Hospital. They looked after our Mother for 10 Years. God Bless You All.

RUNNING CLUB RESULTS



The Hartlepool Marina 5 attracted a good turnout from the club. This race incorporated the Northeast Masters 5 Miles Road Race Championships.

Notable performances were Judith Porter 1st F/60 in the time of 43:09 and Dave Mackenzie 2nd M/70 in 41:38.

In the NE Masters Championships Alan Wilks was placed 3rd in the M/65 category finishing in 36:55.

Leading the way home was John Surtees, 23rd in 29:14 and a PB, followed by Graham Atkinson, 77th in 32:07, PB and Tracey Surtees 113th in 34:00, PB. Next was Dave Blewitt, 116th in 33:58, followed by John Burnside, 121st in 34:16 and Steve Smith, 134th in 34:34. Sandra Collins was the 2nd lady home for the club, 171st in 36:22, followed by Jodie McMasters, 181st in 36:58 and Rob Nicholson who also got a PB, 191st in 37:16.

Gary Minns was the next finisher, 220th in 38:34, followed by Mike Brunskill, 227th in 38:47 and Geoff Miles, 241st in 39:26. Viviane Pow, recovering from a recent marathon, still managed a good

race finishing 253rd in 39:44. Paul Stretton finished 300th in 42:05 and Yvonne Williams was 461st in 51:47.

Eight ladies from the club travelled north to compete in the Northumberland Half Marathon. This race started and finished in the grounds of Kirkley Hall near Ponteland. Cold weather with short sunny spells and heavy showers made it quite challenging at times, but the route itself was pleasant enough.

Relative newcomer Christine Mudd was first home for the club in 1:43:07, followed by

Shelley McCormack, 1:47:14, Wendy Bake, 1:47:37, Susan Cranswick, 1:48:02, Trish Kay, 1:48:12, Carla Morton, 2:18:01 and Susan Clark, 2:18:12.

Cowpen Bewley was the venue for the last race in the Winter Stockton Trail series and probably because of races elsewhere attracted a much smaller field of runners than usual. Susan Milburn battled the muddy conditions to finish 35th in 26:34 and not far behind was Kevin Greenall, 40th in 27:17. Series winners were Graham Atkins V/50, Peter Milburn V/55 and Alan Wilks V65.

72 Hole Golf Challenge

Four golfers, Mark Neasham, Andrew Haywood, Shane Schofield and Jason Atkinson, are playing 72 holes of golf in one day at Hallgarth Golf Club, on the 5th July 2015.

They are taking on this challenge to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and invite anyone to sponsor them with donations to the justgiving page www.justgiving.com/mark-neasham1.

Any other golfers interested in doing the same at their local golf course there is still time and details can be found at http://www.macmillan.org.uk/get-involved/fundraising-events/event-detail/306/longestdaygolfchallenge/?gclid=COfMk6mE4sQCFE_NZ2wod4TgAhA.

The four golfers thank Hallgarth Golf Club for their support by letting them play these rounds free of charge.

Newton Aycliffe Junior Football Round Up

U9's ARE TJFA CHAMPIONS! A huge congratulations goes to our U9's after travelling to Seaton Carew and recording a fantastic 0-2 victory. They have been crowned champions of the TJFA DIV1 for the third year running and this is an amazing achievement and testament to all the hard work Adrian and his team put in week in, week out.

I also know what a great bunch of parents follow this team and this is a massive part of the success, so WELL DONE lads and Chloe on a fantastic season - you are all a credit to our club. **RUSSELL FOSTER** U9's 1 - 3 Consett AFC Snipers. Aycliffe suffered their second 3-1 reverse of the season. Consett went ahead following a misplaced pass, but we pressed with Bo equalising shortly after. Consett took the lead again with just their second attempt of the game, HT 2-1. Now kicking into the wind, some good passing moves managed to create some chances for Aycliffe, but we gave away a corner and they got a 3rd off the back of a Consett player! Lots of positives and

everyone played well. **MOTM:** Taylor Bowen
U11's - Home against Normanby who attacked from the off and had the majority of possession in this half with Aycliffe having to defend for a lot of the time. They broke free to score but shortly after Zack equalised to make it 1-1. HT 1-1.

Normanby scored 3 goals in quick succession, but Zack took another chance, to pull one back for Aycliffe. F-T 4-2 to Normanby. 110% effort, but we didn't start playing as a team until the last 15 minutes of the game and by then it was too late. **MOTM** went to Curtis.

U13's - Tough ask away to the already crowned Champions, Polton Allstars. We didn't get a shock result but it was all about attitude - the lads were awesome and never gave up and were a credit to the club! **MOTM** was awarded to Logan Armstrong who never stopped running from till the final whistle - a true example of a great team player....well done Army, really well deserved! Same attitude next game lads please.



U23's - Home vs Durham Soccer Arena. Aycliffe started slowly with Durham closing us down at every opportunity. The game was generally a scrappy affair with Aycliffe not at their flowing best and it took until the 20th minute before Aycliffe created a real chance. HT 0-0.

Aycliffe eventually scored their opening goal and their second of the afternoon with the final kick of the game when Tallentrie hit a super shot on the half valley from just outside the box to score his first goal for the club and make the points safe. As usual the referee picked Aycliffe **MOTM** and awarded it to Jack Slatcher.

Open Mixed Bowls Contest



The 4th "Bill Potts Memorial Trophy" Open Mixed Fours Bowls Competition was held over the weekend of 28th and 29th March, 2015 at Great Aycliffe I.B.C. Thirty-two players took part in the event, sponsored by local firm Gordon Fletcher & Sons Family Funeral Directors.

The winners, pictured with Colin Fletcher and Club Treasurer John Palmer, are Marjorie Ormerod, Norma Cooper, Ken Hutchinson and Alan Cooper, winning all of their six matches over the two days with 12 points/38 shots.

Thanks to the Oak Leaf Complex who supported Great Aycliffe I.B.C in hosting the event.

Cricket Coaching for 7 - 11 Year Olds

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club are running coaching sessions for children of either sex and all abilities every Wednesday evening between 5.30 and 7pm at Newton Aycliffe Sports Clubs. The fun sessions which are supervised by qualified and DBS checked coaches are being held in conjunction with the 'Chance To Shine' scheme which sees professional coaches going into primary schools to hold coaching sessions with the aim of increasing participation in cricket.

The Club runs teams from under 11 up to senior level and those attending the coaching sessions may have the opportunity to join the Club's junior academy and represent Newton Aycliffe.

No specialist clothing or equipment is required to attend the sessions as the Club will initially provide bats and protective equipment, but children should turn up

appropriately attired in T shirt, tracksuit bottoms/shorts and training shoes. It is also suggested that, as the children will be taking part in physical activity, they should bring a drink.

Anybody wishing to attend can either just turn up any Wednesday evening or contact Club Secretary Lee Weldon on 01325 312424 / 07759 754959 for more information.

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club begin the new season in the North Yorkshire and South Durham League on Saturday 18 April at 12.30pm. The first team welcome Whitby to Newton Aycliffe Sports Club while the second team travel to Norton.

Spectators are always welcome to come along and support their local team in welcoming surroundings and can even treat themselves to a drink from the bar while watching the cricket from the outside seating area.

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