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New Houses at Woodham Golf Course, But No Hotel Revenue Required to Fund Improvements



New development shown between Middridge Road and
1st Fairway (left)

The new owners of one of the region's finest parkland golf courses have unveiled development plans which are vital to securing the venue's future. Hall Construction Services Ltd. re-opened Woodham Golf Course in Newton

Aycliffe last summer, after its closure in November 2013 when previous owners Washington Developments ran into financial difficulties. Now Newton Aycliffe-based Hall Construction, a mineral extraction, building and civil engineering firm with offices adjacent to the course, have unveiled plans to make major improvements supported by revenue from a proposed housing scheme. People living nearby are being invited to learn more about the proposals, which include plans for around 50 homes, at

Continued on Page 2

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Newton News Easter Draw Winners

MP Phil Wilson took a quick break from his election campaign to draw the winners of the Newton News Easter competition. The winners are:

Donna Smith - Moule Close
Rosemary Howlett - Pease Way
Patricia Herbert - Brockwell Close
Cameron & Amelia Turner - Bluebell Close
P A Whiting - Mellanby Crescent
Hayley Norman - Aysgarth Close
Bethany Mulhern - Tindale Green
Oliver Carter - Greenlea Garth
Piper Mackenzie - Bluebell Meadow
Susan Hall - Rookery Gardens

Thank you to all who entered the competition and to Phil for drawing the winners during his busy schedule.



Wedding at Wynyard



Kayleigh Coulthard from Aycliffe married Liam Atkinson of Coundon at Wynyard Hotel on Saturday 11th April 2015. Kayleigh attended Byerley Park and Greenfield Schools before going to Teesside University. She is now a Children's nurse at North Tees Hospital. Liam is a Greenkeeper at Bishop Auckland Golf Club where he has been employed since leaving school. The Bridesmaids were

Rachael Moore, Becca Storey, Donna Coulthard, Jess Doughly and Emily Ovendon. The Maid of Honour was Lynda Coulthard. The Best Man was David Windell and Ushers were Coiln Coulthard jnr, Adam Atkinson, Kyle Robinson, Jordan Coulthard, Brandon Grant, Craig Ansell, and Daniel Egan. Rev Christopher Peason from St. Clare's conducted the Service, his first wedding at Wynyard.

After a honeymoon in Jamaica the couple will continue to live in the house they bought in Aycliffe three years ago. Thanks to three local businesses for good service: Hair - Sam Cooke, Cake Julia, Cakelicious and Lox of Love for Make-up.

Woodcrafts Exhibition

On Saturday 25th April one of St Clare's parishioners will be mounting a small display of wood carvings and marquetry in St Clare's Church Hall. Also on show will be the materials and tools used. There will also be the usual wonderful sale of homemade cakes, pies and jams. Come along and join us for a coffee and a bacon sandwich. 10.00am to 12.00.

Houses at Woodham Golf Course

Continued from Front Page

a public consultation event at the Golf Course on Saturday 25th April between 11am - 4pm.

The consultation event is being handled on behalf of Hall Construction by the Newcastle office of national economics and planning consultancy Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners (NLP). Neil Westwick, Planning Director at NLP, said: "Hall Construction are exploring the opportunity of releasing a small section of the golf course for a housing development to generate funding to complete vital improvement works and assist in maintaining the golf course over the longer term." "Since purchasing the club in 2014, Hall Construction has made significant investment into the golf course and clubhouse, facilitating the reopening of the club."

"However, further extensive works are still required to the course to address long standing issues and to secure its long term future."

In 2012 the previous owners secured planning permission for the construction of 50 executive family homes, a 75-bed, four-star hotel with conference and spa facilities and landscaping.

However the new plans significantly reduce the area of development and

impact on local residents from the previous planning application, and do not include a hotel.

NLP says the proposals are vital to secure the course's future.

The course improvement plans include upgrading all greens and bunkers, fairway drainage and restoring the course's many water features. It will also involve a complete overhaul of the inadequate drainage system, which currently sees the course closed around 70 days a year. Mr Westwick added: "Woodham Golf and Country Club is still operating at a loss and this is not sustainable."

"The club needs to attract

and retain new members to be a viable business and this can only be achieved through significant investment and the raising of the standard of the golf course to drive increased membership and revenue."

"Hall Construction seeks to build on the reputation of the club as a valued community asset and also has a vision to implement a step change at the club that will enable the golf course to compete with other top championship courses across the North East."

The course and clubhouse currently has 25 employees and the two year programme of work would create at least 45 construction jobs.

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LIFELINE'S COMMUNITY WORKER



Lifeline Community Action (LCA) welcomes Tricia Stewart to their dynamic team. Tricia brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from teaching in colleges, managing adult education, counselling, mediation and support for families in a community setting.

As an added bonus Tricia already has good working relationships with other agencies in the area and is looking forward to working with them again so that together we can deliver an inclusive package of support to the families who need it the most.

Tricia says she feels right at home working with the Helping Hands team as everyone is striving to reach the same goal which is to support the families in need in Newton Aycliffe.

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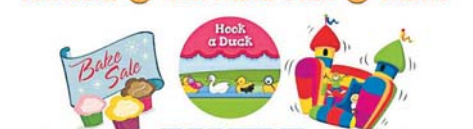
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PHIL WILSON BACKS LIDL EXPANSION BRINGING 70 NEW JOBS

Phil Wilson, the Labour parliamentary candidate for Sedgefield, has given his support for a factory extension that will bring 70 more jobs to the area. Lidl who already have a site in Newton Aycliffe are hoping to extend their existing distribution by 17,000 square feet over two main phases. Lidl say the extension facility is necessary to support the ongoing expansion of the store portfolio across the North East. 70 additional jobs will be available at the extended facility. They also state that the overall appearance of the centre will not be affected by the proposals. Phil Wilson says "I was very happy to be contacted by Lidl to support their expansion plans. Many know I am a supporter of business in the region and have played a role in helping develop and bring new business to the constituency of Sedgefield. This has resulted in many new jobs and better security for working families which is something I will continue to fight for if I am re-elected."

Long Serving Councillor Becomes Honorary Freeman

Councillor Bob Fleming, elected to the Town Council in 1987 has received the title of Honorary Freeman for long service and outstanding achievement. The proposal was made on 21st January and carried unanimously. Bob held the Chairmanships of all Standing Committees, Sub Committees and Working Groups and oversaw the provision of the new West Cemetery. As Leader of the Council he saw the development of the Oakleaf Golf Course from 9 to 18 holes, led the development of the Town Centre Park and the upgrading of horticultural premises.

Bob made provision for bringing all our assets to a high standard of maintenance and renewed Moore Lane Environmental Centre, St. Oswalds Early Learning Centre, the Pavillion at St. Oswalds Park, play areas and parks. The Council now has assets of almost £6½ million pounds plus three areas of land banks, and £1 million in balances.

Bob introduced an Environmental Officer, the Town Civic Pride Team, the Parks Patrol Team and arranged maintenance of open spaces in Newton Aycliffe. He worked closely with Sedgefield Borough Council to establish the Great Aycliffe Way, and when he was a County Councillor negotiated the transfer of land on which the Town Park was built, obtaining £90,000 to maintain the park. In 1996 he persuaded Sedgefield Borough Council to build the Pioneering Care Centre at a cost of £2

million pounds, and together with Cllr Malcolm Iveson and Cllr Angela Fleming successfully put pressure on the Prime Minister and Lady Ann Colman to remove the dilapidated Health Centre and Library as they were no longer fit for purpose to release the land for new development. Bob fought for the establishment of a Neighbourhood Plan. He also served on Sedgefield Borough Council, and as Leader arranged for Local Improvement Funding of £2.3 million for Newton Aycliffe. Counc Fleming was the first Chairman of the Governors at Greenfield School, Chair of Governors for Woodham Comprehensive, Woodham Burn Juniors and Woodham Burn Infants. He was approached by Durham County Council to be Chairman of Governors at Walworth School and led a rescue team to replace dysfunctional governors. In the 1990s he realised Durham County Council were not providing sufficient nursery places for children in Newton



Cllr. Bob Fleming

Aycliffe and took the lead in establishing the early learning centres, persuading DCC to provide funding. Bob led opposition to Sedgefield Borough Council's plans to transfer large areas of open spaces and greens to Livin.

In his proposal Councillor Chandran described Bob has having real depth of character, and an inspiration to others. He is plain-spoken but courteous and has always demonstrated a true sense of purpose.

Democratised Dictatorship

Sirs; I've been reading with interest recent articles and letters on the 167 lighting and on the subject of "democracy" between Maud Gray and John D Clare. What is "democracy"? It stems from the ancient Greek words of 'demos' meaning 'people' and 'kratos' meaning 'power'. In modern words; 'people power'. We do not have people power 'democracy' in Britain, instead we have democratised dictatorship.

Considering the recent decision by DCC to cease lighting the A167 just where was 'people power'? No consultation, no referendum, no input whatsoever from local people about a decision affecting local people, which amply demonstrates the 'powerlessness' of so called representative 'democracy' in action. One can take this to almost every decision made by local and national elected officials all over the UK, when it comes to a decision affecting local people and their quality of life we do not get a look in. Maud Gray has a valid point; who selected the labour candidates? Who decides what is best for local people? Who controls how such candidates vote (once elected) on local issues and more importantly who holds the power to make and implement such decisions? And for John D Clare to state that "we are the legally-elected majority!" when we had voter turnout rates of between 21.38% to the dizzying heights of 25.75% in some Aycliffe wards is hubris beyond the pale. With a General Election looming, it is worth examining the just how not fit for purpose our representative democracy has become.

From a total electorate of 45,844,691 in the whole of the UK, David Cameron usurped the office of Prime Minister in 2010 by obtaining only 33,973

votes in his own constituency of Witney (less than 44% of the registered voters there so even there he did not achieve a majority!) That's just 0.074% of the total UK electorate who voted for him! Yet for the last five years he has presided over national and local decisions affecting millions of us without any meaningful mandate to do so. More and more of us are becoming increasingly frustrated at the powerlessness we have over local and national policy, over decisions affecting our lives upon which we have no say. But there is another way <http://harrogateagenda.org.uk/> which if enough of us wanted it could demonstrate true 'people power'. And please do not think this General Election will be any different or change one iota how we are truly governed. The French have a saying coined by Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr in 1849 "plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose" "The more things change, the more they stay the same" Titan Ananke

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Shades of Strat opened the show with a selection of Shadows' hits, followed by Trevor Mossop on guitar and vocals. Then Mr Rock 'n' Roll, Micky Rich took to the stage. A fantastic raffle of 37 donated top class prizes was followed by an auction for two derby day tickets. The evening concluded with the fantastic "Formidable" a boy/girl duo. Thanks to everyone who attended and donated prizes and their time; and to Newton News for publicising the event which hepled us raise £3,020 for Prostate Cancer UK (in memory of Keith Wilson).

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Town's Welfare Partnership 1st AGM

Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership holds its first AGM on Wednesday 22nd April at 7pm after the Consultation Meeting with local residents on its plans to build an extension to Agnew Community Centre to provide a Welfare Hub. The extension will house "Helping Hands" and another Foodbank plus other welfare services to help disadvantaged people in the area. The Agnew Centre has land available for a similar size building and it is hoped the proposal will receive funding from sources known for supporting voluntary sector projects. All voluntary and statutory welfare organisations are invited to the AGM and join the partnership if not already members. The idea of the partnership is for members to co-operate with each other to avoid duplication and ensure people in difficulties receive the help they require.

Rotary Club Community Fair to Launch Aycliffe Festival

Free Stalls for Town Organisations



The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe are delighted to announce and respond to popular demand that once again the Community Fair will be held in the Leisure Centre in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre on Saturday 4th July, 10am - 4pm. This will be at the very start of the Celebrations that are replacing the Great Aycliffe Show. If you run or belong to any type of Social, Charitable, Sporting or Community Group whatsoever this is the opportunity to showcase your cause. At the last event there were nearly 80 different stands. There is nowhere else where you can promote and demonstrate your activity to the public at absolutely NO COST to you, your Club or Organisation. On top of that the Club will give a prize of £50.00 to the best stand on the day. The last Fair had around 800 visitors during the day long event and enabled many of the stallholders to attract new members to their Clubs and volunteers to their organisations. So whatever your interest, your Club or Organisation do not miss out and register on the attached application form or email r224curtis@btinternet.com to secure your free stand.

APPLICATION FORM

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Bid to Tidy Woodland and Provide Executive Housing

Bringing Poor Woodland Back into Public Use



Halls Construction at Aycliffe, the new owners of Woodham Golf Course, have indicated an alternative to building houses alongside Middridge Road, currently awaiting planning permission. We understand said they would prefer to provide housing in the adjacent wood, also in their ownership, which is a complete mess and inaccessible to the general public even though it should be providing a bridle path and walkways. This amenity could be restored to provide a beautiful landscaped area with cul de sacs leading to executive housing. The area is completely overgrown with poor scraggy quality trees which are of no use to anyone. These could be thinned out without any loss to the appearance of the woodland and the remaining trees properly managed. This would open this wasteland into a lovely community amenity and tidy up what is an eyesore at the moment. The problem is the wood has a tree conservation order which needs to be removed before Halls could apply to improve the area and provide houses to meet the expected demand as Newton Aycliffe expands. Previous owners have failed in similar attempts to develop this woodland and one idea was to clear trees to include golf fairways from the wood. Halls want to improve all the land they own and the wood certainly needs attention to bring it back into community use. The County Council ought to give consideration to this idea which will bring a much needed environmental improvement to this area.

NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Neville Community Centre are holding an Auction in July and are seeking gifts of new and second hand goods to help raise cash to maintain the premises. Items can be collected by ringing 313924. A new Badminton Club starts on Wednesdays from 1pm-3pm Admission £2. A volunteer is required to run the sessions - please ring the number above. Family Table Tennis is held every Saturday from 10am - 12 noon and a player is wanted to run this session. If you have an idea for a new club please get in touch. A Car Boot Sale is to be held at Walworth Castle and sites are available for £6 (bring your own table). Ring to book. Sedgefield Lyric Singers are performing on Saturday 18th July at 3pm. Admission is £3. To book and collect your tickets please ring 313924.

P.A.C.T. Meeting
Police And Community Together

PACT Meetings will be held at the following venues. Simpature Court Coffee Lounge on Tuesday 21st April 6-30pm to 7-30pm. Neville Parade Methodist Church Hall on Thursday 23rd April 6-30pm to 7-30pm. 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

(BLUEBELL SUBWAY OFF GREENFIELD WAY, NEWTON AYCLIFFE)
(TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2015

The Council intend in not less than 7 days from the date of this notice to make an Order under Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, as amended, to close to all pedestrian traffic a 15m length of Bluebell Subway that passes beneath Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe, to enable structural maintenance works to be undertaken. The maximum duration of the temporary closure under the Order is 18 months and is required from 05.05.15 and for the duration of the works, anticipated to be 12 weeks. However, on rare occasions, alternative dates for closures may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly. **Alternative route:** Northern side of the closure south westerly via the footpaths north of Hareson Court, Coverdale Court and Wolveston Close to the southern side of the closure and vice versa.

Dated: 17 April 2015

Durham County Council

Colette Longbottom
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St. Mary's School Raise £1000 for Charity



Pupils at St. Mary's, Newton Aycliffe had lots to report on their last week before the Easter holidays.

Our Year 4 pupils had done an Assembly on Water Aid and have been raising money in their class towards this. Already well over £100 has been raised. On Monday the 23rd of March our year 4 pupils carried containers of water around our school field for around 31 minutes, covering around 1.28 miles.

The children now feel they have a better appreciation of what it must be like for children across the world who don't have the water we do. The water used for this activity was not wasted; instead it was safely transported into water butts in our school garden by Mr. Wheatley, our caretaker.

On Thursday, 26th of March we organised a school Lent craft market, initially through our school Mini Vinnies. Each class were given £10 to buy the resources they needed, then the idea was they had to make things and sell them, making a profit for our school Cafod lent appeal.

Children worked very hard and the range of items on sale was amazing. Items ranged from bracelets, key rings, candles, paper flowers and vases, craft bags and plants. Our reception children were artists for the afternoon, doing portraits and there was a beautiful cake stall.

The Government will match any money we raise during Lent this year and our afternoon was a bigger success than we ever imagined! With our class collections as well, we raised over £500, so with the matched funding, as a school we have raised over £1000. We have invited our local Cafod office in Durham to come into school on Monday, 20th of April to receive the money we raised.

A huge thank you to all parents, grandparents and members of our parish community. Already looking forward to what we can do



next year!

Our amazing last week ended on Friday at 2.00 pm with a Stations of the Cross Service. Year 3 and 4 children led these and shared what happened to Jesus before he died. The children did extremely well re-enacting what happened, using lots of powerful expression

and spoke very clearly. A big thank you again to our parents, grandparents and parishioners who supported our children. At the end of our Service a selection of children came to share examples of the crosses from around the world they had made in their Pastoral afternoon.

"You Should Have the Choice" says UKIP

Dear Constituent,

I am writing to you today as your UKIP Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Sedgefield. I wish to outline a few things we stand for with a hope of clearing any thoughts of wonder or myth, so here is what I would do for you;

- No tax on the minimum wage. This is a key point because unlike Labours promise of a set amount which will harm small business' who cannot afford to pay it we will be giving more money to the people who need it most.
- No privatisation of the NHS. We fully oppose privatisation of the NHS in any way, shape or form. It was Labour and the Conservatives who introduced and continued the PFI contracts that now blight the NHS. Enough is enough and they must never be allowed to happen again.
- Yes to honouring the Military Covenant. Our forces have put themselves through danger and they should have the covenant respected not ignored. It would be a priority of mine to make

sure our veterans are given the support they deserve on their return home.

- Yes to an East Coast terminal at Ferryhill. Many residents have transport issues and I would try to get the funding for a terminal which would be for both train and bus opening South East Durham for business and travel. It would boost the local economy as well as help you.
- Yes to recall your MP. I believe you are my boss and as such I want to give you the power to recall me if I do not meet your expectations. This makes me accountable to you and is something Labour voted against.
- Yes to an EU referendum. You may want to stay in the EU and you may want out of the EU but under Labour you will not get a choice. I believe you should be given the choice to decide which even if it is to stay.

John Leathley
UKIP
Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Sedgefield.

Village Green Spoilt




Dear Sir,

The edges of the path across the Green in Aycliffe Village have recently been sprayed with weedkiller, with horrific results. I would suggest that whoever is in charge should come and see the result of lazy and thoughtless gardening.

The brown and orange burnt edges will not grow back or improve; they are now a permanent feature unless cut out. A total disgrace on one of the prettiest village greens in the county.

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Golf Club Quiz Night for Hospice

Woodham Golf Club is kindly hosting a quiz night on behalf of the Butterwick Hospice, 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. Manager Mandy said the Butterwick is very close to her heart and will help in any way. Tickets cost £15pp from Pauline at the Butterwick Hospice. 01388 603003.

FANTASTIC EASTER AT GREENFIELD ARTS



We had a great time over the 2 weeks of Easter holidays here at Greenfield Arts, with some lovely workshops and activities for families and young people.

Our workshops included an Easter themed Art Club, making owl wind chimes, and another great Family Cooking session. We joined our friends the Acorn Residents Association at their fun day petting zoo event – making some fantastic badges and being part of the fun.

We ended the holidays with another Arts Passport trip – visiting Mima and The Dorman Museum in Middlesbrough on a lovely sunny day!

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the young people, families, artists and facilitators who made it another great holiday at Greenfield Arts. We are now working on our programme for May Half term - which will be published on our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk soon!

YOUTH FOOTBALL REPORT

The Under 16s defeated Coulby Newham 10-1 with goals from B.Lowthian (2), C.Denton (2), JCameron (2), Kieran Mcwaters, M.Osbiston, A.Stoker and L.Crowe.

High praise for the lads and parents – we hope you get your just rewards with two games to go. Man of the match went to B.Lowthian.

Under 14s v Richmond Town. The boys played the better football throughout the whole game, even going a goal down. Heads never dropped and they kept going against the Champions Aycliffe. Goals from Bailey Howarth (2) ensured a 2-1 win. Man of the match went to Todd Steed. Grangetown YCC 3-5 Under 13s. Great way to finish our season, the players dug deep and soon found themselves 3-1. Grangetown never gave up and squared the match 3-3. Game finished 3-5 to the Under 13s. Goals from Josh Richardson (2), Chloe Ryan, Keiron Todd and Cameron Nicholson with one each.

Under 12 Eagles v Richmond Town. Another fantastic result for the Eagles who won 5-1. Goal scorers were Adam Moffat (3), Lucas Baker (2). Man of the match went to Lucas Baker



Under 13's Team

with a top class performance. Under 11 Eagles 3-3 Billingham Juniors

The Eagles took the lead through Kian Cook. Joe Halford scored a long range effort to make it 2-0 Eagles. The opposition managed to get a goal back just before half. Billingham scored from a free for 2-2. With 10 minutes to go we conceded again, but Adam Hicks and the boys had other ideas as he cracked the ball into the Billingham net for 3-3. Man of the match with an outstanding performance in defence was Joey Howarth.

Under 10 Eagles were away to Bishop Auckland Kings. With a few changes some players played in different positions.

This seemed to work as Brennan Fitzpatrick received a good pass off Kieran and weaved into the box to score. A Calum volley made it 0-2. Brennan showed great skill to make it 0-3. Alfie Backhouse and Leo Umudi came and carried on the hard work. Man of the match was Brennan Fitzpatrick. Well done all. Under 10 Falcons v Spennymoor Knights. Bad start from the Falcons who went 2-0 down. As they battled to regain shape they then found themselves 4-0 down. Second half saw Finley make some great saves. Then came the Falcons counter attacks but were unlucky not to finish. Great drives from Hayden,

Leon and Declan. Some unlucky decisions on the day but Falcons got caught out and were 5-0 down but Falcons never gave up and upped the battle! Hard luck lads!

Under 8 Falcons were at home to Barnard Castle and missed chance after chance and a disallowed goal. Not to be their day but played some really good. The game finished 3-1 to Barnard Castle. Travis Dixon scored our goal and Man of the match went to Adam Shaw. Second game - a big well done to Oliver Bellwood (defender) for getting his 1st goal for the team. 2nd goal went to Alex Beattie 3rd goal to Tom Dearden with Alex Beattie adding his second. 4-0 Man of the match went to Oliver Bellwood.

LOCAL CHILDREN GET A BEAUTIFUL OPPORTUNITY



Dancers from Aycliffe Dance Academy had the opportunity of a lifetime this Easter! Last year the dance school based in Woodham, Newton Aycliffe provided the Lost Boys and Tinkerbell for the touring pantomime Peter Pan. The children did such a fantastic job and were so professional the production company Enchanted Entertainment contacted the Academy to see if they could provide 6 Senior Dancers for this year's Panto; Beauty and the Beast.

After a gruelling audition process 6 girls; Rebecca Carney, Brittany Davison (understudy) Megan Elvidge, Chloe Hutchinson, Katya Seaman, Isha Shakir and Kennedy Wilson were selected. The girls had to work extremely hard learning dance routines, scenes and songs ready to perform alongside the professionals.

Stars such as Lee Latchford-Evans (Steps), Dani Harmer (Tracy Beaker) and Bobby Davro were just some of the celebrities the girls performed with. It was such an amazing experience, one that the Academy is proud to have been able to offer their students!

The next big venture that the dance school has is their annual dance show taking place this July. They are currently trying to fundraise for show costumes and have a Family Fun Day this Saturday 18th April. It is taking place at the Bethany Centre, Woodham DL5 4UD and is on from 10am to 2pm. There will be Cinderella, Rapunzel and Mickey Mouse attending (Meet My Mascots), Balloon Modelling (Professor Nincompoop), Face Painting, Bouncy Castle, Tombola's and much, much more! Everyone is welcome

to come along and join in the fun! If you would like further information about the event please contact Emma on 07908 162868.

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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.

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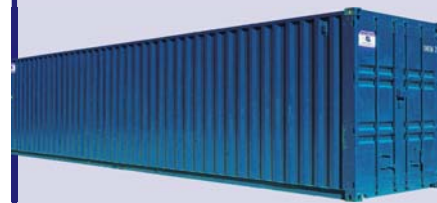
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V.I.P.'s at ACORN A.G.M.



Phil Wilson and Police Commissioner Ron Hogg with ACORN members

ACORN Residents Association incorporating little Acorns and Woodham Burn Neighbourhood Watch held their AGM at the Royal British Legion last Thursday evening. Sitting committee members were re-elected with the addition of Alison Paling as Vice Secretary. Guest speakers for the monthly meeting were Mr Ron Hogg Police and Crime Commissioner and Labour MP Phil Wilson. As usual talks were followed by a good humoured but informative question and answer session. ACORN are always interested in encouraging guest speakers to come along and talk to the group. An annual report was given to the meeting relating annual audited accounts, revised constitution, officer reports and some pictorial evidence of recent activity. A full diary of events and outings have been planned for 2015 sponsored and supported by The Big Lottery "Awards for all fund", Durham County Council "its



your neighbourhood grant" and the livin community fund. Collaborating with partners ACORN continue to host events which entertain our community and the residents of Newton Aycliffe such as the annual Petting Zoo which brought joy to the children and adults of our great town or the annual Halloween Party at the Leisure Centre. Watch out for improvements to the area in 2015 as flowers are planted, litter removed

and lobbying on your behalf. Ken Robson Chairman ACORN Residents Association 01325 321471

Aycliffe Company Involved in £Multi Million Takeover

Local legal experts have completed a multi million pound international acquisition for a Norwegian oil and gas solutions company that is expected to strengthen its UK base. Business and commercial property lawyers at BHP Law worked on the deal for IK-Group AS, whose UK subsidiary, IK-UK Limited, is based in Newton Aycliffe. The company has acquired Online Electronics Limited (OEL), a leading global pipeline communications specialist based in Aberdeen with subsidiaries in the United States, Dubai, Singapore and Perth, Australia. BHP Law has acted for IK-UK since 2011 and was brought in by the Stavanger-based parent company on the complex acquisition, which it completed in just four months. The team at BHP Law was led by corporate law specialist Gary Copeland, who was assisted by commercial property partner Sonia Hunter and Karolyn Scott throughout the deal. Gary explained: "The multi-national nature of the companies involved and OEL's subsidiaries meant that we had to operate across different jurisdictions in the various territories."

"It was a pleasure to work with IK Group as clients. The teamwork and pragmatic approach given to the deal assisted immensely in what were some complex and

protracted negotiations at the early stage." Roald Hunvik, of Alpha Corporate Finance, transaction advisors who set up the deal and played a crucial part throughout the negotiations, was equally critical to the deal, he added. Property purchase, tenancy agreements, intellectual property, the transfer of 40 employees, grants, and distributor and agent contracts were all part of the acquisition. Sonia explained: "As OEL is based in Scotland we supplemented our knowledge of Scottish law by instructing local solicitors to assist with specialist Scottish land aspects." Karolyn added: "It was a complex case, especially in terms of due diligence and incorporating all OEL's subsidiaries into the share purchase, but we're delighted for both parties that we were able to complete quickly and efficiently," added Karolyn. Christian Bull Eriksson, CEO of IK-Group AS, said the number of employees within the group was now close to 200. "The acquisition of OEL further strengthens and widens



(L-R) Richard Whadcoat, MD of IK-UK Ltd, with Gary Copeland and Karolyn Scott, of BHP Law, and Ray Schofield, chief financial officer at IK-UK Ltd at Newton Aycliffe

IK's position within the pipeline sector of the international oil and gas industry. The investment is expected to create additional jobs in the next 12 months through increased market share driven by research, development and special engineering projects." The acquisition brings together IK-Group's pig manufacturing - devices used in the maintenance of pipelines without the flow of product having to be stopped - and niche pipeline engineering

services with OEL's expertise in developing cutting edge products for pipeline monitoring, pipeline data communication and logging systems. Christian added: "IK-Group will keep the well-established OEL brand and global structure as this has proven to be highly successful. The companies are an excellent fit and fully complement each other in terms of sector, technology and geography."

Wear a Wig for CLIC Sargent Charity



On May 20th schools, businesses and community groups across the country will be getting their wigs on for CLIC Sargent's Wig Wednesday. We would love your readers to join them and help support children and young people coping with cancer. CLIC Sargent provides practical, emotional and financial support for those aged 0-24 with a cancer diagnosis and Wig Wednesday is a great opportunity to get together with colleagues, fellow pupils or friends to have some fun with wigs while raising vital funds. We want as many people as possible to wear a wig for the day to show support to children and young people who may lose their hair through treatment for cancer. It's easy to get involved.

CLIC Sargent can provide you with the materials you need to promote your Wig Wednesday event and you can even buy a selection of fun wigs from our online shop. Don't mullet over! Sign up now to take part in Wig Wednesday on May 20 by visiting www.clicsargent.org.uk/wigwednesday or calling 0845 1212 492.

Sale & Coffee

Burnhill Way Church are having a Table Top Sale and Coffee Morning on Saturday 2nd May from 10.00am till 2.00pm. Tables are available for £5.00 - ring Gwen on 301937. Bacon butties and pie and peas will be available as well as coffee, tea, etc. everyone is welcome.

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Springfields School Aycliffe

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Stainforth Close Newton Aycliffe

2 bedroomed 3rd & 4th floor maisonette conveniently situated for easy access to Darlington, Bishop Auckland & A1M. Hall, fitted kitchen, lounge/diner joined by archway, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom/WC with overhead shower. Fully furnished to good standard. Gas air CH, roof terrace/balcony, parking. EPC rating 'C'. Rent £450 pcm



Henson Grove Newton Aycliffe

Extended 3/4 bedroomed detached house in quiet cul de sac with parking distance of town centre. Conveniently situated for easy access to Darlington, Bishop Auckland & A1M. Hall, large lounge with feature fireplace, French doors to rear, family room/4th bedroom with French doors to rear, fitted kitchen, utility, 2 double & 1 single bedroom, bathroom with overhead shower, separate WC. Unfurnished with carpets, blinds/curtains, oven & hob. Gas CH, gardens, garage & parking. Rent £650 pcm

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Great Aycliffe Town Council



Notice of an

Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council

Notice is hereby given that:-

An extra-ordinary meeting of the Town Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on:

WEDNESDAY, 29th APRIL 2015 at 7.15 p.m.

Item on the Agenda

Woodham Golf Course – Proposals for Development

"Representatives of Nathaniel Litchfield Partners (Planners) will be in attendance to give a presentation on the proposed future development of Woodham Golf Course".

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

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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

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Agnew Community Centre A.G.M. MAD Choir in Free Concert



Mayor Wendy Hillary with the new Agnew Committee

A well represented audience attended the AGM of the Agnew Community Centre on the 9th April. The meeting was attended by the Mayor of Great Aycliffe Wendy Hilary along with her husband and consort county councillor Jed Hilary.

Vice Chairman Joan Clark chaired the meeting and shared her excitement for the year ahead. She explained the changes that had been made to the centre to help show people using the centre what practical steps could be taken to make

the building dementia friendly. In the Annual report secretary Ron Mitchie explained how his excitement for the future of the centre had been rejuvenated by Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership using the centre for their head office

and by way of the proposed extension, subject to funding and planning permission, to the building for community welfare aid projects.

He reported an increase in users from the start of this year which should in turn lead to a healthy profit for reinvestment for the current year.

Officers elected where. Joan Clark, Chair, Ron Mitchie, Secretary, Lesley Robson, Treasurer and Jean Cochrane President.

Committee members elected were, Jane Taylor, retiring treasurer, Carol Estom and Jane Johnson.

Katy Milne, Director of Arts and Creativity at Greenfield Arts addressed those present on the many successful community projects initiated by Greenfield Arts.

Katy has great experience of partnership working with a range of groups and each of her projects are based on the strength of these collaborations.

Katy issued jigsaw pieces she had produced for the group to write on and share their thoughts about what partnership means to them. Katy discussed the importance of everyone's contribution and used the tool to demonstrate how partnership and each of its elements can create the bigger whole.

She discussed three successful Community Arts Projects she had developed - "What If...?" - an awarding winning theatre project, "Synergy" and "Flourish" - two new art commissions to recognise the merge of the 2 schools and "Cutting Loose" - successive community carnival celebrations of Arts, costume, music and dance. Katy discussed the positives and challenges that partnership working had brought about.

Katy was thanked for her presentation and work she does in the community. Ron Mitchie thanked all present for their attendance and invited everyone to stay for refreshments.

Honest John's New Home

Dear Sir,
Well done Newton News for finding a new home for Honest John. Myself and most residents of the town thank Syd Howarth and DISC for their efforts in allowing John to carry on his voluntary work raising cash for organisations and community groups in Newton Aycliffe. I hope everyone will wish John well and continue to support him when he moves from the Cubby.
M. Gray



Woodham Community Centre hosted MAD Community Gospel Choir on Wednesday 7th April where an enthusiastic twenty strong choir led by Evelyn Lodge entertained a packed house.

A touching rendition by Evelyn of Bette Midler's "The Rose" had the hairs standing up on the back of your neck.

The choir has now been singing together for almost a year and have just launched their website.

There were several testimonies of the fun, encouragement and increased self esteem benefitting those who had joined the choir. Evelyn said that was what being part of the choir is all about. Several solos showed the increased confidence of many of the performers. One soloist said, he had to walk around the community centre for 20 minutes before he plucked up the courage to come in and said he received such a warm welcome when he did. A year later he was ready to take the next step by

singing a solo.

There were only three men in the choir so if you would like to join be assured you would be accepted with the same friendly welcome. The final song was 'Happy' and it was easy to see that each member of the choir was very happy to be there.

The free Concert gave some in the choir who had never sung in public before the opportunity to perform to a selected audience prior to MAD Production's annual

Charity Concert in October at the Xcel Centre. If tonight's concert was anything to go by I am sure the choir will raise the roof in October.

If you are interested in joining come along to Woodham Community Centre any Wednesday evening and join in the 'Happy' singing. Evelyn says she hasn't turned anyone away yet. Cheryl who gave her testimony can bear witness to that as she said sometimes she opens her mouth and croaks like a fish.

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APPROVED GARAGES

Town Council Trips for Senior Citizens

Application forms and information leaflets for the free excursions for Senior Citizens of the Parish will be available from Tuesday 21st April at the Recreation Centre, Oakleaf Sports Complex, the Library in Central Avenue and at Great Aycliffe Town Council Offices during opening hours, Monday to Friday or will be posted to you if you telephone or e-mail us. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 6th May 2015.

Applications will be accepted at the Council Offices in person, by post or by e-mail (attaching proof of residency and age) to info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk. Please note if you choose to deliver your forms in person, you should park vehicles in the Council Car Park (Lorry Park) which has disabled parking. There is a short block-paved path from the car park to the reception area.

Please note that you must provide proof of your age and residency, e.g. your birth certificate or passport showing your date of birth or age, and a current utility bill showing your current address must accompany your application form. Please do not send originals, the library in the town centre will photocopy your original documents for a small charge.

Residents aged 60 or over on 1st April 2015, who live in the electoral parish of Great

Aycliffe (Newton Aycliffe, Aycliffe Village and parts of School Aycliffe) are eligible to choose one excursion.

This year's destinations are Scarborough, Scottish Borders (Berwick), Lake District (Keswick), Northumberland (Hexham), Blackpool or South Shields and will operate on weekdays from Monday 1st June to Friday 3rd July.

If you have any queries or need additional information, please contact Mrs Robinson on 01325 300700 marie.robinson@great-aycliffe.gov.uk or visit our website www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Cat Rescue Charity Sale

A Charity Trash & Treasure Sale is to be held at Unit 10D Dabble Duck, Shildon, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10am to 2pm all starting 20th April.

This is to raise funds for rescue cats like those kittens recently born out in a cold damp field. One was near death on arrival, and as kitten season is in full swing we have lots more needing our help so we desperately need to raise more funds.

Cats R Us is a registered charity No: 1158022.

Aycliffe Company Replaces Stolen Money

An Aycliffe multi-award winning renewable energy provider has replaced £900 of stolen charity funds. Wayne Richardson, owner of Revolution Power, was shocked to learn money collected for the North East Air Ambulance, was taken from the The Ship Inn, Middlestone, recently.

More than £900 had been collected through fundraisers, including fun days and contributions from the winners of the weekly quiz, and was stored in a gallon whiskey jar on the counter.

Wayne, whose Aycliffe based company has been trading for nine years, said: "The whiskey bottle has been there for as long as I can remember and people are always putting money in it, as it's for such a great cause. The company supplies biomass boilers and recently won a significant £160,000 contract

to build a 200 kilowatt biomass boiler for Riverdale Hall in Northumberland.

It also completed green projects on Bellingham's town hall and various care homes across the North East, as well as installing solar panels into Northumberland's RAF base. Tony Langdale, who has owned the CAMRA award-winning pub for the last nine years, said: "It's quite emotional that Revolution Power has chosen to help us out. It was really upsetting when I realised the bottle had been taken because we have always collected money since I came here, but never had any problems."

"Wayne has been coming to the pub for years and he is proof that there are good people out there. Thanks to Revolution Power, we will be able to get another bottle and continue raising money for charity."



Agnew Community Centre - "Dementia Friendly"



Ron Mitchie and Joan Clark

The Agnew Community Centre is joining with many other organisations in the town to become "Dementia Friendly". As you enter the building there are several aids to memory, along with colour coding to help indicate areas of the centre that may be used by people in our community who are living with dementia.

Later in the year the Committee are hoping to run a course on becoming a Dementia Friend, so if you are interested in speak to Ron or Joan on 01325 321504.

Volunteer Litter Pickers at West Park Lakes



Volunteers from Friends Of West Park, litter picking last Sunday: Elaine Robson, Ken Robson, Marty Ashcroft, Richard Hutchinson, Eddy Woods. Crocuses shown in the background planted last year with the Town Council, local schoolchildren and volunteers.

Fun, Healthy Activities for Your Family

PCP want to help busy families make time to learn, grow and develop together through new fun activities aimed at improving health and wellbeing.

Dig Art Colour your Life free garden sessions start this Saturday morning between 10am-12noon. Weekly activities, taking place indoors and out, include making artwork from materials gathered from the garden and using reflective, tactile, musical and recycled objects.

Bump and Beyond Fitness specialising in postnatal exercise, is a unique class designed specifically for new mums and babies to ease back into fitness following pregnancy. Postnatal exercise comes with many advantages for all the family from increased weight loss and energy to improved self confidence and social life.

This new class starts on Monday 20 April, 1-2pm and the first session is free! The cost, following the first week is just £3.50 per adult. It's a great opportunity to get together with and meet people in the same situation.

Tots Time is a new parent/carer and toddler group starting on Wednesday 6 May 1-3pm and will run for 10 weeks (term time only). This new class will only cost £1 per family.

The 10 week course will include story sacks, buggy walks, messy art, health checks, relaxation and healthy eating sessions. You will also get quality time with a cuppa and natter while the children play and socialise. All classes take place at the Pioneering Care Centre give you the opportunity to meet new people in a safe relaxing environment. Dads, grandparents and carers are all welcome.

For more information or to book ring 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net. Or find out more about PCP's projects and activities at:

www.pcp.uk.net, Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: /PCPandCentre

Valuable Pottery

A kind donor has gifted a collection of Aynsley Pottery to St. Elizabeth's Church to help their funds.

The items can be bought for 20% of the retail value and can be viewed by contacting Norma Wise on 312930.



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Notification of Changes

From Friday 17th April 2015

THE BABY CLINIC

will start 30 minutes earlier at 1.00pm and finish at 3.00pm.

From Wednesday 6th May 2015

our walk-in

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC

will move from Tuesday to Wednesday.

The times of the clinic remain the same 5-6.30pm.

Our Health Care Assistant led

NHS CHECK FOR LIFE CLINIC

will also move from Tuesday to Wednesday.

By appointment only.

We will continue to run our

WALK-IN CLINIC

on Wednesdays between 5-7.30pm.

This is a Nurse-led clinic to promote and support a healthy lifestyle, including cervical screening, blood pressure screening, healthy eating advice, weight management and HRT monitoring.

**For further information please call at
Reception or ring 01325 316637 between
9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday.**

Exam Success

The following pupils of Terence Lawson, School Aycliffe, have been successful in the recent Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Examination.

SINGING:
Sophie Straw Grade 1
THEORY:
Sally Cresser Grade 5

Situations VACANT

Seeking Operative to Undertake Grounds Maintenance Work in Scotland, Mon-Fri

Full time position with a six month contract. The candidate should be willing to work away 4 nights per week. Experience would help but not necessary (training provided). Driving licence a must. Class C1E if possible. The candidate must be physically work fit and self motivated.

Tel: 07970 186738 For more details

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Labour Claims Do Not Stand up to Scrutiny

Dear Sir,
I read Phil Wilson's comments in the Newton News and also in his formal Election Communication with incredulity.

I think the now dissolved coalition Government would disagree with Mr Wilson's recollection of events. It was the government that awarded the Intercity Express Programme contract to Hitachi and have supported more jobs and investment to the area. If he had evidence of them trying to scupper this deal I am sure he would have produced it at some point in the past!

Mr Wilson also claims he has successfully campaigned for an improvement in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre. People can see for themselves how many empty shops there are. If that his definition of success I think his judgement must be called into question, such as voting against taking low income families out of tax and voting against reducing business rates. (www.theyworkforyou.com/mp/13933/phil_wilson/sedgefield).

Another topic he raises is

that of wind farms. Two Conservative MP's recently sponsored a bill that would end subsidies for onshore wind farms. Both the Liberal Democrats and Mr Wilson's Labour Party opposed the bill. You can't have your cake and eat it Mr Wilson!

Mr Wilson also claims to be a supporter of the NHS. Is this the same Phil Wilson who promised Bishop Auckland Hospital would become a centre of excellence for many medical departments. These included a stroke unit, haematology and orthopaedic (planned surgery). The stroke unit was closed down and relocated and the promise of Bishop Auckland being the centre of "all things blood related" now rings rather hollow.

Mr Wilson's claims do not stand up to scrutiny. The people of Sedgefield will be hoodwinked no longer. It is about time we had a new MP for this constituency. A Conservative MP will represent all constituents, not just those who vote for his or her party.

Scott Wood,
Conservative Candidate

CELEBRATE LIBERTY WITH A "LIBERTEA"

Magna Carta Day - Sunday 14th June

Dear Sir,
LiberTeas is a unique opportunity for the nation to celebrate the freedoms we have and actively mark the rights we enjoy as citizens. Is there a liberty, right or representation you are passionate about?

Votes for women, Rights under the law to representation, Equal Rights, Equal opportunities? To coincide with the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta the Houses of Parliament and the National Trust are asking the nation to take a moment to celebrate, debate and reflect on those liberties which we very often take for granted but which people throughout history have campaigned to make happen or fought to preserve.

LiberTeas, is on Sunday 14th June at 3pm and will be the only national commemorative celebration of the sealing of Magna Carta.

ACORN are asking everyone across the town to join us in celebrating our rights, freedom and liberty. They are proud to be associated with this momentous occasion by hosting a marquee tea or picnic in West Park, where we suggest a toast with the rest of the nation at 3pm to mark the moment. Help us spread the word in celebrating liberty! Churches across the country (and many overseas) are being encouraged to ring their bells at the same time. We hope that you will be able to join us on what promises to be a unique and exciting day.

Read the story of Magna Carta at http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/magna_carta.htm

Please get in touch if you want to get involved.

Ken Robson

ACORN Residents Association
Tel: 01325 321471

TICKETS GOING LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING!

"You're the one that they want" say the C.A.T.S. Youth Theatre Group, inviting you to come along to the Civic Hall, Shildon, either Thursday 23rd, Friday 24th, or Saturday 25th April, at 7-30pm for their Show "Grease".

Or maybe you'd prefer Sunday 26th April at 2pm, when they will be performing the musical, which is a family favourite. You will be clapping and singing along to those classic songs we all love like 'Summer Nights', 'Grease is The Word', 'We Go Together', and many more. If you do you'll see Madalyn

Patrick and Beth Elgey as Danny, Madalyn's sister Grace, as Sandy. Cain Harrison plays Kenickie, along with Dylan Goddard. Emily Neal is Rizzo, whilst Grace Bain is the blonde beauty school dropout, Frenchie.

Chloe Harrison is the group's choreographer and also takes the role of Cha Cha Degorio. Sophie Tilley - Alexander, plays the dizzy Patty Simcox, and her sister Bobbie-Jay is Jan. Marty is portrayed by Kodie-leigh Wilson. Georgia Brown as Roger one of the T Birds. Hannah Goddard and Connor

Former Woodham Student Returns to Lend a Hand



Gail Anderson knows a good deal about education; after all, she is a former pupil of Woodham Academy, and went on to train as a teacher and set up her own successful educational recruitment agency. Supplymatch Recruitment, now operates in a number of North Eastern schools. Gail also understands the role that reading plays in not only improving school grades, but in improving the person as well - by helping readers to experience other people's lives. We may not all be able to travel the world or live the lives others lead, but we can read about it, and empathise with those who do.

This is why Gail has been taking time out from her busy schedule to talk to students at her old school about the importance of reading for pleasure. Indeed, so convinced is Gail by the importance of this essential life-skill, she has very generously offered to buy each and every Y7 pupils a book of their choice, for the nominal amount of 50p.

Woodham Academy students are currently promoting Readathon at their school, and Gail's timely intervention has been designed to coincide with their efforts. Readathon raises money for charities working with seriously ill children, and it does so by encouraging youngsters to read for money.

Year 7 & 8 learners are making a commitment to read a book, e-book, magazine articles, etc. over the period of a week, at home, and to ask family and friends to

sponsor them. 80% of the money raised by Readathon goes straight to the charities concerned. 20% is returned to the school in the form of a book voucher which can then be used to buy new, books which can then be lent out to learners to encourage a closer engagement with reading. This will be the second time Woodham Academy have organised such an event and they are confident this year's total will top last year's - when a very respectable £210 was raised. The school is also keen to promote the learning opportunities that such charitable endeavours bring with them, and to that end has appointed a number

of last year's participants as 'reading ambassadors'.

It will be the job of the ambassadors to promote and coordinate the event. Gail is happy to lend a hand; although on the occasion of her paying a visit to Y7 assembly it was the pupils who had to lend her a hand, due to struggling under the weight of a large pile of new books for the school's Reading Rooms.

Gail has promised to return to the Academy after the Easter break to check on the student's progress. Reading between the lines, this could be the start of a new chapter in the relationship between Gail and her former school.

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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

£14.50 adult, £12.50 child

Malton included



Whitby Regatta 2015

Monday 17th August 2015

£18 adult, £13 child

Castle Howard Proms

Saturday 22nd August 2015

£45.30 inc. concert & coach travel

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DARLINGTON JAZZ FESTIVAL

This year's Darlington Jazz Festival will be held from Thursday 23rd April until Sunday 26th April. Since its launch in 2012, the festival has gone from strength to strength, providing a performance platform for both local and regional talent, including musicians from the Newton Aycliffe area. The festival includes a jazz workshop on Thursday night at Darlington Crown Street Library, followed by The Matt Roberts Sextet playing at Voodoo Cafe on Friday night. Saturday includes various daytime events around Darlington town centre with a spectacular night of Big Band swing music at the Dolphin Centre's Central Hall from 7pm. The award winning Durham Alumni Big Band will be performing with special guests, Al Wood and Bruce Adams. The festival concludes on Sunday with performances throughout the day and night at St Augustine's Parish Centre in Larchfield Street. Tickets for the Saturday night are available from the Dolphin Centre reception or by calling 01325 388406, or from ticketsource.co.uk/darlingtonjazzfestival. Other sessions are available on the door. For more info visit darlingtonjazzfestival.co.uk. Darlington Jazz Festival is supported using public funding by Arts Council England.

Aycliffe Running Club



Conditions were good for the Mermaid 10K which took place at Marske on Good Friday. Although it was dull with drizzle, there was no wind which made it ideal for running. Trish Kay was pleased with her time of 48:02 which she has only bettered once and that was 6 years ago, and Tracy Surtees was 2nd female finisher in 42:31 and 68th overall. John Surtees was first home for the club, 23rd in 37:25, followed by Graham Atkins, 54th in 40:10, Gary Minns, 110th in 47:06 and Dave Mackenzie 163rd in 52:59. Trish Kay also competed in the North Tyneside 10K on Easter Sunday. This race

MORE AYCLIFFE GIRLS PLAYING FOOTBALL



The Under 13 Girls entertained Beamish Girls and set about attacking their shaky looking defence. Chloe Ryan slammed in a first-half hattrick. Changes in the second half allowed our large squad plenty of game time. Beamish reduced the arrears to make it a nervy 3-2 at final score. Well done girls. League Cup final on Saturday v Lumley at Newbottle. 2pm Kick off. Come along and support us if you can make it! The Under 12 Girls were back in action after four postponements. Leam Rangers were the opponents and new striker Meg, signed at the eleventh hour of the transfer window, made an immediate and explosive start by netting a double hattrick in a thrilling 6-0 win. Fantastic performance by all the girls. Finally a full squad for the Under 11 Girls and what a difference! Hebburn first, who opened the scoring, but 2 goals each from Hattie and Aaliyah made 4-1 at the break. Aaliyah added 2 further goals, spilt by a cracker from

Ocean Tia. The performance was complete with Bethany, Katie and keeper Emily soaking up some late pressure despite a final minute goal from Hebburn. Full time 7-2. Second up, Cestria. The girls defended as a team and frustrated them but 2 late first half goals from Cestria and 0-2 at the break. Against a very good keeper and then a long shot and it was 0-3. The girls deserved a goal and Hattie slid a perfect pass, splitting the defenders to find Aaliyah who turned and slid the ball passed the diving keeper. 1-3 The Under 10 Girls played Washington who finished second in the regular season. The girls started with the strong wind behind and it proved valuable as they scored 2 goals from Hattie the second was from the half way line over the keeper, Hattie added a 3rd from outside the box before Washington grabbed a goal, a fourth from Hattie and a second from Washington and we got to half time 4-2. The defence of Olivia, Ocean Tia and Neve stepped up to the mark, Faith was outstanding in goal but the opposition scored twice, for a final score of 4-4. A big step as the girls showed they can compete with the top teams at this age group. Is your daughter in Year 3 or Year 4 and interested in

playing football? If so, we are looking to start a new team in this age group! 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

TRIPLE TRIUMPH FOR VANE ROAD



Sunday March 22nd brought great success for Vane Road's basketball team during a thrilling competition at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. The team fought their way through two group games, a quarter final and a semi final before emerging victorious from the final, by scoring the winning points during golden basket time. They now have the honour of representing their school and area in the County Finals in July. The School's netball and athletics teams also both performed admirably on Friday 20th March in their respective county finals where they were representing

Sports Club - Runners up

Four league wins in a row, including 10 goals for leading scorer Chris Jones, saw Newton Aycliffe Sports Club secure the Runners up spot in the Wear Valley Sunday Morning League with their second promotion in as many seasons. The club can be very proud for what they have achieved so far. In last week's 6-3 victory against Cockton Hill Club, Chris Jones bagged his second



Chris Jones powers through for first goal

hattrick in as many games. He made it three hattricks in a row against Shildon Three Tons in the last game of the season. This secured his position as top goal scorer at for the second season in a row, with 36 goals, with Connor Hughes close behind on 30 – a formidable partnership this season. In the pouring rain Aycliffe did not get off to the best of starts going one nil down after 20 minutes after failing to clear a low driven cross from the hosts which saw stand in keeper Craig Hannant beaten at the far post. The conditions made it difficult for either side to take control and with just a few moments to go before the half time break Chris Jones managed to beat the offside trap and slot home his first of the game. The away side took control second half, with substitute Ryan Stonehouse coming into the centre of midfield and Gareth Boyes moving from centre back into his more usual role alongside Stonehouse in the centre of the park. Chris Jones quickly wrapped up his hattrick with two well taken goals, but a quick reply for Three Tons from the kick

off opened the game up for an exciting final 20 minutes. However, Ryan Stonehouses wicked strike from the edge of the box secured the points and ensured the Sports Club finished on a high. With ten minutes to go, Chris Jones was substituted to allow veteran David Hall to make his final appearance for the Club. Known fondly as "The Chief" within, Dave has decided to call it a day on Sunday football to concentrate on over 40's football next season. He almost rounded the game off with a goal after good unselfish work from Connor Hughes who freed him up to strike towards an empty net, but he somehow managed to slot the ball wide. We would like to wish David all the best in his new venture and thank him for all the hard work he has put in both on and off the pitch, he will be a big loss to the club. The club will be looking to organise a Presentation Night soon to take the opportunity to thank players, families, friends, sponsors and supporters for backing us during the season - details will be announced soon

Heighington AFC Boys Report

New Team Recruiting new U14 team for next season who are starting to train now, contact Mark Stapleton, on 07443621876 if you are interested in becoming involved **Under 8's** put in their best performance of the season to beat Saxon juniors 5-1 with a hat trick from Joe Neild and a goal each from Louis Parnaby and man of the match Ned Lewis. **Under 10's** finished the season with a 2-2 draw at home to trimdon United. The home side found themselves 2-0 down early on but battled back with a goal each from Owen Evans and Callum Fraser, and a man of the match display from Charlie Harrison **Under 14's** - No game this week as we have now played all of our matches, finishing runners up in TJFA division 4. Forthcoming tournaments: Blackpool 9/10th May and

Darlington RA Saturday 16th May. **FUNDRAISER** Les Gibson, comedy impressionist, often called 'The Man of a Thousand Voices' is bringing his characters to entertain the people of Newton Aycliffe once again. Les has an unbelievable talent imitating sports personalities like Beckham, Fabio Capello and Sir Alex Ferguson, soap characters such as Corrie's Kevin Webster and Roy and Hayley, right through a spectrum of TV favourites including Gordon Ramsey, Ant & Dec, Louis Walsh, Lord Sugar and loads more. Les will be supported through the night by local band 'TOXIC', popular throughout the UK where they have performed at countless major Hotels & Holiday Parks, Toxic are also regular visitors to British Military bases across Mainland Europe.

Their breathtaking 'Live' show features a State of the Art Sound, Light and Lasers as well as a magical mix of songs by Lady Gaga, Amy Winehouse, Scissor Sisters, Kings of Leon, Lily Allen, The Killers, DJ Sammy, The Jam, Madonna, Eurythmics, Abba, Bon Jovi, Bryan Adams, Journey, James Morrison, The Black Eyed Peas and many more. This event is to raise funds for Heighington AFC Boys, please don't miss out a fantastic night and buy your tickets early. Tickets are available now, £10 each. Please contact: David Brassell 07870 777779 or Jim Barr 07899 862079 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



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MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR BEREAVED

The first Parish Memorial Service of this year will be held in St. Clare's Church Central Avenue on Sunday April 26th at 4-00pm.

All families who have had a bereavement since Christmas should have received a letter informing them of this service. Even if you have not received a letter anyone at all is very welcome to attend. Please try and come early if you have not received a letter, to make sure your loved ones name is on our list.

This service consists of short prayers and a reading along with some hymns. At a chosen time in the service the names of your loved ones are read out. As many family members who wish can go to the nearest window to them in church, and light a candle in remembrance of all those who have meant and continue to mean something to you. There will then be a short time of reflective silence.

After the Service there will be the opportunity to see the Remembrance Book in the library, and if you so wish you can have your loved ones name entered. You are then cordially invited to come into the adjoining church hall for some light refreshments, where there will be a chance to chat to members of our

Pastoral Team. If you need any further information please call Pam Lovell (Pastoral Assistant) on 01325 316841.

More Importantly . . .

Dear Sir,
I am replying to Mrs Maud Gray because she explicitly required a response from me and I have three things to say. **FIRSTLY**, someone who is elected unopposed is not 'selected' - they are as democratically elected as a candidate who has won at the ballot box. Mrs Maud Gray has forgotten that **ALL THREE** of her husband's Independent colleagues on the Town Council were elected unopposed - I wonder what they thought about her letter. **SECONDLY**, if she has an idea for a scheme to honour residents, her husband can submit it as a proposal to any meeting of the Town Council. Recently he submitted a motion which, ironically, asked us to select, rather than elect, our Mayor.

FINALLY, why are we discussing this when we are barely a fortnight away from a General Election which, if the Tories win, could destroy the North-East?

Why are we not debating issues such as:

- Abolishing the Bedroom Tax
- Ending the sell-off of the NHS
- Stopping tax avoidance
- Making gas and electricity more affordable
- Raising the minimum wage
- Devolution for the North-East
- Ending zero-hours contracts
- Planned coalition cuts to welfare and public services

But then, maybe that is the strategy, to get us obsessing about minutiae of the Parish Council, rather than the make-or-break choice which we will face on 7th May.

John D Clare

Press Officer, Great Aycliffe Town Council Labour Group

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We have 10 spare seats for our trip to Edinburgh cost £10 on 13th May. We also have mystery Trips on the first Sunday of every month cost £10. This trip takes you out for a reasonably priced Sunday Lunch which costs extra and then on to an unknown destination (the driver knows thankfully).

We have been running Mystery Tours for six years now and no-one has been disappointed. Come and join our club. We have line dancing, arm chair aerobics, Quiz and Bingo and various speakers, visits to shows etc.

On the last Tuesday of each month we have a Professional Singer which is free to members but non members pay £3.00. The bar is open and you will have a good afternoon of entertainment. We are also trying to set up a "Come Dancing" group once a Month each Thursday. If you would like to join our N.F.N.P group and you are a little shy or nervous about venturing into a new club please let me know and you will be picked up and brought to the club. Ring 01325 308094 for further details.

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TRIATHLETES RACE IN THE WIND & RAIN

After a week of lovely sunshine Sunday 12th of April saw wind, rain and freezing conditions set in just in time for Aycliffe Tri Club triathletes to take to the start line of their first races of the year.

Michelle Scott and Andrew Sedgwick headed to Skipton for what was billed as a sprint triathlon, however due to the horrendous weather the bike section was removed and the race altered to an Aquathlon (swim and run). The event started with a 400m pool swim and missing the usual bike section was followed by a 5k run. Despite the bitter cold Michelle Scott was the 3rd female to finish and Andrew Sedgwick was the 8th male in his category.

At the same time Graham Atkins was ready to tackle the first Lambton Duathlon. The run, bike, run event was set in the grounds of Lambton Park this however did not give any respite from the severe weather. However the wind and rain proved to be no barrier for Graham who was 1st in his category.

If you would like further information you can contact the club via email aycliffetriclub@gmail.com or come along to the pool session on a Wednesday at Woodham Academy and have a chat with the coaches.

In Memoriam

Ann Batchelor

19th April 1995. 20 years. We carry your heart with us and we are never without it. We miss you so much and wish you could have met your grandchildren. All our love always, Husband Geoff, Amanda, Leslea, Allan, Joseph, Christian, Emma and Emil

ANN BATCHELOR In memory of our dear friend Ann. The good times we had will never be forgotten. 20 years have passed and still remembered with love and affection. Joyce and Luke

Birthday Remembrance

LARRY LAING 20th April 1929 to 1st October 2005. Remembering my dear Husband Larry on his 86th birthday on 20th April. Loving Dad to Julia and Lawrence; dear Father-in-Law to Susan and Keith; best of Grandads to his "lads" Chris, Marc and Adam. We will always love him and miss him. Love always from your Wife Gladys and family

Thank You

RUBY ADAMSON and family wish to thank friends and relatives for the lovely cards and flowers received and all who attended the Service at Durham Crematorium. Also the Vicar of Murton for the very comforting Service and to Lamb's Funerals for their kindness. Thank you also for donations to "Children with Leukaemia", Joe's favourite charity

Obituary

SMITH, Mary Alice. Died peacefully, loving Mum of Kathleen, Jacqueline, Alison, Pauline and Trevor; also Nana and Great Nana. Always in our thoughts.

SMITH, Mary Alice (Ann). Passed away 4th April, peacefully in hospital surrounded by her family. Loving Mum, Nana, Great Nana and Great Great Nana. Funeral to be held Wednesday 22nd April, 12.15pm at St. Clare's Church.

MUNDELL, Margaret Ann. April 8th, aged 75 years. Peacefully in hospital after a short illness. Devoted Mam to Sheila, Leslie and Gillian. Dear Mother-in-Law and Nana

Sharon



Happy 30th Birthday Hope you enjoy your party. Love from Liz xxx

Angie Brennan



Happy 50th Birthday 22nd April 2015 FAB AT 50! All our love, Mam, Paula, Babs, Myra and Wayne xxx

Christine Ryder



Happy 60th Birthday Christine 60 years old but always young at heart. Lots of love from Mam, Paul, Jill and Peter xxx

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Congratulations

Langsley - 30th Wedding Anniversary



20th April 1985 Thank you Andrew for being the most amazing Husband, giving me two lovely Daughters and two beautiful Granddaughters. Our life together is everything I could have wished for. You are the best of the best. Hope we have at least another 30 years together. All my love, Linda xxxx

Linda Bailey



Happy 50th Birthday Small Wife Lots of love, your husband xxxxx

Happy 50th Birthday Sully Hope you have a fantastic day. Lots of love, Lauren, Kate and Chris, Blump You xxxxxxxxx

Woof Woof Yappy 50th Birthday From Barney and Oliver xx

Happy 50th Birthday Hope you have a great time, we know you will! Lots of love, Mam & Dad x

Enjoy Sister Linda! Lots of love, Caroline, Jack, Michael, Olivia, Jack and Laura

Happy 50th Have a good one Sis. Lots of love, Gary, Joannah, Alex, Ellie, Mica and Callum xxxxxxxx

Ryan Jones



Happy 21st Birthday Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Christopher and Kieran xxxxxxxxx

LINDSLEY Lauren Mary. Happy 13th birthday sweetheart. Lots of love, Nana and Uncle John xxx

LINDSLEY Lauren May. 25th April 2002. Today you turn 13 and you are a beautiful young lady. So proud of you. Lots of love, Mam and Dad xxxx

ROSE PROCTOR Happy 1st birthday to a beautiful girl. Lots of love, Auntie Lyn, Uncle Ian and Lauren xxx

ROSE STAR Hip Hip Hooray, Rose is one today. Love, Nana, Grandad and Uncle Sam xxx

HAPPY 1st birthday to our little Rose bud. Love you lots, Mammy, Isaac and Belle xxxx

Congratulations

Stuart Howarth



STUART HOWARTH IS 50 ON 22nd APRIL 2015 Always up for a laugh . . . A friend to everyone

Happy 50th Birthday to my fabulous husband Stuart. Enjoy all of your celebrations and have a wonderful holiday. Love you always. Joanne xxx

Happy 50th Dad Have fun and be good (that's what you tell us to do)! You're the Best!

Love from Alex xxx and love from Adam and Ellen xxx

Happy 50th Birthday Stu Have a wonderful time celebrating Margaret, Alan and Ian xxx

Happy 50th Birthday Stu Don't worry about it being a BIG birthday, it just means we can have a BIG holiday! Look out Vegas . . . here we come!

From best friends, Rob & Karen and Peter & Andrea xxx

Happy 50th Birthday Son Have a great year. Love from Syd and Barbara

Happy 50th Birthday Stuart Have a great birthday and holiday. Love from Paul, Bev, Carrie, Matthew, John-Paul Dan, Lisa and the Children

Happy 50th Birthday Stu How did you wrangle three weeks off??? Have a great time in Vegas and Hawaii Love from Chris, Michelle, Jack and Joe

Happy 20th Wedding Anniversary



22nd April 2015 Nic, thanks for a wonderful 20 years. You really are the best, in every way. All my love, John xxxxx

Sharron Bell (nee Glasper)



Happy 50th Birthday to a special daughter. Enjoy your day. Lots of love always Mam xxxx

SHARRON BELL 15th April 2015. Happy 50th birthday little Sister. Have a great party. Lots of love always, Viv, Chris and Jess xxx

Sharron Bell



Happy 50th Birthday to my gorgeous Wife, Sharron Bell on 16th April. Looking forward to Saturday to celebrate this occasion. I'm sure we will (make this a night to remember). Love you more than words can ever say. Colin xxxxxx

Penalty Goal Keeps Aycliffe in the First Division



Stuart Banks. scores the penalty which secured Aycliffe's place in the First Division

Newton Aycliffe FC secured their First Division status in style on Saturday with a 2-1 win at a windswept Ashington. The Colliers have been the Northern League's in-form team of late however their seven game winning streak was brought to an end by a determined Aycliffe side. As has often been the case Aycliffe relied heavily on their defence to keep their opponents at bay. Dan Mitton & particularly Mark Stephenson were outstanding in the centre. Aycliffe knew that points from this game would ensure their survival regardless of other results. In the end, with both Billingham Synthonia & Celtic Nation losing, they would have stayed up without this win. However, the effort put in by the whole team made sure that the league season ended on a high note.

The home team applied early pressure on the Aycliffe goal but stand-in keeper Nick Christoloudou made some fine saves to keep his team in the game, one of them being a remarkable effort getting a hand to a shot despite being on the ground injured!

It was Aycliffe though who

took the lead on 24 mins. Paul Garthwaite was fouled 20 yards from goal. Jordan Laidler lined up the free kick & scored with a well struck shot which evaded the wall.

Ashington equalised in the 67th minute with a shot from Taylor which looped into the net. Aycliffe came back at the home side & again Laidler was involved. Running into the box he found himself bundled to the ground and the referee awarded a penalty. Stuart Banks was as reliable as ever from the spot placing the ball beyond the keeper's reach.

This performance was an excellent way to end the league season, however, Aycliffe now have one more game to play. On 31 March Aycliffe lost 3-1 in the League Cup semi-final (again at Ashington). However, the League Management Committee later ruled that Ashington had played an ineligible player & disqualified them from the competition. Ashington have the right to appeal to the Football Association, however, subject to any appeal Aycliffe will now play in the Final against Shildon. The game will take

place at Heritage Park, Bishop Auckland on Tuesday 5 May (kick off 7:00pm).

The pitch at Moore Lane Park still has a number of games being played on it. The first of these is on Friday 17 April when we host the Durham FA Under23's League Cup Final with Durham City taking on Guisborough. Admission is free. Kick off is 7 pm.

On Thursday 30 April we also host Durham County FA Under 18's Sundays Final. You can watch Durham County U18 team against Darlington Youth U17's. The kick off is 7 pm. Admission Adults £2, Concessions £1.

On Friday 1 May we host once again the Darlington Charity Cup Final. Kick off is 6.30 pm. Finally, NAFC former treasurer Paul McGeary is holding his charity game in aid of Leukaemia and Lymphoma on Saturday 2 May. Kick off is 12.30 pm. This game will involve a host of current and former players of Newton Aycliffe FC.

Snacks and drinks will be available to buy from the bait cabin during each of the above games.

Darlo Promotion Hope

Just 270 minutes of football could see Darlington promoted to the Evo-Stik Premier Division. But, like the majority of Darlington fans, I know its the next ninety minutes that's important. We currently sit one place, one game and three points behind leaders Salford. However, following our home win over Mossley last weekend, we are now unbeaten in six games and go into this Saturday's away fixture at Lancaster City in confident mood, though this will be no easy game.

Lancaster are tenth in the league and have no chance of making the play-offs so will be playing for pride against one of the title contenders. Likewise the next opponents, Warrington. Darlington are away in this rearranged fixture to Shaun Reid's men on Tuesday night and I, like many fans I've spoken too, suspect nothing would make the yellows happier than to derail our automatic promotion hopes. This will be a game for calm heads and strong hearts I feel!

Off the pitch the future looks very bright with the council giving us planning permission to groundshare with Darlington Rugby Club at Blackwell Meadows. The plans have changed slightly and the home end will now be to the left of the ground, facing roughly the same way as the old Tin Shed at Feethams. Speaking of the Shed its fantastic to hear that parts of the old stand will be incorporated into the new ground at Blackwell.

The Newton Aycliffe Darlington FC Supporters Group held its first meeting on Wednesday night this week, details will be in next weeks Newton News. Anybody who wishes to be involved in the group or wants to make a contribution but can't attend the meetings, can you please email us at dfcaycliffefans@outlook.com or follow us on twitter @dfcaycliffefans.

Will it be the play-offs or automatic promotion? We'll know more this time next week. Keep the faith.

Juniors Football Round up

U8's - Short trip to Wynyard looking for revenge in the home fixture. Aycliffe started strong going close on a couple occasions before Jason opened the scoring with a brilliant chip over the keeper! Wynyard pulled level just before the break. Second half saw Sam in great form in goal again and good passing from Aycliffe with the ever improving Kiera strong in defence alongside Parker. We eventually got our reward with a 2nd from Jason and one from Joe - 3-1 to Aycliffe. Well done. MOTM Parker McWilliam

U9's - TJFA, Semi-final day at Sunnydale. Only 8 players this week and all offered great commitment. Thomas was unbeaten in goal, Harry and Aaron strong in defensive with Jake, Zack, Charlie, Lucas and Jacob providing a sound midfield and attacking threat. It was 0-0 at half time with our visitors happy to get numbers behind the ball and look to score on the break. In the second half Jacob delivered two fantastic crosses which were finished by Zack and then Charlie before the 3-0 win was sealed when Lucas tapped home a ball from Charlie. The cup final will be played on 17th May at Middlesbrough's Rockcliffe training ground.

U9's - RUSSELL FOSTER - Vs GRETTON CREST Hartlepool. Despite pressure and 14 corners, the first half finished 0-0. Second half and NAJFC intent on winning following two recent defeats. The breakthrough came shortly after the restart, with Thomas firing in from the edge of the box. Gretton equalised quickly and this woke NAJFC up and Thomas restored the lead. Bo maintained his goal a game record knocking home for 3-1. Isaac added a 4th shortly afterwards, a reward for his excellent all round play. Ted and Sam held firm at the back under late pressure, maintaining the lead. Great determination to win, excellent football, and everyone played very, very well - a deserved 4-1 win for NAJFC - MOTM Sam Porteous.

U11's - Away against Tibs who only had 8 players available, so Aycliffe took advantage by fielding a strong midfield. Curtis dropped back into the

centre half position and James moved up into centre mid. Aycliffe were able to keep the play in the Tibs half the majority of the half with James opening the scoring. Further goals from Zack, Dylan and another 2 for James ended the half 5-0. The 2nd half was similar with Aycliffe having the majority of possession, however Tibs didn't give up and they battled on to be rewarded with a goal, but further goals for Aycliffe by Adam, Nicolas, Kyle, Zack & James put the game out of their reach & the game ended 13-1. A good team performance with every Aycliffe player taking part in the game, which saw Kyle and Nicolas getting their 1st goals for the club. Well done everyone MOTM awarded to Jake.

U13's - Hosted promoted Spraire Lads. Weather was awful, but the pitch was in superb condition. One good goal from Spraire and one missed blatant offside and 0-2 down at half time. HT team talk was easy, keeping doing the same and we are still in with a chance. Corner to Aycliffe, swung in well by Martin and it fell to Sanderson Howes who poked the ball over to make it 1-2....Game on!

We had them frustrated, but they got a 3rd following another offside miss. It wasn't going to be our day, but we carried on pushing but got caught for a fourth goal to Spraire. FT 1-4. Really proud of the lads - take away the two offside and we gave them a decent match. MOTM goes to Ethan Stoker, top draw!

U16's - Last game home to Ferryhill Town, who were 1 up within 15 seconds! We settled and had some excellent chances but with no real finishing. With HT looming Ryan Wise sent an excellent ball towards goal and missed everyone that was trying to get a touch which must have put the keeper off because he didn't react and it went in the goal. 1-1.

A lapse of concentration allowed them back in front just before HT. 2nd half was much the same with us having the chances but just couldn't score! FT 1-2. A slight downer for our last game, but overall a good performance. Well done lads, again it's been a pleasure to manage you again. Hopefully we'll be together again for another fun filled season. MOTM Jay Lee Nelson.

U23's - Away at Whitburn Village and instructions were simple, keep shape, be patient and pass and move at every opportunity. They started the first half very well racing into a 3 nil lead. Smith scored a brace and Robertson got the 3rd. Aycliffe were now in total control to HT. Change with Aycliffe to 2 outright strikers and we started the second half well, causing problems. To Whitburn's credit they began to frustrate us. Allenby then turned his man before stroking the ball home to give Aycliffe 0-4 lead. Whitburn scored following a free kick, but Slatcher hit a low drive to finish 1-5 to Aycliffe. MOTM Adam Smith

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Best Rugby Display of the Season

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club guaranteed themselves a 3rd place finish in Durham and Northumberland Division 3 with an excellent win at home to mid-table Washington. The good weather suited the Aycliffe back line with it's abundance of pace.

Aycliffe began quickly and good work by the forwards ended with Andy Littlefair going over for the try in the corner. Soon after a superb move in which the backs rapidly interchanged the ball whilst ripping holes in the Washington defence saw Luke Crossen cross for a second try; Dan Montgomery added the conversion. Washington came back into the game; using their powerful scrum they moved deep into Aycliffe territory, a number of scrums close to the line almost resulted in points but eventually, Aycliffe were able to clear the ball.

A pick up from Number 8 by Craig Holmes saw Warren Parsonage break away and Littlefair finished off the move. Straight from the kick-off, Liam Kelly ran the ball back, the forwards kept the ball alive with good offloads and attacking runs until Parsonage was able to end the move with a score in the opposite corner. The final try of the half came from another Parsonage break; this time Jonny Griffith was cutting back on an excellent line and the defence had no answer. The score at the break was 27 - 0.

In the second period, Aycliffe applied further pressure and a further six tries were scored. Parsonage added his second after good work from Mikey Dunn and Montgomery before Paul O'Donnell scored his first for the club. Littlefair added another to complete a hat-trick and Dunn, Chris Richards and Adam Gascoigne also crossed the whitewash with Gascoigne converting the final two for a 61 - 0 win.

This was probably Aycliffe's best performance of the season with the loose play of the forwards complementing the speed of the backs. Aycliffe finish off the league season with a trip to champions Whitby on 18th April. The kick-off is 3pm. Aycliffe Rugby is sponsored by S Cars, Smuffitt Kappa and Whitehouse Funeral Service.

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