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Aycliffe Under 9's Win Junior Championship

Newton Aycliffe Juniors Under 9's travelled to Berwick to compete in the Haggerston Classic Tournament over the Bank Holiday weekend. Both the Russell Foster and TJFA teams were represented each playing five group games over two days attempting to reach the final on Sunday. The Russell Foster side were allocated to Group 2 and despite recording a great win against Hillfield Swift Falcons and an amazing goalkeeping display from Dom O'Donnell, limiting the prolific Wickham Fellside Greens team they did not progress to the final. Great performances over the weekend from Ollie, Dom, Sam, Bo, Ted and Jacob Dunn. The TJFA side started off with a 2-0 win over Coxhoe and continued to victory over Wickham Fellside Whites, Hetton Lyons, Beamish Bolts and Hillfield Swift Jets without conceding a goal to



book their place in the final. It was the Wickham Greens who had topped Group 2 undefeated so the two best sides over the weekend came up against each other in the showpiece finale. Despite going down 1-0 early on our squad demonstrated their quality with great movement going forward complimented by a stern defensive effort leading to first an equaliser from Jake and then the winner from Charlie confirming the Aycliffe side as Champions. A great team effort over the weekend with Thomas between the sticks letting in only one goal over 6 games Chloe was the usual rock at the back with the 16 goals spread across the team with

Police Station Site Sold for Care Home

A Care Home is to be built on the former Town Centre Police Station site. The Police Commissioner's office confirmed this week that Helen McArdle Care have bought the site intending to provide a residential care home. When rumours of this reached residents many criticised the sale of prime potential retail land being used for this purpose.

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New Signs Don't Help - We Want a Retail Park

Dear Sir,
Phil Wilson said our Town Centre is taking another step forward just because we have had new signs erected to the Town Centre, What he does not say is we have lost another good shop "Grannies Kitchen" which has been a big loss to our town, How on earth can he say this is a step forward?
I agree with Mr Coglan in last week's Newton News that the real vision for the townfolk would be an Out of Town Retail Park with plenty of good shops to bring the

people into Newton Aycliffe similar to what is happening at Tindale.
Our councillors could also take a ride to the Arnison Centre in Pity Me on the outskirts of Durham City. There is a bus from Newton Aycliffe goes straight there and you can use your Bus Pass if eligible. There are plenty of good shops, cafes, restaurants all in one place, so why don't we have one too? Let's put Aycliffe on the Map - new signs do not help much!
Maud Gray,
Stephenson Way

Aycliffe Pub Demolished

Dear Sir,
As we grow older, perhaps we often hanker after the unreality of a past that never was. A feeling, a perception of something tangible that manifests itself in false memories of people and places.
Nevertheless, I was saddened to see the demise of the Oak Tree pub - A functional, rather than aesthetically beautiful building that is true but I lived for many years very close to it.
I was never a regular as mine was not a misspent one! But the sad sight of the grubby, bedraggled bunting - from some long forgotten celebration, draping the midriff of the building in the cold April breeze, quivering under the vulture-like crane, as it battered down the pub stirred the memories of those who watched.
My memories were of New Years Eve 1970 and also 1981 and the Royal Wedding. Then the Oak Tree was a vibrant venue for celebration, of such occasions, balloons, flags, singing and happy people. The Oak Tree was a hub within the community; a meeting place for regulars and the once a year drinker, alike.

Time marched on and habits changed. In general terms have we all become more insular, in as much we spend more time in our own homes? The modern world reality is the computer, home entertainment, Facebook, Twitter and Skype with walking zombie-like people, transfixed looking down at some electronic device in their hands!
No longer the Big Club, on a Friday night; the air thick with a grey-blue smoke, hovering just beneath the ceiling as old miners coughed the coal dust away, puffing on pipes and fags.

Back then, there was hardly a spare seat to be had in the big room. Now, it is cheaper to buy alcohol at the supermarket. Now, this new reality of hard-headed economics sees the Iron Horse pub's car park being developed for housing. Yes, that is progress and 2015 is not 1970.
But have we lost something? Something other than an old, unused, unloved building? I wonder. I suppose this is all what Jethro Tull would call 'Livin' in the Past! Makes you think though, does it not.
Derek G Atkinson,
Denham Place



W.A.S.P.S. Go Online



WASPS Simpasture Residents Association have taken the next step to get the new IT Learning Centre up and running. Our broadband service is now online and we are planning the first term of courses.
Phil Wilson, prospective Parliamentary Labour candidate, dropped in for a coffee and took a look at the work so far. Phil was impressed and gave the association his backing and pledged to support our future ventures.
We also have some places remaining for our day trip to Morecambe on Saturday the 16th of May. Only £4 per head. You can't get to Darlington and back on the bus for that!! If you are interested in these or any other of our projects give Alan (07754094946) or John (07972170190) a ring.

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Covering tracks by: Bad Company, Billy Idol, Bon Jovi, Cult, Deep Purple, Gary Moore, Hendrix, Satiriani, Pink Floyd, Rory Gallagher, Santana, UFO, SS Top and many more.

Saturday 16th May - "Bon Jovi Forever"

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FROM BUMP AND BEYOND FITNESS

PCP want to help busy families make time to learn, grow and develop together through new fun activities aimed at improving health and wellbeing.
If you've just had a baby exercising is the last thing you feel like doing. However activity can relax you and it can help your body and fitness return after childbirth. From Bump and Beyond Fitness is a new class for

mums and babies delivered at the Pioneering Care Centre on Mondays 1-2pm.
Postnatal exercise comes with many advantages for all the family from increased weight loss and energy to improved self confidence and social life.
The first session is free then its only £3.50 per adult per week. 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 activities such as story sacks, buggy walks, messy art, health checks, relaxation and healthy eating sessions. You will also get quality time to have a cuppa and a 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 contact PCP on 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

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ROTARY CLUB HELP SCANNER APPEAL



Courtesy of Tesco's the town's Rotary Club were permitted to raise cash for the new MRI Heart Scanner equipment for James Cook Hospital. Raffle Tickets were sold to win a car and other valuable prizes and a number of Tesco customers made cash donations. One grateful patient who was treated successfully at the Hospital showed his appreciation with a £100 cheque!



Pastor Pamela Greenow

15th January 1946 – 29th April 2015

Tributes and messages have been pouring in from friends and family around the area and the world after the passing of Pastor Pamela Greenow, who died peacefully last Wednesday 29th April.

Pamela was born in Cockfield, nr Bishop Auckland in 1946 and married Glyn Greenow from Hereford in 1966.

After living in Hereford the family moved to Newton Aycliffe in 1974.

Over the next thirty five years Pamela raised a family and devoted her life to supporting her husband Glyn in leading the 'Full Gospel Church' founded by her parents Jack and Pansy Dickenson in 1967 and which became Xcel Church. In 2007 Glyn and Pamela passed on the leadership to their son John Greenow and daughter in Law Lisa. Since then Pamela has continued to live, love and lead with grace and dignity. She loved spending time with her family, including eight grandchildren and her many friends. Her influence and her legacy lives on in the hundreds of people who loved her and were touched by her life. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.



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ST. MARY'S SCHOOL HELP CHILDREN IN KENYA



by Charlie and Natasha in Year 6

On Monday, 20th April we had a special visitor, John McBride from the Cafod local office who came to visit our school and collect the cheque for the money we had raised during Lent. Our £550, will soon become £1100, (thanks to the Government matching what we have raised). We raised this money by holding a school craft fair suggested by the Mini Vinnie's. Each class also collected money during Lent. Parents and governors from our school were invited to the assembly.

All of the classes made something to sell, e.g. Year 6 children made paper flowers and flower pots; Reception children were artists for the afternoon, making portraits. We aimed at make at least £200, but we far exceeded our target. John shared some stories with us about how some children in Africa are not as lucky as we are and don't get the opportunity to go to school. We learnt how 14p would allow a child in Kenya to go to school. (We were amazed by this!) Unfortunately children and adults had to travel 5 hours there and 7 hours back very often to just have water. We learnt how this water was not what we were

used to, but instead full of parasites and disease. We realised how much of the basic things in life we take for granted. With our money we raised; hopefully more children will have the chance to go to school and have cleaner water to drink. He also gave us the e-mail address of the school in Kenya to keep in touch. Parents commented on how upsetting and moving the assembly was; it made them realise how lucky we are in our school and how much we take for granted. We all enjoyed raising this money and preparing items to sell- we are already planning what to do next year!

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"Zimmers Bar" Opens at Rose Lodge Care Home



Residents of Rose Lodge Care Home toast their new on-site bar

The party was in full swing at Rose Lodge Care Home as they hosted the official opening of their newly installed bar. It was a real knees up as residents, staff and families enjoyed a tippie from the fully-stocked bar and a sing-along on the karaoke. The home served up a selection of 'pub grub' and snacks and Jean McReady, the daughter of one of the home's residents, entertained everyone with her keyboard playing. The bar, named 'Zimmers Bar' after a vote by residents and families, has its very own pub sign and street lamp to add to the nostalgic feel. 'Zimmers' has its very own traditional wooden carved bar and bar

stools, decorative beer and spirit bottle pumps and has been wall papered to look as though there are shelves containing rows of bottles to add to a realistic bar environment. Nearby pubs kindly donated nostalgic pub paraphernalia to give the bar its authentic feel. The home's Activities Coordinator plans to use the bar for themed events such as quizzes and 'pie & peas' nights. Manager Nicola Wheatley said: "Our coffee shop is very popular with residents and families so we thought the addition of a bar would be perfect for creating another cosy and welcoming space for them to socialise." "Many of our residents enjoyed

socialising in local pubs so this allows them to enjoy a night out at the bar in the comfort of their own home." "The opening night was a big success. It was a fantastic night for all involved, we had so many compliments on the bar and everyone said they had a brilliant time. The party was a great way to get everyone socialising and having fun, it felt like a real family get-together and we hope to host similar bar nights regularly from now on." The care home also has a beauty room, coffee shop and indoor sensory garden and provides care for up to 54 residents who require residential or dementia care.

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Residents Questions on A167 Lighting Answered by Council

Following the Public Meeting on the removal of A167 lights Great Aycliffe Residents' Association were only allowed to ask 3 questions on the subject at the Council Meeting. Accordingly it was agreed to ask all the queries residents had under the Freedom of Information Act. The following is the response received:

On this occasion we have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations, 2004 (EIR). This is because your enquiry relates to measures which affect the environment. Freedom of Information requests concern non environmental information.

You requested 1:

Is the Council satisfied the policy change was understood and communicated properly to the general public?

Our response: Under the EIR this question, as phrased, is not asking for recorded information. As phrased it is asking for opinion and as such falls outside the scope of the Regulations.

To note: We can advise that the Street Lighting Policy which facilitates the removals was approved by Cabinet on 20 November 2013 following extensive public consultation including all Town and Parish Councils within County Durham. The public consultations included public meetings and publicity to enable the public and Town and Parish Councils to put forward their views. Once street lights are identified for potential removal we consult with County Councillors, Town and Parish Councils on the Road Safety Risk assessment to seek local knowledge which may be used to help inform the risk assessment.

You requested 2:

1. How many members of the public were in fact consulted?

Our response: Under Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR we do not hold a record of numbers consulted. To note: Please see our note section above in response to question 1.

You requested 3:

When Residents' Associations call for clarification do we not deserve attention with the officer and Cabinet Councillor, responsible for the topic, attending the meeting?

Our response: Please see our response to question 1.

You requested 4:

On investigation and having sight of the plans we seek clarification on the County Council's specific areas which they term "rural". Where they state lighting can be safely removed?

Our response: We can advise that all proposals for street lighting removals conform to the Council's Street Lighting Policy. The provision of street lighting is based on Environmental Zones as follows:

Environmental Zone E1 Comprises of National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Sites of Specific Scientific Importance and other Dark Areas. Environmental Zone E2 Area of low District Brightness (Rural Locations outside Zone E1) Environmental Zone E3 & E4 Areas of Medium District Brightness (Urban Locations) and areas of High District Brightness (Urban Centres with high night-time usage) The areas where it is proposed to remove the street lighting are within Zone E2. The immediate environment of the highway within Zone E2 comprises areas that are of low brightness, predominately agricultural/rural/open land with sporadic or few dwellings.

You requested 5:

As the A167 is a main arterial route through the County can the Council please define rural areas along the A167?

Our response: Please see our response to question 4 for definition of rural areas.

You requested 6:

Is this where there is no footfall?

Our response: Please see our response to question 1. To note: The decision to remove street lighting is not based on footfall.

The road safety risk assessment process includes visiting the site and walking the route allowing for a detailed assessment of the character of the road, its environment, the condition of the existing traffic signs and road markings. The risk assessment identifies any potential hazards to highway users and considers if these can be mitigated.

You requested 7:

Has the County Council discussed issues of Health & Safety, Road Accidents, dangers to cyclists and walkers plus potential increase in crime?

Our response: The Council has commissioned independent road safety auditors to carry out robust and detailed road safety risk assessments at each site where street lighting has been proposed for removal in accordance with the above policy. As stated above, the risk assessment includes a detailed analysis of all Personal Injury Accidents (PIA's) and it also includes visiting the site and walking the route to identify any potential hazards to highway users. Anecdotal evidence suggests that crime has not increased as a result of street lighting being removed. There is generally little or no opportunity for crime to be committed in the rural locations in between settlements where we are removing street lights. The latest research commissioned by the Department for Transport confirms that street lighting has an important role in reducing the fear of crime but that there is no evidence that it reduces actual crime.

You requested 8:

Why not turn off every other light?

Our response: Please see our response to question 1. To note: This is not a viable or safe option as to remove alternate street lighting would lead to short lengths of light going into short lengths of darkness. This has a detrimental impact on the human eye's adjustment to the lighting level, known as 'relative eye response' which can be dangerous for road users. It is far better to have longer lengths of lit and unlit road to enable the human eyes to adjust accordingly.

You requested 9:

Why not use alternative modern and much cheaper lighting to get the same monetary savings?

Our response: Under the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project we are retrofitting over 41,000 street lights with more energy efficient LEDs. To note: With limited resources we cannot maintain street lighting including LEDs and/or columns that are not specifically required under the Street Lighting Policy.

You requested 10:

Why remove lampposts altogether?

Our response: Please see our response to question 9.

You requested 11:

If the A1M is closed at our junctions the A167 becomes the alternative route has this been considered?

Our response: It is acknowledged that the A167 may be used as an alternative route for the A1(M) and that the A167 is one of the main north/south transport routes through the county.

To note 1: We can confirm that under our Street Lighting Policy, which is aligned with British Standards, we are committed to retaining street lights in residential areas, roundabouts, major junctions and where there are proven road safety and crime issues. To note 2: Under British Standards it is not necessary to light main roads in rural areas between settlements (areas of low district brightness). Consequently, these main roads are generally not lit in County Durham or the rest of the United Kingdom. Similarly, many sections of the A1(M) are not lit.

You requested 12:

The A167 is a main arterial route through the County carrying goods services and workers between settlements and beyond. Would you agree that any disruption of traffic flow could have severe financial results on the local economy?

Our response: Please see our response to question 1.

You requested 13:

If statistics later show this to be highly dangerous and the wrong decision will the Council re-instate lampposts and is there a budget to cover this expense?

Our response: Under section 12(4)(a) of the EIR the council does not hold this recorded information. Accidents can and do occur

at any time on any part of the highway network regardless of the provision of street lighting. Serious accidents are investigated in conjunction with Durham Constabulary to identify the cause and consider any mitigation measures. Fatal accidents are investigated by the Coroner supported by Durham Constabulary. Accidents may occur in the future where we have removed street lighting just like any other part of the highway network. However, we do not consider that any potential accidents will be caused by the removal of street lighting. As highlighted above we are only removing street lights that are not required by British Standards where it is safe to do so following a robust risk assessment by independent road safety auditors.

You requested 14:

Is it not wrong when the "spotlight" is on Aycliffe Business Park as the biggest in our County and potentially the biggest industrial area in the north east to turn lights off to its approach?

Our response: Please see our response to question 1.

To note 1: We can confirm that no street lights will be removed at the following locations: 2. St Cuthbert's Way; 3. Heighington Lane; 4. St Andrew's Way roundabout. To note 2: We can confirm that Under our Street Lighting Policy we are committed to retaining street lights in residential areas, roundabouts, major junctions and where there are proven road safety and crime issues.

You requested 15:

What does this say to visitors and possible investors about Aycliffe Business Park?

Our response: Please see our response to question 1.

You requested 16:

Have risk assessments been carried out by the emergency services?

Our response: We can advise that a robust and detailed road safety risk assessment has been undertaken at each site where street lighting has been proposed for removal, in line with our Street Lighting Policy. The risk assessment process includes visiting the site and walking the route allowing for a detailed assessment of the character of the road, its environment, the condition of the existing traffic signs and road markings ensuring any inherent potential hazards to highway users are identified and actions taken to either remove the hazard or introduce mitigation measures. Therefore, there will be no hazards that would impede the emergency services.

REVIEW PROCEDURE

I hope that this information is of assistance. However, if you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, please contact: The Information Management Team Tel:03000268034 Email: foi@durham.gov.uk After you have exhausted our internal appeals procedure, you also have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at: Telephone: 01625 545 745 Email: casework@ico.org.uk

Julie Hodgson

Freedom of Information Officer

That's the Way to do it!

Dear Sir,

I agree with the article in last week's Newton News questioning why schools are used as polling stations.

However I must correct the author as Vane Road Primary School is in fact open on Thursday 7th May despite also being used as a Polling Station.

The Year 5 classrooms that are being utilised will be vacant as those pupils are out on a trip and parents have been assured that the area will be securely cordoned off from the rest of the school.

Our fantastic school is led by a wonderful management team who have arranged these measures resulting in a happy compromise where the local community may vote and parents and carers are not inconvenienced with a school closure.

Other schools should take a leaf out of our book!

A Year 5 Parent

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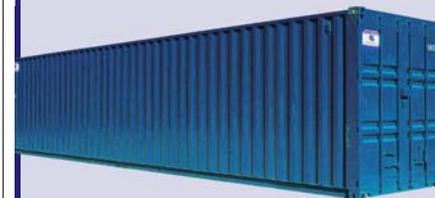
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Alternatives to Closing Schools for Elections

Dear Editor,
I refer to the letter in the Newton News last week "Why use Schools for Polling?" This comes up at every election time everywhere and I have been involved at elections for over 40 years at some place in the Country.
In my case I voted by post which is secure and does not involve closing any school. The Youth & Community Centre is being used along with the Scouts Centre, Woodham Community Centre and the Agnew Centre. I understand that Vane Road, although is open for voting is not closed for pupils.
To change this problem completely is to ask

government several questions
Why Thursday - because it is historical? Why not use a weekend and other venues like supermarkets then also get more people onto a postal system
I don't think there is much chance of getting it changed unless there is the will to change by Councils and Government. Not all schools are closed, but you need the co-operation of everybody who seeks to vote. It works in other European Countries so why not here? It is now academic, but will come back in two years 2017 when it will be all out Council Elections.
Vince Crosby

Toddler Group's 1st Birthday



A local baby and toddler group has held a party to celebrate its first birthday this week. "Little Treasures" started up last May and is run by volunteers from Harvest Christian Centre in Woodham.
Running each Tuesday morning in termtime at Woodham Community Centre, the group has become popular with around 25 children attending each week. It caters for all pre-school children, with a baby area, crafts and singing as well as a range of play equipment and toys.

"It's been great seeing the group grow and friendships developing amongst children and adults alike" says volunteer Helen Forster.
"Mums, dads, grandparents and childminders all use the group and everyone is welcome. We still have room for more people, there's no

booking system, people just turn up on the morning".
The group runs each Tuesday in school term time from 10.15am to 11.45am. It costs £1.50 per child, 50p for siblings, under 6 months free. Contact Helen on 07761 832715 or helenc422@tiscali.co.uk for details.

PAPER LICENCE SCRAPPED

If you're looking to rent a car while abroad this year, be aware of DVLA changes which threaten to put the handbrake on many summer holidays.
The DVLA scraps the driving license paper counterpart on 8th June - but many car hire companies still insist on examining it. Don't get caught out. Visit the DVLA website the day before you leave, and input your license and National Insurance numbers to receive a unique one-time passcode (valid for 72 hours only).



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Defoe Court News



Residents at Defoe Court enjoyed North East Production's 'One Fine Day' performed at the Care Home, which took them back in time reminiscing about going on holiday to Blackpool.
Defoe Court would like to thank St Clare's Church and the Reverend Christopher Pearson and clergy for the Easter Service, Co-operative Funeral Parlour for their donation of hot cross buns and many thanks to all that participated in the annual Easter Bonnet Competition.

JOIN DEMENTIA RESEARCH

Dear Sir,
I am "Join Dementia Research Champion for the North East and North Cumbria", (<http://news.joindementiaresearch.nihr.ac.uk/championing-join-dementia-research-north-east/>).
The National Institute for Health Research NIHR launched a national website on 24th of February for people interested in Dementia research to sign up and hopefully be matched with research projects in their area. To date we have 6237 people signed up, we need many more. I have just posted a video on youtube of a song by Charlie McGettigan about Alzheimer's dementia (<https://youtu.be/R3AJnPoK7E>) to promote the join dementia research website in preparation for Dementia Awareness Week 18th to 24th of May.
Andre Brown
ajaybrown@lineone.net

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Woodham Students in Maths Challenge

On Tuesday 24th March a group of four students from Woodham Academy competed in the regional final of the Team Maths Challenge at Durham Johnston. The event, organised by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT), saw 25 teams from schools across the North East compete in speed and relay rounds to complete a range of challenging problems. The team from Woodham Academy, comprised of two students from Year 9 and two from Year 8, had an excellent morning in the event, gaining high scores in both the group

and number cross rounds. The afternoon saw an increase in difficulty with a challenging shuttle round, where the students showed their resilience and teamwork skills. After finishing the final relay round, Woodham finished the day in a commendable 16th position. Well done to Adam Cooper, Charlie Douthwaite, Jackson Cooper, and Alivia Hoy. The overall winners were the home school, Durham Johnston, who will go on to compete at the national final in June at the Royal Horticultural Halls, London.



STRESS BUSTING YOGA



Students at Greenfield Community College had a break from a normal school day this week, as the Engine heads took over assemblies to give students a taste of Dru Yoga. This award winning group of students were successful recently in acquiring funding from GAMP AAP towards a yoga course for young people, with the support of

Greenfield Arts. They hope that introducing Yoga will give their fellow students some new skills and tools in relaxation, stress relief, and physical fitness. This week Roy and Lynn Moor from Dru Yoga gave all students at the Aycliffe campus the chance to try yoga and learn about the benefits, including stress relief and improved brain function. The

Engine heads have organised an after school course in yoga for their fellow young people, which will start after May Half Term. The response to the assemblies was great, all the students had a great time starting their yoga journey – we are now eagerly anticipating the afterschool sessions. Well done Engine heads for another success!

HEART & SOLE FOR BHF CAMPAIGN



(l-r) at the BHF branch are: Rachel Cooley, President Student Union, Katy Graham, Learning Area Manager and Student Danielle Johnson.

Staff and students from Bishop Auckland College have put their heart and sole into a campaign to raise awareness of lifesaving CPR. They have backed the #Heels4Hearts campaign led by ITV's Daybreak programme, which is giving school and college students the opportunity to learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The campaign is appealing to the public to donate unwanted, wearable shoes to British Heart Foundation shops to help fund CPR training kits in secondary schools and sixth form colleges across the UK so young people can learn lifesaving skills.

Bishop Auckland College staff and students stepped up to the challenge, donating 46 pairs of shoes to the BHF shop in Bishop Auckland. Shop manager Ange Bell said: "We are very grateful to Bishop Auckland College for supporting this campaign and its local British Heart Foundation store. We had very low stock of footwear before their donation bags arrived, and we have even managed to restock our winter collection for later in the year. There were some lovely shoes donated and many of them have already sold." For more information on the campaign visit: www.itv.com/goodmorningbritain/heels-4-hearts

Christian Aid Week

Dear Residents of Great Aycliffe, Once again, thanks to the management of Tesco, Churches Together in Great Aycliffe (St. Clare's, St. Mary's, Methodist and Harvest Churches) are having a bucket collection in store on Friday and Saturday, 15th/16th May for Christian Aid. Volunteers from all of the churches in CTGA will cover hourly slots on both of these days from 9am to 5pm. Anything you can give, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated and will make a big difference to those people who are desperately in need of our help and support, especially the people of Nepal whose lives have been devastated by the recent earthquake. Christian Aid carry out vital work with poor communities across the world to bring lasting change for the most vulnerable people, regardless of faith, gender or race and this is our opportunity to help those people who are less fortunate than ourselves. On behalf of Christian Aid and CTGA, I would like to thank you in advance for your

support.
Anne Molyneux
Secretary, Churches Together
in Great Aycliffe

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To request an application pack contact Janette Davies on 0845 505 5500 or download a pack at livin.co.uk/jobs

Closing Date for all applications:
4pm Friday 22 May.

Applicant Support and Information Workshop (livin office): **5.30pm 11 May, 10am 12 May.**

Interviews to be held: **16 June (Tenant), 17 June (Independent).**



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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 CLINIC

will move from Tuesday to Wednesday.

PLEASE NOTE: NEW TIME 6.00pm to 7.15pm

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.

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

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC

each Wednesday

PLEASE NOTE: NEW TIME 5.30pm to 7.15pm

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

Colour PhotoAds

Advertisements with a Photo can be placed at one of our agents: **YOUNGS NEWSAGENTS** (Town Centre) **DON WALKERS** (Simpasturegate) or direct to our office at: **NEWTON PRESS** (Aycliffe Business Park)

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Large PhotoAd - £25.00
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Photographs collected afterwards from Newton Press offices. Photos are held on file for six months only

Please ensure all Personal Advertisements are clearly written to avoid distressing errors

Helping People with Baby Basics



Lifeline Community Action (LCA) holds its first Baby Basics Giveaway at the Western Area Community Centre on 11th May 2015, from 9.30-11am

Alwyn White and Linzi Nicholls from the Helping Hands Project are busy again helping parents struggling financially by organising the event. Alwyn said 'its an exciting time of expansion for our charity. We know that we can reach even more people working from this venue'

Dorothy Bowman is delighted to hold the first ever baby basics event in the Western Area Community Centre. She is looking forward to assisting Alwyn and Linzi so that together we can help new parents at a very important time in the lives.

There will be clothing, baby equipment, and some toys. If families are particularly struggling then they can also arrange to pick up a household pack.

If you have children between 0-3 years and need a 'helping hand' call the lifeline team on 07936431262 to book your place at the baby basics event.

Parking Problem at Aycliffe Village



Despite the pleas of The County Restaurant landlords, Collette and Stuart, their customers continue to upset residents of Aycliffe Village by parking badly near the premises.

As the photo show the motorists are causing a big problem to wheelchair users and mums with pushchairs who are forced to walk on the road as the footpaths are taken by cars.

Town Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp is inundated with complaints and he is working hard to resolve the problem, but apart from double yellow lines it will prove difficult.

"I don't want to see parking restrictions as this could harm our popular local pub and restaurant which has a great reputation." said Bill.

The Town Council will be discussing the matter at a future meeting and some control over inconsiderate parking may be introduced.



Don't Feed Pigeons! Residents Encouraged to Get Composting

Dear Sir,
I wish to inform the lady I asked to stop feeding pigeons with a carrier bag full of bread in the town on Tuesday afternoon, that under council by laws it is a offence to do so and you can be fined if caught.

Pigeons spread disease and their droppings contain Salmonella, Histoplasmosis, Cryptococcosis, Psittacosis just to name a few. They also attract vermin to the area so local businesses will not be happy if you feed pigeons and the rats start to invade their property, let alone homes nearby.

If anyone needs to know what the by laws contact Durham County Council. Please do not feed the pigeon and let's keep vermin away! Name and address supplied

Residents in County Durham are being urged to turn household waste into food for their garden by making compost.

Durham County Council is backing International Compost Awareness Week (May 4 - May 10) by encouraging householders to get composting.

Turning organic waste into compost not only produces a nutritious food for the garden,

it also reduces the amount of household waste that ends up in the bin.

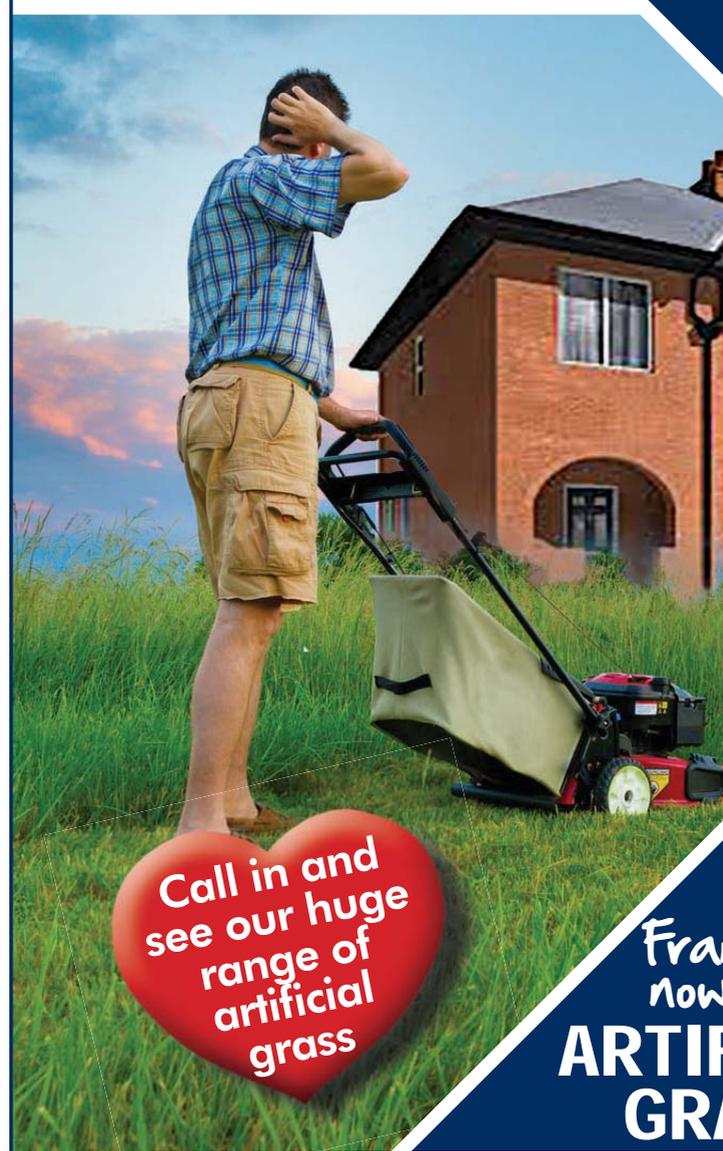
Rachel Gatland, waste strategy and policy officer at Durham County Council, said: "More than 30 per cent of the average household's waste can be composted and, although many are already doing it, we want more people to get involved."

To help make it easier for people to get started Durham County Council is working

with getcomposting.com to offer County Durham residents a discount on the price of selected compost bins.

Residents can get a compost bin from £17.98 and, through a buy one get one half price offer, they can purchase a second bin from £8.99. A £5.99 delivery charge will also apply.

For more details people can visit www.getcomposting.com or call 0844 571 4444.



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Mayor Opens New CAB Office



Left to right: Susan Phelan, Mrs Wendy Hillary, Ken Garbutt, Neil Bradbury, CEO and Alan Roxborough, Chair of Trustees of Citizens Advice County Durham.

The Newton Aycliffe office of Citizens Advice County Durham was officially opened by the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Wendy Hillary on Monday 27 April. The opening was a big success with local councillors, parliamentary candidates, volunteers, staff and Citizens Advice Board members in attendance. The Chair of the Trustee Board, Mr Alan Roxborough, said a few words about the Citizens Advice service which has operated in the town since 1948 and thanked everyone for attending before handing over to the

Mayor, Councillor Mrs Wendy Hillary who said a few words about how valuable the service is to the people in Newton Aycliffe and she then unveiled a plaque to officially open the office. Neil Bradbury, CEO of Citizens Advice County Durham said "we know that there is a lot of demand for our service in Newton Aycliffe and we are pleased that we have been able to move to these new premises, which are closer to the town centre, and provide local people with a high quality service"

LIVIN SHORTLISTED IN RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS AWARDS

The Responsible Business Awards is the most prestigious and respected awards championing responsible business in the UK and abroad. It celebrates inspirational companies that are taking action to address social and environmental issues and transform their communities. The announcement of the 2015 Responsible Business Awards shortlist coincides with Responsible Business Week an annual initiative to increase awareness of the positive contribution of business in society. The Awards celebrate the variety of ways that businesses

are making a difference – from investing in the wellbeing of employees, to helping young people develop skills, or supporting small businesses to grow. 145 companies have been shortlisted in total across the UK, across the 13 award categories. livin was recognised for its employability and training programme, livin Futures in the Jaguar Land Rover Inspiring Young Talent Award. Alan Boddy, executive director, people and communities for livin, said: "We are really proud of the positive impact the livin Futures programme has achieved so far by inspiring and helping young people to gain skills and jobs. We're continuously adding to the programme and being shortlisted for this prestigious award is recognition that we have a high quality, high impact offer on which to build." Stephen Howard, Chief Executive, Business in the Community said We



congratulate livin for playing its part in creating a fairer society and more sustainable future. The shortlisted businesses publically demonstrate that business has a greater purpose than simply generating profit and are a great example to others." All shortlisted companies will be celebrated through a series of Responsible Business Gala

events taking place across the UK in June. Of the shortlisted companies, a number will be chosen as Award Finalists to present their programme to a select group of senior business professionals in May for the chance to be crowned as overall winner in each category. These Award Finalists will be announced on 2nd June 2015.

Bank Holiday Maths Masterclass



Whilst others enjoyed a day off in the sun on Bank Holiday Monday, one of the town's

most respected maths teachers was in Woodham Academy working with students in preparation for their upcoming examinations. Ian Bickerdike, former Deputy Headteacher at Woodham Academy, refused to let a Bank Holiday get in the way of working with the students, who he has earmarked to make excellent progress in their GCSE examinations. Ian put on a master class during the day and had an exceptional turn out of students who wanted to learn from one of the best. Deputy Headteacher, Jonathan Lumb, said 'it was typical of both Ian and the students that a Bank Holiday was not going to stop key learning from taking place. Our year 11 students are working really hard at the moment and we would like to wish them every success this summer in their GCSE examinations.'

School Club Down on the Farm



During the school holidays the Woodham Burn Out of School Club went to Mini Moos Farm travelled with J&C mini buses. On arrival we had all of the soft play to ourselves; we really enjoyed the big slide. After we had fun in the outdoor play areas, we had our picnic lunch on the benches outside, it was very sunny. When most of us had finished our lunch we went in groups to play on the tractors. Later that day we went on a tractor ride around the farm. When we had finished we could see the big cushions and thought they looked fun. We had half an hour and it was time for the pet show. We learnt a lot about animals, at the end the lady was very kind and gave us some carrots to feed the donkeys. Afterwards the staff opened the slide and we thought we would have a bounce; the big slide was very fun. We walked along the barn and went up the stairs to the over head net; we walked over it and tripped over a lot. We enjoyed lemon and orange ice lollies, they were very nice and sticky. We realised it was late and we had to go home. We had a fab day thanks to Woodham Burn Out of School Club staff. Written by Dylan (age 8 years old) To find out more information please contact us on 01325 300080 or www.woodhamburnoutofschool club.co.uk

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Notice is hereby given that:-

The Parish Meeting for the Parish of Great Aycliffe will take place in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on:

WEDNESDAY, 20th MAY 2015
at 7.15 p.m.

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".

The Agenda will be available on Notice Boards, the Council Website and by request from the Council Offices (01325 300700) or our Website: (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk) from the 8th May, 2015.

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Dazzling Dance Showcase



I spent an inspiring evening on Thursday 30th April as a guest of Woodham Academy's Dance Showcase, and in front of a packed audience was treated to a brilliant display of dance and musical gymnastics. Most of the routines were choreographed by students themselves as part of their examination course and each piece demonstrated talent, commitment and hard work in rehearsals. It was amazing to witness the thought behind each dance theme and how well the music was interpreted and conveyed to the audience. There were some profound performances based on war, slavery, animal hunting and mythical warriors. The show, attended by the Mayor Wendy Hillary and her husband Jed, had a rich mixture of music which kept the audience enthralled from start to finish. The students can be proud of the very high standard they set and the school along with parents can be equally proud of these young people who showed dedication and discipline beyond their years. There were over fifty performers and among them one lone extremely talented young man, Daniel Wilkinson a year 8 student destined for stardom. He is representing Woodham in a national event.

A special additional dance number was introduced by a group of students specially for Dance Tutor Miss Minervini who was leaving Woodham for a new post in Dubai. She was deeply touched by this tribute and bade everyone a fond farewell. She will remember her time at Woodham and the Academy will always be grateful for the superb contribution she made to the standard of dancing which brought the school to a new level. It was a memorable evening and tutors can take credit for the quality of this production and the future of those students who will take dance and gymnastics into their future education and careers.



Miss Minervini

Heighington AFC Boys

Under 14's Club Bag Pack Fundraiser, on Saturday 9th May at Morrison's Supermarket, North Road, Darlington. The U14's played Division 3 Stockton, in an end of season friendly that was very competitive, narrowly losing 4-3, despite having the lion's share of possession. Goals from Adam Scott (2), and Bailey Howarth. Team is off to the Blackpool Tournament this coming weekend, and hoping to go one better than two years ago, where they were runners up. All age group teams are looking for new players, so If you would like to get involved with any of our teams, please contact David Brassell on: 07870 77779 or david.brassell@hotmail.co.uk



More PCP Activities

Monday 1-2pm Bump and Beyond is a new exercise class which also includes baby! Postnatal exercises help to increase weight loss, confidence, stamina energy and social interaction £3.50 per class (first session free).
Wednesday 1-3pm Tots Time is a new toddler group from birth up to and including age 3. Activities each week include buggy walking, healthy eating sessions, messy arts, health checks, baby & child safety, relaxation tips and much more. £1 per family per week. Refreshments included.
Saturday 10am-12noon Dig Art is family gardening fun run by Colour your Life. It includes storytelling, making outdoor sculptures, wind chimes and involves other gardening activities (indoors and outdoors).

Film Show

St Clare's Church FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW on Tuesday 12th May will feature "ARISTOCATS" Disney's 20th animated classic, released in 1970. Tea and coffee served at 1pm, included in the £2. The film starts at 1-15pm. A variety of chairs are set out for your comfort, and tables too so you can bring a spot of lunch to eat. EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME to join us and watch the film in friendly company. Further details from Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755

Mayor Praises Academy Dance Showcase

Dear Sir,
 I wish to express my delight and amazement at the talent I witnessed at the Woodham Dance Academy Show on Thursday evening. I was truly enthralled with the students and their outstanding performances. During my year as Mayor I have been invited to several concerts at Woodham Academy and it has been a real pleasure to see the results of the hard work and

practice that both students and teachers have dedicated to entertain their friends families and supporters. I would like to thank the pupils and staff for inviting both myself and my husband to the special performances they have put on over the past twelve months, and I wish them all the best of luck when they perform in the national dance off in Birmingham. Councillor Wendy Hillary. Mayor

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DJ TIM ALCOHOL TOMBOLA
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BOOZEYMEN MCC Sunderland
 In Association With

AYCLIFFE RUNNING CLUB
 Presents
The 3M 10K & Fun Run
Sunday 21st June 2015
 Sponsored by
3M UK PLC, INEOS
AND GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Organised by
 Aycliffe Running Club under
 England Athletics Rules Permit No.
2015-12781

10k Run 10.00 am
3k Run 9.15 am

From Greenfield School,
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10k Race

- £100 to first male and female
- £100 for the course record
- Veteran prizes
- Chip timing
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Fun Run

- Commemorative medal

(accurately measured with kilometres marked)

Entry Fees: 10k Run **£12.00 Club Runners/£14.00 Non Club Runners**
 £2.00 extra to enter on the day
 3k Run **£4.00 All entries**

Enter online at ayclifferrunningclub.org.uk

Cheques to be made payable to 'Aycliffe Running Club' Entries to:
 Anne Kellett, 5 Woodham Gate, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4UB
 Closing Date for Entries Sunday 7th June 2015
NOTE! allow extra time to collect your race number on the day.

If for any reason the race is cancelled at short notice (which in the 16 year history has never occurred) Aycliffe Running Club can not return your entry fee as the club is committed to the organisation cost of the event regardless.

Surname Forename(s)

Address

..... County Post Code

e-mail address Telephone No.

Date of Birth Age on June 21st, 2015 Athletics UK Affiliated Club

10k or Fun Run please tick 10k Fun Run male female
 (For 10K runners must be 16-years or over on June 21st, 2015)

UKA Reg Number for club member

Declaration: I wish to enter the 3M 10K or Fun Run and I declare that I am an amateur as defined by England Athletics Laws and certify that I am medically fit to run. Furthermore, I agree that the organisers will not be held responsible for any injury or illness as result of my participation in the events. I understand that my details will be stored on the entry computer, but will not be distributed to any other organisation or running club.

Signature Date

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Aycliffe Swimmers Championship Double YOUTH FOOTBALL REPORT

Sedgefield Water Polo club's under 17 boys team travelled to the Manchester Aquatic Centre for the National finals. Sedgefield had qualified for the semi finals after being runner up in their group in the previous round of qualifying at Walsall. They were up against tournament favourites Exeter in the semifinal on the Saturday who were unbeaten. Exeter scored the first goal but Sedgefield soon equalised. It was very close at 3-3 at half time. In the second half Sedgefield gradually edged ahead with some strong attacking play and didn't allow the favourites back into the game, running out winners 11-9.

John Pratt and Isaac Wass both scored 4 goals each, Aaron Mason got two goals and Mike Kelly the other goal.

Sedgefield were now against the home team and one of the big city giants in GB polo City of Manchester who have huge resources and an Olympic size pool in the final on the Sunday. Sedgefield were 3-1 behind after the first period but stormed back to lead 4-3 at half time.



In the third period Sedgefield increased their lead to 6-4 after 2 great penalty saves from young goalkeeper Richard Murray. In the final period Sedgefield went into a four goal lead. Manchester roared on by

a big home crowd of over 500 stormed back and scored 3 quick goals to leave it 8-7 to Sedgefield with 2 minutes to go. Despite some intense pressure the Newton Aycliffe based team held on to win by one goal to bring the championship back to County Durham for the first time since 2006 to the delight of their supporters. The Sedgefield scorers were John Pratt with 4 more goals, Isaac Wass with 2, Jake Plant and Connor Keeble with one each.

This was Sedgefield's second National Championship win in 6 months after winning the under 15 title in October.

Sedgefield are the only club side ever to win a National Polo title from Northumberland, Cleveland and Durham and have now won 5 since they were formed in 1997.

John Pratt the captain received the most valuable player of the finals trophy and Richard Murray the outstanding goalkeeper award.

Coch Richard Cousins led the team with distinction through 9 games to win the trophy. The other members of the Sedgefield team were Michael Cousins, Ben Stephenson, Mathew Alderson, Daniel Armstrong and Kris Egginton.

Rugby Team Win at Darlington Arena

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club played in the 25 000 seat Darlington Arena on Saturday and came away with an excellent 32 - 24 against Darlington Mowden Park 3rd XV. Due to the bank holiday Aycliffe were missing a number of regular players but still put out a strong squad. The hosts were preparing for a cup final and, likewise had a strong team.

Mowden began strongly and soon used the weight of their pack to batter their way over the try line to take the lead. Aycliffe fought back and Andy Littlefair, playing against his old team, punched through the defence to score in the corner. A penalty goal from Dave Gibson gave Aycliffe the lead. Mowden regained their ascendancy and before the end of the half they had scored a further two tries. At the break the home side led 17 - 8.

In the second half, Aycliffe upped their game significantly. The forwards moved their bigger opponents around the field with quick rucking and the pace of the backs began to have an effect. Aycliffe scored a try after a break by James Thacker saw Kevin Vaughan sight the line and score; David Judge added the conversion. A 60 metre break by Lewis Stephens shredded the defence and Thacker was in support to go over in the corner.

Another Vaughan try, again converted by Judge increased the lead and Jonny Griffith was on hand to finish off a good move by scoring in the corner. Aycliffe were now 32 - 17 ahead.

Mowden then launched a concerted attack on the Aycliffe line, which held firm on a number of occasions before Mowden finally scored with the last play of the game to make the final score 32 - 24.

The season finished with yet another great performance to follow on with those of recent weeks.

There are no more matches for Aycliffe until next season, but a number of the players will be turning out with Sedgefield at the Henry Walks tournament at Darlington RFC on 9th May. Aycliffe Rugby wish to thank S Cars, Smurfit Kappa and Whitehouse Funeral Service for their generous sponsorships for this season.

The Under 13 Girls' catch up games are coming in thick and fast as they aim to cement 3rd spot. First up was Beamish away on a cold evening last Wednesday with the girls losing 0-4. Saturday saw 3pts won as they beat Stockton Town Girls' 7-3 away. Chloe Ryan (3), Lydia Shale (2), Paige Spensley and a first goal for the team for Becky Potter. Well done everyone.

Under 12 Girls' v St Cuthbert's. A Great performance from the Girls' as Aaliyah escaped their defence and slotted in for 1-0 half time. 2nd half saw a corner won and Meg slotted the ball over and after a scramble in the box, Teanna made it a final score of 2-0. Well played girls. Next up a great battle with Deerness who defended well and wouldn't let anything past them - eventually running out 0-1 winners.

Under 11 Girls' v Hebburn Town. After going 1-0 down Bethany crashed the ball into the roof of the net for the equaliser. The game was theirs to win. Aaliyah duly slotted in at the back post to secure the points 2-1. Against a strong Lumley side the girls went down 0-3. Hard luck girls.

Under 11 Falcons v 21st All Stars Jets. The All Stars took the lead but Alfie Nichol-Brown equalised. Liam made it 2-1 then a debut goal from Jacob for three. Kieran scored a solo effort before Jacob added his 2nd. 5-1 at the turn. Dec then netted a sweet side volley. Jacob completed his hat-trick before laying a great ball in for Liam to score his 2nd of the game.

Under 11 Eagles went down 5-3 to Golden Flatts in their last game of the season. Scorers were Adam Lowe, Joe Halford and Callum North. This now brings to an end a very difficult but enjoyable season. Bring on the summer and the friendly tournaments especially Blackpool!

The **Under 10 Girls'** needed to get back to winning ways v Consett. Olivia 1-0. Consett netted HT 1-1. Hattie 2-1. Consett managed to find a goal 2-2. The game looked a certain draw but for Hattie who picked up the ball wide on the left glided past 2 defenders and from the acutest of angles smashed the ball into the net FT 3-2.

Against Leam Rangers. Neve scored her first ever goal for HT 1-0. Consett levelled but Hattie, from the edge of the box hits an unstoppable drive



into the roof of the net FT 2-1.

Under 8 Eagles v Norton and Stockton Ancients. The away side started well going ahead in the first minute. This was the kick start the Eagles needed as they started to play some great football - discipline and work rate getting Aycliffe ahead. The Eagles ran out 8 -1 winners clinching the TJFA Second Division title. What a season! well done.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all our teams every success in the many Tournaments which we

are entering as the Summer months approach. The Under 10 Eagles and Falcons were at Blackpool last weekend whilst the Under 8 Falcons visited Haggerston Castle. Always a great opportunity to showcase what a fantastic family club we are.

Is your child interested in playing football? If so, bring him or her along to one of our many training sessions throughout the season. Call Berni Borsberry for more details on 07939 045242 or visit our website: www.naycafc.co.uk

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Sponsors Boost Bowls Club Project Fund



Great Aycliffe Indoor Bowls Club has received further sponsorship from local firm Gordon Fletcher & Sons Independent Funeral Directors of Cobblers Hall, Village Centre, to boost their Project Fund. Colin Fletcher is seen presenting the cheque following the recent Fletcher Tournament Competition held at Oak Leaf Complex. Also pictured is Michael

Spencer, and receiving the cheque is John Palmer, who is a founder member of GAIBC in 1978, is still an active member, and the Club Treasurer for 35 years. Michael Spencer stated. "It's with the support of Peter and Colin over the past years that the Club has been able to replace the honours boards and support the ongoing project of a new master scoreboard."

LOCAL SPORT

Another Title for Aycliffe MMA Club



"MMA All Out" Coach Mikey Hogarth said he was "over the moon with the way Jed Ramshaw fought on Sunday at Eiko in Newcastle. He has trained so hard for this, doing both CrossFit and Mixed Martial Arts six days a week with only one rest day. He really does deserve it." The first round was non-stop with Jed landing a big right hand and nearly submitting

his opponent. Second round was the same again, with Jed catching him with another big right hand and then finishing with a rear naked choke to win the British Eiko Championship Belt. Michael McDonald also fought on the Show and although he didn't get the win, he did very well. The club is delighted with both fighters

Aycliffe Running Club Results



R.C. School & College 50th Birthday

In the 50th year of St John's School & Sixth Form College – A Catholic Academy, various events are organised in school to celebrate this momentous occasion. The latest venture taking place is a Reunion on 5th June for all ex-students of the school - £2.50 per ticket. This is a bring your own drinks and nibbles event – cups and plates provided. Tickets are limited to 200 people however and it's on a first come, first served basis. Tickets can be purchased at the main reception at the school. Any queries, please contact the school office on 01388 603246 or e-mail staff@stjohnsrc.org.uk

Preston Park was the venue for the first race in the Tees Trail series of races over 5K. Fine spring weather attracted a field of over 200 runners. John Surtees was first home for the in the brilliant time of 17:53 and 7th overall, followed by Lee Wren, 15th in 19:21 and 2nd M/40 and Dave Blewitt, 32nd in 20:31. Tracy Surtees was first female home for the club, 36th in 20:54 and John Burnside, 42nd in 21:17, and Alan Wilks, 60th in 22:18 were both first in their respective M/55 and M/65 age groups. Next to cross the line was Paul Stretton, 87th in 23:50 followed by Anne Kellett, 177th in 28:33 and Yvonne Williams, 208th in 30:10. Finally, Eve Doe who is fairly new to this sort of event got round the course in 34:03 in 240th position. Several of our members took part in the Virgin London Marathon. Conditions were ideal for running. Cool at the start but the record crowd of over 37,000 runners soon got warmed up. It was the first marathon outing for Jason and

Michelle Dixon, but it looks like all the training and preparation has paid off. Jason recorded 4:11:52 and Michelle was one second slower in 4:11:53, but I think they are still friends. Penny Johnson is certainly not new to marathons, but she is doing a lot more cycling these days as well as her marathon training. It is hard to believe this had nothing to do with the fact she achieved her best performance in 4 years with a time of 4:26:15. Susan Clark reached her 60th birthday this year, but this doesn't mean she has slowed down in any way and celebrated with superb time of 4:49:47 which is also a personal best. Susan is now the first O/60 female in the history of the club to have run a marathon. Well done Susan. Richard Johnson recently competed in the Blyth Valley 10K. In wet and windy conditions Richard finished 185th out of 558 runners in 41:42. For more information about Aycliffe Running Club and their training sessions visit ayclifferrunningclub.org.uk

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Aycliffe Juniors Match Reports



U9's came home as CHAMPION'S! A massive well done to Chloe and the lads from our current U9's on winning the Haggerston Castle Tournament 2015, another great achievement in a remarkable season. This group of coaches and players are a credit to our club in so many ways - special mention to Adrian Dawson and his team, for providing great training sessions and a fantastic environment for this set of youngsters to flourish. Mentioning all parents - without devoted parents things wouldn't be possible - just the small matter of the cup final on the 17th. U13's last game of the season at home vs Polton All-stars who had won all of their previous 22 games and won the league by a country mile. Today was not about the result, we just wanted to give a good account of ourselves. If we're honest, the first half was poor, conceding sloppy goals but second half, the lads upped their game and gave a good account of themselves. We also managed to score two past them, not many have don't that his season, so well done lads! MOTM was joint: Ethan Stoker & Logan Sanderson Howes - Scarborough tournament next, and then re-group to go again next season. The U23's faced Washington on Sunday at home who are just one place below us in the league. The squad was depleted today with players on holiday or injured. Washington started the better, closing Aycliffe down, they could have been 3 nil up within the first 20 minutes, but great saves by Williamson and the crossbar coming to Aycliffe's

rescue. You can only ride your luck for so long and Washington's striker finished well into the bottom corner to give the visitors a deserved lead. We managed to get ourselves back into the game when Taylors strike was fumbled by the keeper and Winwood was the first to react tapping the ball home from close range. The score remained 1-1 until just before half time when the visitors scored again to go into half time 1-2 lead. The team were told at half time that we needed to get both our wing backs on the ball and start to close their players down far more quickly. The second half started and became a tad feisty with some tasty tackles from both teams. Aycliffe drew level when Washington centre back misplaced a back pass into the path of Slatcher who stroked the ball home. Aycliffe then made a substitution with Allenby replacing Wickens with Tallentrie dropping to centre half, Taylor moving into midfield and Allenby partnering Howe up front. Aycliffe created a couple of decent chances to score again but we failed to take our chances. Washington dug deep and kept Aycliffe at bay and the game ended in a 2-2 draw. Overall today's performance was below the standard Aycliffe are capable of but on a positive the draw keeps stretches our unbeaten run to 10 games and go to Washington next week for what I am sure will be a tasty game. M.O.T.M to Christian Taylor, well done Christian.

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Zanshin-Kai Karate would also like to thank Honest John for his recent donation of £500.00 to the club, this very generous donation has helped replace some training and safety equipment. More to come through the year and this will help us keep the club running throughout 2015. For more information call into Woodham Community Centre any Sunday between 4pm-6pm or call an Instructor on 07917 203421 or email zanshin-kai-karate@hotmail.co.uk - Facebook: zanshin kai karate newton aycliffe.

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Good Start to Season for Cricket Club

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team sponsored by Franks The Flooring Store won on Saturday at home to Hartlepool 2nd XI by 5 wickets. The visitors batted first and were bowled out for just 138 after

40.4 overs thanks to a brilliant spell of fast bowling from Colin Myers who took 6 for 24 from 10.4 overs. Man of the match John Cavanagh (sponsored by CVO Fire) smashed his 2nd half century of the season

finishing unbeaten on 65 including 9 boundaries and 4 huge sixes. With support from captain Chris Palmer who scored 22, Aycliffe eased to victory after just 23.5 overs. On the Bank holiday Monday the first team lost by 6 wickets away to Stokesley 2nd XI after posting just 133 all out with Sam Telford top scoring with 35.

The club's second team had an excellent 59 run victory on Saturday away at Northallerton 2nd XI in the NYSD 3rd division. Batting first Aycliffe scored 173 for 8 from their 50 overs thanks to good innings from captain Adam Gittins (37 runs) and John Wardle (27 not out). In reply Northallerton were bowled out for just 114 after 45 overs with Patrick Howe (3 for 7), Danny Weldon (3 for 28) and James Layfield-Carroll (2 for 19) the pick of the Aycliffe bowlers. On the bank holiday Monday they suffered an agonising 5 run defeat at home to Blackhall 2nd XI. Aycliffe's Jack Slatcher took 5 for 32 to help bowl out the visitors for just 79 after 22.2 overs, but Aycliffe were then bowled out for 74 after 33.4 overs with only Trevor Shingler managing double figures with a fluent 34.

The second team had an excellent 26 run home win against Norton 2nd XI in the first round of the League cup. Aycliffe batted first and scored a respectable 114 for 9 in their 20 overs with good innings from Tom Wickins (19 runs), Danny Weldon (18 runs) and Adam Gittins (17 runs). Jack Slatcher finished with career best bowling figures of 6 for 41 and wicket keeper John Wardle took 4 dismissals as the visitors were bowled out for 88 from 18.3 overs. The clubs u13's lost at home a very good Sedgefield team, but there was good performances with the bat from both captain Nathan Parry and Dylan Lewis.

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DONATIONS needed of Bric-a-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring Honest John 316 630

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Aycliffe Fell Walkers visit Eden Valley

The Lower Eden Valley walk, Lazonby to Wetheral, took club members to a new area and many wondered why the gently rolling countryside beside the River Eden, north of Penrith and west of the northern Pennines, had not been visited by the club before!

An additional coach had to be laid on for the trip; such was the enthusiasm amongst members for the outing. Their enthusiasm further increased during the walk, as there was much to see and do. The weather was warm, bright and sunny!

Wetheral, popularised during the 19th century by leading industrialists when national railway links were completed, provided essential nourishment for thirsty walkers at the end of the walk.

In particular the bar at the Wheatsheaf Inn was buzzing, "busier than has been seen in many a year" exclaimed a local resident! If you would like to get involved & join "probably the best walking club in the world", contact

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INVASIVE SPECIES – WALK AND TALK

Non-native species are invading the environment. New invaders are expected soon. What are they and how can we help avoid the spread? There will be an illustrated talk in Brafferton Village Hall on Thursday 14 May at 7.15 pm, preceded by a short identification walk by the River Skerne. Meet at the bridge by Hallgarth at 6.30pm. The event is free of charge. John Musham, INNS Co-

ordinator for Tees River Trust, will tell us more about invasive plants and animals which harm the environment, block up waterways, and can be very painful. If you like walking, gardening, bees, have a garden pond, own land beside a waterway, enjoy watersports or picnics by a river – this night will interest you. Refreshments available and there will be a raffle, with funds going to support the Village Hall Association. For more information ring Alison on 01325 300347.

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Show Performed in a Mini Bus!



Last week students at Greenfield College, Sunnydale campus, enjoyed a fantastic live performance in an unconventional venue! "Cape Wrath" followed the journey of Alex's Grandad from the Midlands to Cape Wrath - the most North Westerly point of Scotland - and was performed in a minibus! The show was written, directed and performed by Third Angel,

a Sheffield based theatre company. Greenfield Arts were pleased to be able to fund this performance (which was also supported by Arc Stockton) at the Sunnydale Campus for two groups of students: a Year 11 drama group who are considering careers in the theatre, and a geography group who were fascinated by the journey through Britain. The students and staff

thoroughly enjoyed joining Alex on his journey. This performance is one of a programme of high quality live shows brought to Greenfield Community College by Greenfield Arts. It is a pleasure to be able to work with local organisations and innovative theatre companies such as Third Angel to bring these experiences to Greenfield.

Palram Supports Student Development



Eden with Palram Accountant David Hill and Pat Johnson Ledger Clerk

A STUDENT has expanded her skills in Business Administration thanks to the opportunity to work at international plastics company PALRAM.

The placement was organised by North-East charity DISC as part of their Steps4Success (S4S) education programme. Student Eden Whitworth, of Newton Aycliffe, completed the placement in February and was invited to remain as a volunteer. She now volunteers one day a week with the potential of gaining future employment with the company.

The placement is a great success, with Eden clearing the company's archiving backlog which, thanks to her hard work and commitment, is now up to date. Eden has continued to develop her skills as an administrator by supporting other departments in the company with business administration work as part of her role.

Rebecca Drummond, S4S Employer Engagement Advisor, said: "When PALRAM agreed to take Eden we were really pleased as the company are very positive and supportive in their approach to hosting a student. Eden has a determined work ethic and we knew that she would be an asset to the organisation. It's been lovely to watch her grow and develop employment skills whilst she's been on placement."

Rebecca added "We are very grateful to all businesses that have supported our students on work placement. It isn't always easy, but we have developed some great partnerships and

have worked together to achieve positive results. This year, we aim to increase our placement portfolio, so if any businesses are interested in supporting a student, I would really like to hear from them". Steps4Success were graded outstanding by OFSTED last year, and part of the inspection report commented "Work placements are of very high quality and ensure learners receive very useful experience in stimulating job roles. They are planned thoroughly to ensure that learners make very good progress".

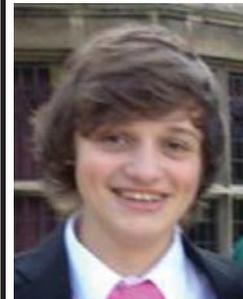
Steps4Success works with young people 16-18 who are not in education or employment. The programme delivers a combination of functional skills with practical advice, skills and confidence building all embedded into the qualification as well as a work placement in an area of interest to the student. Any local company wishing to host a student work placement is asked to contact Rebecca Drummond at DISC on 01325 731160 or email Rebecca.drummond@disc-vol.org.uk

Congratulations



JIMMY TOAL 10th May. Happy 60th birthday to the best Dad and Grandad. Lots of love, Cath, Marc, James, Brandon and Buster xxxx

Keiran



Happy 18th Birthday
13th May 2015

Hope you have a great day. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Chris and Ryan xxxxx

Jordan McCabe



Happy 18th Birthday
8th May 2015

Love and best wishes for your future. So proud of you. Great Gran Olive xxx

Happy 18th Birthday
Love from Auntie Emma, Matt, Griegan, Nathan and Zander xxx

Happy 18th Birthday
8th May 2015
Auntie Pam & Uncle Jeff x

SILVERDALE CENTRE REFURBISHED

Silverdale House been been refurbished painted and cleaned and it is being made a Dementia Friendly building. The centre is accessible to all ages, but we do need some volunteers please.

New Pathways Together Dementia Awareness Group and Activities. meets Tuesdays 10.30am until 1pm. Rug making, Craft sessions and many other activities followed by lunch at 11.55am

Last Tuesday we listened to music, had coffee etc and at lunch time enjoyed Soup and a Bun.

On Thursdays from 10.30am until 11.30am the group meets at the Youth Centre and this Thursday we are going to the Glass Centre at Sunderland followed by a trip to South Shields.



We will be using the Aycliffe Community Bus. Next Thursday at the Youth Centre an officer from the Tees and Esk Health Group will be attending. For more details ring 01325 308094.

The Lakes and Dales Residents Association meets at the centre on Wednesday 20th May at 6pm. Everyone welcome. We want to discuss trips away and activities in the centre. More information on 01325 308094.

The Cubby Experience



Thomas Horton is the latest youngster to obtain work experience at The Cubby and for offering the opportunity Meadows College made an award to Chairman Bill Blenkinsopp.

"We have helped many young people gain experience in catering and Thomas is keen to be a Chef and working here will help his confidence by meeting people and learning how to prepare meals." said Bill.

Birthday Remembrance

PEARL MITCHIE on Pearl's 80th Birthday 15th May. Always in our thoughts and prayers, Husband Ron and All the Family

Licence Applications

Goods Vehicle Operators Licence

Euro Pal Ltd. trading of 11 Bankside Court, Darlington DL1 5LE is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To keep an extra 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers at the operating centre at Aycliffe Timber Yard, Whinbank Road, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6AY. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioners Office.

08-05-2015

Sponsors Invited for Annual County Awards Scheme

The organisers of the County Council annual awards scheme which recognises outstanding environmental work in County Durham are seeking sponsors.

County Durham Environment Partnership is hoping to hear from companies and organisations interested in sponsoring this year's awards, which will open for entries in June. The County Durham Environment Awards have taken place every year over the last 26 years and during that time more than 850 projects involving thousands of people have received awards or commendations.

To keep running costs to a minimum organisers are inviting companies to support the scheme via one of three sponsorship packages. Details of the packages are available at www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/envawards

People can also find out more by contacting Durham County Council on 03000 265 545.

The County Durham Environment Awards seeks to recognise organisations and individuals who have made a contribution towards the environment.

The awards include the following categories:

- Built environment
- Climate change
- Community partnership
- Craftsmanship
- Greener business
- Natural environment
- Places and spaces
- Schools and colleges
- Volunteer of the year - over 18
- Volunteer of the year - under 18
- Volunteer group of the year
- Waste management

Acknowledgement

EDDIE GRAHAM 1931-2015. Paula and Colin would like to thank family and friends for all the love and support they have received following the recent death of her Father. Thanks to Pam Lovelass for a truly wonderful, memorable Service, Aycliffe Care Home for making him so comfortable during his last few days, all staff at Peaseway Medical Centre who were unfailing in their care, especially Dr. C Scott for his continuous care and support over the past few years. Thanks to John Meynell Funeral Services for providing a sympathetic and professional service. Special thanks to the Royal British Legion, for their hospitality, Guard of Honour and the many years of happiness he enjoyed there

MARY SHELDON, Newton Aycliffe. The family of the late Mary wish to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for kindness and sympathy shown, also for all the letters, cards of condolence received during their recent sad bereavement and also for the kind donations in aid of Great North Air Ambulance Service totalling £331.25. A special thanks to Defoe Court Nursing Home, Dr. Jackson and Bryan Shepherd at Whitehouse Funeral Service.

In Memoriam

Agnes Hills

28/4/1948 to 1/5/2014

People say they can't believe it is one year today since my darling Wife was taken away. Time for me has gone so slow, as the pain I feel inside nobody knows. To lose the love of your life and your very best friend, my broken heart will never mend. Until one day in Heaven we are back together, side by side, the way we were always meant to be, as Husband and Wife. From your ever loving Husband Tommy xxxx

Jordan McCabe



Happy 18th Birthday
8th May 2015

to a special Son and Brother. Good luck in Denmark. Love you loads. Mam, David, Amber, Caden and Finton xxxxx

Jordan McCabe



Happy 18th Birthday

to a special Grandson on his 18th Birthday. Lots of Love from Grandma and Grandad xx

Obituary

Betty Wheeler

Suddenly at home on 3rd May. Betty (nee Rutter), aged 83 years. Much loved Wife of Frederick; loving Mam of Ann and David; Mother-in-Law of Kevin and Pamela; much loved Nana of Joanne, Gavin, Craig, Carrie-Ann, Owen and Becky; Great Nana of Thomas and Daniel. Will family and friends please meet for a Service in St Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe on Friday 15th May at 11.00am, to be followed by cremation at Durham Crematorium.

BRIAN SHORT of Heighington formerly of Sunderland. Passed away peacefully at home after a short illness on May 3rd aged 62 years. A much loved Dad, Grandad and Partner. Family and friends please meet for Service at St Michael's Church (Heighington) on Wednesday May 13th for 3pm.

Paige Spensley



Happy 13th Birthday

to my beautiful Daughter. Hope you have a great day. All my love, Mam xxxx

Happy 13th Birthday
to our Sister. All our love, Brooke, Leighton and Kaci xxx

Happy 13th Birthday
Enjoy your party. Lots of love from Nana, Grandad, Betty, Auntie Zoe, Uncle John, Robbie, Auntie Liz, Tyler, Izzy, Uncle Adam, Laura, and Jesse. Oh no, now the tantrums really start !! xxxx

DARLO PROMOTED

For those who don't know, we did it, we only bloomin' well did it! Darlington have been promoted to the Evo-Stik Premier, just two steps away from the Conference. Following Liam Hatch's first touch equaliser, a dramatic last minute David Dowson winner against Spennymoor on Wednesday set us up for the play-off final against Bamber Bridge on Saturday. A tense game but goals from Nathan Cartman and Graeme Armstrong were enough to see us through. We can now look forward to playing the likes of Whitby, Blyth, Workington and Kings Lynn. The Spennymoor game was one of the best games of football I've seen in quite a while. Two teams playing with passion, pride and a determination to win. If Spennymoor play like that next season they're sure to finish higher than this year and the very best of luck to them. Anyone who hasn't been to a non league game I heartily suggest you go and watch your local team, you will be pleasantly surprised at the levels of commitment the players show.

I want to offer my commiserations to Newton Aycliffe who lost 2-0 to Shildon in the League Cup Final on Tuesday night. Good luck for next season. The game was played at Heritage Park which has been our home for these past three years. A massive thank you to all those associated with Bishop Auckland FC. When we leave we will take some very fond memories with us.

The Supporters Group meets again this week, Wednesday 13 May, at 7pm in the Iron Horse. Everyone is welcome to attend but if you can't make it and have something you'd like to contribute then you can email us at dfcaycliffefans@outlook.com or follow us on twitter @dfcaycliffefans

Fundraising Target Near After Charity Football Match



A charity fundraiser moved closer to achieving his target after a successful charity reunion football match at the weekend.

Newtonian Paul McGeary pledged to raise £10k for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research after he was struck down with Leukaemia in November last year.

In the meticulously planned reunion, Newton Aycliffe players – past and present – came together under the stewardship of former team captains Sean Tarling and John Close.

Stars such as Dan Mellanby, Dion Raitt, John Shotton, Jeff

Smith, Scott Pocklington, brothers Mark and Ben Wood and a host of others, graced Moore Lane Park once more in front of the 100-strong crowd.

The game, which resulted in a 2-1 victory for #TeamTarls raised a superb total of £912, and was kindly sponsored by Aycliffe firm AC Door Systems who also put their name to the Man of the Match award which was won by the evergreen Ray Stanger.

Stuart Owen's late penalty decided the spoils, after striker Dale Jardine had cancelled out Darren Richardson's 10th minute opener. Warren Byrne and James Oliver both seen red

as referee Gary Farley kept a tight hold on the rules, in good jest.

In a separate event, another Northern League star Daniel "Bobby" Moore raised over £250 for the charity as he competed in the Stockton Duathlon on Sunday April 26th. The gruelling duathlon consisted of a 10k run, 40k cycle before finishing with a 5k run. The grand total for the charity now stands at a remarkable £9589.53, just shy of Paul's target, with several events still to come throughout the year, including the Tough Mudder assault course and a black tie ball.

AYCLIFFE LOSE CUP FINAL BUT LOOK FORWARD TO NEXT SEASON

As we bring the curtain down on the 2014/15 season with the League Cup Final Newton Aycliffe FC are already preparing for the next campaign.

Aycliffe only received confirmation of their place in the final last week when the Football Association dismissed Ashington's appeal against disqualification for fielding an illegible player. The final took place on Tuesday 5th May against local rivals Shildon at Heritage Park which they lost 2-0.

This was the first time Aycliffe have reached a Northern League Cup final in their short history playing at this level and they played very well in a game which could have gone to either side.

Although one season may have drawn to a close the work carries on for the clubs committee who are preparing for the new season. Various repairs are required including plumbing and joinery work. We are also looking for sponsors. Anyone who is able to volunteer their skills or wishes to obtain more information on match sponsorship is asked to contact Steve Cunliffe on 07872 985501.

Season tickets will shortly be going on sale. Prices have been frozen at £100 for adults and £60 for concessions/children over 12 years. Children under 12 years are admitted free when accompanied by an adult.

Match tickets will remain at £6/£4. Season ticket holders will have the benefit of receiving a free hot drink every game as well as automatic membership to the supporters club which includes free entry into their £20 per month prize draw. To order season tickets please contact Bob Wood on 07766 808407. Yvonne Wood

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Woodham Qualifies for County Finals

The Woodham Academy U14's and U12's basketball teams have continued the tradition of basketball success at the school. Both teams won their respective district competitions outright without losing any games and in doing so qualified for the Durham Sport Games' County Finals.

This was a particularly special achievement for the U14 team which was made up mainly of year 8 students who were competing a year young. Both teams performed creditably at the County Finals, hosted at Durham University's Maiden Castle sports complex.

The Under 12 team reached the semi final, where they narrowly lost out to the eventual winners, but won bronze medals following a win in the 3rd/4th place play-off game.

The Under 14 team finished runners-up overall after winning all group games in their progression to the final. Woodham Academy has an established history in basketball and has provided more National League players to the Durham Wildcats programme than any other school, as well as consistently having more representatives in North East Regional teams than any other school in County Durham.

Woodham Academy Deputy Headteacher and Durham Wildcats Junior Head Coach, Danny Morgans, has already identified a number of Year 8 students who have been selected for the North East Area Performance Camp and also the Durham Wildcats U14's National League development programme. The academy also has a good crop of Year 7 students following

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