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FREE GOLF AT WOODHAM FOR AYCLIFFE JUNIORS



Woodham Golf Club Director Neville Hall has kindly agreed to offer all under 14 year olds free golf membership using Golf Foundation support and is also inviting all schools in Aycliffe to attend sessions free of charge to learn to play golf at day coaching sessions, starting 30th May and 6th June for Primary School students and on 13th and 20th June for Secondary School students.

Golf Course Marketing Manager Samantha (centre) who is taking up golf herself, is keen to get involved with the juniors and will be assisting Chris Lawson the

new Golf Club Junior Liaison Officer. Chris caught the golf bug when he took his son along for lessons. He is keen to see as many Aycliffe youngsters as possible take up the sport has it instils discipline and etiquette. More details available from Golf Pro Ernie Wilson on 319977.

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Work Skills Programme at Woodham Academy



In 2013 Woodham Academy secured a bid through the Improving Progression of Young People Team which was to fund an initiative to support young people at the school to successfully move on into Education, Employment or Training post 16. Jak Miller formed part of the cohort. The aim was to boost self-confidence and self-esteem with a view to accelerating academic progress. When Jak was invited to become part of the

cohort in June 2013, he had his heart set on becoming a mechanic and he spent the first 30 weeks of Year 10 working in a garage. After 18 weeks it became apparent to Jak that this was not an area in which he wanted to work. He had spoken with a family friend who is a plumber and felt like this was an area into which he might progress.

In September 2014, Jak started his placement at Mears. Since starting with Mears, Jak's confidence has shot through the roof. This is a company that has helped him realise his true potential and calling. His enjoyment in the programme is evident through the significant impact it has had on his attendance. In Year 11 whilst at Mears his attendance has been 100%. His attendance at school is currently the highest it has ever been in recent years. Furthermore, Jak's predicted grades have steadily improved since September.

Jak's ultimate ambition is to own his own business. He has developed a series of long, medium and short term goals which will allow him to achieve this. His first step would be to get an apprenticeship, ideally at Mears. When Jak leaves Woodham Academy, he has applied to study Heating and Plumbing at Darlington College.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

We are always interested in local news stories. We like to feature good news and interesting items on achievements & community service

Tel: Syd
01325 300212
or syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Newton Aycliffe Gregg's Crowned UK's Best



A North East Gregg's shop is celebrating after being crowned the 'Best in the UK' by the high street retailer at its annual awards. The shop in Newton Aycliffe, received the accolade based on their excellent all round performance during the past 12 months, which includes demonstrating outstanding customer service, excellent shop standards, teamwork and sales. Gregg's is the UK's leading bakery food-on-the-go retailer with nearly 1,700 shops nationwide and serving over six million customers a week in Britain.

As part of the reward for their fantastic performance throughout the year, board members from Gregg's Head Office donned an apron and hairnet to take up their duties at the shop.

Now in its fourth year, the competition saw almost 1,700 Gregg's shops compete for the title of 'Best in the UK'. Shops were awarded points on a weekly basis across a number of categories with those entering the final rounds of the competition receiving up to six unannounced visits by area managers, as well as Gregg's CEO Roger Whiteside and Retail Director Raymond Reynolds, to assess standards. Shop manager, Nicole Price, said: "When our names were called out we were speechless. I never imagined we would

win! We plan on continuing to provide the best possible service for our local customers with a smile on our faces." Raymond Reynolds, Retail Director at Gregg's, said: "This is an incredible achievement by Nicola and all of her colleagues. It's obvious how much they enjoy serving their local community and how committed they are to working to a particular standard.

"This award celebrates the excellent retail standards the team have created, they should all be extremely proud of themselves, just as we are to have them in our business.

"Having spent a day on the shop floor, we really appreciate the hard work and dedication they put in to offer our customers fresh food and outstanding service, every day."

Support Needed for "Helping Hands"

These are very exciting times for Lifeline Community Action (LCA). We've supported over 3000 people in the last year alone and distributed over £1,000,000.00 worth of resources since we launched five years ago.

We are sure you share our hope to see many more people in our local community, particularly those facing financial crisis reached with practical help. We are so encouraged by the generosity of Newton News readers we have met, that really do want to make a

difference. Helping Hands is one of the amazing projects of LCA. We are asking Newton News readers who have a wardrobe bulging with baby and children's clothes to 'spring clean your wardrobe' and donate your new/nearly new children and baby's clothing and equipment to our charity. Helping Hands supports families and individuals in crisis where they may have lost their jobs, are struggling to pay basic living costs or have other personal circumstances that leave them in need of our support.

We are sure you will be as moved as we were when you read just one of the messages we received this week: "When I received your help I cried and cried, they were tears of relief! I felt as if I was drowning, then you came along which was literally my lifeline. I would now like to give something back to support others like me". With your help we envisage the Helping Hands project will support 3500 people in 2015 and already we are well on our way to meeting that target. If you would like to donate your new/nearly new clothing/equipment or even good quality bric-a-brac to the Helping Hands project then please ring 07936 431262 or email lifeline.action@googlemail.com for us to arrange collection. Alternatively, if you are reading this and need our help, please ring the same number. If you have a business and would like to help us reach one life at a time, we would love to hear from you now as we really need you!

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Gig Pit Review: "I went up the Tuns, glad I did, never seen 'The Kill' before, known Mark for years, what a band, top drawer! Not a great fan of Bon Jovi, but I have to say these are the best tribute act I've seen, and Gregg's vocals in both bands was awesome, guitar playing was immense and the rythm section tight as anything. Grown men stood open mouthed, and the women went berserk. Great nite lads!"

Rockermouth review: "Great band! Still haven't seen the Bon Jovi Forever set, but it's the same line-up as the Kill . . . and they rock! Talented lads, the lot of them. A great set of musicians, and Gregg has frontman skills and stage presence to back up his excellent voice. Then add to that a cool and interesting set list, a quality P.A. rig, and you've got a superb package. Can't wait to see the lads play again. But maybe next time at the Office". Recent gigs include O2 ACADEMY, NEWCASTLE

Saturday 23rd May - "Jump the Gun"

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www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

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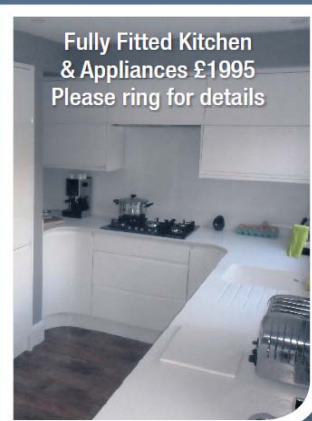
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Candle Lit Supper & Fun

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Parish Welcomes New Vicar



Pastoral Team left to right Jan Carr, Rev. Debbie Loughran, Rev. Elizabeth Bland, Rector Chris Pearson and Pamela Lovelass.

The Parish has a new Team Vicar Rev. Elizabeth Bland duly licensed by the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, on Monday 11th May at St. Clare's Church.

The Bishop succeeded in making this stuffy ancient ceremony an informal affair, bearing in mind the attendance of children from the "Shine" Choir who sang two wonderful songs of praise, much to the delight of a full congregation. The Bishop was suitably impressed and gave the youngsters a "High 5" and said they had the right name and truly shone.

Our new Vicar grew up in Alnwick and still has family there. She attended Durham University studying English Language and Literature. After graduating lived in the South-East of England for the best part of twenty years. Immediately after

university spent a formative year in South-East London doing voluntary work for a scheme called Time for God. Subsequently Elizabeth lived west of London, working variously in the Oxford Diocesan Conference Centre for Young People; as a

Medical Secretary; and as a Teaching Assistant in two primary schools. During that time married Steve and had two children.

After some twenty years of thinking about ordination, Elizabeth finally went to a selection conference in 2001



Elizabeth and the Bishop meet parishioners after the Service

and was recommended for ministerial training. She studied part-time for three years on the St Albans and Oxford Ministry Course. At the end of that time, the family moved to the North-East – what felt like a return home for, and a return to Steve's roots, who it turns out, has much stronger family connections with Northumberland and North Tyneside than I do!

The Bishop using a Pear Tree as a prop did not preach from the pulpit and engaged the children in explaining how the church should "grow in and with the community". He gave the tree to Elizabeth and suggested children should ask to sample the fruit a few years hence.

Friends and relatives of Elizabeth travelled from long distances and from her previous Ashington parish to see her inducted. They enjoyed the buffet meal afterwards prepared by members of St. Clare's, ending a joyous day for all, welcoming our new Team Vicar.

KNITTERS WANTED

Dorothy Bowman has lots of wool and patterns and she requires volunteer knitters in the town to provide woollen items for premature babies. If you can help please contact her on 308094.

Cancer Support Group Move to New Venue

Dear Sir,

I am pleased to announce we are now moving to Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre due to the popularity of the group and an increase in membership. We start at 6pm until 7.30pm with refreshments available and hold meetings on the 1st Thursday of each month. Next meeting is 4th June and we welcome two guest speakers who will provide help and information to our group. The group is for anyone affected by cancer whether you are the patient, carer or relative. If you don't want to come alone please bring someone along. We also have regular day trips and meals out which helps people gain confidence. Special thanks to Gestamp Community Charity Committee for making this possible. If you would like more information please ring Allison on 07762 258696.



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Aycliffe DISC Raising the Standard for Volunteers

DISC (Developing Initiatives Supporting Communities), based in County Durham, but with projects situated across the North of England, has achieved the Investing in Volunteers Quality Standard, recognising the excellent work they undertake with volunteers.

The organisation was assessed against a range of best practice standards and proved to excel in all aspects of working with its volunteers.

Investing in Volunteers is the UK quality standard for all organisations involving volunteers. Investing in Volunteers aims to improve the quality of the volunteering experience for all volunteers and for organisations to acknowledge the enormous contribution made by volunteers.

Investing in Volunteers is managed by the UK Volunteering Forum and delivered by NCVO, Volunteering Scotland, Volunteer Now in Northern Ireland and Wales Council for Voluntary Action.

Ann Hall, Volunteer Co-ordinator at DISC, is delighted with the award 'We are keen to support volunteers in achieving their end goal, whether that is to gain skills and experience or to be ready for paid employment. This



Ann Hall, Volunteer Coordinator, DISC Central Support Services, who applied for the IiV award.

award recognises the hard work both volunteers and staff have put into making working at DISC a rewarding experience.'

One recent volunteer with DISC was sure that the volunteering work they had undertaken made a real difference, not only to themselves, but to the people they worked with, and they felt an integral part of the organisation 'DISC excels in involving volunteers in developing new and specialist roles and actively

encourages volunteers to develop their own roles.' Judith MacPherson, DISC's Director of Services, mirrors the view of the importance of the contribution volunteers make. 'We have a huge desire at DISC to involve volunteers and embedded them as part of the organisation. Over the past few years, people have realised the huge value of volunteers and now we have a great framework in place that enables us to continue to improve the volunteer experience.'

DISC thrives in working with volunteers to help deliver the very best services, and provides the ideal opportunity for those people who would like to participate in helping out the most vulnerable in society. Many volunteers have gone on from DISC to secure full and part time employment, just as many chose to volunteer as a way of supporting their community. For more information on how you can join DISC as a volunteer, and the range of opportunities available, please contact volunteering@disc-vol.org.uk or call Ann Hall, Volunteer Coordinator on 0113 2456464 for more information.

Further information about the Volunteers Quality Standard can be found at www.investinginvolunteers.org.uk.

Bargain Buys Recommended

It not often you get exceptional good service now, but I would like to say how impressed I am with Bargain Buys.

Last week we bought a brand new washing machine from them, it was delivered within an hour of buying it. But, one week later it stopped working, blowing the trips in the house. I went down to see them and again within an hour we had someone out to look at the washer, they saw the problem and immediately replaced the washer with a new machine, great service guys - would definitely recommend Bargain Buys. Mr S J Jones

AYCLIFFE COMPANY ACQUIRED IN £1M INVESTMENT DEAL

Leading consulting engineering firm Morgan Tucker has acquired Newton Aycliffe based mechanical and electrical firm BES Consulting Engineers as part of their ambitious growth strategy.

The acquisition is the first the firm has made since the Foresight Nottingham Fund invested a seven figure sum to support their growth plans to expand across the UK.

The deal means Morgan Tucker can add mechanical and electrical engineering services to its existing multi-disciplined consultancy, enabling them to provide clients with a broader depth of national and international experience.

"Our strategy has always been to create more regional offices throughout the country to enable us to service more clients more thoroughly," said Matthew Tucker, managing director at Morgan Tucker. "This acquisition will be mutually beneficial for both sets of clients."

"We have worked with BES a number of times over the past 12 months and it made sense for us to make the move permanent."

"The deal also means we can now offer a full suite of engineering expertise from our office in Oman."

The BES Consulting Engineers name will remain for the



Left to right: Matthew Tucker, Steve Hall, Dave Gandhum and Derek Griffiths

medium term and will operate as the mechanical and electrical Building Services Division under the umbrella of the Morgan Tucker Group. The two BES offices at Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham and Egham, Surrey, which house their staff, will remain.

Derek Griffiths, director of BES, said: "We have been collaborating with Morgan Tucker on a number of projects over the last 12 months. From the outset we discussed coming together as we were a very good fit from a business and cultural perspective."

"The acquisition will help to facilitate the growth of both businesses and allow us to offer the wider range of consultancy services to our existing clients."

"The future looks very bright and we see this as great news for our staff, our business and, most importantly, our clients."

Morgan Tucker employs around 100 people across its offices in Newark, Nottingham, Leeds, London, Oman and the Czech Republic. It has ambitious

growth plans to increase this to more than 200 by 2020.

Matthew added: "We are a very people-focused company and I firmly believe in having the right people in place. I am pleased to welcome the whole team on board."

Job Offers at Wynyard

MORE than 30 jobs are on offer as one of the North East's top hotels prepares to unveil a new attraction.

On 4th August, Wynyard Hall Hotel, Tees Valley, will open the second stage of its £5.3m Gardens project to the public - and it is holding a recruitment day as the search begins for staff.

The four star hotel is looking to recruit at least 30 people to work in the new Walled Garden visitor centre with an unspecified number of full and part time vacancies, such as cleaning and turn-down staff, also on offer within the hotel and spa.

The positions on offer include food service and retail staff, supervisors, chefs, cleaners and waiting staff for the Walled Garden café and the adjacent Grand Marquee, which was installed last year and is now one of the region's largest conference and wedding venues.

Anyone interested in applying is invited to attend a recruitment day, to be held in the Grand Marquee, in the grounds of the Hall, on 27th May from 3.30pm until 7.30pm.

No appointment is necessary but applicants are asked to bring an up to date copy of their CV.

For further information call 01740 665406 or visit www.wynyardhall.co.uk

Thanks from the Greens

Dear Editor

I'd like to thank everyone who voted for our candidate Greg Robinson in the recent general election. We went into this campaign in the knowledge that we weren't going to win but felt it imperative that people were given the option to vote Green. Coming into the campaign late and with few resources made it difficult to make an impact. Securing 3.1% of the vote in Sedgfield was below the national share of the vote but we are pleased and are now looking to build on this for the future.

You may be aware of what has become known as the Green Surge, where our membership has more than quadrupled in the past year, we have gained over 3000 new members since the general election, I'd like to see this repeated in Newton Aycliffe so we can offer a genuine alternative for the town.

If you are interested in becoming part of the surge then sign up at join.greenparty.org.uk

Further information can be obtained via email aycliffe.greenparty@outlook.com or by telephone on 07475004742, Twitter: @AycliffeGP and find us on Facebook: Newton Aycliffe Green Party. Once again, thank you for your support.

Craig Farlow and Kathryn Beetham
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REME Association Help Two Northern Charities



The South West Durham REME (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) Association had the pleasure of donating to two very worthwhile local charities recently. This year's chosen charities were the North East Autism Society from Newton Aycliffe and the PSP Association from South Tees Hospital. The money was raised by members of the REME association from sponsored events and various raffles held throughout the year. The cheques were presented at the Aycliffe Scout Hall, which is where the REME association meets on the last Wednesday of the month.

The representatives of each charity can be seen in the group photograph: Front row, Karen Ferguson (NEAS), Philip Rolfe (President of the REME association), and Zenta Cowan (PSP association). Karen Ferguson, Head Teacher at Aycliffe School said; "We are extremely grateful to Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Association for their support, their kind donation will benefit our students greatly." Tony Stokeld one of our members nominated the PSP Association (Progressive Supranuclear Palsy) and Zenita Cowan from South Tees accepted the cheque on their behalf.

Wonderful Thanksgiving Service for Pastor Pamela

After the burial of Pastor Pamela Greenhow at West Cemetery with 200 people at the graveside, a Thanksgiving Service was held at the Xcel Church filled by over 500 people, gathered to pay tribute to one of the founders of the Church.

Pamela and Glyn Greenhow helped start the Full Gospel Church in Newton Aycliffe in 1967 beginning at Beveridge Hall (now demolished) moving to Woodham to their own premises in 1987. They outgrew this building to move into the new Xcel Centre in 2009 which enjoys great success, attracting members of all ages to Services which can only be described as very lively and emotionally uplifting. The Thanksgiving Service for Pamela's life, though tinged with sadness, concentrated on the legacy she left behind and the wonderful pastoral care she gave to those in need of spiritual and practical help. Tributes from friends and family were heart rendering and these were interspersed with singing by Rachael Mawston and Nikki Hopkins all bringing tears to the eyes. The church members provided a magnificent buffet afterwards for the congregation.

Newton News was able to talk to Glyn Greenhow and his son John who both expressed their gratitude for all the cards, flowers and messages of sympathy received which have brought great comfort to the family.

We are proud to be associated with the Greenhow family and what they have achieved in Newton Aycliffe over nearly 50 years. On behalf of the townspeople we pay tribute to Pamela for the contribution she made to the history of our new town.

Town Council Appoint New Mayor



Pictured left Councillor Mary Dalton, appointed Mayor for the town at the Annual Meeting this week, presenting a token of appreciation to Past Mayor Wendy Hillary. Mary takes the role of Chairman of the Council and Mayor for the fourth time and was nominated by the Leader of the Council Bob Fleming.

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Litterers Caught & Fined

Six people have been fined a total of more than £900 after tossing away their rubbish in various places throughout County Durham. All the defendants failed to appear at Peterlee Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 5th May where they were found guilty in their absence of discarding litter. The court heard how neighbourhood wardens

from Durham County Council spotted five of the defendants on separate occasions dropping a cigarette butt and one defendant was seen dropping a beer bottle. The offences took place in Stanley town centre, Chester-le-Street town centre, Consett town centre, Reynolds Close, Stanley, and Front Street, Consett, between December

2014 and January 2015. The culprits were approached by a neighbourhood warden and handed an on-the-spot fixed penalty notice of £80 – or £50 if paid within 10 days. None of the fixed penalty notices were paid. All were all fined £200 by magistrates. Each defendant was also ordered to pay costs of £130 and a £20 victim surcharge.

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

Name of Organisation

Activity

Do you want a Stall?

Do you wish to perform or Demonstrate in the arena?

Do you require Electricity

Name of Applicant

Address

Phone:

E-mail:

Each stall is a 6 foot long table - Two tables can be provided on request if sufficient notice is received. You may bring your own display units.

Tables required

Please send this form to Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club, Newton Press, St. Cuthberts Way, Aycliffe Business Park. DL5 6DX. Hand in to Newton News agents, Youngs in the Town Centre or Walkers Butchers, Simpasturegate.

Good Dog Owner Picks up Cash Prize



A dog owner who is among dozens seen picking up after their pets in Newton Aycliffe has scooped a cash prize. Durham County Council's Civic Pride team visited the West Park area of the town as part of its ongoing Green Dog Walkers scheme, which is aimed at encouraging people to act as responsible dog owners. The project included a Golden Ticket incentive, which saw anyone spotted cleaning up after their dog entered into a prize draw with a cash reward up for grabs. The lucky winner was Michael Twig, of Beechfield, who picked up a £25 voucher courtesy of Great Aycliffe Town Council. In total, 28 Golden Tickets were handed out during the two-week scheme, 35 dogs were microchipped by

volunteers from Stray Aid and 25 people signed up as Green Dog Walkers. However, one person was issued a fixed penalty notice for failing to clean up after their pet. The Civic Pride team also spoke to 700 pupils from Stephenson Way Primary School, St Francis Primary School and Woodham Burn Primary School to highlight the importance of responsible dog ownership. Information was also sent to parents and carers to let them know about the free dog microchipping service. Pauline Walker, senior Civic Pride officer, Durham County Council, said: "Dog fouling is a blight on our environment, it is unpleasant to look at and can have serious health risks, particularly to young people. Most dog owners are

responsible and always pick up after their pets but sadly there are some who fail to do so. "Our Green Dog Walkers scheme aims to change people's attitudes towards dog fouling in a fun and educational way and we do this by visiting local schools and offering incentives like the Golden Tickets."

Dog owners can sign up to the Green Dog Walkers scheme by downloading an application form at www.durham.gov.uk/greendogwalkers or by calling 03000 261 000. To report a dog fouling offence in confidence go to www.durham.gov.uk/dogfouling or call 03000 261 000.



Newton Aycliffe Junior F.C.

U13's TRIALS > U13's TRIALS > U13's TRIALS
SEASON 2015-16

NAJFC current U12's going into U13's for this coming season are holding OPEN TRIALS.....there are 2 dates available, SAT 16th MAY & SAT 23rd MAY.....The trials will take place @ Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Shildon starting @ 11:30am and finish approx. 13:00pm



For more information, please contact the team manager,

Neil Turner, on 07833493591

Players eligible to play are lads/girls in year 7 of comp now going into year 8 in September. We have a great coaching team and all have the level 1 FA coaching qualifications and all are fully CRB checked.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Access for Disabled at Polling Stations

Dear Sir,
I'm sure your readers wanted their voice to matter in the recent election. But how would they feel if they travelled all the way to a polling station only to be turned away? This is what happened to a number of wheelchair voters at the election. We decided to investigate this and what we found was quite shocking. We looked at the 50 most marginal constituencies in the UK and found that only three had adequate access info for wheelchair voters online. 88% had no info at all! This means that many wheelchair voters wanting to vote in person along with the rest of us might have ended up in a situation where they couldn't vote, due to lack of access. This election was expected to be one of the closest in a generation, so it's baffling that so little thought was put into accessibility. Many disabled people don't want a postal or proxy vote because they want to share in the voting experience with the rest of society, so why are they being denied that choice because local authorities don't put a few basic bits of info online?

I work for Revitalise, a charity that provides much-needed respite holidays for disabled people and carers and for us this is a simple matter of freedom and choice. Polling stations are still under no legal obligation to be fully wheelchair accessible and as a result, many disabled people are being forced by a lack of info to rely on postal and proxy voting – and we know that many people experienced problems with these methods too. As far as Revitalise is concerned, this amounts to a fundamental infringement of the democratic right of disabled people to choose where and how they vote. In our view, the electoral authorities have five years to find suitable premises to use for just one day, so they really have no excuses if they mess it up! To illustrate what might happen when access for wheelchair users hasn't been thought through, we've produced a light-hearted video entitled The Perils of Polling, which can be viewed on our website. I'd like to ask your readers to support our call for a dignified voting experience for all. To find out more, visit www.revitalise.org.uk.
Colin Brook, Revitalise

65th Anniversary Celebrated in the Hotel Bridal Suite



Norman and Elsie Dodsworth of Newburn Court celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary with a special treat at Redworth Hall staying overnight in the Bridal Suite complete with Four Poster bed and a bottle of Champagne..

It was there that the Mayor Wendy Hillary met them and presented a bouquet conveying congratulations on behalf of the Town Council and townspeople.

Norman and Elsie were both born in Leeds and married at the Church of the Epiphany in Leeds. Norman worked at Henry Williams which

brought them to Darlington in 1973 and where he was Company Director until retirement in 1990.

Elsie worked as a machinist until their only child Graham was born. Graham is married to Julie and they have a daughter Joanna.

Norman and Elsie used to play golf and indoor bowls. They also enjoyed cruises and foreign holidays to the Canaries and Portugal. They have lived in Newton Aycliffe since 1990.

They had a Surprise Afternoon Tea on the Sunday before, with their family at Whitworth Hall, but were a

bit overwhelmed when the Mayor and Newton News knocked on their room door. Norman and Elsie hope to go to Scarborough for a few days this summer which is where they spent their honeymoon.

MOSAIC EXHIBITION

Last week was the opening of the most recent exhibition in The Greenfield Gallery – “The Myth and Magic of Mosaic.” Local community artist Susan Warlock filled the gallery space with her fantastic creations, exploring the themes of magic, myths and fairy tales.

The exhibition opened with a busy preview evening last Thursday, where visitors had the chance to meet the artist and talk to her about her inspiration and processes. This impressive body of work by established artist Warlock is well worth a visit. The exhibition is now open until Wednesday 27th May for visitors, Monday to Thursday 10am – 9pm and Fridays 10am – 4pm. For more information including how to find us visit our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

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HELPING WITH BASICS



Lifeline Community Action held its very first Baby Basics event at The Western Area Community Centre on Monday morning. It was hailed a great success as many families in our community received much needed support. We were able to distribute, pushchairs, safely gates, nappies, clothing, household packs and educational toys.

One lady said “I was at my wits end and I really didn’t know what I could do to receive help. I now feel so overwhelmed with the help that I’ve been given. My baby who will be born soon will have a much better start”.

Baby Basics is a project that supports struggling parents with small children with much needed essentials and equipment. The next event is on Monday 1st June between 9.30 – 11am

We are looking to replenish our stock and whilst nearly all our items are new we would gladly accept nearly new items like pushchairs, prams, clothing and toys. If you know someone who needs our help please ring Linzi on 07936 431262 or e-mail lifeline.action@googlemail.com

Aycliffe Teenager Reaches Beauty Pageant Final

By Faye Hutton (Journalism student)

A LOCAL student at Teesside University has made it to the final of the "Miss Newcastle" beauty pageant.

Lauren Wells, 18, of Lowther Drive, Woodham will be competing against 20 other girls for the title on Friday, June 5th at Newcastle Civic Centre.

Miss Newcastle, a beauty pageant run by Tyne Tees Models, Northumbria, offered Miss Wells a slot in the competition after she filled in an application form online and attended a professional photo-shoot.

Miss Wells studies Adult Nursing at Teesside University and in her spare time has participated in charity events and fundraisers in the North East in aid of Tiny Lives, a charity which supports special care babies and is one of the many North East charities that Miss Newcastle and Tyne Tees models support.

Alongside fundraising Miss Wells received third place in the Miss Bijoux competition, in Newcastle, this then gained her the place in the final 20 girls of Miss Newcastle.

The competition donates all their proceeds to charities throughout the North East and has a large support for Tiny Lives special care babies.



Lauren Wells said: "I participated in charity events and fundraisers in the north East in aid of Tiny Lives, I think all the charity work is set up with great efforts and everyone who is involved shows their dedication, I think it's a really good way to raise money and also fun." Lesley Lisper, from Tyne Tees Models, Northumbria: "We work with different charities in the North East and Tiny Lives was brought to my attention by friend with a special care baby, it was

clear that lots of other people had friends and family with tiny live babies so we gained a great response from the charity work we do.

The Expectations of competition this year is 400 VIP, 200 standing and our sponsor tables are filling quick, so yes it's going to be a big one this year with lots of entertainment and charity prizes."

For more information go to: www.missnewcastle.com

Volunteer Opportunity

Lifeline Community Action (Helping Hands) is advertising for a part time volunteer administrator to help with typing, posters, research and general administration tasks.

This is a great opportunity for someone who would like to gain work experience in a friendly supportive environment. If you would like to help LCA help people struggling financially or in need of support and work alongside a dynamic team who are fun but passionate about helping others, call Tricia on 07783 407961 for a chat.

FEED ALL THE BIRDS!

Dear Sir,
In response to the anonymous letter last week regarding feeding pigeons could I just ask why and when did the human race become so hard hearted and uncaring?

You see daily on social media, dogs being skinned alive in China, puppies in Romania with paws hacked off, men hunting and enjoying watching animals die in agony.

This really scares me as many psychologists say serial killers begin by torturing animals so how many potential killers walk the earth?

The letter writer says feeding pigeons attract vermin, but I think the opposite applies as pigeons are eating the food which attracts rats.

Pigeons find themselves in town and city centres because they are abused by humans including those who take them miles away expecting them to fly home.

I hope the person who complained never finds themselves lost, cold and hungry and being barred from receiving food! We are raising a nation of heartless people and I have seen young people chasing and kicking pigeon usually why their parents are occupied on a mobile phone.

It would be nicer to see children encouraged to feed the poor birds and remember when our pigeons were our friends carrying messages during the war years.

Past Mayor's Charity Events Raised £4,840



At the Annual Meeting on

the 13th May, outgoing Town Mayor Wendy Hillary presented a cheque for £4,840, the proceeds of her charity events throughout her year of office, to The County Durham School Benevolent Fund and Cruse Bereavement Care. In congratulating Wendy on her performance as Mayor the Town Council Leader Bob Fleming said she had carried out the role during a very busy life, working and looking after her family. No invitation was turned down and she was friendly, approachable and a credit to our town. Counc. Bob Fleming was elected Leader and Counc. Malcolm Iveson Deputy Leader. The Council appointed Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of all committees and published attendance figures and Councillors' allowances.

IIC Award for Aycliffe One Point



A group of young Newtonians are working with "Investing in Children" to get their voices heard and help improve the One Point service in Newton Aycliffe. Their ages range from 10-20 years old in order to get views from different ages and different backgrounds.

They discuss what they want to change or what they would like One Point workers to do. They don't just go off their own ideas on what they want, they also run Agenda Days in the community and surrounding areas for other young people to have their say and see if they can do anything to make changes.

Some examples of the things the group have changed include Promotions in schools in assemblies and on bulletin boards.

They asked to do scenario session where they develop a fake person and get workers in to show how they would deal with the situation and then look to see if there is anything the group think they should be doing or see if there is something that works or should be done better.

The group decided the waiting area wasn't very good so they changed it by asking One Point to provide colouring books, magazines and toys. They were also asked to make sure it was always tidy and there was blank colouring pages at all times.

The young people feel they have been listened to and

helped to make changes. They are hoping to continue improving the One Point service and the One Point hub. The hope is that their new ideas will make people's lives easier when they use the One Point service making it a better experience.

Film Show

St Clare's Church FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW on Tuesday 19th May will feature "AMAZING GRACE" The incredible true story of William Wilberforce and his tireless campaign to abolish slavery in Britain. At a time when the slave trade was seen as not only acceptable, but actually vital to the British economy, Wilberforce and his fellow abolitionists dared to speak out against the establishment, the traders and business class, the government itself, to right an enormous injustice.

It is a shocking story; for a "Feel Good Film" this is not a light and fluffy comedy; but it is a moving and, ultimately, uplifting record of our country's journey into more enlightened times. 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

Outstanding Students Get Free Prom Tickets



Year 11 students have been working really hard in their studies this year in an attempt to get the highest grades possible in their upcoming examinations.

The students with the highest number of achievement points accumulated during the year are being rewarded for their efforts by having their prom tickets paid for by the school. Points can be awarded at any time by the staff at Woodham Academy for a variety of reasons, such as high levels of effort, outstanding work, exceptional homework, student leadership, or extra-curricular participation.

This year's competition was very close, with approximately thirty students, within four points of the winning students' totals. Pictured are three of the four winners (from left to right); Abigail Hall, Victoria Archer and Shannon Lendrum. The fourth winner, not pictured, was Reece Rutherford.

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Support for Stroke Survivors in Aycliffe

A new support group for stroke survivors has launched in Newton Aycliffe, to help people in the area come to terms with a life after stroke. The Stroke Association has created the group, which will be run by volunteers and meet twice a month on Wednesdays from 10-12pm, at the Pioneering Care Centre on Carer's Way. The charity is also calling out for more volunteers to help run the group, including a chair person, secretary and treasurer. Rebecca Girvan from the Stroke Association said: "As a newly formed group, the volunteers and members will be able to shape the way it develops, which is really exciting. Whether it's simply social support, visits from speakers, exercise sessions or even art therapy, the group will be a great opportunity for stroke survivors and carers to meet other people who have been affected by stroke. "It's hugely important that stroke survivors feel supported in their local community as they are on the road to recovery. We'd love to hear from people who may like to get involved with helping to run the group and make a huge difference to stroke survivors in the local area."

The group was created after the Stroke Association was selected to receive financial support from the Centre for Social Action Innovation Fund. The fund supports the growth of innovations that mobilise people's energy and talents to help each other, working alongside public services. It is a partnership between Nesta and the Cabinet Office and is co-funded.

Liz Roberts, Stroke Clubs and Community Partnerships

Manager from the Stroke Association, said: "It is vital that stroke survivors have access to long term support in their own community, to ensure they can make their best possible recovery. As a result of the project we're investing in our framework of voluntary groups to ensure we can provide long term peer

support to anyone affected by stroke." You can find more information here: www.nesta.org.uk/project/centre-social-action-innovation-fund. To find out more about the group and how you can get involved, call Rebecca Girvan or Donna Stott at the Stroke Association on 0191 487 9988..

Charity Fund Raising at the Telegraph Pub



The Royal Telegraph pub, Aycliffe Village thank all their customers who attended or donated to the Charity Race Night held on Saturday 9th May which raised a massive £1000 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

We also held a raffle for "Marc's Lands End to Darlington" 505 mile charity run which is raising money for St. Teresa's Hospice, which made £50 and another £120 donated from customers who could not attend.

There was no end to our customer's generosity and the community spirit was amazing. Thank you all again. A fantastic night was had by all! If anyone wants to donate to Marcs run they can do so at www.justgiving.com/Marc-Ellis1 The details are on his facebook page called Marc's Lands End to Darlington 505 mile charity run.

9 Stone Fat Loss in 12 Months Inspires Community Competition

In response to one of their members losing 9 stone in a year, 'CrossFit All Out' are launching a competition for one lucky winner to receive a full years membership for free!

Richard, husband of Gemma and father of 2 children weighed 24st 11lbs a year ago (see Pic 1). His weight was affecting so many aspects of his life that he decided to make a change. He committed to changing his diet and lost almost 4 stone in 4 months, before he and his wife Gemma decided to join CrossFit All Out in Newton Aycliffe.

On 1st September he completed his first CrossFit Fundamentals session and at that time he weighed 21 stone - 8 months later he now weighs 15st 11lbs and his Coach Terry Anderson says "both his physique and health have improved massively, swapping body fat for muscle as well as gaining strength, fitness and confidence." (see Pic 2).

Vikki Anderson, Business Manager for CrossFit All Out said "Richard has worked so hard and his wife Gemma has supported him wholeheartedly. They are 2 of the friendliest, chattiest members in the box and we are immensely proud of the numerous personal obstacles they've both overcome to achieve their goals. It gave us food for thought as to who else we might be able to help, that might struggle to pay for a gym membership."

Here is what Richard had to say: "It's been a weird journey to be honest, I can't say I have found it that hard. Working out has been so much fun especially at the gym because you focus on getting faster, stronger, better endurance, gain new skills and hitting pb's that the weight loss part is just a side-affect.

The diet side is the hard bit, but I'm a pretty determined person at anything I put my mind too - but in all honesty I enjoy food more now than I ever did. Different appreciation for it now, eat to perform now and that takes more thought. One of the best parts for me has been the fact that I have been a catalyst for so many people in to make changes too. People who are close friends or people I work with have made changes to their



life after seeing my journey. I itf will help someone else lose weight it's the least I can do." All of Richard's old clothes have been sold on Ebay raising £40 which they have donated to CrossFit All Out Kids Fund, to provide kit for children's sessions this summer.

Vikki and Terry are launching the competition for anyone aged 17+ to apply in writing or by email to hello@crossfitallout.co.uk to win a year's free membership, simply explaining the reasons why they think they deserve the membership.

Vikki says "it could be any number of reasons, a competitor who can no longer compete in their chosen sport but craves competition, an up and coming athlete, someone hoping to work in the armed forces, or someone simply looking to get fit. We are interested to see what kind of applications we receive from the public and hopefully give someone a real opportunity."

A minimum of 10 finalists will be invited to attend the 3 Fundamental sessions beginning Monday 1st June, with one of those finalists winning the membership at the end of Fundamentals. The remaining finalists will receive the rest of the month of June unlimited CrossFit membership completely free. Closing date is 12noon Friday 29th May and finalists are to be announced Saturday 30th.

AYCLIFFE RUNNING CLUB

Presents

The 3M 10K & Fun Run Sunday 21st June 2015

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10k Run 10.00 am
3k Run 9.15 am

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Changing and parking at School

Organised by

Aycliffe Running
Club under
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Rules Permit No.
2015-12781

10k Race

- £100 to first male and female
- £100 for the course record
- Veteran prizes
- Chip timing
- Technical Running Shirt

Fun Run

- Commemorative medal

(accurately measured with kilometres marked)

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

Enter online at ayclifferunningclub.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



School Aycliffe Lane,
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Vintage Car Show & Oak Leaf Open Day

Saturday 23rd May

Vintage Car Show &
Collectables Display

Vintage Car Hunt

Face painting

11am - 3pm

Sports Taster Sessions

12 noon - 2pm

Golf taster sessions 12 noon - 2pm

Family Meal Deal

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Sunday 24th May

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Vintage Car Hunt

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Above Richard Slack (before)
and top right, after a year

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200 Celebrate LCA's 5th Birthday at Garden Party

Aycliffe Lifeline Community Action (LCA) and friends celebrated five successful years supporting people in need by hosting a spectacular Garden Party at Woodham Golf Club. The impressive Cockerton Silver Band welcomed over 200 guests into the Grand Garden Party. People from all walks of life came together looking rather splendid in beautiful

outfits to help celebrate LCA's 5th anniversary. The Chairman of Durham County Council Councillor John Robinson highlighted the charity's achievements; and how they had distributed a £million of resources into the community. The Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Wendy Hillary and her husband Councillor Jed Hillary were also in attendance.



The children had lots of laughs and witnessed pure magic by the talented and funny entertainer Harry Pottier. The very talented KDANZ Dance School impressed the crowd as the dancers performed fantastic moves to skilful choreography. LCA again thank ASDA, Bishop Auckland and Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) who funded the event. Other supporters were Blossoms Nursery, Windlestone who donated flowers, Morvyn Sanderson who baked the 3 tiered celebration cake, Event 167 who supplied the wonderful sweetie Ferris wheel and Candy



Floss machine. Never forgetting the LCA volunteers who worked tirelessly and spent weeks of preparation into making it their best event ever. The children were so happy to receive a party bag and popcorn as they left so they could continue the celebrations when they got home. It certainly was an event to remember!!



LCA Founder Susan Sadler and Alwyn White cut the 5th Birthday cake.

THANKS FOR SUPPORT

Dear Sir
I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took time to vote in the General Election and who voted for me in the Constituency of Sedgfield, a total of 11,143 unspoiled votes. The Conservative vote for Sedgfield this year was strong and has not been like this since 1970. Throughout the country the electorate voted for the right to succeed, and to my delight we have a Conservative majority Government elected for the first time since 1992. The United Kingdom needs a strong economy and a fair society, as was voted for and I am very proud to have made inroads into this now former Labour stronghold and will continue to be active in Conservative party politics. I would also like to thank all candidates for what was an interesting campaign and wish them all success in the future. For the elected Sedgfield MP, I offer my congratulations and can only ask for hard work, commitment, presence and above all transparency during this term.
Scott Wood



A PACT Meeting will be held at Aycliffe Village Hall on Saturday 23rd of May from 11am to 12noon. PC Alan Thompson and PCSO Richard Scott are your Community Police Officers and they welcome all residents to come along and get updates on what's going on and raise any concerns they may have. Partners from all agencies will attend when available. For more information visit the police Facebook site and www.durham.police.uk

The next two PACT meetings for Middridge are on:
Monday 6th July at 6pm in Middridge Village Hall
Monday 7th September at 6pm in Middridge Village Hall (For this meeting, the Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Hogg will be in attendance)
All welcome

PCSO 7564
Mike Hutchinson.

Maintaining Links with the Armed Forces



Photo: Vivien Ellis and Major Paul Denton, The Battalion Training Major

Vivien Ellis from Aycliffe Village Local History Society made a visit to the 102 REME Battalion and was given a tour of the Army Reserve Centre, joining officers of the Battalion for coffee and a chat about the long links Aycliffe has with the Armed Forces. Vivien left a copy of the new book "The Great War", which she co-edited.

County Council Gobbledygook!

Dear Sir,
I have read with bemusement the reply from DCC in a request for answers on the decision to remove lighting from the Great North Road A167. It is stated as impossible to find the numbers of people who replied to the consultation allegedly because such information is not recorded. The report read like a script from the hit TV series "Yes Minister" in which the highly educated Sir Humphrey Appleby the Civil Service mandarin used gobbledygook to try to hoodwink the right honourable Jim Hacker MP. The report repeatedly directs the reader to refer to question one, and indeed DCC policy is repeated parrot fashion in a Sat Nav type of answer: "Turn around when possible, turn left onto question one and you will have reached your destination". Seriously though if you do wish to know how many of the half million residents of County Durham replied positively to the consultation, use the web. Go to dcc lights public consultation exercise July 18th to September 26th 2013
Ken Robson

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JUNIOR FOOTBALL RESULTS

Boldon Girls' 3-6 Under 13 Girls - First half was all Aycliffe as the girls' raced into a commanding 0-4 lead at a windy South Shields. The hosts seized on some slack defending to claw two goals back. This was the jolt needed as the girls' finally saw this game out with two more goals. Goals from Lottie Hall (2), Chloe Ryan (2), Lydia Shale and Becky Potts. **The Under 13 Girls** entertained Hebburn Honeyes on Saturday morning after some horrendous overnight rain. In fairness, this was a totally one-sided game with our girls constantly on the attack. The goals flowed and the girls were able to spread the ball around comfortably - it was pleasing to see the goals coming from all positions. Goals from Chloe Ryan (4), Lydia Shale (3), Lottie Hall (2) and Lily Mansfield. This game brought the curtain down on a very good season. Runners Up in the League Cup and a third place finish in the League. Onto the Blackpool Tournament at the end of this month and then the much anticipated 11-a-side next season. Well done girls!

Under 10 Falcons v Durham FC. Great start by the Falcons, real pace and team work. Ben hit the crossbar with his drives forward. Then came the goal off a rebound. 1-0 Falcons via Callum. Second half and Falcons kept up the attack but got caught out on the counter attack 2-1. But then came a corner for the Falcons and Hayden scored from the corner! 2-2 both teams battled hard but great defending from Ben 2-2 FT. MOTM went to Ben. Final game of the season for the **Under 12 Girls** and final game at 7v7 against Washington Lionesses. From the start of the game Washington used the full width of the pitch, passing and moving, getting into positions to test Alana in goal but she was outstanding with diving

saves and finger tip saves over the bar. Washington didn't have it all their own way as Meg and Aaliyah did get beyond their defence but their GK stood firm. Eventually the pressure paid off for Washington as a shot from the edge of the box found its way just inside the post HT 0-1. The pace of the game needed the whole squad to perform as Bethany and Chelsea took a huge part in holding the opposition attack. Aycliffe were still carving out chances with Leah and Teanna setting up Aaliyah who went close a couple of times. Then with 5 mins to go another great strike from hit the roof of the Aycliffe net FT 0-2.

Under 10 Girls v Spiraire Lassies - A game controlled with some nice passing football, two goals for Ocean Tia and one for Hattie - HT 3-0. The second half continued with a further 5 goals from Hattie split by a single goal from Spiraire FT 8-1.

Second game v Boro Rangers, beaten by this team earlier in the season 7-0 but the confidence was clear to see from Aycliffe as we took the game to our opponents. Boro twice took the lead but were pegged back by two unstoppable shots from Hattie HT 2-2. The second half and Boro took the lead but Hattie completed her hat trick from another long range drive into the corner 3-3. With no substitutes the girls were looking tired and in the final 5 mins Boro grabbed a couple of goals FT 3-5.

Up next, Norton & Stockton for a 3rd Game. The girls looked tired but they started the brightest putting N&S under pressure, several shots from Aycliffe fizzed just wide but N&S raced up the other end to take the lead HT 1-0. A corner was then missed by our girls and their striker

tucked it into the corner of the net. N&S added a 3rd goal for a 0-3 FT. Cannot fault the effort and commitment from all 7 girls, they were cold and wet but come away still smiling. 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

Cyclists Get in the Saddle for Charity

A team of super-fit cyclists in fancy dress will be getting in the saddle to raise money for charity. They'll be taking part in a three-hour cycle-a-thon which is being held as part of the build up to this year's Pearl Izumi Tour Series. The fundraising event will take place at Spennymoor Leisure Centre on Wednesday 27 May between 6pm and 9pm. There will be 75 exercise bikes for participants to use and the event will be broken down into six themed half-hour sessions. Helen Tones, physical activities co-ordinator at Durham County Council, said: "We're inviting people to sign up for this event and help us raise money for the North East Autism Society and the Children's Heart Unit Fund at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle. "The whole event lasts for three hours but it is broken down into six 30-minute sessions, so people can do as many sessions as they want. "It's a great way to raise money for charity and get into the spirit of things ahead of the Durham round of the Pearl Izumi Tour Series. "Fancy dress is optional and we will be awarding prizes for the best costumes."

There's no booking fee for the event but entry donations will be given to the two nominated charities. To sign up or find out more people should contact Spennymoor Leisure Centre on 03000 261 161. The Durham stage of the Pearl Izumi Tour Series will take place on Thursday 28 May when nine teams of professional cyclists, along with local guest team Achieve Northside Skinnergate, compete through the streets of Durham City. Durham County Council is hosting the event, which is sponsored by Pearl Izumi and organised by Sweetspot.

HAVE A SAY ON LOCAL ISSUES

Residents in Great Aycliffe and Middridge can find out how local issues are being tackled when the local Area Action Partnership meets later this month. The GAMP board will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 19 May 2015, between 6pm and 8pm, at Woodham Community Centre. Members of the public are invited to go along to observe proceedings. Neighbourhood issues can also be addressed. These need to be put in writing and sent in advance of the meeting. The board will be receiving a presentation on the Honours System at the meeting. Anyone who would like to attend should register in advance by ringing 01325 327441, or by emailing gampaap@durham.gov.uk

Heighington AFC Under 14's Blackpool Plate Winners



The U14's travelled to Blackpool for their annual tournament last weekend. Having previously been runners up two years ago, there was an anticipation amongst the management and team, of doing well. Despite narrowly missing out on the main cup competition, they managed to win the Plate Competition, beating 3 teams, scoring 13 goals in total, and conceding only 1 to lift the trophy. Training this week, and Darlington RA 7-a-side tournament on Saturday.

North East Cyclists Tackle Pearl Izumi Challenge

A team of North East cyclists will race alongside Britain's fastest riders when the Pearl Izumi Tour Series gets underway in Durham later this month. The event, which takes place on Thursday 28 May, will feature nine professional teams along with guest team Achieve Northside Skinnergate. The televised race will see the cyclists tackle the tough cobbled streets of Durham City as they compete to be named the top British cycling team and the champions of the Pearl Izumi Tour Series. Jack Rees, team manager of Achieve Northside Skinnergate, said: "We are delighted to be riding the prestigious Pearl Izumi Tour Series event in Durham again this year. "It is one of our key objectives this season and it's an important event for both our riders and sponsors, the majority of which are based in the North East. "The technical and demanding circuit always creates a great race and the crowds make it one of the best atmospheres we experience all season."

Durham County Council will be hosting the Pearl Izumi-sponsored event in partnership with race organiser Sweetspot. Defending champions JLT Condor presented by Mavic – whose riders include Olympic

champion Ed Clancy, who boasts six previous individual wins in the Series – will be among the professional teams in this year's events. Two squads will make their debut – the ONE Pro Cycling team of England cricketer Matt Prior and Team WIGGINS. The other teams are Madison Genesis, NFTO Pro Cycling, Pedal Heaven RT, SportGrub Kuota, Team Raleigh – GAC and Velosure Starley Primal. The Durham round on Thursday 28 May starts at 7.30pm and pre-race action, including live music, begins at around 4.30pm.

Spectators are advised to arrive early and plan their journey into the city in advance. Free evening parking will be available at the County Hall car park and at the park and ride sites at Howlands and Sniperley. The park and ride buses will not be operating but the car parks are being made available for those wishing to walk into town. People will also be able to watch highlights of the Durham round on ITV4 on Friday 29 May at 9pm. Further information available at www.tourseries.co.uk or www.thisisdurham.com

Rugby Club Seek Help and Support

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club have concluded their 2014/2015 season and finished 3rd in the Durham and Northumberland div 3. A tremendously successful season by all involved. The club will round off with their annual awards presentation night at Moore Lane on Saturday 23rd May. The club wish to announce that it intends to make a tremendous effort to win the league next season. The club has an ambitious plan to reform the long missed 2nd XV. The idea being to attract new players in numbers to form this second squad that will guarantee game time to all players. It will also generate competition for 1st team places to help them push to win the league. Any potential new player interested from the age of 17 plus will be made welcome and can introduce themselves at preseason training for next season in June. College students to old boys will create the core of the new team to play home and away matches in Durham, Northumberland and North Yorkshire. Contact Head coach Pete Ryans 07796 172599 for player registration. The club is always looking for new sponsors to financially support the club as there is always need to fund playing and training strips, equipment, balls and transport. Aycliffe Rugby have been well supported this season with thanks to Honest John, S Cars, Smurfitt Kappa and Whitehouse Funeral Service. It is hoped their sponsorship will continue next season. Any new sponsors can contact the club PRO Stuart Mclean on 07812372675 for details.



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Western Area Community House, Silverdale Place DL57DX (behind Lindisfarne Nursing Home, the 5 and 5a Arriva bus stop is 2 mins away.)

Thursday 10.30am until 11.30am
Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre Burnhill Way (opposite TESCO).

If you are feeling lonely you are welcome to come to these sessions.

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Outstanding School



Photo clockwise: Mrs J Wilkinson (Head Teacher) Sean Hutchinson, Bradley Lauder, Connor Stannard, Tyla Reed, George Linsky

St Francis' School is delighted
to share our recent exceptional
Ofsted report. The inspector
was most complimentary
about the main key elements
and systems within school, but
particularly our leadership and
management and behaviour
and safety of pupils.
The inspector commented
that all children enjoy their
learning and "settle quickly
because of the strong care
and support they are given to
address their individual needs."

Pupils engage extremely well
with learning and she found
that all pupils were extremely
polite and well mannered
with behaviour she rated as
outstanding.
During the inspection she
identified the strong leadership
of the Head Teacher and her
Senior Leaders as central to
school development. Mrs
Wilkinson was reported to
explain "We have a really
strong team ethos at St
Francis, from the children to
the teaching team, governors,
parents and carers. Without
everyone's hard work, we
would not have been able to
secure such an outstanding
result. It was particularly
pleasing that once again we
were judges to be outstanding
in the Behaviour and Safety
of pupils area of the inspection
and this has been judged to be
such since 2008."

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HAS THE COUNTY COUNCIL CONNED US?

Dear Sir,
Having discovered my next
door neighbour is putting
his garden waste into his
general household waste bin
I rang and spoke to someone
at County Hall. I was
informed that everyone is
perfectly entitled to do this,
as well as the fact that they
can also put their re-cycling
into household waste as
well. It is purely down to
choice as to whether you
wish to re-cycle or not. The
only thing you cannot do is
put general household waste
in your recycling bin.

I, for one, was led to believe
that upon the introduction of
the charge for having your
garden waste bin emptied
this year, that if you chose
not to pay the £20 for 2015,
then your garden refuse
would not be taken away
and that you would have to
dispose of it yourself.

Clearly that is not the
case - or rather unclearly, I
should say, as this appears
to be nothing more than a
money making scam that the
majority of us seem to have
fallen for. I have spoken to
several neighbours and so
far not one of them was
aware of this.

We had the freedom of
choice to decide whether or
not we wanted to sign up for
the garden refuse scheme
but were blatantly deceived
by Durham County Council.
In the scheme of things
£20 is not a lot of money
to many of us, to have our
garden waste taken away.
However, for some it will

be, and for those individuals
in particular, they are
perfectly within their rights,
in my opinion, to demand to
have their money refunded -
as are all of us really. There
is no other word for it -
DECEPTION.

Whilst it may be in the
'small print' somewhere,
that the above applies, it
has not been made crystal
clear by any means, hence
the people I have thus
far spoken to, have all
expressed their surprise
and annoyance at having
been conned into paying an
unnecessary charge.

What further compounds
this issue, is that both South
Tyneside and Sunderland

Councils do not charge for
garden waste to be taken
away. And as with Durham
Council, they do provide
bins specifically for garden
waste.

I was aware of this fact
sometime ago but took
the opinion that due to
government restrictions
councils needed to raise
funds whichever way they
could and therefore accepted
that £20 was a small price to
pay. Now, however, having
been conned by the council
that are supposed to be
there to serve the people
of Durham county as best
they can, I feel somewhat
different about it.

Name and address supplied.

County Council Reply . . .

Alan Patrickson, Head
of Projects and Business
Services, said:

"There is no obligation
to join our garden waste
scheme which is run on
an opt-in basis. Those who
choose to subscribe receive
a dedicated bin for garden
waste along with a sticker
to display on it highlighting
they are part of the scheme.
These customers enjoy the
convenience of a fortnightly
dedicated garden waste
collection, which also
enables us to recycle
through composting. Those
that choose not to subscribe
must dispose of their garden
waste through other means,
which may include taking it
to a local recycling centre
or home composting."

"While it is perfectly
legitimate for a small
amounts of garden cuttings
to be disposed of in the
general bin, so long as
this does not result in
overflowing, this does not
allow it to be recycled and
quantities are limited by the
size of the bin."

We would always
encourage householders to
recycle garden waste and
other trimmings but there
are currently no plans to
introduce a ban on any
materials which can be put
into general waste.

This new arrangement has
been introduced to enable
us to save £900k each year
as we are no longer able to
provide the service without
a charge."

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Milli Donates Hair to Make Wig for Child Cancer Victim

Dear Sir,
My name is Milli Greener, and I'm a fifteen year old girl who attends Greenfield Community College, Newton Aycliffe. On the 7th May, my birthday, I donated 7 inches of my hair to a wonderful charity - Little Princess Trust. With your kind donations, I would like to raise £550 for the charity, as this is the approximate cost for a wig to be made. The charity donates wigs to children free, to those who are suffering from cancer or have suffered from cancer or other hair loss illnesses. The costs to make one wig are very high and if families were to buy one themselves it would be approximately £2,000. With your donations I hope to help the children of the Little Princess Trust to feel beautiful and happy. Please help me, help the children who need the Little Princess Trust. You can donate to Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/Milli-Greener>
Thank you!
Milli



Milli lost 17 inches of her hair and she was brought to tears as it was being cut off! Her Mum and sister were present to encourage her and express their pride. Lox of Love on Aycliffe Business Park (Tel: 01325 327362) cut Milli's hair free of charge and in the event Milli found she could not get used to shorter hair, offered to provide extensions which is their speciality.



Tesco Management Changes



Helen Maynard (centre) is the new Manager at Tesco following the departure of Martin Butcher a complete restructuring of the Management Team. Numerous appointments and extra staff have been engaged to help improve the customer experience at the Newton Aycliffe store. Helen, a Yorkshire lass, is keen to work with community organisations to maintain and enhance the high profile Tesco enjoys.

Thanks from Your M.P.

I want to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all those who voted for me at the General Election on May 7th. It is an honour and a privilege to represent the town in Parliament.

The Hitachi factory, the university technical college, and the on-going improvements to the town centre are helping to put Newton Aycliffe on the map. Aycliffe's industrial estate is now the largest in the North a East and I want to see it expand further, creating many more jobs. I want to see Aycliffe go from strength to strength.

Although I am obviously pleased about the local result, nationally the result did not go Labour's way, and I would like to say to all the people of the Sedgfield constituency, however you voted, my door remains open to anyone looking for help and assistance. I will do what I can to help. If you need to see me, please ring my office on 01325 321603 or email phil.wilson.mp@parliament.uk Once again thank you for your support.
Phil Wilson MP



School P.M.



Congratulations Jay Edmond Moore on becoming Prime Minister at Woodham Burn Primary School Mock Election last week! We are so proud of you! Well done also to Naomi Kavanagh! From Mam, Dad, Nana, Grandad, Grandma and Grandad xxxxxx

Congratulations

Look who's 70! BIG H



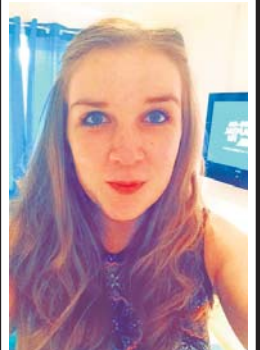
Happy Birthday Dad, lots of love from your daughters, sons in laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren xx

Howard Chadwick



Happy 70th Howard
Love from your Wife, Ann xxxxxx

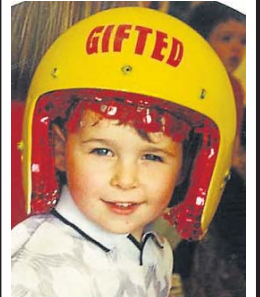
Abby Swainston



Happy 21st Birthday
18th May 2015

Happy birthday to our beautiful daughter Abby. Have a great weekend. Love, Mam, Dad and Holly. Best wishes from Gran, Poppy, Auntie Annie and Uncle Bob xxxxx

Joe Hurst



21 on 13th May, 2015

Joe, you have made us laugh and brightened our lives as we've watched you grow from a gorgeous little boy into a wonderful young man. You truly are "gifted" and we are all so very proud of you.
Happy 21st birthday. Love always, Mum, Dad, Sam and Louis xxxxx

PAUL 16th May. Happy 65th birthday. Love and best wishes, Marion and Ross xxx

Thank You

PAUL BRACKEN of PB Home Services, many thanks for a job well done decorating our home. P & A Cook

Obituary

STOKES of Aycliffe Village, 5th May, (in hospital after a brief illness, borne with great courage), George (Showman) aged 60 years. Devoted and much loved Husband and soulmate to Joy-Marie and beloved Son, Son-in-Law, Brother, Brother-in-Law and Uncle. He will be greatly missed by all his family and many friends. Funeral on Tuesday 19th May. Would friends kindly meet for a celebration of Georgie's life in St. Andrew's Church at 11.00am followed by interment in the Churchyard. The North Briton car park will be open for mourners attending the Church Service. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu in aid of Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association may be given or will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6EN. Tel: 01325 318600.

In Memoriam

Irene Telford



Died 13th May 2014

Treasured memories of a loving Mam, Nana and Great Nana. Loved and remembered always, Denise, Craig, Sue, Lorraine, Norman, Joanne, David, all Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

Birthday Remembrance

RAYMOND SPARKS 17th May 1946 to 23rd August 2013. Birthday memories from Linda xxx

TREVOR PLASKITT 22/5/1941 to 12/12/2010. Our lives go on without you, but nothing is the same. We have to hide the heartache, when someone calls your name. Sad are our hearts, that love you. Silent are our tears that fall. Because living without you is the hardest part of all. You did so many things for us, your heart, was kind and true. When we needed someone we always relied on you. God bless you Trevor. From your loving Wife Valerie and your loving family xxxxx

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There was another good turnout from Aycliffe Running Club in the first of the Redcar Coastal Runs over 5K and the strong wind didn't prevent the club from performing well with some really fast times.

John Surtees was first home for the club in 12th position in 17:23, followed by Lee Wren, 36th in 19:02 and Dave Blewitt, 54th in 20:12.

Tracy Surtees was the first lady home for the club, 59th in 20:28, followed by John Burnside 64th in 20:44, Cyd Upton 74th in 21:31, Jodie McMaster 87th in 22:24, Michelle Zamir 90th in 22:37, Kelly Smith 95th in 22:57, Rob Nicholson 99th 23:18, Trish Kay 107th in 23:42,

Dave Mackenzie 139th in 26:21 and Yvonne Williams 155th in 29:59.

Trish Kay recently travelled to the Lake District to compete in the Keswick Half Marathon only to be told on arrival that the race had been re-routed and it was either a 50 minute walk or a boat ride to get to the start, but with torrential rain all morning she may as well have swam it, she couldn't have got any more soaked. However, the weather cleared up during the race and Trish began to enjoy the scenery, but the steep downhill sections began to take its toll on her calves and hamstrings and after 11 miles had to keep stopping because

of a blister on the bottom of her foot. The finishing line was a welcome sight but even this was on a water-logged rugby pitch. Considering all this her time of 1:56:40 wasn't bad at all.

Another member of the club, Callum Terry also ran in this race and his time was 1:49:32. Four members of the club competed in the Tees Barrage 10K on Bank Holiday Monday. This popular race attracted a field of over 450 runners.

First to finish for the club was Dave Blewitt 77th in 43:31, followed by Robert Young 94th in 44:53, Mike Brunskill 165th in 49:02 and Paul Stretton 169th in 49:13.

Town Cricket News

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team team sponsored by Franks The Flooring Store had a dramatic last ball victory at home to Normanby Hall 2nd team in the NYSD 2nd division. After a delayed start to allow the ground time to dry out, Aycliffe won the toss and asked the visitors to bat first in a game reduced to 32 overs per side. Normanby Hall were restricted to 122 for 9 from their allotted overs thanks to good bowling from both Michael Howe (4 for 9) and Matty Atkinson (2 for 23).

Openers Tom Young (31 runs) and Joe Haines (25 runs) got the home side off to an excellent start putting on 54 for the 1st wicket. Unfortunately wickets tumbled at regular intervals throughout the innings and despite 23 runs in the middle order from all rounder Atkinson, it was left to last wicket pair Luke Telford and James Skerrett to scramble a bye off the last ball of the game to give Aycliffe the narrowest of wins by one wicket.

The second team travelled the short distance to Shildon 1st XI and were well beaten by 7 wickets allowing the home side to further extend their big lead at the top of the NYSD 3rd division table. Aycliffe batted first and were bowled out for 88

after 35.2 overs with the main contributions coming from John Wardle (24 runs), Jack Slatcher (18 runs) and Tony Travis (11 runs). The home side coasted to victory after just 16.2 overs with man of the match Slatcher (sponsored by Mr and Mrs Greaves) taking 2 for 28 for Aycliffe.

The under 18's team played their first game of the season and had a comfortable 7 wicket home win against Crook. The visitors were asked to bat first and were restricted to just 85 for 5 in their allotted 20 overs. Aycliffe stormed to victory after 15.1 overs thanks to excellent innings from both Tom Wickins (38 runs) and James Skerrett (31 runs).

The club's u13's were beaten away at Billingham, but there was some good batting performances from Lucas Pilling, who top scored with 17 runs and captain Nathan Parry who chipped in with 13 runs. Luke Patterson also deserves praise after taking his first wicket for the club.

The U11's team lost at home to Richmond despite a clear improvement in the team's batting. There was also an excellent first game as wicket keeper by Charlie Cayless who didn't allow a single bye to go past him.

Russian Choir in Concert at Neville Parade

On Saturday 23rd May at 7pm at Neville Parade Methodist Church there will be a performance by LYRA the Russian Vocal Ensemble of St Petersburg. The group are currently on tour in the UK. LYRA is a community of professional musicians.

Most of the members are students or postgraduates of Saint - Petersburg Conservatoire, working in different choirs in St Petersburg. The main goal of LYRA's activity is exploring and popularising Russian choir music.

They will perform a mixture of Russian Orthodox Church music and traditional Russian folk music. The community was formed in 1994 and have since performed all over the world. So for an evening out that will be a little bit different come along to Neville Parade. Tickets are £10 & £8 for concessions. We look forward to seeing you.

Anyone for Tennis?



A new season has just started at Greenfield Tennis Club. The Club will welcome players of all abilities to Club Nights on Wednesdays, throughout the summer from 6.30. Men and women players looking to play socially or competitively are being offered a free visit. Club Membership is available allowing access to the courts at most times during the evenings and weekends. Pay To Play is also available to hire a court, when available.

The Men's team are striving to repeat the success of the previous season, winning all matches played in the Cleveland League, Division 5

and Darlington League. The Club website www.greenfieldtennis.co.uk gives full details of contacts for further information.

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