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Aycliffe Home Brewed Beer at "The County"



Aycliffe Brewer Nick Smith (left) with Stuart Dale

Aycliffe's very own Craft Brewery – The Steam Machine – is going from strength to strength. Their modern beers are now available in over twenty unique speciality craft beer bars, bottle shops, and restaurants from Whitley Bay down to Huddersfield, including the Michelin-

starred Raby Hunt. Now though, Aycliffe drinkers venturing to "The County" at Aycliffe Village can finally have a taste of Steam Machine's signature 5.2% IPA as it's intended: cold and sparkling, straight from the keg. "We are delighted to be able to offer Craft Keg at The County; it's not the sort of thing you'll find in most pubs in the area, and it's great helping a young business trying to do something a bit different," said Stuart Dale at The County. Nick Smith, one of the brewery's founders was equally enthusiastic: "Even though we are distributing all over the North, there's something wonderful about seeing our IPA as a guest Craft Beer in our very own local. We can't think of a better

place to enjoy it, sat in "The County" with friends, looking over the village green." On bottle sales at Woodham News Shop and the new activity centre ROF 59, Nick added, "The response to our bottles has been overwhelming too, we seem to have an army of loyal local drinkers! They are going through hundreds... Cheers everyone!" Steam Machine currently have four diverse beers available, ranging from a 5.2% lager/ale hybrid 'San Franciscan Steam' to an Earl Grey infused 6.5% IPA 'Afternoon Tea'. They told Newton News they have plenty more in development to challenge the taste buds of those Craft Beer drinkers looking to drink something a little different.

Cameron & Osborne at Hitachi Opening

The importance of the official opening of Hitachi this week was demonstrated by the attendance of the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Newton News was invited to ask a question and Syd Howarth asked David Cameron if he supported devolving power to the North East and if he could indicate when it would happen.

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60 New Home Owners at "The Woodlands"

**NEWTON NEWS DELIVERED
THERE THIS WEEK**



Newton News welcomes to our readership residents of the new Keepmoat housing development on Cobblers Hall Road. This popular housing estate has 60 houses occupied which have been sold as soon as they were finished.

NEWS ERROR

In last week's issue in the story of the father delivering his own baby son, we mistakenly referred to David Randal as the husband of Kayleigh Harle when in fact he is her partner. We apologise for this error.

A total of 175 houses will complete the development and at this rate should be fully occupied in around 18 months time.

It also proves that Newton Aycliffe itself is an attractive place to live and apart from poor retail provision we can take pride in our town. We still hope that eventually our town centre will live up to expectations, but fear this will only happen when the Landlords realise rent and service charges are too high to attract new shopkeepers.

Council By-Election Win for Labour

By-Election Results

Peter John Bergg	Labour	199 Votes	(47%)
Dorothy Bowman	Independent	162 Votes	(38%)
Brian Haigh	Independent	62 Votes	(15%)
Electorate 3179	Turnout 13.36 %		

Peter Bergg has been elected to the Town Council in the By-Election on Thursday 27th August 2015.

Despite a low turn out Labour increased their share of the vote showing Peter is well respected on the Ward for his experience and proven ability.

Labour fielded a candidate with a proven record of service on the Council and are pleased to welcome him as a member of their team.

Labour Leader Cllr Bob Fleming said "There is no doubt Labour fielded two excellent candidates in these recent By Elections. We owe it to the electorate only to put the best people forward and this message has been taken on board by Labour and the electorate."

Peter issued the following statement: "I would like to thank the people of Byerley Park, Horndale and Cobblers Hall ward for validating the Labour Party's faith in me and giving me the



opportunity to serve them on the Council once again. I will carry out my obligation to the best of my ability and am committed to speaking up for the electorate both on the ward and the Town as a whole.

I thank my opponents for a clean campaign and for giving the voters a choice of representation. I am happy to meet with anyone and am available at 20 Lascelles Avenue, Byerley Park, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7HP or can be contacted by telephone on 320074.

I look forward to serving you, thank you once again."

C2C RIDE RAISED £440 FOR SCANNER APPEAL



Newton Aycliffe Rotarian Bob Stevenson raised £440 from sponsorship money for biking Coast to Coast recently.

He wanted to help the James Cook Hospital Scanner Appeal launched by the Rotary Club and he thanks those who supported him with generous donations.

Bob has biked all his life and walks to keep fit but got interested in doing the Coast to Coast through Bike for Life and the PCP who suggested the C2C which was a challenge he couldn't resist.

His wife Angela also went across to encourage and support Bob. Champagne was available for all the participants who arrived in Roker together to celebrate their achievement.

Town Council & Community Tackle Lake Duckweed



Last Friday morning local residents may have seen our Town Council workers, a Councillor and a Friends of West Park member wading in the lake in an attempt to reduce the green carpet of weed which is currently covering the lower half of the lake.

They scraped the surface with large rakes and specially designed push bars and worked tirelessly for two and half hours, but only made a small dent in this green carpet of weed. It would seem that this is a very time consuming and hopeless task, this is 'duckweed' and it will return as quickly as it is removed. This plant has the ability to reproduce rapidly, it can double in just 16 hours to 2 days, depending on temperature and its growing environment.

Although residents complain about the look of this green carpet, for some, duckweed can be a positive inclusion in the right location.

For those of you who don't know what duckweed is, it is a small floating plant that grows on relatively still lakes? It can cover an area rapidly and because of this can cause problems. Now however, duckweed is being touted as a miracle plant for many reasons including some listed below.

- Water filter
- Prevents algae growth
- Reduces evaporation of water
- Virtually free animal feed
- Cost effective renewable energy

In the wild, duckweed is an important source of food for fish and waterfowl. Duckweed provides a habitat for certain types of frogs and fish. It also maintains a cleaner habitat by providing enough shade to keep down the growth of oxygen-robbing algae that used to plague the lakes in

past years.

However, when duckweed completely covers a lake it may be a symptom of other problems, such as, high nutrient levels from decaying leaves and plants on the bottom of the lake and the lack of constant water flow. This is why the Town Council have sourced hydrology and ecology advice from the Groundwork Trust, this will help it determine the most effective way to balance the ecology and aesthetics of this fantastic community resource and ultimately reduce the necessity to clear the lake.

So, in the meantime as long as

the sun shines, temperatures remain high and the leaves decay the green carpet will be back and tackled by our intrepid council staff and the community volunteers from Friends of West Park.

If you would like to support this valuable work at West Park Lake and its surrounding area, please contact Steve Cooper steven.cooper@great-aycliffe.gov.uk at Great Aycliffe Town Council tel:300700; or check out the Friends of West Park on their Facebook page.

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Saturday 5th September - "Tin Pan Alley"

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Genre: Rock & Blues
Covering tracks by: UFO, Muddy Waters, Gary Moore, Thin Lizzy, Whitesnake, Foreigner, Tom Petty, Montrose etc. Great band with a large local following, regulars at major festivals and top venues (Forum etc).

Friday 11th September - "Bon Jovi Forever"

with special guest support - 'THE KILL' - £4 cover charge, sorry no tickets, pay on the door only

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 Greggs vocals in both bands was awesome, guitar playing was immense and the rhythm section tight. 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 12th September - "Skinflint"

Twice stars of the main stage at 'STORMIN'

Previous review from the Turbinia: "Skinflint's first blast in the Tub last night, and what a first blast! I love Skinflint, cos they've got the only two guys I know who get their hair out more than me! Absolutely ace! Everyone has said how good the lads were and with an alternative venue just over the road having a band on again, some of the folk who came over from there said they were well pleased they had done so! The lads had the sound bang on for us, they sounded excellent! (I loved "the soundtrack song"). Opening tune was "Paranoid", swiftly followed by "For Whom The Bell Tolls". Thin Lizzy's "Cold Sweat" was top notch as was "Cat Scratch Fever", I heard that one at Crook and it's fast becoming one of my faves! Chris Isaac's "Wicked Game" and Ozzy's "Bark At The Moon" were followed by "Rosalie", (which took away one of our lad's shout for his encore straight away!), AC/DC's "Whole Lotta Rosie" removed Keith's second encore shout so he was stuck for what to shout for when the time came! Bit of Foo Fighters and Sabbath, The Cult's "L'il Devil" had me and some of the lasses on the floor with the hair out and Status Quo's "Sweet Caroline" rocked! "Whisky In The Jar" totally ruined Keith's chances of shouting for anything at all for an encore. "Highway Star" and "Smoke On The Water" and the lads rounded off with my all time fave "Rebel Yell", which guaranteed me whiplash the following morning! Saw these guys at Stormin' last year, was looking forward to them coming to the Tub and they did themselves proud. I hope they enjoyed the gig as much as the punters did and look forward to them coming back for another round!!

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f CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK

History Talk

Aycliffe Village Local History Society will host a talk by 'Anita Atkinson' on 'The Women of Windlestone' in Aycliffe Village Hall at 7pm on Wednesday 9 September at 7pm. All welcome, members £1 non members £3 to include tea/coffee/biscuits. Further details 01325 301093.

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Cree Male Volunteers Helping Those in Need



Greenfield Arts would like to invite local male volunteers to join our Cree men's group on Mondays 10:30am – 12:30pm. The group are currently working on creating an animated window display and light structure for our Winter Wonderland event to be held on 25th November 5:30pm – 8:00pm. The aim of these projects are to add warmth and light to the dreary winter months.

The Cree volunteers meet regularly to socialise and work on a variety of projects with Greenfield Arts; most recently they have

created our new purpose built cupboard in the newly furnished Studio 2. They have received various awards for their skills and hard work and have built a family of friends they would like to extend further. We are looking for anyone who would like to meet new people or who have particular creative or mechanical skills that they would like to share and develop.

If you would like to join us for any of our friendly Cree sessions please contact Greenfield Arts on info@greenfield-arts.co.uk or 01325 379048.



Camilla Shergold has supported the food collection and distribution for Lifeline Community Action over the past few weeks.

Camilla said 'I was overwhelmed with the amount of help this charity are able to give to people struggling in the area. It was a total joy to help and the team worked brilliantly together making sure those in the most need got the help quickly.

It was well worth the 650 miles round trip I had to do to help. I'm now looking forward to the next opportunity to support people in crisis.

HELP THE HELPERS



Tony and Camilla Shergold have been supporting people in Newton Aycliffe for the past four years. They have given up their annual leave to travel from the beautiful South East coast to our community to get involved in the voluntary work of Lifeline Community Action.

They've loved working with Alwyn White with the Helping Hands project and are delighted to see how our award winning charity has progressed over the past year. Camilla has helped with all our summer projects and after a discussion with her family they now feel it's time to relocate here but they need help to be able to move here.

As they have lived in the country most of their married life, they would like to rent a two or three bedroomed property that has a bit of a country feel to it and would like to hear from anyone that has a suitable property. Please e-mail lifeline.action@googlemail.com with property details.

Greenfield Celebrates High Achievement Once Again!

This year there were double GCSE celebrations at Greenfield Community College at both Aycliffe and Shildon. Greenfield staff were delighted that the first set of results as an expanded school revealed high levels of achievement and great progress.

Early indications show Greenfield results to be above the national average in English at both C+ grades and at A/A*, rapidly improving in maths and ICT, outstanding in MFL and Art and, in fact, strong across all subjects thus reflecting the school's vision of raising aspirations and transforming lives in a successful learning community.

With 62% of students at the Aycliffe Campus achieving 5A*- C grades including English and Maths, the school is likely to be above the national average and once again it will be one of the top performing schools in the county.

Special congratulations go Katie Blenkinsopp, Maisie Clark, Holly Hardy, Stewart McCaffrey and Leonie Wong who each achieved 10 or more A/A* grades. Across the whole school Greenfield students achieved a staggering 342 A/A* grades, with almost half the cohort achieving at least one top grade.

David Priestley, Executive Head Teacher, said "Governors and staff are delighted to celebrate such strong results on both campuses in our first year as an expanded school. These excellent results will allow our students to move into the next phase of their lives and we wish them every success."



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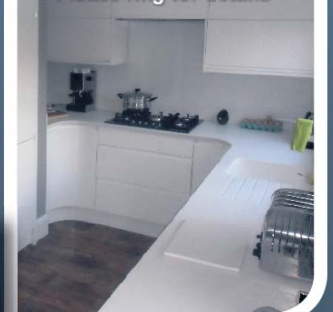
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HOMES PLAN - NEW CHAPTER FOR COUNTY COUNCIL

Durham County Council has set up an arms-length private company with the aim of offering better choice for house-buyers and creating job opportunities.

Following recent Cabinet approval, Chapter Homes will develop council-owned land for housing to be sold and rented at market values. A contract has been agreed with Gentoo Construction to build the houses on behalf of the new company with Chapter Homes responsible for the development and subsequent management of the rental properties. In addition to meeting need for good quality housing, building more affordable homes, creating jobs and boosting the local economy, any profits from the scheme will be reinvested into council services.

With the company now established, four possible development sites have been identified:

- Agnew 5, Woodham Drive, Newton Aycliffe
- Cobblers Hall Site, Newton Aycliffe
- Former Civic Centre, Chester-le-Street
- Oakerside Drive, Peterlee

The Newton Aycliffe site has been chosen to act as a pilot for the scheme and a planning application for 125 properties has now been submitted.

Cllr Eddie Tomlinson, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for assets, strategic housing and rural issues, said: "We hope that the creation of Chapter Homes will see significant benefits for the people of County Durham. Potential buyers will have more choice and the county will be better equipped to meet the rising need for local housing, especially private rented accommodation where there is a known shortage.

"With housebuilding a key driver for the economy, Chapter Homes means investment in the construction industry and the wider supply chain to build quality housing and creating much needed jobs in the process.

"With the council facing savings of £260m by 2020, this innovative approach will also allow us to turn currently unused council land into welcome extra income that can be put towards council services."

BHF Launch September Appeal for Unwanted Goods



The British Heart Foundation Shop staff in the Town Centre have launched their "Bag it - Beat it" campaign. This September they are collecting good quality clothes, accessories, books, DVDs, bric-a-brac and toys to sell in the charity shop. Please donate your unwanted stuff to help fund life saving research or host a Bag it Beat it event and challenge your friends, family and colleagues to clear out the clutter.

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Bigger Plates Don't Help You Lose Weight

Dinner plates are 44% bigger than in the '50's - and slimmers are paying the price. If you're trying to lose weight but the scales aren't shifting, it may be more to do with the size of your dinner plate than what you put on it. Increasing plate sizes over the past 30 years have had a direct impact on waistlines everywhere. Back in the early '50s, the average dinner plate was 23cm wide. Fast-forward 30 years to the '80s and it had increased to 28cm - and today, it's nearer 33cm.

It should be no surprise then that as our dinner plates have grown, so have we. An increase in the rate of obesity over the last 60 years is parallel with the increase in the size of our dinner plates.

Emma Brown MSc, nutritionist for weight loss App, Nutracheck, is not surprised by the findings: "We rely on visual clues to tell us how much to eat. People pay more attention to the proportion of the plate that is covered, rather than the actual amount of food. So they tend to eat more when given a large plate because they fill more of it.

"We find it difficult to judge how much food there is on a plate as our brain tricks us into thinking there is more - or less - depending on the plate size. The habit of using a visual clue for eating, rather than being conscious of satiety - how full you feel - is a tough one to break.

"The simplest solution is to use smaller plates - vintage plates are popular today and are usually a lot smaller. It's easier to do that at home, but it can be more difficult when eating out. Just try to remember that filling your plate might seem like good value but your waistline will pay for it."

Emma's top plate tips:

- Serve calorie-dense foods on smaller plates and save large plates for salads and fruit
- Resist filling your plate and always leave a decent border around food
- Pile low energy dense foods (veg, salad) onto your plate first so there's less room for the more calorific items. At least half your plate should be veg/salad, a quarter protein food and no more than a quarter carbs.

When it comes to drinks, follow the same rule and trick the visual cues. Serve calorific drinks in tall, thinner glasses, and use wider ones for water. It's all about fooling your eyes into thinking there's more food or drink than there is.

BLUE BRIDGE CENTRE

OFFICES TO LET

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Office 10 - 14ft x 19ft (4.27m x 5.79m)

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Office 11 - 12ft x 17ft (3.65m x 5.18m) 1 room } 10.97m x 5.18m

Contact Stuart on 01325 300212 for more details

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Greenfield Art Gallery Latest Exhibition



Greenfield Arts invites you and the public to the preview of our latest exhibition by William B Hindmarsh on Wednesday 2nd September 6pm to 8pm. Bill is a self-taught artist who works in several media. In 1957 he started work as an apprentice electrician at Linton Colliery, Northumberland and worked for 12 years in various mines, witnessing the changes from manual work to advanced automation. When he fulfilled his lifetime ambition to become a professional artist in 2000 he drew on his life in the North East for inspiration, painting an eclectic mix of landscapes, seascapes and community scenes. The paintings depicting his early years in the mining community have proved the most popular as many people can still remember their fathers and grandfathers telling tales of the once mighty Northern Coalfield and it is some of these tales which are often reflected in his work. Artworks are for sale throughout the exhibition with limited edition prints available at the preview only. Bill will be in attendance to help provide insight into his work and practice with Dr Robert McManners introducing the exhibition at 6pm on Wednesday 2nd September. Gallery Opening Times: Monday – Thursday 10am – 9pm Friday 10am – 4pm

Great W.I. Meeting

WOW! Yet another great evening at Newton Aycliffe WI Monthly meeting. This month we were privileged to share the evening with a local, Adele Lambert, who shared her experience and moving life story. She had, with the aid of breathing apparatus, suffered from birth with Cystic Fibrosis. At the age of 38 years after years dealing with a daily routine of trying to clear her lungs to breathe, she finally had a lung transplant at the RVI in Newcastle in September 2013. She is an inspiration to us all having just recently competed in the Heart and Lung Transfer Olympics, and we were all so pleased that she was able to share her excitement with us in achieving Gold in Archery and Silver in Breaststroke. Adele's story touched our hearts and souls! Our next Meeting is held at St Clare's Church Hall, Newton Aycliffe on Tuesday, 8th September with a prompt start at 7.15pm. For further details please contact Lyn Swift, Tel: 01325 314805.

Registered to Vote?

Thousands of households across County Durham will soon receive letters asking them to check information held on the electoral register. The letters will be sent to residents who have not yet responded to Durham County Council's earlier request for people to confirm their details. It is important to respond to the request for information, even if there has been no change to the details held on the register. Voters must be listed on the electoral register if they wish to vote in local and national elections including parish, county council and general elections as well as the Police and Crime Commissioner elections due to take place in

May 2016. In addition, being registered to vote can also improve your credit rating. Confirming your details is quick and simple. If all of the information on the form is correct you can: Return it in the envelope provided. Postage is free. Phone 0800 197 9871 or text 80212 and quote the security code printed on the form. Visit www.registerbyinternet.com/dcc If any of the information is incorrect, you should amend the form and return it to Electoral Services at Durham County Council. For more information, call 03000 261 212 or email electoralservices@durham.gov.uk

Newtonian Wins Job with Formula One Team

University engineering student Daniel Sanham from Newton Aycliffe, has been awarded the career opportunity of a lifetime in Formula One as Infiniti announced the winners of this year's Performance Engineering Academy 2015. Beating nine other finalists from around Europe in an intense shootout event, 24 year-old Daniel Sanham will now move to Milton Keynes in September to begin a 12-month placement working with the four-time Formula One World Championship-winning team Infiniti Red Bull Racing, as well as for Infiniti itself.

Daniel will spend eight months working as an Infiniti Placement Design Engineer (Electronics) at the team's headquarters in Milton Keynes, and four months working at Infiniti's European Technical Centre in Cranfield on road car development projects. With F1™ technology more relevant to the automotive industry than ever, he will play a key role in the ongoing transfer of technical knowledge and expertise between the race team and Infiniti.

The academy, now in its second year, is a one-of-a-kind global search for the world's best up-and-coming engineers. For 2015, five placements were made available with one winner chosen each from Russia, Western Europe, China, Saudi Arabia and the United States to work in roles spanning vehicle dynamics, vehicle design, aerodynamics and electronics.

Thousands of students registered their interest in this year's program, and after a series of interviews, ten finalists in each region were selected to attend a regional final event where they were put through their paces in a structured assessment day by a panel of judges from Infiniti and Infiniti Red Bull Racing. Commenting on his win, Daniel said: "I was absolutely buzzing to hear I had landed the job. It's an amazing brand and team to go and work for and will without doubt be a brilliant experience. It will be a tough challenge but I can't wait to start now and get stuck in!"

Tommaso Volpe, Global Director, Infiniti Formula One, added: "The calibre of entrants this year was very high which made for a tough selection process, but if last year's winners are anything



to go by, it will not be long before all of them are making a significant contribution both to us and to the race team. With F1 becoming more and more relevant to the automotive industry and

an increased focus of the placements this year being on the road car development, we are training a new generation of engineers who will play a key role in the crossover between the two industries."

FORGE A NEW HOBBY AT BLACKSMITH SESSION



Fancy forging a new hobby? A County Durham museum is offering people the chance to learn the basics of blacksmithing. Killhope: the North of England Lead Mining Museum is running a blacksmith workshop next month.

The session will take place from 10.30am to 3.30pm on Sunday, 25 October and anyone who is interested is advised to book early.

It will be led by the museum's resident blacksmith, Chris Askew. Students will learn basic skills and make their own poker to take home.

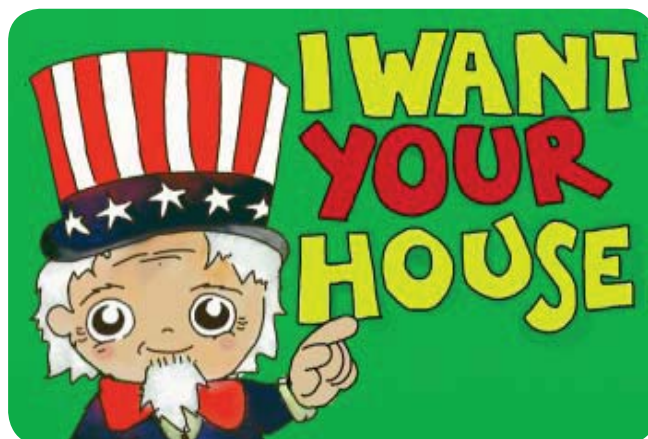
The workshop costs £50 per person and includes all materials, lunch and refreshments. For further details or to book a place call 01388 537 505. More information about Killhope is available at www.killhope.org.uk

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GREENFIELD STUDENTS HELP POLICE TACKLE SPEEDING PROBLEM



Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Policing Team, and Greenfield Arts Centre have utilised funds made available to them by Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership to resolve an issue raised regularly by residents.

At local Police meetings, we are often told that an issue residents want to be resolved is the speeding of vehicles on our roads. We came up with an idea to create some road safety scarecrows which will be placed in areas highlighted by residents, and will be used to deter speeders and educate them regarding their manner of driving.

The scarecrows have been made by local youths who have attended summer schools and arts sessions, a professional artist and even members of the Newton Aycliffe police team! The scarecrows that will be made are a child walking a dog, a female adult and also a police scarecrow modelled on myself. Attached is the completed image of the child scarecrow walking the dog.

PCSO Mike Hutchinson and Greenfield Arts Centre will launch the project on Wednesday 16th September at 10:45am at Greenfield Arts Centre in Newton Aycliffe.

Newton News is keen to promote the scheme to ensure residents know the police are working with communities to tackle local issues.

UKIP Aycliffe Branch Formed



Left to right: John Grant (branch chairman), Paul Symons (treasurer) Gordon Parkin (Regional Organiser). Alastair Welsh,

Following UKIP winning 6426 votes in the Sedgefield constituency at the General Election, receiving a good reception out on doorsteps and growing support for the Party in the area, the newly formed Newton Aycliffe branch is now formed. Supporters are invited to come along, bring a friend or a relative to their meetings to have a chat or ask questions with the aim of putting the branch on the map of the North East.

UKIP are offering half price membership for new members and are building a people's network of volunteers to help distribute leaflets for the EU referendum campaign, local elections and for the next

General Election.

Contact the branch either by phone 07477 440362 or email john.grant181@o2.co.uk or contact through facebook: facebook.com/ukipsedgefield.

The next Branch meeting will be held on Thursday 10th of September 7pm at Locomotion No. 1, Heighington Station, Heighington Lane, DL5 6QG.

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

A Night at the Opera in Durham Theatre



There will be drama, passion and humour when Gala Theatre hosts a Night at the Opera next month. London Festival Opera returns to the Durham city venue on Thursday, 10th September with a brand new production. The show will feature highlights from Bizet's masterpiece Carmen as well as arias and ensembles from the operas of Mozart, Rossini, Gounod, Puccini and Gilbert and Sullivan. Bringing together international artists from Britain's major companies, including the Royal Opera House, English National Opera and Glyndebourne, London Festival Opera has

a well-deserved reputation for high quality productions featuring elegant settings, sumptuous costumes and exceptional singers. Leading the cast will be mezzo-soprano Yvonne Fontane, who has previously taken on the role of Carmen as a member of Australian Opera at the Royal Albert Hall and across the United States. Yvonne also sang the famous Habanera with London Festival Opera at La Fenice in Venice last year. Tickets are £20 or £18 for concessions. To book, visit Gala box office, call 03000 266 600 or go online at www.galadurham.co.uk

Woodham Launch "More Able" Academy

September 2015 will see the official launch of Woodham's More Able Academy. This follows on from the overwhelming success of the Woodham Sports Academy, seeing a similar model and structure being used to challenge the highest achieving students.

The programme will consist of a bespoke package of educational provision and extra – curricular activities, including guest speakers, reading groups, GCSE astronomy, educational visits, academic challenges and much more. The highlight and culmination to the year will be an overseas trip to a European capital city.

Deputy Headteacher Mr Andrew Bell commented "This is such an exciting opportunity for our students at Woodham Academy. We are always looking for new ways to raise achievement and help our young people achieve their potential. The More Able Academy will support our highest achieving students with this process."

All provision has been designed to provide a high level of challenge to those students enrolled in the academy, with the overall aims of raising aspiration, enriching cultural experiences and increasing the number of students achieving the highest grades at GCSE level.

Students who meet the entry criteria will be invited to a launch evening at Woodham Academy on Thursday 24th September.

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Are You Getting Married?

If you or your partner live or lived in Newton Aycliffe or the surrounding villages and are planning to get married, **Newton News** would like to record this special day, using your photo; to let our readers know about your happy occasion and recording the event in print and on our website.

Contact Paul or Syd on 01325 300212 to find out how

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Greenfield Art Exhibition



Tim Sutherland, local artist, will be displaying his recent work at Spennymoor Town Hall. The exhibition runs until October 9th.

Tim's last exhibition at Greenfield Art Gallery was in October 2012 and was very successful. His most popular recent painting "The Farm" was commissioned by an Australian client. Prints from this and other recent art work will be on sale at the exhibition.

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Neville Parade Community Centre Takeover Q & A

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

It was great to see that Neville Parade Community Centre was going to continue with the amalgamation with the Cubby but I think some serious questions need to be answered. Was there a Special Public Meeting properly advertised and called with minutes taken, available for scrutiny regarding the amalgamation of the two existing registered charities i.e. Friends of Senior Citizens Registered in 2002 and Great Aycliffe Old Peoples Welfare Committee registered in 1970. There are set procedures to be put in place regarding bank accounts asset transfer and equipment etc for both charities.

What is happening to the transfer of ownership of the Neville Parade building and who owns it now? Neville Parade Over 60's Club and Community Centre was deregistered in 2005. In 2008 the Sedgfield LIP Funding awarded in the region of £48,000.00 in three separate "tranches" to Friends of Senior Citizens. This has never been shown in the accounts. Has all this been spent and is there evidence of the expenditure?

Does Friends of Senior Citizens have two bank accounts? There is only one trustee listed for Friends of Senior Citizens which is illegal for a charity. This point has been raised to GAMP on several occasions but an answer has never been given. The Cubby is a trading name not a charity. Have the accounts of The Cubby been presented to verify the capability of this group taking over this project. In the early part of 2008 "The Cubby" collected money for "The Kool Red Bus" at its market charity stall.

Where was this money banked and is it still available because on 3rd March 2008 a letter was sent to the group telling them that the bus had been disposed of and that any money received would have expected to be handed in at the end of the collection period. Many remarked on how well this collection was going but to date no money has been received. Concerned

Name and address supplied

Dear Sir,

May I respond to the anonymous letter concerning The Cubby and Neville Community Centre. The public will be aware that "The Cubby" which has occupied the site on Greenwell Road since 1978 was last year given notice to quit by Durham County Council. This notice expires on the 10 October and no alternative site has been found within the town centre area for The Cubby to move too. Its closure looked inevitable. "The Cubby" is the trading name of Great Aycliffe Old Peoples Welfare Committee which was formed in the 1960's and became a registered charity, number 504398, on the 4 August 1975.

In the Newton News for week ending 24 July Peter Beaty announced he was being forced to retire from managing the Neville Community Centre on Doctors orders and he appealed for someone to take on that role. Councillor William (Bill) Blenkinsopp answered that call and was invited to attend a committee meeting of the Neville Community Centre on Saturday 15 August to be considered for the role of Chairman of the Centre. He was accompanied to that meeting by myself, David Lewis (Trustee and Treasurer of The Cubby). Following discussion it was agreed that Peter Beaty would resign immediately as Chairman and Bill was duly elected along with Margaret Robson as the new Treasurer, Anne Hardy as the new Secretary and myself as a new committee member. A new bank mandate has been completed and submitted to the bank with the account to be operated by any two of the three new signatories. The account has been operated solely by Peter Beaty. I am only aware of The Friends of Senior Citizens having one bank account.

I was concerned that the Friends of Senior Citizens charity only had one trustee and the new Treasurer, Secretary and their husbands and myself asked as an interim measure for our names to be submitted to the Charity Commission as new Trustees of Friends of Senior Citizens. The Cubby will close its doors on Saturday 5 September and operate its provision of food and drink as a drop-in centre from Neville Community Centre from Monday 7 September. Minutes were taken for that meeting and are available for inspection.

With regard to the Great Aycliffe Old Peoples Welfare Committee charity and The Friends of Senior Citizens charity coming together this was discussed as a future aim but will not take place until the ownership of the building has been clearly identified by solicitors and a public meeting called.

With regard to the comment made that The Friends of Senior Citizens charity is being operated illegally as it only has one named Trustee; why have GAMP not raised this matter with The Charity Commission if concern has been raised on several occasions? The writer of the anonymous letter is obviously very familiar with the Friends of Senior Citizens charity why has he/she not raised the matter with The Charity Commission if concerned?

With regard to the 2008 funding in the region of £48000 I have only seen statements of income and expenditure for the last three years and cannot answer that question. If the writer knows that the £48000 has never shown in the accounts why has he/she not raised the matter before now?

The statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 28 February 2015 has not yet been finalised and the accounts are being closely scrutinised.

The Cubby's Income and Expenditure totals for the last five years are available for anyone to see on the Charity Commission website and I am happy to supply the writer with a copy of the latest accounts to 31 March 2015. The Cubby's accounts are healthy and as someone who has been a Treasurer of various organisations over the last 35 years I am more than capable of bringing guidance to the financial running of the Neville Community Centre.

With regard to The Cubby collecting money for "The Kool Red Bus" in 2008; neither, Bill Blenkinsopp or myself were involved with The Cubby at that time. Why has the writer waited 7 years to raise questions about the money that was apparently raised? If the writer cares to contact me my phone number is 319196 and I will be happy to look back through historical records to try and answer the points raised.

David G Lewis
Trustee & Treasurer
Great Aycliffe Old Peoples Welfare Committee
Committee member, Neville Community Centre.

COUNTY NEWSBITS

compiled by County Councillor John Clare

The bit.ly and ow.ly links are shortened weblinks; type them into your browser to go to the relevant webpages.

- Do you use public transport in the North East? The North East Combined Authority would like to hear your views: ow.ly/RrsD5 (closing date 8 October)
 - Durham County Council are consulting on their Archives service: bit.ly/DCCArchives (closing date 21 September)
 - Do you sell, store or process food products? Call DCC's Pest Control Team on 03000 262660 to book a free survey. ow.ly/PSPw4
 - Congratulations to Woodham and Greenfield Schools on their good GCSE results this year!
 - 3 September – 14 October at Greenfield Arts Gallery - William Hindmarch: 'Insights and Reflections'.
 - Healthwatch County Durham's September e-bulletin: bit.ly/HWCD0915
 - Countryside Service newsletter: bit.ly/DCCCcountry0915
 - County Durham Economic Update - Quarter 2, April-June 2015: bit.ly/CDEPQ215
 - The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) hold their Annual General Meeting on Monday 28th September from 11.30 am until 12.30 pm at the Pioneering Care Centre.
 - Local history course at the PCP – 6 weeks starting Saturday 12 September, 10-11.30am – £20. Phone 01325 321234.
 - Hardwick Park Toddler Tales & Trails for 18 months to 5 yr-olds – Wednesdays & Saturdays, September-December, am & pm, £4 per child - book in advance on 01740 621 505.
 - Forthcoming local roadworks of which I am aware: bit.ly/Roadworks0209
 - From 1 October 2015 it is illegal to smoke in a vehicle with anyone under 18: ow.ly/R23nI
 - Supermarket plastic bags are going to cost 5p from October.
 - See the winners of the 'This is Durham' photo competition: prpage.co/C_a/
 - 3.2 billion people worldwide use social media – facebook users alone read 4.1 million posts *every minute*. Follow local council/community matters as they arise on bit.ly/JDClare
- Check out the amazing range of heritage open days, 10-13 September, at www.durham.gov.uk/heritageopendays

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Book your place by Friday 18 September,
by contacting Julia Catherall on tel. 01325 375960 or
email j.catherall@healthwatchcountydurham.co.uk

Have a Go Gala at Loco Museum

Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon is inviting visitors to come and get involved at the **Have A Go Gala on Saturday 5 September 2015**. The event is designed to raise awareness of volunteering opportunities at the museum.

During the event visitors will be able to:

- Collect an information pack about volunteer opportunities;
- Enjoy cab access to selected vehicles;
- Participate in short guided tours of the 'star' vehicles throughout the day.

Visitors can also take part in diesel driver for a fiver between 1pm to 4.30pm. Sessions will last around 10 minutes and tickets (£5 per ticket) can be purchased in advance from the shop at Collection.

Aycliffe Dance School Introduces Aerial Classes

Local dance school KDANZ have been very busy this year . . . opening their own studios in January on the Business Park, performing in London's Royal Albert Hall in April for the second time and performing across the region at local summer fairs and charity events. But it doesn't stop there . . . Wednesday 23rd September sees the launch of their new aerial skills workshops, a FREE event for all from 7pm - 8.30pm, all are welcome to pop along and give the circus life a go!

With classes starting shortly this is an ideal time for any children young or old to register their interest. Classes will be held weekly at Dreams Dance studio which will soon unveil their very own DANCE SUPPLIES SHOP!

Kay Harrop, owner and principal, commented, the aerial skills classes would



not have been possible without the funding given 18 months ago from GAMP. This venture has been long coming and we are so excited to finally be able to open this part to the KDANZ company. KDANZ offers all types of dance for children and adults of all abilities. Celebrating their 15th anniversary this year, another strand to the dance school can only enhance the professional and affordable classes they already offer.

Parent volunteer Karen Jones added, 'The atmosphere and vibe at KDANZ is amazing. Everyone is treated as

family and this new venture is just another exciting time for us all. We have had so many amazing adventures with KDANZ that anyone who wants to pursue a career in dance or just have fun at classes, should really come along.'

Anyone interested in attending the Launch Night on Wednesday 23rd September are welcome to pop along to Dreams Dance Studio, Whitworth drive, Aycliffe Business Park, DL5 6SZ for 7pm.

Anyone interested in joining any of KDANZ classes or getting any info please contact Kay on 07900 365892 who would be happy to help.

STUDENTS LEARN INTERVIEW SKILLS

Year 10 students at Woodham Academy recently spent the day off timetable taking part in a careers event. The aim of the day was to allow students to experience an assessment centre and develop skills to succeed at interview.

The event was supported by the Durham Education Business Partnership which regularly supports the school in its work-related learning provision. Sandra Stephenson from the partnership said 'The students were an absolute pleasure to work with and exuded confidence and enthusiasm throughout the whole day'.

In recent years, Woodham has placed a real emphasis on providing their students with the highest quality careers education, information advice and guidance. The success of the programme has been highlighted in the school's last Ofsted report. This is just one of many events designed to support students in making informed decisions about their future.



CHORAL SINGERS WANTED

The Sedgefield Lyric Singers are an enthusiastic local choir seeking new members. The choir has approximately 40 members and hold concerts locally throughout the year, often raising money for a variety of charities.

The choir recently sang at The Sage, Gateshead as part of the Sing the Living Project. We meet each Friday evening in Ceddeshall Hall, Sedgefield, at 7.30pm and would welcome adults of any age and singing ability. We sing a wide variety of music. No auditions are necessary and you do not need to be able to read music. Men are especially welcome to make up the Bass, Baritone and Tenor sections. If you are interested please come along to our next rehearsal on Friday 11th September at 7.30pm or contact Avril on Sedgefield 01740 622512 or Clare at ce.holmes@btinternet.com

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helen.richardson@communicatorsltd.co.uk

If you need any further information, or wish to have an informal chat about the position, please contact Chelsea Keedy who will be able to share her experience with you and tell you more about the job. You can contact Chelsea on 01325 308840

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Staff at Dogs Trust Darlington are desperately seeking a special home with an extra comfy sofa for six-year-old Sparky who has Arthritis.

A German Shepherd Collie Cross, Sparky originally arrived at the Rehoming Centre in 2009 as a stray and was adopted soon after but sadly, through no fault of his own, he has found himself homeless once again.

Sue Embleton, manager at the Rehoming Centre in Sadberge, says: "It's such a shame to see Sparky back with us. He's as beautiful as ever but unfortunately he has arthritis so some days he can't run around as much as he'd like to. But he still manages to have lots of fun, particularly playing with his favourite toy which is a squeaky pig that he loves to throw around!"

"He adores cuddles, especially when he's settled down on his big duvet, so we'd love to find him the home he deserves with a family that he can have lots of fun with, but who also understand his condition and can give him lots of TLC."

Sparky would love to share

a home with another dog as he loves his four-legged friends. He would be a great canine companion for a family with teenagers and he'd like his two-legged friends to be home a lot of the time as he doesn't like to be left home alone too long.

If you think Sparky could

be the one for you, please visit him at Dogs Trust Darlington at Hill House Farm, Sadberge, DL2 1SL. The centre is open Friday-Tuesday 12pm-4pm, closed Wednesdays and open on Thursday 12pm-7pm. Or to find out more, go to www.dogstrust.org.uk or call 0300 303 0292.



DRIVER HIRE DARLINGTON

Due to new contracts within the DL area, which includes: Newton Aycliffe, Darlington, Bishop Auckland, Northallerton & Leeming Bar we have immediate starts for:

Class 1 HGV, Class 2 HGV, ADR Drivers, HIAB Drivers and Tipper Drivers

Please call us for further details on

01325 314887

email: darlington@driverhire.co.uk

Driver Hire, Carlton House, Unit 16,
Welbury Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6ZE



Greenfield Community College

A Specialist Arts & Science School

Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham, DL5 7LF
Tel: 01325 300378 – Fax: 01325 379058
<http://greenfieldschool.net>



To start ASAP

Progress & Guidance Assistants

Term Time – Permanent - 37 hours per week
Grade 3 Point 12-16 (£15,523 - £16,969)
Pro rata term time (£13,337 - £14,579)

Greenfield is an exciting place to work. We are an expanding Specialist Arts & Science School with over 1,000 students.

We are looking to recruit suitably experienced individuals with excellent interpersonal and organisational skills to join the Progress and Guidance Team supporting students.

We require highly effective communicators with a proactive approach to building professional relationships with all students, colleagues, parents and outside agencies.

Please contact Mrs Susan Mouyiassi on 01325 300378 or email susan.mouyiassi@greenfieldschool.net for further information and an application pack.

Only applications submitted on the school's application forms and completed in full by the specified date will be considered.

Greenfield Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of sex, race, marital status or disability

The school is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and require all staff to share this commitment. All posts are subject to satisfactory DBS clearance.

Closing date 12 noon 25th September 2015

All appointments are subject to medical clearance

Your place of work will be Greenfield Community College. The school is part of the Aycliffe and Shildon Schools Education Trust (ASSET) and you may be required to work in any of the school sites within the Trust.

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A Specialist Arts & Science School

Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham, DL5 7LF
Tel: 01325 300378 – Fax: 01325 379058
<http://greenfieldschool.net>



Casual Community Sports & Arts Assistants

Grade 1 Pt 10-11 - £7.43 - £7.88

Greenfield Community College is seeking to appoint a pool of enthusiastic Community Sport & Arts Assistant for casual part time work. The successful candidates will be flexible to work some evenings and weekends as and when required, to work in a community led environment, dealing with enquiries, bookings and administrative tasks.

Please contact Mrs Susan Mouyiassi on 01325 300378 or email susan.mouyiassi@greenfieldschool.net for further information and an application pack.

Only applications submitted on the school's application forms and completed in full by the specified date will be considered.

Greenfield Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of sex, race, marital status or disability

The school is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and require all staff to share this commitment. All posts are subject to satisfactory DBS clearance.

Closing Date: 12 noon Wednesday 23rd September

All appointments are subject to medical clearance

Your place of work will be Greenfield Community College. The school is part of the Aycliffe and Shildon Schools Education Trust (ASSET) and you may be required to work in any of the school sites within the Trust.

Greenfield Community College

A Specialist Arts & Science School

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<http://greenfieldschool.net>



CASUAL LESSON SUPERVISOR (A5768)

Grade 3 Point 12 -16 (£15,523 - £16,969)
Hourly Rate £8.05 - £8.80 per hour

Greenfield Community College is seeking to appoint a pool of enthusiastic casual lesson supervisors to supervise classes of students in the absence of a teacher to ensure continuity of education. The successful candidate will be flexible to work on an as required basis during school term time. Experience of working with 11-16 year olds is essential.

Applications packs are available from Susan Mouyiassi on 01325 300378 or email susan.mouyiassi@greenfieldschool.net. Only applications received on the school's application form and completed in full by the specified date will be considered.

Greenfield Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of sex, race, marital status or disability

The school is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and require all staff to share this commitment. All posts are subject to satisfactory DBS clearance.

For further information in relation to the post please contact Mrs S. Mouyiassi 01325 300378 or email susan.mouyiassi@greenfieldschool.net

Closing Date: 12 noon Monday 21st September 2015

All appointments are subject to medical clearance

It is a requirement of this role to work in both schools sites in Newton Aycliffe and the Sunnydale Campus in Shildon.

Great Aycliffe



Town Council

Appointment of Part Time Bar Staff

Post No. LB04

Spinal Scale – Point 5 (16 Hours per Week)

(£7.02 per hour) pending a review in October

Applications are invited for the above post which forms part of the team within the Oak Leaf Sports Complex.

The candidate will must be literate and numerate, together with previous experience of working within a customer orientated environment.

The post holder must be 18 years or over, due to being required to work in licenced areas.

The post holders will work on a shift rota

For further details or an informal discussion about the post, please contact the Leisure Manager Judith Thexton on 01325 300600 or by email at judith.thexton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Closing Date for Applications: Noon on Friday 18th September 2015

Date of interviews: Tuesday 22nd September 2015

Application packs can be obtained by telephoning 01325 300700, e-mailing: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk or from the Council website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

AYCLIFFE READING CHARITY SEEKS 'BACK TO SCHOOL' VOLUNTEERS

As a new school year begins, local children's literacy charity Beanstalk has launched a 'Back to School' campaign to recruit 30 volunteers to provide much needed one-to-one reading support to local children.

It is estimated that this year more than 10% of children will leave primary school in the North East without reaching the required level of reading. Beanstalk is calling on the local community to help rewrite this story and support more children in reaching their true potential. Janet Skeen, Area Manager for North East & Yorkshire said:

"Sadly, far too many children in local primary schools are struggling in school due to reading difficulties. The start of the school year is the perfect time to change this and for people to make a real, long-lasting difference to a child in their local community."

"The Beanstalk volunteering programme allows you to have a direct impact on changing the life of a child. By sharing your passion for reading you are able to



give a child the skills and confidence to succeed in life. We encourage anyone who would like to give a child the gift of reading to contact us!" With the support of the local community Beanstalk aims to help 90 children across Tees Valley, County Durham and Tyne & Wear by recruiting 30 Beanstalk reading helpers by the end of September. Each Beanstalk reading helper supports three children and sees each child for two 30 minute sessions a week, during term-time, for three

terms. With Beanstalk's support the child's approach to learning and enjoying reading is transformed. Volunteering as a Beanstalk reading helper is extremely rewarding, makes a lasting difference to children's lives and is a great way to give something back to your local community. To find out more, or to become a Beanstalk reading helper, call Beanstalk on 01325 315040 or visit <http://www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk/reading-helpers>

TARGETING DOG-FOULING



Come Eat Together Coffee Morning

Come along to our free coffee morning and find out what **Come Eat Together** could do in Newton Aycliffe

- Eating together
- Shopping together
- Learning together
- Growing food

Date: 4 September 2015
Time: 10.00am - 12.00pm
Location: Oakleaf Sports Complex, School Aycliffe Lane

For more information, please call 0191 374 6577
Come Eat Together
Age UK County Durham
cet@ageukcountydurham.org.uk

In association with Daily Mail

Registered charity number 132008

Readers may remember that, at New Year, there were a number of complaints, including letters in the Newton News, about overflowing dog bins in the Woodham area. When investigated, however, it transpired that the specific problems were due to misuse. Nevertheless, County Councillors John Clare, Mike Dixon and Joan Gray – with the special help of local Town Councillor Neil Collinson – spoke with local people and arranged to buy two additional dog bins for the Woodham area from their councillors' Members Initiative Fund. These have now been provided, and bring the total number of dog bins in the northern half of the ward to forty three. You can see where they are all sited (the yellow dots) on the attached map. The purple dots are litter bins, into which people can also place dog bags in extremis.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's first team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store had a bit of a scare before coming through to win by four wickets at home to Marske 2nd XI in the NYSD 2nd division. The visitors elected to bat first and were bowled out for a below par 102 after 27.4 overs thanks to good bowling from the three pronged seam attack of Michael Howe (3 for 17), Colin Myers (3 for 25) and James Layfield-Carroll (2 for 43).

Aycliffe opener Tom Young carried the batting almost single handedly as he smashed a brilliant 69, including five sixes and three boundaries to score his fifth half century of the season. When he got out near the end, Luke Telford kept his cool with an unbeaten 17 to see Aycliffe to home to victory after just 23.1 overs. On the bank holiday Monday the first team travelled to Seaton Carew 2nd XI and came away with a nine wicket win in a rain affected game.

The home side elected to bat first and were restricted to 146 for 8 from their allotted 46 overs. John Cavanagh was the pick of the bowlers taking 3 for 25 and Jack Slatcher chipped in with 2 for 27. In reply opening batsman John Cavanagh (sponsored by CVO Fire)

smashed the bowling to all parts of the ground, hitting 12 boundaries and a six to finish with a seasonal best 89 not out. Fellow opener Adam Gittins also batted well scoring 41 and an unbeaten six from Tom Wickins helped to see Aycliffe to their third consecutive victory in the 30th over.

The second team battled well to earned a hard earned draw away at Preston 1st XI in the NYSD 3rd division. The home side chose to bat first and rattled up a huge 257 for 7 declared from 45 overs despite some good bowling from Adam Gittins (3 for 49) and Graham Telford (2 for 34).

In reply Adam Gittins (sponsored by Phoenix Energy) carried his bat for an outstanding innings of 93 not out, which is the Aycliffe captain's career best score and the highest score by a second team player for 15 seasons. He received excellent support from both Graham Telford (42 runs) and Tony Travis (31 runs) as Aycliffe batted out the required 55 overs to finish on a very respectable 210 for 8 and grab a very respectable draw.

On the bank holiday Monday a weakened second team were well beaten at home to Billingham Synthonia by 9 wickets in a rain affected match.

BURIED DOG TO BE RECOVERED

MP's Talks with Water Authority Brings Closure to Dog Owner

Readers will remember the story we carried early in the year when a dog fell down an open drain and drowned. The tragedy was compounded by the hole being filled in and the dog left buried.

This has tormented the owner since as she wanted the dog to be recovered and properly cremated so that she could keep the ashes in memory of her beloved pet. You have to accept the hole needing to be covered immediately to prevent further accidents to humans but to leave the dog buried is a bit distasteful and one can understand the owner fighting for her dog to be recovered. Miss Daniels of Clanny Road has tried without success until she contacted our MP Phil Wilson who took up the case, with Northumbrian Water who have agreed to remove the animal from the watercourse for cremation. The following is an extract from the letter from Northumbrian Water:

"I can only begin to imagine how distressing this situation has been for Miss Daniels and would like to pass on my sincere condolences at this very difficult time. We first became aware of the situation on 18 May 2015 when we received a report that a dog had possibly fallen into a manhole located

in a field near to Gilpin Road, Newton Aycliffe. Our sewerage team attended site the following day to inspect the area in an attempt to locate the missing dog. We checked the manholes on the public sewerage system and although we did find a defective manhole cover which we repaired, we do not believe that it would have been possible for the dog to enter the sewerage network at that location.

We carried out further investigations on 24 and 25 August 2015 which included closed circuit television inspections (CCTV) of the public sewerage system in the area and did not find any evidence of the missing dog. On 26 August 2015 we carried out a joint inspection of a wider area with Durham County Council and identified a culverted watercourse in the field which is the responsibility of Gleeson Homes.

Upon further investigation, the officers from the council identified that the missing dog was inside a manhole chamber which is part of the culverted watercourse. I understand that arrangements are now in place to safely transport Zack to the pet crematorium and I hope that this will bring some closure to Miss Daniels".

SILVER MEDAL FOR JUNIOR ATHLETE



Athlete Harrison Daglish from School Aycliffe competed in the Tartan Games at Gateshead International Stadium last weekend, bringing home a Silver medal after coming 2nd in the U17 long jump.

Harrison trains and also runs for Durham City Harriers and is coached by George Reid – a massive thanks to them for their time, encouragement and support – all ready to run the Junior Great North Run next weekend!

Heighington AFC Boys Match Reports

Under 8's Heighington travelled to All star Colts in their penultimate friendly before the season starts. The first game saw Heighington run out 2-0 winners thanks to two goals from the returning Man of The Match Theo Callaghan.

The second game saw the boys go 2-0 and 3-1 behind but managed to bring it back and finish 3-3. The goals were scored by Jay Bulch with 2 from captain and man of the match Joe Neild.

The third game ended 1-1, where again Heighington fell behind but showed fantastic character to level the scores. A wonderful piece of skill and a through ball by Harry Surman set man of the match Tyler Woodward racing clear to smash home the equaliser. Three great games again from the boys, and they now face 21st All Stars on Sunday before the league starts the following week

U10's played at Stockton Town Tournament this week, where they played their heart and soul out in every match. We are proud of every single team member there, well done lads.

Group stage: Game 1 won. Hardwick youth Div 4, 2 - 0. Goal scorers were Thomas Richardson and Reuban Lupton.

Game 2 won, Leven Athletic 1 - 0, goal scorer Thomas Richardson.

Game 3 drew Newton Aycliffe FC (juniors), 0 - 0. Div 1.

Game 4, drew, Stockton Town Yellow Div 1, result 0 - 0.

Team made it to Semi Final, lost, 0 - 4 to West Auckland Juniors.

Pleased with massive improvement, in team achievements and attitude. Well done and a big thanks to all parents for support and help on the day.

Annual Daffodil Ball

King's Hotel, Darlington
Saturday 26 September, 7pm 'til late
Tickets £30

Includes three course meal and back by popular demand live singer Natasha Magee
Dress code - posh frocks and ties
Games and top raffle prizes

Email: DarlingtonFundraisingGroup.MarieCurie@Hotmail.co.uk
Contact Rachel on 07968 169 260

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VARIETY YOUTH SHOW

Have you, or do you know of a young entertainer? Maybe a dancer or dancers? A singer? A magician? A comedian? A gymnast? A musician? Then The Youth Variety Show needs them.

The show at the Civic Hall, Shildon, is on Friday 9th October and will welcome any young entertainer aged 6 to 15 years of age.

A spokesperson said "After the success of last year's Variety Show, it proved there is a lot of talent out there in young people, and we want to see it again this year".

All monies raised go towards SCYPAN's Young People's Awards Event. All tickets are priced £3. Any young person wanting to take part in the event should ring 01388 774838 / 07747 826324 for more information.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 16th September 2015

Council Meeting - 7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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

CALL YOUR LOCAL POLICE

101

IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

101 is now the number to call when you want to contact your local police - when it's less urgent than 999

WHEN SHOULD I CALL 101?

To report less urgent crime or disorder and for general police enquiries, for example:

- if your car has been stolen;
- if your property has been damaged;
- when you suspect drug use or dealing;
- to report a minor traffic collision;
- to give information about crime in your area;
- or
- if you would like to speak to your local police officer

Aycliffe's Valiant Rugby Battle Shows Season's Promise

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club began their season with a tough game at home to higher league side Barnard Castle in the first round of the Durham Junior Cup. Unfortunately, Aycliffe were missing at least 10 players for a variety of reasons, leaving the front five, in particular, somewhat makeshift. Barnard Castle finished last season strongly and have recruited highly-rated players since. The day also marked the debuts of Matthew Wiper and James Cocks.

The spirit in the Aycliffe side was apparent straight from the kick-off, taking advantage of Castle not dealing with the kick-off, Aycliffe drove deep into enemy territory with a series of quick rucks before Cocks grubber kick through and James Thacker was first to the ball to touch down. Aycliffe continued to play well but then lost a player to the sin-bin for 10 minutes during which time Castle took the lead with two penalty kicks.

The forwards were rucking very well with Paul O'Donnell and Deryk Cairns putting themselves about. Almost as soon as this period was over, another player was lost to the bin and, although Luke Tinkler came close to regaining Aycliffe's lead, the



visitors capitalised with two tries. At the break the score was 18 - 5 to Barnard Castle. Early in the second half, Aycliffe's scrum, which had been performing well despite

being far smaller than their opponents, finally succumbed to the constant pressure and a penalty try resulted. It was obvious that Aycliffe's strength lay in the backs and they decided to throw caution to the wind, flinging the ball wide at every opportunity.

A quickly taken penalty by Cocks saw James Thacker and Gareth Parsonage pin the defence with some excellent interplay. Thacker broke free and, when confronted by the last line of defence, bulldozed through the to score in the corner.

A fine conversion from the touchline by Cocks reduced the gap. Barny did manage to land a fifth try through their big forwards, but for the last 20 minutes of the game Aycliffe were in the ascendancy.

The visitors had a strong back line, but they were often scrambling to make the last tackle as Aycliffe broke the gain line. It was Aycliffe who completed the scoring with the best try of the

game. From deep in defence, Tinkler found a great line to make 30 metres up the middle of the pitch; Thacker continued the move and his well timed pass gave Adam Gascoigne enough room to outpace the defence. Another excellent Cocks conversion left the final score 19 - 37. Coach Peter Ryans expressed his delight after this performance. With a makeshift side and against probably the strongest team they will play this season,

Aycliffe had shown excellent spirit, combined with fine rucking and a superb display by the back line. With a full squad to pick from, Aycliffe should be a force in Durham and Northumberland Division 3 this season. The man of the match, awarded by matchday sponsors MS Hardy Contractors was given to James Thacker. Aycliffe rugby is sponsored by Whitehouse Funeral Service and The Mortgage Advice Centre.

DARLO F.C. BEAT BLYTH SPARTANS

Well what a weekend that was! Before the Bank Holiday fixtures I'd have been happy picking up just two points, but six against, arguably, two of the tougher teams in this league has left me ecstatic!

4-2 away to Colwyn Bay last Saturday then a 2-1 home victory over table toppers Blyth Spartans on Monday, with three of those six goals coming from our defensive goal machine Alan White which has lifted us up to third in the table behind Matlock and Blyth.

However, our next two fixtures represent a very different challenge for us as they are against teams who sit in the bottom five of the league.

First up is the away game against Halesowen Town (The Grove, Old Hawen Lane, Halesowen, B63 3TB). The Yeltz (a nickname that no-one seems to know the origins of), currently sit in 20th spot, whereas our opponents next Tuesday

night at Heritage Park (£10 adults, £7 concession and £4 child) are Ramsbottom who currently sit bottom of the league on one point. Kick off is at 7.45 pm.

We could, potentially, be top of the league that game. Not that league placings mean anything at this stage but it would be great to see, even if fleetingly. I apologise in advance for having jinxed it. The next fans meeting takes place in the Iron Horse on Wednesday, the day after Ramsbottom, at 7pm. For those who don't know us, we are a social group of Aycliffe-based Darlington fans who get together to praise, criticise and generally chat about anything Darlo related.

If that's something you'd like to do then pop along, we'd love to meet you. You can also follow us on twitter @dfcaycliffefans or find us on facebook Newton Aycliffe Darlington FC Supporters group.

As ever, keep the faith.

Thanks John

Rose Lodge Care Home, Cobblers Lane, would like to say a big thank you to Honest John who very kindly donated £300 to the home for the residents' fund. The money will be put to good use, buying treats and day trips out for residents.

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Hit the Sack for a Healthy Heart

We all know the health risks of smoking, drinking and eating too much, but are we paying enough attention to the impact of a lack of sleep? One in three Britons reckon they are sleep deficient, which is concerning as quality sleep is essential for good physical, mental and emotional health.

Insufficient or poor quality sleep in the long term is associated with an increased risk of heart disease, depression, obesity and diabetes. A recent study in the British Medical Journal showed that shift work, in particular night shifts, can lead to more heart attacks and stroke as it disrupts the body's natural 'clock' and have an adverse effect on lifestyle.

As we are still at the beginning of a new year, this could be the time to pick up some healthy habits that promote quality sleep and pave the way to a healthier heart.

- Stick to the same sleeping and waking times and practise a relaxing bed time routine, keeping your room a sleep-friendly environment. Switch off the TV, phones and other screens at least one hour before bed to help your brain wind down and have a long soak in a warm (not hot) bath or immerse yourself in a good book.
- Try some pre-bed relaxation exercises like light yoga stretches or listen to a relaxation CD or a soothing programme on the radio.
- Regular exercise will help you sleep better so make sure you get your 150 minutes of moderate activity every week.
- Avoid sleep-disturbing alcohol and caffeine, choosing non-alcoholic drinks or a milk-based warm drink before bed.
- Don't go to sleep on a full belly or eat too late and steer clear of eating large, fat, sugar and salt-laden foods or spicy meals.
- If something is on your mind or stopping you from slipping into sweet slumber, write it down for later. If you wake up and can't get back to sleep quickly, don't worry, just do something relaxing until you feel sleepy again.
- Work patterns can't always be changed so it's important to check that your lifestyle and sleep patterns support you in a healthy way and it's always worth keeping an eye on your blood pressure, cholesterol levels and that waist measurement.

Whether you work nights, evenings or regular office hours, eating healthily, being active and quitting smoking will improve your health and heart health, so keep focused on giving your body the best when you're awake. While we are all different in terms of how many hours sleep we each need, the work patterns we do and the stressors in our lives, we still all need a good sleep. So, figure out some sleep solutions so you sleep like a log and support your heart and body all the more.

For information and advice about healthy living, contact Heart Research UK on 0113 297 6206 or email lifestyle@heartresearch.org.uk

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Cool Down Your Energy Bills

When the temperature rises in the North East, it's easier than ever for County Durham residents to save money on energy bills this summer.

With thousands of homes across the region living in fuel poverty, the landmark energy efficiency scheme Warm Up North is urging residents to find out how they could benefit from energy saving measures, with its top 10 tips.

From quick fixes like turning down the temperature of hot water in the home, to long-term measures such as replacing an old inefficient boiler before winter, these handy tips can help reduce the cost of energy bills, leaving residents with more money to enjoy the last of the summer.

Warm Up North's Graeme Stephenson, said: "Making small changes to our daily habits can make a big difference to the cost of energy bills. It's never too early to prepare for winter and start being more energy efficient and our expert team is on hand to give help and advice."

CLr Eddie Tomlinson, Cabinet member for assets, strategic housing and rural issues at Durham County Council, added: "The summer months are an ideal time to save money on energy bills. Not only do you need to use less energy in the home, it's also a good time to look at what you can do to ensure that your house is as energy efficient as possible for when winter does come. "Schemes like Warm Up North can help to make those jobs more affordable so I would encourage people who think they may be eligible for help to get in touch."

Check out Warm Up North's top 10 tips for being energy efficient to help cut energy bills even further:

1. Set your fridge at 3-5°C and your freezer at -18°C to make sure they're working at their best and don't forget to dust regularly around the back as this can affect your fridge's efficiency.
2. Replace an old inefficient boiler for a new energy efficient low cost gas boiler while the weather is warm so you're ready for the next cold snap. Warm Up North is offering low cost fully fitted gas boilers for only £250 including VAT, subject to qualification and survey, to those who really need them, people on certain benefits, with a lower income and an inefficient gas boiler.
3. Dry washing outdoors using a clothes horse or take advantage of the good weather by using a washing line to avoid using an energy hungry tumble dryer.
4. Keep cool by taking shorter showers and turning down the temperature of hot water during the summer months and invest in a shower monitor to track how much water you're using.
5. Insulate your home to keep hot air at bay during the summer as well as cool air out during the winter.
6. Unplug electronic items and appliances when they are not in use, as this not only saves energy, but also avoids adding any unnecessary heat to the home.
7. Block out the mid-day sun by closing curtains and blinds during the hottest parts of the day, keeping the home feeling cooler and saving money on the cost of powering a fan or air conditioner.
8. Don't miss out on

soaking up the sunshine by spending evenings trapped in the kitchen. Put together a simple salad to avoid long cooking times and using multiple kitchen appliances. 9. Don't spend all your time cleaning the house and the mess what's left of the

summer sun. Make sure you empty your vacuum cleaner regularly as a full vacuum will take longer to do the same amount of work and will use more energy. It'll also be more likely to breakdown.

10. Summer is the perfect chance to enjoy the great outdoors and spending more time out of the home in general will help reduce the amount of energy being used. For more information on Warm Up North and its range of energy efficiency measures including £250 gas boilers for eligible residents, contact the team. For the boiler offer, please call free* on 0800 316 4320. For all other energy efficiency measures, call free* on 0800 297 8073 or visit www.warmupnorth.com.

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Thank You

I WOULD like to say a huge THANK YOU to our MP Phil Wilson and Paul (his case worker) for finally arranging for my dog Zak to be removed from the slurry pit he drowned in last May, so that I can have him cremated. I wish I could have also included the Fire Brigade, DCC, Northumbrian Water, Wilsons Vets, Gleeson Homes and the Police in this, but I just cannot and they all know why. M. Daniels

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Saturday admssion, price £3, is from 10am - 6pm and Sunday from 12 noon until 4pm.

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The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe hold their annual Charity Golf Day at the Woodham course on Friday 11th September. This year the new owners, Hall Construction, have generously sponsored the event which is in aid of local charities including Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership.

Over the past 12 months Woodham Golf and Country Club under new management have really set standards high. Not only is their course getting great feedback from members and visitors, the food and beverage side is fast gaining 'foodie' followers. The Greens staff have been working hard over the Summer months to ensure



that the course has been in immaculate condition. The owners are very proud of what has been achieved up to now and would like to thank everyone for their very kind comments and support. The planning application for

housing on the course will be submitted early September and hopefully, with approval, works will start mid 2016.

FUTURE GOLF STAR



James shown here with Golf Pro Julie Welch, his Dad Matthew and sister Emelia

8 year old junior golfer James King, coached by Oak Leaf professional Julie Welch, qualified for the regional round of "Star of the Future" category in the American Golf Junior Championship. He then went on to play in the National Final and came second much to the delight of his parents Matthew and Angela. Watch out for highlights of the championships on Sky T.V. in a few weeks time.

The family live in School Aycliffe and James attends Heighington School. He took up golf two years ago and really enjoys being part of the Junior Section at the Oak Leaf which meets Monday nights from 5.30 - 6.30pm and Saturdays 10 - 11am.

AYCLIFFE F.C. REACH F.A. CUP QUALIFYING ROUND



defence stood firm with Grant Hickman & Alex Kitchen outstanding in the centre.

This was an excellent performance against a strong Morpeth side and a sign of the improvement Peter Dixon has brought to the club this year. Aycliffe have never before progressed beyond the two preliminary rounds of the FA

Cup.

The best previous result was taking Spennymoor to a replay in the Preliminary Round. The Morpeth game followed a tough midweek trip to FA Vase holders North Shields where Aycliffe earned a point, with Paul Garthwaite scoring Aycliffe's equaliser. Aycliffe now have two away

games in the league, against Bishop Auckland and Jarrow Roofing before a return home on Tuesday 8 September against Consett, which will be only their third game at Moore Lane so far this season. Aycliffe will then play their next FA Cup match with the trip to Brighthouse Town on Saturday 12 September.

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P.A.C.T. Meeting

Police And Community Together



The PACT meeting for Shafto St. Mary's Ward Newton Aycliffe will be held on Thursday 8th October at 6pm at The Library on Central Avenue. PCSO 7430 Gavin Laycock Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Policing Team Email: gavin.laycock@durham.pnn.police.uk

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