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## Livin Fund Free Crossfit Sessions for Young People



Youth workers at Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre have secured funding to deliver free 1 hour CrossFit sessions every week to local 13-19 year olds.

The partnership with local family run gym "CrossFit All Out" has been building for over a year, so the recent confirmation of funding was very well received by both parties.

Vikki Anderson, Business Manager at CrossFit said "it's been a long time since we first discussed offering sessions and we are so pleased that Litza and the Youth Workers saw the benefits of CrossFit for teens and pushed to get funding, so we are able to deliver free sessions in Aycliffe and show them that fitness can be fun and I hope many families take advantage of the sessions". The sessions

will be offered every Friday from 6.45pm with registration from 6.30pm, which anyone aged 13-19 can attend.

Terry Anderson, Head Coach at CrossFit All Out will lead the sessions and is looking forward to working with some new teens, "We've had our Academy sessions for 11-16 year olds 3 times a week for over a year now and have a core group of kids who've really committed themselves to improving each week, some are nearly at the stage of competing. I'm looking forward to delivering fun

sessions for other teens in Aycliffe and getting young people active and enjoying sports, building confidence and social skills in the process."

For more information contact Vikki directly on 07788 123321.

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## CHRISTMAS SOUPER LUNCH

The Church of St Elizabeth is holding its "Christmas Souper Lunch Party" which includes delicious warming soup, Christmas Pudding with custard/cream, mince pies and refreshments all for £3! Please book as this is a very popular event - call 01325 789344. We'll see you there on Wednesday December 2nd at 12.30!

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## TOWN COUNCIL 2016/17 BUDGET SURVEY – YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT

The Council is currently undertaking consultation on the setting of our 2016/17 Revenue and Capital Budget.

We are seeking the views of the community on our budget proposals and whether local tax payers are in support of the proposed 1.98% increase in the Town Council proportion of the Council Tax next year.

We are also seeking your opinions on the Council services that are most and least important to you, which will help to inform our service and financial planning over the coming years.

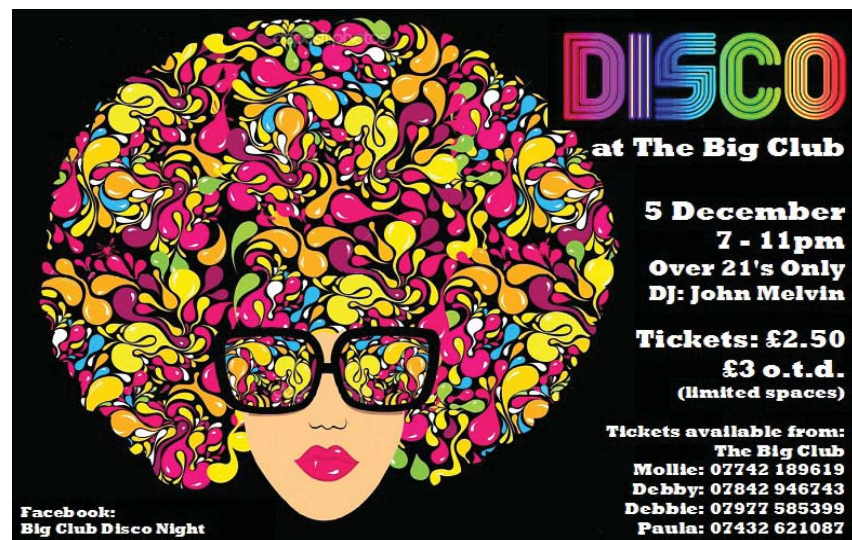
We have developed a budget survey to formally record your views and we would encourage

local residents to complete this questionnaire before the end of December.

The Council welcomes your feedback and will ensure that the results of the survey as well as any specific comments or concerns are reported to the Council before it meets to set the final budget in January.

You can access the survey from the link on the Council website or by typing the following link into your browser: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/gatcbudgetsurvey>

Should you require background information on the Council finances and draft budget proposals, you can view detailed information on the Finance Section of the website.



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**5 December**  
**7 - 11pm**  
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**Tickets: £2.50**  
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**Saturday 28th November - "Avatar"**

Gig Pit review: The band have been in a bit of a limbo since the departure of ace axeman Paul Nesbitt and the mighty lungs of Graham Mannion and the search to find replacements willing to give the commitment required and focus on the direction that the band wanted to go was long and hard, but in my humble opinion they've got it nailed now! Old soldiers Titch on drums, Jeff on bass and Stan on rhythm have now been joined by Skinflint's Kev Burdon on lead and ex Kimra front man, Chris Kerswell on vocals.

Avatar have always prided themselves on playing the tunes as near to the original as possible and Kev is well up to the task and oozes enthusiasm during his performance as Skiffint fans will know! Chris is a natural front man with a great voice well suited to the Avatar set and a great line of patter with the crowd, you just can't help but like the guy! I was told that he was a bag of nerves before he went on, but I saw no sign of that, just a bloke having a great time on stage and sweating like a pig! If you like your music hot 'n' heavy, Alice In Chains, Pantera, Megadeth, Ozzy, System Of A Down and that ilk, you'll not be disappointed, the crowd wasn't and yelled for more! Another great night at a great venue with a great set of lads! ;)

**Saturday 5th December - "Toxic Twins"**

For more information on bands go to  
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## From Stone Age to Iron Age

Reported by Year 3 pupils from St. Mary's RC Primary School



On Thursday, 12th November Y3 pupils from St. Mary's were lucky to have a whole day to explore different areas of life from the Stone Age through to the Iron Age. This was organised by Durham University Teacher Kirsty.

Our day started with an Introductory PowerPoint taking us through the different parts of the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. We learnt how life changed and improved as we moved through these stages. The next part of the morning gave us an opportunity to be archaeologists; we worked in pairs and were given different objects to examine. We had to sketch them, measure them and then try to guess what they could be used for.

Thankfully Kirsty brought us all together at the end of this session and shared with us the real answers. We guessed some of the objects correctly! The last activity before lunch was a teamwork game where we worked in groups, problem solving and having to guess what words linked to particular animals.

After lunch we became creative! We became artists for part of the afternoon! Kirsty allowed us to design and make our own Bronze Age pots. She showed us some different pictures of Bronze Age pots and then

from this, we designed our own. This was not as easy as it looked and a lot of us struggled to mould the clay, before it got too dry. But we never gave up; we were very pleased with our end result. The final activity involved us examining different bones; we were shown different bones and had to try to guess which part of the body they came from. We managed to identify quite a few of these correctly. We also learnt some new facts about bones too and how archaeologists could tell quite a lot of information simply by looking at bones. We are really looking forward to investigating and researching more exciting facts in the weeks ahead.

A great day was had by all. Part of our homework this week has been to plan ideas for a Thank you letter to Kirsty for such a fun packed learning

## Good Things Come in 3's

*Especially at the Scout Centre*

The 5th of December sees the beginning of the months events with the Christmas Cabaret Show at 7pm, when Nikki Rett, Nikki Teene and Satine Sheets will be entertaining you with Party Games, Music and much more. Tickets are available £2.50 in advance or £3 on the door. This night is for over 18's and not for the faint hearted. Non-members are welcome.

The 12th of December is the Children's Christmas Party for members only. It starts at 1pm with Santa coming at about 3pm - depending on the weather and Rudolph - we hope his sat nav. is working! All members wishing to bring their children need tickets so we know how many to cater for. Tickets are free and are available at the bar.

The 31st of December is the ever popular Family New Year's Eve Party. This is for all the family to enjoy with Karaoke and Disco. Children of all ages are welcome as long as they are accompanied by a responsible adult. The bar will be open serving alcoholic and soft drinks at very reasonable prices. Tickets for this event will be on sale soon.

We would like to see you at these events and also in our social club which is family friendly. New members are always welcome.

## Advent Coffee Morning

Advent Coffee Morning at St Elizabeth's Church, Woodham Saturday 5th December at 10am featuring Festive bakes and home produce, gifts and toiletries plus a gift tombola and much more!!

Seasonal refreshments are also available. The perfect start for your Christmas shopping - treats for friends or a gift for you!

## Christmas Cat Fayre

There will be a decidedly feline atmosphere down Dabble Duck Industrial Estate, Shildon on Saturday 5th December when Cats R Us hold their Christmas Fayre.

There will be a raffle, tombola and a visit by some cats needing homes, come and have a mince pie and a cuppa while helping a cat.

In fact all through December we are open 10am till 2pm Monday, Tuesday Thursdays and Fridays raising funds for needy cats, so pop along and grab a bargain, try your luck on the tombola or even drop in a tin of cat food.

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service throughout November**Volunteer Governance Award Farewell Party for P.C.**

On behalf of the ACORN Residents Group incorporating Woodham Burn Neighbourhood Watch and little ACORNS I would like to congratulate members, Keith and Rebekah Lovejoy on achieving a NOCN level 2 award in Governance in the Voluntary and Community Sector. Horndale Residents Chairman Phil Clarke also attended the training alongside Ken Robson and both Chairmen achieved the award. Skillshare NE have

been incredible partners in educating our members from the groups humble beginnings and I would like to add a special thanks to them for providing the bulk of our training. It is always gratifying when members of the group give up their valuable spare time to engage in education which adds to the combined skills of our very special community group. From First Aid to Food Hygiene and management skills Acorn members have

engaged in various forms of training and education over our previous 4 years and hope to continue to benefit from courses in the future. Knowledge gained from these short courses enables us to grow in the community and adds credibility to our fundraising efforts.

As a responsible group ACORN are engaged in continuous improvement and work in partnership with other likeminded groups and organisations across the North to improve our area despite government cuts. ACORN has been supported by the Big Lottery fund, livin and Durham County Council with grants over previous years. This funding has been used to enhance the area we live in and improve people's lives.

As Chair of the group I am particularly proud of all of the members efforts in helping provide successful activities and events. Ken Robson Chair ACORN Residents Association 01325 321471



PC Alan Thompson was given a fond farewell Party at his last PACT meeting at Simpasture Court before starting his retirement from the force. Town and County Councillors were present as he cut the cake suitably decorated with a saxophone, the instrument Alan plays in his spare time.

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## THE DEVOLUTION DEAL (1)

In this first of a four-part series, John D Clare explains the Devolution Agreement. With an income 77% of the European Union average, Durham's economy is the third poorest region in the UK. A report by Lord Adonis in April 2013 identified three key problems:

1. a weak private sector, lacking investment
2. a skills shortage
3. poor connectivity, not just of transport, but of planning and policies.

Adonis recommended that the seven local councils should cooperate to coordinate their growth, skills and transport policies, and the 'North-East Combined Authority' (NECA) was duly set up in April 2014 to do so.

### TOWARDS DEVOLUTION

At this point, NECA got bound up with the government's policy of 'devolution'. In November 2014, council leaders in the Manchester area signed a devolution deal with the government. Other negotiations followed – there are currently 38 in the pipeline – and NECA came under great pressure to agree a similar deal.

The Devolution Deal will not be like the one proposed in 2004, with an expensive Assembly of elected representatives. Instead, under the Devolution Deal now proposed, an elected Mayor – with a Cabinet of the seven NECA Council Leaders – will be given some of the powers, functions and funding hitherto administered by government civil servants in London. Meanwhile, Durham County Council (DCC) will still deliver the day-to-day services it currently provides.

On 23 October, DCC agreed to take this Devolution Proposal forward, but insisted on a preamble which made it clear that final

agreement was conditional upon "further public consultation". Soon after, the Council announced that – in County Durham – this would involve a poll of all electors early in the New Year. Although legally this poll cannot be advertised as 'binding', devolution is a major change to local government and we won't sign up until you've had your say; no other Authority has given residents such a say.

### A TERRIFYING DECISION

It is vital now that people learn about the Devolution Proposal, so that they know what they are voting about, because a wrong decision may ruin us. I acknowledge the fears of some that signing up could turn us into an ignored hinterland of Tyneside, getting nothing but the blame for inadequately-funded devolved services. Equally, however, people need to realise that there is no going back. If we do not join the Devolved Authority with the other six councils, we will spend the foreseeable future administratively and economically isolated, and actually in competition against them.

Either we go IN and battle our corner against interests sometimes contrary to ours, or we stay OUT and watch the North-East move forward without us. **NEXT STEPS**

So what is this 'Devolution Agreement' that we are expected to understand and vote upon? Next week I will review the proposals for Business.

John D Clare  
Please note that this is my interpretation only, and in no way an expression of DCC policy. You can read the full Devolution Proposal here: <http://bit.ly/NECADeal>

## Greenfield Campus Visit to Parliament



On Wednesday 18th November (Parliament Week) a group of 19 students set off from Darlington Station, together with three teachers, one school governor, two county councillors and a lovely young lady called Megan from a charity called 'Bite the Ballot'. This is a charity which is trying to get young people interested in politics and registered to vote. It was cold and dark, and our train was cancelled, but spirits were high.

We started off the day with a bus tour from Kings Cross to Trafalgar Square and then walked down Whitehall to Parliament. We passed Horseguards Parade, Downing Street and the Cenotaph – seeing the hundreds of wreaths laid the week before to remember all those who have suffered and died for our country, both at home and abroad.

Our tour of Parliament was followed by an hour spent with our two MP's – Helen Goodman for Shildon and Phil Wilson for Newton Aycliffe. The questions the students asked were thought provoking – and showed just how interested our young people are in our community, what is happening in our nation and what is happening to people like the refugees from Syria. It was only to be expected as they are all part of the Leadership Groups at the two campuses of the school. Our MP's were genuinely impressed with the quality of the questions asked. We would very much like to thank them and their offices for all the help and support they gave us to make the visit possible.

Our afternoon was spent at the British Museum and included a visit to 'The Celts' exhibition which was full of wonderful gold and silver artefacts and tied in with the Roman history the students studied in primary school and our own Binchester Roman Fort. We finished the day visiting 'Platform 9 3/4' and the Harry Potter shop at Kings Cross, arriving back at Darlington at 10.15.

The funding for the trip came from local county councillors, Great Aycliffe Town Council and Aycliffe Town Council. The county councillors covered

their own costs. We would like to thank everyone who made the trip possible, including the parents who delivered their children to Darlington at 6.00 am.

However the visit, while wonderful in itself, is not the end of the matter. The plan now is for the students to report back to the town councils, visit County Hall and work to encourage other young people to register to vote and get involved in politics themselves. You never know, one of them may be a future MP or even a future Prime Minister.

## DISC STORE EXPANDS TO BISHOP AUCKLAND

Newton Aycliffe based charity DISC has expanded its successful More Time Furniture social enterprise scheme into a new store in Bishop Auckland.

More Time Furniture has an existing outlet in the DISC building next to the Newton News offices near the Blue Bridge. But it has now opened a new outlet inside the Prince Bishops Store on Finkle Street, Bishop Auckland.

The furniture outlet is a social enterprise owned by Newton Aycliffe-based community charity DISC, which seeks to improve the lives of disadvantaged people.

Liane Taylor, Assistant Director of Service Employment and Social enterprise, at DISC, said: "We are excited about the shop opening and to be able to provide this valuable service for the people of the town."



Photo: Liane Taylor, Assistant Director of Service Employment and Social enterprise, at DISC, with furniture coordinator Matt Roberts, of More Time.

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# Greenfield Class of 2015 Awards Night



Special Awardees with their teachers and V.I.P.'s



Head Teacher David Priestley addresses the awardees and welcomes Durham's Lord Lieutenant Sue Snowden (seated)



The Highest Academic Achievement Award was presented by the Mayor to Leoni Wong

Greenfield Community College in Newton Aycliffe and Shildon have been involved in double celebrations this week. Mrs Sue Snowden the Lord Lieutenant of County Durham presented certificates and awards on both campuses of Greenfield. The school has good reason to be proud of superb results for all the class of 2015.

Those in Aycliffe secured their place in the Greenfield tradition of high levels of achievement while the rates of progress in Shildon were outstanding.

On Thursday 19th November Mrs Snowden joined Governors and friends of the school in Newton Aycliffe to celebrate the achievements of a year group who have helped create the special Greenfield ethos. Mrs Snowden heard how in lessons the class of 2015 were resilient and hardworking setting themselves high expectations. They made the most of every opportunity, whether performing to audiences, campaigning, using sporting awards, organising events to support well-being or promoting equality they approached everything with enthusiasm. The class of 2015 also excelled in academic achievement with excellent headline figures, strong EBacc results, some exceptional levels of progress in English and huge success across a range of subjects.

The school is very proud of all the year group but special awards were made to the

following students on the Aycliffe campus.

The Mayor of GATC Councillor Mary Dalton awarded the Mayor's Award for Highest Academic Achievement to Leonie Wong. Mrs Snowden praised the students and the school for all their achievements and wished them well in the future.

# RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION SEEK NEW CHAIR PERSON

Chairman of Horndale Residents Association, Philip Clark, resigns at the AGM in December. He made the decision earlier this year due to personal and health reasons which proved to be the right choice after his recent health scare.

The Association was set up in 2012 by a small group of local residents with determination to raise £40,000 to build a Multi-Use Games Area for the youngsters of the local area. The M.U.G.A. was opened in October 2014 and has proved a great success. The committee stated they would stand down once this project was complete, however while working on the project they realised they could do more for the community.

Over the last 3½ years the group have worked with other groups and charities to make the lives of the local community better and create a nicer place to live and work. The group has secured funding from the Big Lottery and G.A.M.P. to organise Family

Fun days out at affordable prices - £5 or under, with trips to Whitby, Halloween at Beamish, Scarborough, Sunderland Dogs a comedy night with comedian Patrick Monahan and more, too many to mention. They have also assisted residents with various problems working with the Police, Councillors, Livin and Schools to enhance the lives of all Newtonians.

The group has a healthy bank balance to give them a good start in the New Year while they secure further funding to continue the good work. While they recognise the work of all the committee, it is sad to report one of the first members, Kath Jackson, passed away last week.

Kath was instrumental in setting up the Association and stood as secretary until her health made it difficult for her to continue, however she still assisted the group helping at events and attending meetings. Kath worked in the community for a number of

years with various groups and will be sadly missed, but not forgotten.

Anyone interested in standing for the committee can contact Philip on 07886 204199 E: horndaleresidentsass@outlook.com

# Dementia Awareness

Dementia Awareness Support Group Newton Aycliffe meet every Tuesday and Thursday at the Western Area Community Centre in Silverdale Place from 10.00am until 1pm.

The number 5/5a stops at Lindisfarne Nursing Home which is five a minute walk away. You can have a lift for the first time, if you are nervous about entering a new club. Come and enjoy a chat, meal and trips away, also open to people from outside of Newton Aycliffe. Ring 01325 308094 or 07967 901477 for more details.

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# Rotary Club Donate £1000 to GACAP



Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club's Welfare Officer, Geoff Batchelor, presents a cheque for £1000 to Co-Chairman of Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership, Susan Saddler. The money is for partners to call on to help people in need in Aycliffe and was raised from the annual Rotary Club Charity Golf Day held at Woodham Golf Course in September.

It was a successful day thanks to the sponsorship of Hall Construction the owners of the course, who support GACAP's aims in helping disadvantaged people in the community.

## COUNTY NEWSBITS

compiled by County Councillor John Clare

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

### COUNCIL

- DCC has been honoured for the support it gives to armed forces personnel: [bit.ly/DCCafp](http://bit.ly/DCCafp)
- DCC has set up a Scrutiny Group to review Skills in County Durham: [bit.ly/DCCESskills](http://bit.ly/DCCESskills)
- Last chance to book – churches and faith groups are invited to attend the GAMP 'Engaging with Faith Communities' event, Friday 4 December, 10:30am-2pm at the Xcel Centre: email [gampaap@durham.gov.uk](mailto:gampaap@durham.gov.uk) or phone 01325 327441.
- [www.durhamlocate.org.uk](http://www.durhamlocate.org.uk) is the new DCC website listing a wide range of care and support services – see the video at: [bit.ly/DCCLocate](http://bit.ly/DCCLocate)
- County Durham Emotional Wellbeing Network meeting, Thursday 3 December, 12.30-3.00pm at the Durham Leadership Centre, Enterprise Way, Spennymoor, DL16 6YP: [bit.ly/CDEWNMDec15](http://bit.ly/CDEWNMDec15)
- Is it snowing in Weardale? You can SEE the weather with DCC's road weather station cameras: [bit.ly/DCCweathercameras](http://bit.ly/DCCweathercameras)
- Time to sign up for next year's Garden Waste collection service: [bit.ly/DCCGWNov15](http://bit.ly/DCCGWNov15)
- Upcoming roadworks of which I am aware: [bit.ly/Roadworks20Nov](http://bit.ly/Roadworks20Nov)

### COMMUNITY

- Cinderella panto is on at the Gala Theatre, Durham, 26 Nov-3 Jan (oh yes it is): [www.galadurham.co.uk](http://www.galadurham.co.uk)
- Free Gym weekend at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, 28-30 November: [bit.ly/NALCGym](http://bit.ly/NALCGym)
- On 30 November you can swim for just 25p at Teesdale Leisure Centre (may be busy): [bit.ly/DCCTL25p](http://bit.ly/DCCTL25p)
- Woodham Academy Christmas Fair, Saturday 12 December 10:30am: [bit.ly/WAcXmas15](http://bit.ly/WAcXmas15)
- The annual Christmas Community Concert organised by the Rotary Club is on Tuesday 15 December at 1pm in the Leisure Centre
- Friday 4 to Sunday 6 December is Durham City's Traditional Christmas Festival: [bit.ly/DurXmas15](http://bit.ly/DurXmas15)
- Sunday 6 December 10am is the Butterwick Hospice Santa Run: [bit.ly/santarun2015](http://bit.ly/santarun2015)
- Bewick Crescent and Peaseway GP Surgeries have won NHS Stop Smoking awards. There is a stop smoking clinic every Tuesday 3:30-5:30pm at Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre – contact: 01207 523624 or 0800 011 3405
- CQC want to hear about experiences of maternity care – good or bad – for their January media campaign: email yours to [yourstories@cqc.org.uk](mailto:yourstories@cqc.org.uk), and CQC will contact you to discuss next steps.
- Newton Aycliffe Police are consulting on changes to the PACT meetings – have your say: [bit.ly/NAPACTsay](http://bit.ly/NAPACTsay)

## Firework Safety Poster Competition Winners



We had a fantastic response to the Poster Competition this year, over 150 entries were received and the Mayor Cllr Mary Dalton and her consort Cllr Michael Dalton, had the difficult task of judging the posters on Bonfire night. The presentation took place on Thursday 19th November at Oak Leaf Sports Complex where the winners were awarded their prize and certificate, by the Mayor and her consort.

Thank you to everyone who entered from 'home', Stephenson Way Primary School, Sugar Hill Primary School, Walworth School, Woodham Burn Out of School Club and St Oswald's Pre-Schools. Well done to all of you – don't forget to try next year!

### Pre-school/Reception

1st Brooklyn Tarbit, 2nd Noah Hall, 3rd Charlie Matthews-Taylor

### Year 1/Year 2

1st Alyssa Clark, 2nd Alfie Spensley, 3rd Libby-Anne Beaston

### Year 3/Year 4

1st Kayla-Mae Bushby, 2nd Alana Peck, 3rd Marnie Atherton

### Year 5/Year 6

1st Tony Car, 2nd Thomas Wilson, 3rd Isaac Pateman-Jones

### Year 7 plus

1st Holly Walker, 2nd Anna Dooney

## XMAS FAYRE

The Macadam School of Dance will be holding their Christmas Fayre on Saturday 5th December, 11am-3pm. There will be lots of stalls, tombola, raffle, glitter tattoos and most importantly Santa's grotto. All funds raised will be put towards our 40th Anniversary show in 2016.

The Fayre will be held at the Dance Studio, Durham Way North, Aycliffe Business Park. There will also be information on all the classes held at the studio. For more information contact Diane 07890 511243, [dianeplews@hotmail.com](mailto:dianeplews@hotmail.com)

## RUSSIAN TEACHER BUILDS LINKS WITH St. MARY'S



St Mary's Primary School have been extremely fortunate to have a Russian head teacher spend time in their school. The purpose of her visit was to see how children are taught in UK and compare this to Russian schools.

She spent time in all classes, working with children and doing lots of different activities, such as basic Russian greetings, counting and traditional Russian poetry. She retold a Russian version of the Enormous Turnip, which the children loved and were able to act out.

Year 5 children were lucky enough to receive letters from some of Natalia's students and have replied to them during one of their literacy lessons. They have also learnt the first part of a traditional Russian Christmas poem called "The Forest Raised a Christmas Tree." Natalia went with Year 6 children to the safety carousel,

held at Aycliffe Business Park, and experienced how we teach children to be safe on the roads, near water, in the home and, also, with information technology.

Natalia very kindly presented the school with a beautiful painting, one of her teachers had painted. It depicts her hometown in winter, a true winter wonderland indeed.

On Wednesday, Natalia was invited for afternoon tea at County Hall to meet the Vice Chairman, who presented her and her colleagues with a memento from Durham.

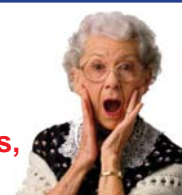
The children have enjoyed having Natalia in school and have been fascinated to find out about Russia, her school and

the children. In saying thank you to her we held an assembly where the children shared some of the lovely things she had taught them during the week and presented her with gifts, cards and mementos for her to take home with her to Russia, including a water colour painted by Thomas Hodson from Year 5. The Mayor of Great Aycliffe Mary Dalton also attended the assembly and presented Natalia with a lapel badge and key ring on behalf of Great Aycliffe Council.

It has been such a very worthwhile and positive experience and we are keen to keep in touch and build up links with Natalia's school in the future.

### Unexpected Repair Costs on your Car?

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## First Class Delivery!



Students from Woodham Academy have been delighted to receive individual letters from various members of the royal family.

Year 9 students were asked to compose a letter to a member of the royal family. They were encouraged to conduct research on someone they admired which would help form the content of the letter. The process helped improve their hand-writing, literacy skills and understand formal letter writing.

Over the course of six weeks, the students have received responses from Queen Elizabeth, The Duchess of Cornwall, The Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry, all of which praised and thanked the students for their letters. Thomas Howe (13) said "I couldn't believe Prince Harry actually wrote back to me. He sent me a photograph too". Beth Whitfield (13) was overwhelmed to find her letter personally signed

from The Duchess of Cornwall. Teacher, Mrs Drew, said "It was a fantastic experience for the students who endured a difficult drafting process to see the value of their hard work".

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## CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Each Christmas the Rotary Club hold a collection in Tesco's and around the streets with Santa's sleigh to provide hampers for needy families in our area. They are looking for extra help from volunteers willing to be Father Christmas.

As Santa is required to be on foot when touring the streets he has to be able to act the part and be fairly fit for the two hour stint from 5.30 - 7.30pm. There is also an opportunity to be Santa, collecting in Tesco's.

If you would like to volunteer please contact Syd Howarth at Newton News Telephone: 01325 300212 or 01325 320901. Email: [syd@newtonpress.net](mailto:syd@newtonpress.net)

## Friends Fundraise for Helping Hands Charity



Friends Josh McCartin and Emre the Turkish Barber at the Blue Bridge Centre are hosting a Christmas Party for town charity "Helping Hands" at Woodham Golf Club on 11th of December with great food, great

music and great people all coming together for a great cause.

They want to help families and people this Christmas who do not have the means to enjoy the festivities. Their aim is to assist Helping Hands give less fortunate people in Newton Aycliffe a good time.

There will be a raffle with fantastic prizes contributed by local businesses and Emre is opening his Barbershop on the 6th of December for a few hours on his birthday to cut hair at £15 a head with all proceeds going to the charity.

Josh would like to sincerely thank everyone who is taking the time to help in the venture. There are 120 tickets available so contact myself or Emre through Facebook or pop into his shop to get them.

## Information Appreciated

Dear Sir,  
It is refreshing to note that Council leader Bob Fleming took the time to talk to Newton News about the coming budget requirement of Great Aycliffe Parish Council.

As residents and council tax payers of the Great Aycliffe parish it is only fair that we should be informed of the reasoning behind important decisions such as increases in council taxation.

The Great Aycliffe Council customer panel which consults on council policy is open to all members of the public residing within parish boundaries but the group numbers have fallen recently. I would urge members of the public to get involved in the decision making process and the customer panel is an excellent forum for feeding back to the council your personal views.

Anyone interested in joining

the customer panel should contact GATC on 300700.

Of course Councillor Fleming is correct to mention the factors which may impinge negatively on the council revenue and reserves and the simple fact remains that in the present fiscal situation that no one can look into a crystal ball to predict financial pressures which may affect the parish council in the near future.

My personal belief is that our Council should continue on a prudent approach to setting a budget which will protect both services and reserves until such times as the financial situation stabilises. Sensible decisions can only be made based on available facts, consequently I applaud the relevant information being made available to the public through the local media.

Ken Robson  
By-Election Candidate

## TOP AWARDS FOR CARE HOME STAFF



Two members of the team at Defoe Court Care Home have won awards at the Great British Care Awards North East. Stacey Nattrass, Assistant Chef and Debbie Allen, Deputy Manager, scooped the awards for Ancillary Worker of the Year and Nurse of the Year respectively.

The Ancillary Worker Award recognises excellent person centred service, demonstrating dignity and respect through ancillary services. The Nurse of the Year award acknowledges the important role that nurses have in promoting the emotional, physical, psychological and social health of the people they support.

Stacey is from the area, and has worked at Defoe Court since she left school in 2011, when she started as a Domestic Assistant. Since then, Stacey has progressed to her current role of Assistant Chef. Debbie is also from the area, and joined Defoe Court in September 2014 when she held the position of Clinical Lead. Debbie now holds the position of Deputy Manager, taking a lead role in the everyday management of the home.

The Great British Care Awards are a series of regional award ceremonies to celebrate excellence across the care sector. The North East regional awards were presented by popular entertainer Steve Walls,

at the Hilton Newcastle in Gateshead, Newcastle Upon Tyne.

On Tuesday 24th November HC-One Regional Managing Director Glen Mason held a presentation for Debbie and Stacey in front of other Residents, relatives and members of the local community.

HC-One is also celebrating achieving a 9.4 average rating on the sector's leading care home comparison website [carehome.co.uk](http://carehome.co.uk). The high rating puts HC-One homes into the very best company in the care home sector.

HC-One Defoe Court Chef, Stacey Nattrass, said: "I am over the moon to have received this award. All of the staff at Defoe Court work hard day in day out to provide the kindest care to our Residents, so this award is for them."

HC-One Defoe Court Nurse, Debbie Allen, said: "I am shocked and delighted to have received this award at the Great British Care Awards North East. It was a complete surprise but it is great to know that the hard work of HC-One staff is being acknowledged."

HC-One Regional Manager, Glen Mason said: "I am incredibly proud of Stacey and Debbie and the awards are so well deserved, I am delighted that their hard work has been recognised. The awards demonstrate how HC-One provide the kindest care."

## Autumn Super Sports Skills at the Oak Leaf

During the autumn half term break, junior activities were held at the OakLeaf Sports Complex. The children who took part learnt new skills in Archery, had great fun playing Dodge Ball and had the opportunity to be creative during Crafty Kids.

We also held a Mini Activity session and Mini Archery for the little ones. As all the smiling faces show a great time was had by all. The next Super Sports Skills sessions will take place during the Christmas break, so watch out in the Newton News for further information.



### (STATION ROAD & SPRING ROAD, NEWTON AYLCLIFFE) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2015

The Council intend in not less than 7 days from the date of this notice to make an Order under Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, as amended, to close to vehicular traffic a 105m length of Station Road that extends westwards from its junction with Spring Road, and a 75m length of Spring Road between the car park junctions with the property opposite the junction with Station Road, Newton Aycliffe carriageway resurfacing works to be undertaken. The maximum duration of the temporary closure under the Order is 18 months and is required from 12.12.15 and for the duration of the works, anticipated to be 2 weekends 9am Sat - 7pm Sun). However, on rare occasions, alternative dates for closures may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly. **Alternative route:** from the northern side of the closure northwards on Spring Road, east on Cumbie Way, south on Durham Way South and west on Heighington Lane to the southern side of the closure; or by continuing west on Heighington Lane to the western junction of Station Road, and vice versa.

Dated: 27 November 2015



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

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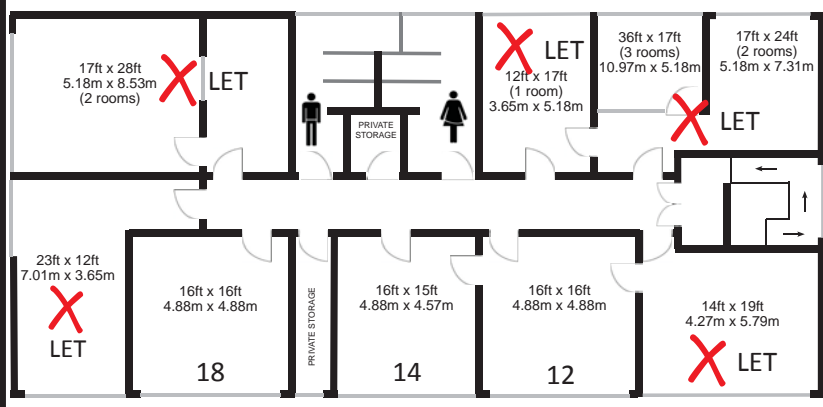
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Free Buffet - Open Bar - Raffle

Tickets £6 each  
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a very  
Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New year*



*Wishes everyone  
a very  
Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New year*



*Celebration of Christmas*



**COMES TO  
NEWTON  
AYCLIFFE**

*5th December Acts and Running Order*

**Show starts at 1.00pm on Saturday 5th December**

**1.00-1.40pm**

**"North Road" Local group**

**2.00-2.45pm**

**"Kerrianne Covell" X-Factor**

**3.00-3.30pm**

**"Karen Harding" X-Factor & Eurovision**

**4.15-4.50pm**

**"Josh Daniels" X-Factor 2015**

**4.50pm**

**Santa with Free Presents for all children**



Kerrianne Covell



Karen Harding



Josh Daniels

COFFEE PRONTO	YOUNGS NEWSAGENTS	MIKE'S FISH BAR	KRUMS	VC CARPETS	BRIAN VENABLES CARPETS & BLINDS	HOMEPLAN	AYCLIFFE FRAMERS	BOOZE BUSTER	STAR CABS
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**We wish all our customers a great festive season**

## Santa Letters

Our Magical Post Box will be set up in various locations, so look out for it, around the Town Centre from the 5th December 2015 and every child that sends a letter to Santa will receive a personalised reply before the big day.



## Christmas Eve Phone in with Santa

Before Santa starts working on Christmas Eve he will be live on Star Radio answering questions from children who have sent him a recorded message so listen out on Star Radio between 4-6pm.

## Merry Christmas to all Newtonians

Newton Aycliffe Town Centre would like to invite you to celebrate Christmas here with us on Saturday 5th December 2015 when we will have a Celebration of Christmas hosted by Star Radio.

Not only do we have a special pre-Christmas visit from Santa, who will have free gifts for children, it will also include performances from X-Factor artists.

With over 50 shops such as Wilkinson, Boyes, Poundworld, Select, Peacocks, Bon Marche, Card Factory, Occasions and many more you can be sure to find that perfect gift.

Should you be looking to impress your friends with a new look why not call into 'Stephen Russel Hair Design' or 'Hair We Go' for that special hairstyle or colour change. You can then call into Boots or Savers for those special little extras and then Coffee Pronto for a well deserved coffee or meal.

If you plan to decorate this Christmas then call into Homeplan, VC Carpets or Brian Venebles Carpets & Blinds for expert advice.

Newton Aycliffe is better than ever and wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas for 2015.



# Aycliffe Juniors F.C. Report

The Aycliffe Juniors football season continued over a cold weekend with some teams squeezing two games in to catch up on fixtures and others not getting in on the action, due to some wintry weather!

The Under 8's played a re-arranged game on Saturday at Middleton Rangers. Yet another amazing free kick from Rhys gave a 1-0 lead and further chances followed but the score did not change before half time. Aidan was having a great game in defence and Lucas had little to do in goal, however a late free kick from the hosts levelled the game at 1-1 and this is how it ended. The Aycliffe side put in a



strong performance that really deserved more from the game, the man of the match was Rhys. This team were back again on Sunday with the benefit of being able to play on the 3G pitch at home against Spraire Lads. It was the visitors who started the game strongly and took a 1-0 lead, Connor and Aidan's hard work in defence and Lucas' saves were preventing any further goals. A good passing move from Aycliffe saw a shot blocked which Harvey finished to equalise before half time. Spraire regained the lead in the second half and the game ended 2-1, Harvey Lee took the man of the match in this one. The second game was a different story and Aycliffe won 8-1, goals from Niall (4) with Jacob and Jake both getting a brace. A particularly good effort from Niall and Jake who are playing a year above themselves, Niall's man

of the match performance was noted by the Middlesbrough FC scouts who were in attendance. The Under 9's game away at Darlington All Stars survived the conditions. A poor start from Aycliffe saw them concede two early goals and go in to the break 2-0 down. A bit of a re-shuffle at the interval, and Lewis had a long range shot which Charlie tapped in at the far post. Reece then lobbed the keeper to bring the game level at 2-2. Despite the visitors now dominating, with man of the match Jason to the fore, All Stars snatched a late winner for a 3-2 win.

The Russell Foster winter league started for the Under 10 side against HFC United Whites. Players moved in to different positions to cover for those unavailable and a solid start was rewarded with Evan's goal, which finished off a nice cut back pass from Isaac. Noah doubled the lead in the second half before a counter attacking move halved the advantage. Aycliffe held on for a 2-1 win. Evan was given the players man of the match award.

The Under 14's played Kader FC in an afternoon kick off and despite missing a few players they put in a fine performance. A great start saw Burrows score after some fantastic build up play. Another team move was finished by James Imelia before Hynes grabbed the third before half time. Stoker ventured out of goal for his first outfield appearance in three years and managed to head in the fourth goal from Martin's cross. Two goals were conceded at the other end and Aycliffe ended the game 4-2 winners. This was a great team effort to move the team up the league.

The Under 18's Red were away at Leven on a pitch that was predictably wet and muddy. The visitors were glad it was deemed suitable for play as they ran away with a 4-2 victory. Jay Lee Nelson, Ryan Peart, Morgan Claydon and man of the match Lochie Scott were the scorers.

After the postponement of their last four games the Under 23's were pleased that he Sunnydale pitch was playable for their game against Stokesley. The scoring was opened when Martin rounded the keeper and put Aycliffe in the lead. Martin then put in the cross that Slatcher finished to put the home team 2-0 up. It was 3-1 at half time as once Stokesley got one back Oliver's neat finish retained the two goal lead. In the second half Martin added two further goals to complete a hat trick and put the game past the visitors at 5-1. Gibson's penalty cancelled out Stokesley's second and the game ended 6-2. David Gibson was awarded man of the match for his industrious work amongst several strong performances.

The Sunday morning games scheduled on the grass pitches had little chance of surviving the overnight conditions so the rest of our teams wait until next week for a game.

## ATHLETICS NEWS

There were some outstanding performances from the club in last Saturday's NEHL cross-country event at Ackley Heads, Durham.

In the Men's Senior race, Mark Wade, who was also first home for the club, finished in 7th position out of nearly 600 athletes in 40:24 and John Surtees wasn't far behind, finishing 28th in 42:37, followed by John Burnside, 392nd in 52:24 and Jason Dixon, 446th in 54:13. Next to cross the line was Trevor Needham, 511th in 57:50, followed by Peter Smith, 536th in 60:30 and Rob Nicholson, 568th in 64:12. Aycliffe men's team finished 12th in Division 3.

In the Women's Senior race Tracy Surtees was the outstanding runner here, finishing 12th in 31:45, followed by Michelle Jane, 131st in 35:21, Susan Milburn, 199th in 37:14 and Clare Rose, 257th in 39:23.

Aycliffe women's team finished 5th in Division 3. The following day it was the Gavin Duffy's Memorial 5k Trail Race. This was the 2nd in the Stockton Winter Trail series. The response

was overwhelming for the organizers and the start had to be delayed by half an hour. Conditions were almost as muddy as the previous Sunday's cross-country event at Hartlepool. There was a minute's silence before the start of the race.

In-form John Surtees was first home for the club, 7th in 20:02, followed by Peter Milburn, 20th in 20:55 and 1st M/55 and John Burnside, 61st in 24:20. Tracy Surtees was the first female finisher for the club, 67th in 24:38, followed by Sandra Collins who was 1st F/50 in 25:52 and 85th overall and Cyd Upton, 87th in 26:03, Peter Smith was next to cross the line, 104th in 26:44, followed by Susan Milburn, 120th in 27:47 and 1st F/55. Eve Doe, who is fairly new to this kind of race, simply revelled in the mud, finishing 260th in 38:30, followed by Ray Todd, 261st in 38:36 and Dave Mackenzie, 273rd in 41:43.

Circuit training sessions are held Tuesdays 6pm to 7pm; Non-members welcome. For details, visit ayclifferrunningclub.org.uk

## It's Never Too Late to be a Black Belt

My name is John Ward took up Martial Arts in 1974 aged 14 and joined the karate class at the old Youth Centre with his mates. Eddie taught old School Karate - no nonsense, disciplined, hard training and lots of fighting. After a few years he reached Green Belt never believing one day he'd get to the coveted Black Belt.

He drifted away from Karate and took up other sports. After 30 years by chance John bumped into Instructor Eddie who still looked as fit as ever being involved in martial arts and boxing. Eddie visited the Karate Club at Neville Parade where one of his former students Steve Wilkinson was an instructor and a 4th Dan. John decided he would go and train there as a means of keeping fit.

Sensei Andy Bailey, Sensei Dave Blackburn encouraged John to reach his potential. Five years later after walking back into the Dojo and over 40 years since starting as a 14 year old, John passed his 'Shodan' Black Belt grading. If anyone is thinking of starting martial arts then please check out the club at Neville Parade Community Centre - our instructors have huge experience. You will be taught Karate which is a complete fighting system including throws, locks and groundwork. All instructors are DBS checked. For more information contact Andy Bailey 07999 501379 or email naanshinryu@gmail.com

## Xmas Fayre

Defoe Court's Xmas Fayre will be held on Saturday 28th November at 2pm, a large selection of stalls including Yankee Candles, Boots the Chemist, Body Shop and many more. Please come along and join us.



## WOODHAM ACADEMY BASKETBALL STARS



Basketballers in Year 8 at Woodham Academy once again led the way in the Bishop Auckland District competition last week. Following in a long line of successful basketball teams from Woodham, the Year 8 team proved they were more than ready to follow in the footsteps of their much decorated predecessors.

Woodham Academy Deputy Headteacher and lead coach of the school's Basketball Academy programme Danny Morgans said, "The team performed admirably winning all of their games and showed

developed skills often far superior to those of their opposition. I am really excited about the potential this team has. Winning the competition is just reward for the hard work and dedication the students are putting into their training on a weekly basis."

Mr Morgans continues to play a leading role in the development of junior basketball in the region with Woodham Academy providing more players to the Durham Wildcats' junior programme and North East region team than any other.

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## Woodham Gymnasts Train for World Trials

Bethany McDougal and Sydney Etherington are both year 7 pupils at Woodham Academy. As well as facing the transition from Primary to Secondary school, the two students have become valued members of the Sports Academy. Whilst they are working hard in school completing work to a very high standard, they both train 13 – 14 hours a week at their Gymnastics Club, DNS Gymnastics Academy.

On Friday 13th November, the two pupils will be competing in a prestigious competition linking closely to world trials. The PAT Wade Gymnastics competition, in Stoke-on-Trent, will host extremely talented, committed and determined gymnasts in a series of different categorised competitions. Sydney will be competing in the Balance and Dynamic categories and Bethany will be competing in Acro, Balance, Dynamic and Combined. Both of the students will be competing in groups as Sydney competes under Women's pairs, ages 11-16, and Bethany competes under Women's Trio, 12-18. The PAT Wade competition is extremely important for both of the girls as performing to a high enough standard could secure them a place in World Trials. During the World Trials, the GB Gymnastics coaches hand pick gymnasts who they know can compete at a high enough standard to allow them to compete as part of Team GB.

In previous competitions, both girls have worked extremely hard, which has paid off!



At the British Gymnastics competition, in Liverpool, the girls competed in the different categories where their outstanding scores were combined; resulting in Sydney placing 5th and Bethany placing 3rd. This is an amazing achievement as they competed with all of the best gymnasts in their categories.

When asked what it is that makes them so successful, Sydney replied with "I never give up, I always try my hardest and I enjoy it!" Bethany puts her success to "Training hard, staying determined and having team mates as close as family".

Bethany and Sydney are both extremely kind, hardworking and humble girls who are an asset to Woodham Academy and Woodham Sports Academy, who have a very promising future.

## FA Vase Success for Aycliffe

Aycliffe progressed to the last 64 of the FA Vase with a tremendous extra time win at North West Counties League leaders Colne. The win earned Aycliffe a home tie against Atherton Collieries at Moore Lane Park on Saturday 12 December.

Aycliffe's victory in Lancashire came courtesy of a hat trick from Dennis Knight, goals from Stuart Banks & 17yr old substitute Alan Harrison as well as a penalty save from James Winter.

The visitors made a good start kicking down a hill which would have worried Franz Klammer. The first goal



came after just 12 minutes when Banks was fouled in the penalty area. Knight made no mistake with the spot kick. Aycliffe continued to attack with Paul Garthwaite shooting wide from a rebound after Zak Boagey's effort was blocked. Just after the half hour Banks saw his shot deflected over the crossbar.

Colne pulled themselves back into the game with a penalty on 37 mins for handball. Danny Boyle stepped up to take the kick but saw his effort spectacularly saved by Winter. The Aycliffe stopper was back in action a few minutes later saving a long range shot.

As half time approached Aycliffe returned to the attack & Knight found himself through & rounding the keeper was able to steer the ball home from a tight angle.

With the score 2-0 at the break Aycliffe's travelling fans weren't expecting the dramas to come in the second half. After 62 mins Boyle atoned for his earlier penalty miss with a strong shot giving Winter no chance. However, Aycliffe responded within a minute thanks to a fine curling shot from Banks finding the net.

The action didn't stop there & Colne won their second penalty in the 77th minute, again due to a handball. This time Jason Hart was entrusted with the kick with Winter unable to

reach it. With just 6 mins left Colne grabbed the equaliser, Christopher Anderson scoring after the Aycliffe defence failed to clear a cross.

After conceding a 3-1 lead many sides would have crumbled in Extra Time but Peter Dixon's side came out strongly? After just 2 minutes a foul deep in the box was spotted by the assistant referee. Knight, once again, was called on to take the kick & completed his hatrick with ease.

Colne came close to equalising again with another shot stopped by man of the match Winter. However, the game was put beyond doubt with 5 mins remaining thanks to a lob from outside the box beating the keeper. It was the teenager's second goal in the Vase this year having also found the net in the last round.

The win was a fantastic achievement away to a side who top their league. Aycliffe will go into the next round full of confidence & will hope for a strong turnout from the town to cheer them on.

In the meantime Aycliffe have two league games, away to second place Shildon on Saturday 28 November & then home to West Allotment Celtic on Saturday 5 December. Aycliffe currently lie seventh in the Ebac Northern League but, with games in hand on the teams above them.

## Newton News Helps Club



Thanks in part to Newton News, Newton Aycliffe Karate Club has seen its members double over the last few months. We now have over 20 active members and half of them are children from the local area, who have recently joined after their parents had read some of the stories published recently in this paper. One of the aims of our karate club is to encourage children to take part in a positive activity that promotes health, respect and teaches them how to keep themselves safe. We also encourage parents to have a go to, which has led to new adult members for the club also, giving a real welcoming family atmosphere in a club that has been in Aycliffe for over 40 years. If anyone wants to come and either have a taster session for free or just come and see what we do then call Sensei Andy Bailey on 07999 501379 or email naanshinryu@gmail.

We train Tuesdays 7pm to 8.30pm and Thursday 6.30pm to 7.30pm at Neville Parade Community Centre.

### GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 9th December 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](http://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".



## CHANGES TO PACT

Changes are coming to the way the Neighbourhood Police Team engage with the community on a day to day basis. One of the changes is to come in the form of PACT meetings being altered.

These alterations have been considered, with the possibility of merging some PACT meetings, or perhaps holding a Town-wide meeting at an undecided frequency.

At the moment, we are looking to identify what is the best way forward for PACT meetings to continue in the area, and are open to suggestions from the public. That is why we are inviting responses from residents of Great Aycliffe and Middridge to help us determine what the best way forward is.

Please take a moment to share your ideas via private message. Thanks

PCSO Chris Noble 7497

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## WEATHER WINS AGAIN FOR YOUTHY

Yet again last weekend, the weather put paid to many of our games, so only a couple to report on.

The Under 12 Falcons made the long trip to face bottom of the league Redcar Athletic Reds on a freezing cold wet morning. The lads started well pressing early causing Redcar lots of problems at the back. It wasn't long before the first goal arrived. A very good corner taken by Dylan Redpath resulted in Tom Jasper turning it in at the far post. A second was added by Kane Hopwood after a good run and excellent finish. Joseph Birchall added a third shortly after. Redcar scored a good breakaway goal as the Falcons were caught out too high up the pitch 3-1. Dylan Redpath completed the first half scoring to make it 1-4 at half time. Further second half goals were added by Kane, Joseph, Declan and Kieran to complete our scoring with Redcar getting another on a breakaway. Final score 2-8. MOTM was awarded to Kane Hopwood for a solid all round display.

The Under 9 Falcons were in a difficult game against a tough, well organised Darlington Spraire Lads.

Going into this game, both were the only 2 teams in the division without a defeat. The conditions were terrible with long, boggy grass and freezing temperatures. So it was a case of dig deep and battle hard and that's exactly what they did, creating plenty of chances with Dylan and Cole combining well going forward. HT 0-0. 2nd half saw The Falcons get the early goal they needed. Great run from Dylan on the left beating three players, passed the ball through to Cole Gaskarth to run on to and poke it passed the keeper 1-0!!! Two outstanding saves from Travis Dixon kept the clean sheet ensuring a much needed win. MOTM went to Dylan Stewart. The second game saw coats, hoodies, hats, you name it, the boys had it on!!! The boys were quickly 1-0 down but playing well going forward. Just before HT they were 2-0 down. Two changes at the break and things were opening up for them. Aidenlee Peacock grabbed two well-earned goals with his strength and pace and took them really well!!! With things looking up it was thought the Falcons might just steal it but it wasn't to be as they lost 4-2. MOTM Aidenlee Peacock. Well done boys great effort.

We all hope the weather is kind to us this coming weekend. You can keep up-to-date with all the Clubs' news, fixtures and results by visiting [www.naycafc.co.uk](http://www.naycafc.co.uk) and our Facebook page. If your son or daughter loves playing football, then contact the Club Secretary Berni Borsberry on 07939 045242 for more details.

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The event will be held in the Village Hall between 10am and 2pm. All donations will be used for the upkeep of St Andrew's Church and church yard.

A Patronal Service will be held on St. Andrew's Day, Monday 30th November, 7pm in the Church with the Revd. Andrew Craig, officiating. All are welcome

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**TRYING TO FIND** an old school friend named George Ferguson. Last contact Milton Hall School, My contact details held at Newton News office, please ring 01325 300212  
**HORNDAL** Residents Association A.G.M. on Wednesday 2nd December at 6pm at Aycliffe Evangelical Church, Ladybower

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## W.I. NEWS

The ladies of Newton Aycliffe WI enjoyed another great gathering with more treats! Our very own Joyce who is a professional cake maker, showed us her talents on how to decorate our Christmas cakes, we were all left dumb founded as Joyce made it seem so easy!! Joyce was also joined by Adam from Wildon Grange who had previously visited our WI with his vinegars and dressings, and Just William (Jams and preserves) who along with Adam sell their wares at Barnard Castle Farmers Market. We thoroughly enjoyed all the tastings that evening! Our next meeting will be held at St Clare's Church Hall on Tuesday 8th December at 7.15pm for further information please contact Lyn 314805.

## Allotments

**ALLOTMENTS** available to rent at Midridge Village. Contact Kathy on 07530 899874

## Sits Vacant

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## Film Show

The next "FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW" at St Clare's Church, on Tuesday 1st December, features the colour version of the Christmas fantasy-drama "It's A Wonderful Life" starring James Stewart and Donna Reed. It has come to be the most loved traditional Christmas film of all time, and this colour version makes it even more enjoyable and heart-warming. Tea, coffee, juice and warm mince pies will be served at 1pm, included in the £2, children £1, and the film starts at 1.15pm. A variety of chairs are provided for your comfort, and tables so that you can bring a spot of lunch to eat while you enjoy a wonderful film in friendly company. Everyone is most welcome; further info from Ric Hargreaves on 01325 316755.

## For Sale

"ALL SORTS" Charity Shop, open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 10am to 1pm at the side of St Clare's Church. Fantastic selection of bric-a-brac, household goods and Christmas gifts for all ages. Plus a real Santa Costume for hire with sack, bell, wig etc. More details on request. *The shop is run and funded solely by Godfrey Bennett*  
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## ATHENA'S ANNUAL SHOWCASE

Saturday, 5th December is the date for your diary's as Athena's Annual Christmas Showcase takes to the floor at the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. This event, in its 4th year is always well supported and after last years near sell out, people are advised to get their tickets early to avoid disappointment. The club has over 180 gymnasts with a wide range of ages and skills, from our pre-school rec classes to our Tumbling and Acro classes, and many of these Gymnasts will be performing at the showcase on the day. Each year the club brings a theme to the proceedings and this year is no difference, "Number 1 Hits" will see each class perform their routines to some brilliant hits from throughout the decades, and I'm sure it will leave everyone watching, tapping away to the music. This year, the club will have its very own VIP guest, as the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs Mary Dalton, will be guest of honour of the club. To add to the entertainment throughout the afternoon we will also have some of our older gymnasts performing their competition routines to which they will be competing at a Regional Competition hoping to win a place in the National Finals early next year. The club will also be performing 2 superb routines which they did at Gymfusion 2015 at The Sage in Gateshead in front of an audience of over 800. These heart-pounding displays are not to be missed and got some rave reviews at The Sage and will leave you wanting more. This event will have something for all the family and as well as the Displays there is fun for all the family with many different activities including Raffles, Craft Stalls, Merchandise, Sweet and Chocolate Tombola, cake stalls and much more. Tickets are on sale now, Adults £5 Cons £3 but we also have a Family Ticket (\*2 adults 2 children) for £14, and can be bought from our website: www.athenasportsacademy.co.uk,

card payments are through Paypal. Tickets are also available on Saturday 28th November, from the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre at our desk outside the main hall or for more information on this event or any classes which the club offer, contact Athena on 01388 - 605946 / 07800847527.

So come along and begin your Christmas Celebrations with Athena Sports Academy.

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## Blind Life Xmas Party

On Thursday 17th December 1.30 to 3.30 Blind Life in Durham will be holding another meeting at Simpasture Court (opposite the Iron Horse). Anyone with sight loss their carers and/or supporters are welcome. Please come and enjoy the company, entertainment and a cuppa at our pre-Christmas event.

We will be there from 1.30 to 3.30pm to welcome anyone that would like to help us enjoy the afternoon. If you would like any information about Blind Life in Durham please contact us on 01388 763501 or email blindlifeindurham@gmail.com

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## Exchange

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## Local Surgery Graded as 'Good' by C.Q.C.

On 10th September 2015 Bewick Crescent Surgery was inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) who found the surgery to be 'Good' with some areas of 'Outstanding' practice. Bewick Crescent is the first of the three Newton Aycliffe surgeries to be inspected. Three CQC inspectors spent all day at the surgery and interviewed a cross section of staff, from the Senior Partner to the Apprentice Receptionist. They also spoke to patients in the waiting area and to a representative from the patient participation group. The inspectors concentrated on the care given to patients in six key groups: families, children and young people; working age people and the recently retired; older people; people with long term conditions; people in vulnerable circumstances; and people experiencing poor mental health.

## £1000 Xmas Gift

Honest John's Aycliffe Community Kitty, applications are now invited from any Newton Aycliffe volunteer run good causes to have a chance of being chosen for a Christmas gift; 1st gift is £1000, 2nd gift £500. Please write in explaining who you are and what the money would be used for. Lucky recipients will be notified on 31st December.

Send letters to 4 Arrowsmith Square, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 5RB. All suitable applications will also be considered for donations during 2016.

## Obituary

**JOY MITTON** (Nee Whitehouse). Peacefully on 18th November after a short illness. Joy, aged 72 years, of Newton Aycliffe. Much loved Mam of Dougie, Debbie and Stuart; a dear Mother-in-Law to Jez and Julie; a treasured Nanna to Alex, Chloe, Charlie, Hannah and Jamie, and a very dear Cousin to Chris.

The CQC looked for evidence that the Practice was 'safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led' by inspecting all aspects of the Practice including care delivered and clinics offered, staff qualifications and competency, premises and equipment. The report which was published this week grades the Practice as 'Good' in all areas with elements of 'outstanding' care provided for patients with long term conditions and those in vulnerable circumstances. Dr Martin Jones, Senior Partner said "We would like to thank our patients and staff for helping us to achieve this excellent result. A huge amount of hard work goes into running a GP Surgery and we are pleased that the CQC have recognized that we provide such a good service to our patients in such difficult times."

The full CQC inspection report is available at [www.bewickcrescentsurgery.nhs.uk](http://www.bewickcrescentsurgery.nhs.uk). Bewick Crescent Surgery is open over the festive season with the exception of Friday 25 and Saturday 26 December 2015 and Friday 01 January 2016. On Monday 28 December 2015 and Saturday 02 January 2016 the Practice is open from 8.00am to 12 noon for GP appointments via 111. The baby clinics scheduled for Friday 25 December and Friday 01 January will run on Wednesday 30 December 2015.

## ACORN Xmas Party

Acorn Residents Association Christmas Party is to be held on Saturday 12th December from 6pm till 10pm at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. Tickets are priced at £2 and include a disco, raffle, games and snacks. Strong possibility of the guy with the red suit making an appearance! Tickets available from Ken on 01325 321471, Christine on 07902 906144 or Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. Under 16 year olds must be accompanied and supervised by an adult - only 160 tickets available, so get in quick.

## Brafferton Village News

Brafferton & Coatham Mundeville Village Hall Association are hoping you are all in fine voice and wrapped up warm ready for our village Christmas tree light switch on which takes place on the village green on Sunday 29th November at 6pm. We will sing a small selection of Carols and other festive tunes around the tree and then go in to the village hall to warm up with a mince pie and mulled wine. This is a free event hosted by the VHA, and all are welcome.

Tickets will be on sale for Badapple's Farmer Scrooge Production on 11th December and you will be able to buy raffle tickets and view some of the brilliant prizes on offer this Christmas. We look forward to seeing you there! For more details find us on Facebook by searching BraffertonVHA.

## Good Support for Fair



The Craft Fair at the Xcel Centre last week attended by numerous stalls selling a fantastic range of goods was very well attended. It featured some very talented local crafts people whose wares were novel and made ideal Christmas gifts. So popular was the event it is likely to be repeated.

## Consultation on Police Funding Formula

Dear Sir,  
I am conscious that today is the deadline for responding to the above consultation. As you will be aware my office has previously submitted two responses in respect of the consultation. The first response set out my overall views regarding to proposed changes to the funding formula and my second response specifically focussed on the alcohol element of the proposed model. A common theme in both of my responses was the quality of the underpinning data which is palpably important given the resulting financial impact that it can have at individual Force level.

It has come to my attention within the last hour from colleagues in Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime

Commissioner Office that an error has been identified in the explanations that have been provided to Forces. This error, as I understand it, relates to urban adversity and stems from the use of wrong data. Given that this element of the funding formula accounts for 31% of the total funding allocated, it is clearly a significant issue at both a national level and local level. The net effect of this error, based on information received from Devon and Cornwall, is a loss of £12.7m per year for Durham once the funding formula has been introduced. Given that Durham only receives approximately £80m in grant funding I am sure that you will agree that this represents a huge sum of money to take out of my budget which is of course in addition to expected reductions within the forthcoming comprehensive spending review. As the peoples democratically elected representative, I am fully committed to ensuring the highest possible levels of service delivery but feel that this is being completely undermined by such large swings in funding. I have to admit to being at a complete and utter loss as to how an error of this magnitude could have been made by your officials and how I will explain this to the public.

Given the impact of the funding formula on Durham, not to mention other Forces, I would advise that the current process be abandoned. I feel that this is a fair and proportionate proposal given the problems that have beset this whole consultation exercise. I would also propose that we take this opportunity to consider how best to proceed in future with identifying a new funding model as the current process appears now to have lost all credibility. Ron Hogg  
Police and Crime Commissioner

## Fundraising in Aid of Tinkler's Angels



Dez and Lesley Tinkler have lived in Newton Aycliffe for many years with their children. Over the last 34 years they have had unbelievable tragedy, losing three of their daughters, Donna, Stacey and just last year Vikki.

Friends and family wanted to help the family raise funds to purchase a headstone with all three names. but headstones cost an awful lot of money. Nicola Nicholson a close family friend organised a fundraising night in November at the Scout Centre who offered the room free of charge as Dez has been a member of the club for many years.

Unbeknown to the people involved this was just the start of an amazing amount of donations and support. Michael Murphy provided Disco music free, On sale were raffle tickets, tombola and cards to win a 3-4 night stay in a luxury caravan in Haggerston donated by Lee and Rosie Woodward. Entertainment was provided by a singer and a magician plus

an Auction for a full bathroom suite including tiles and fitting supplied by a local family run business Interiors 4 You. Dez, Lesley and family including Vikki's daughter Hannah found it very emotional. Tears were shed by all who attended and Dez made an emotional speech thanking everyone for their donations, help and for just being there for the family. The final total was a massive £2122.15! Nicola had originally hoped to raise £500.

It is amazing and just goes to show how much love and respect people have for the Tinkler family. Nicola and others involved would like to thank everyone for their generosity.

## In Memoriam

**DEREK YOUNG** 20th February 1960 to 20th November 2013. It's two years since you left us, but when someone shines as bright as you, your memories will always be with us. Love always, Gordon

**BOBBY MORRELL** 26th November 2009. The moment that you died my heart was torn in two, one side filled with heartache the other died with you. I often lie awake at night, when the world is fast asleep and take a walk down memory lane with tears upon my cheeks. Remembering you is easy, I do it every day, but missing you is heartache that never goes away. I hold you tightly within my heart and there you will remain. Lots of love, your loving Wife, Agnes xxx

**BOBBY MORRELL** 26th November 2009. In loving memory of our Granda, who sadly passed away six years today (26-11-2009). If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane, we'd walk right up to Heaven and bring you back again. Love and miss you so much, forever in our hearts. Love, Robert, Hayley, Anne-Marie, Andrew, Adele and Orin xxx

**BOBBY MORRELL** 26th November 2009. Treasured memories of our Great Granda. To live in the hearts of those we love. Love and miss you so much. Love, Kaitlyn, Jodie, Jack, Rhys, William, Ava and Ella xxx

**BOBBY MORRELL** 26th November 2009. Your vacant place no one can fill, we miss you now and always will. Love and miss you. Love, Roberta and Reggie xx  
**BOBBY MORRELL** 26th November 2009. In our hearts your memory lingers, sweetly tender, fond and true. There is not a day, dear Father, that we don't think of you. Love, David and Brogan xx

**JEAN PARKER** 25th November 1933. Thoughts of a wonderful Mam and Nana, miss you always. Love, Kay, Mike, Michael, Sean and Zoe xxxxx  
**JEAN PARKER** 25th November 1933. Memories of a special Mam. Love and miss you, Mandy xxx

## Acknowledgement

**JOAN SPARK** The family of the late Joan wish to sincerely thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the cards, flowers and kindness shown on the loss of a very special Wife, Mother, Grandma and Great Grandma. Grateful thanks for generous donations for CBHF and Church funds. Thanks to Dr Stephenson and Staff; Revd. Andy Byer for a lovely Service and also to David Scott and staff for their kindness and professional guidance at this very sad time.

## Congratulations

### Cloe Livermore



### BSc Psychology 1st Class (Hons)

York St. John

Congratulations and good luck with your Masters. Love, Mam, Dad, Curt, Rob and all the family xxxxx

### Natalie Davison



### Happy 21st Birthday

28th November 2015

Happy birthday to our wonderful Granddaughter who has grown into a beautiful young lady. Love you always, Nana and Grandad

**JOANNE PETROCZY** 26th November. Happy 50th birthday Joanne. Those 50 years flashed by - for us anyway. Lots of love from Mam and Dad  
**JOANNE PETROCZY** (nee Braithwaite). Happy 50th birthday "Pumper Pancake". Hope you have a great time celebrating. Best wishes from Stephen and Jean xx  
**PARSONAGE** 29th November 1978. Happy 37th birthday to our twin Son's Gareth and Warren. May all your wishes come true! Love always, Mam and Dad xxxxx  
**LINDSEY SMITH** (nee Shotton). Happy 50th birthday Lindsey. Lots of love, hugs and kisses from Mam, Dad, John, Claire, Ollie and Arthur xxxxx  
**LINDSEY SMITH** Happy 50th birthday Lindsey. Love from Andrew, Taylor and Gabrielle xxxxx

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## CRICKET SUCCESS AT NYSD AWARDS

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club (sponsored by Frank's The Flooring Store) had a successful evening at the North Yorkshire and South Durham Cricket League annual presentation night at Marton Country Club, picking up five awards. Newton Aycliffe became the first club to win the prestigious Club of the Year Gold Award in three successive seasons, beating their nearest rivals Marton



CC by 61 points. The club were assessed in five areas throughout the season, administration, facilities, discipline, fair play and match play coming out on top in three areas.

Secretary Lee Weldon said "This is a massive achievement for the club, particularly when you think that we have only been in the NYSD for three years. Everybody in the club contributes towards this award and is rightly proud of what we have achieved".

As well as the Gold Award the club also had individual success recognised at the

presentation with 17 year old player Patrick Howe winning the 3rd Division Bowling Averages as well as the Player of the Month Award for April. Jack Slatner won the Player of the Month Award for August and was also presented with a special award to commemorate his record breaking bowling performance. On August 22nd Jack took all 10 Yarm wickets for the loss of only 4 runs, breaking the all-time NYSD record. Jack's performance was also the best bowling figures at any level of cricket in the country throughout the 2015 season.

## Rugby 2nd Team Take Centre Stage

With no first team fixture last weekend, Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club's 2nd XV provided the entertainment for the town's rugby fans when they entertained Consett 3rd XV. Consett were two players short and so Ash Elliott and Mark Silvester volunteered to play for them and both put in excellent performances.

Aycliffe attacked from the beginning of the match, played in bitterly cold weather which made handling difficult. Mark Wilson almost scored as he cut through the defence before being hauled down 5 metres short; the forwards recycled the ball and scrum-half, Warren Parsonage dived over for the score. Head coach, Peter Ryans was playing his first game of the season and he made a nuisance of himself at open-side flanker. A second try was scored by Andrew Parkin and converted by Phill Sangster. James Thacker was making an appearance at Number 8 and he broke clear from the back of a scrum near half way and sped in to score. The conversion made the score 19 - 0 at half time.

The Consett players were powerful runners and it took good tackling from Aycliffe to keep their try line uncrossed. Second team stalwart, Terry Parsons had his usual dominant game in the rucks. Fast hands saw the ball go out to the wing where Peter Hewlett scored his first ever try. Thacker and Parsonage both added their second scores as Aycliffe imposed their dominance. Sangster added a try to his tally mid-way through the half. For the final 10 minutes Aycliffe played some good possession rugby and, when Consett ran out of defenders, Thacker was able to break clear and Wilson, in support, added the final try of the game. Sangster added his fifth conversion and the final score was 50 - 0 to the hosts. This was a good all-round performance for Aycliffe 2nds who will again be the only team from the club playing next weekend away to Aklam Hustlers, ko 2:15pm. Aycliffe rugby are proudly sponsored by Emre's Barber Shop and S Cars

## Malawi Trust

The Annual General Meeting of the Malawi Trust of St. Elizabeth will take place in St Elizabeth's Church Hall on Wednesday 9th December at 7.45 pm. Please come and find out about the work the Trust undertakes for the children and students in this impoverished part of Africa.

## Heighington Junior Football Results

Under 8s Heighington hosted Middleton Knights looking to bounce back from their last minute cup defeat the week before to Seaton Lions. They bounced back with a bang. Running out 13-2 winners. Theo Callaghan grabbed 4 goals putting him on 19 for the season, Joe Neild smashed another hat trick making it 20 for the season. Man of the Match Jay Bulch also hit a great hat trick with 11 for the season. Tom Graham scored twice against his former club

and has now bagged 5 this season, Ty Woodward got his name on the score sheet with his 7th of the campaign. There was no second game this week so the "lads" played the "dads" the dads' ran out 4-3 winners! Ken Neild grabbed the man of the match award for the dads with goals coming from Graham snr (2), Bulch Snr and Marcus Snr. It was a fun way to end another great day.

Under 11's travelled away to Normanby with only

nine players and in a hard fought game they went 2-0 up with a superb free kick from Callum Fraser. Normanby pulled a goal back before the break which set up an exciting 2nd half. Heighington extended their lead from a good goal from Curtis Wright, but the home side pulled a goal back to make an exciting finish. Leyton Falconer with a man of the match performance played Callum Fraser in and he settled the game with a close range effort. Well done boys.

## Karate Kids Make the Grade



During the summer Zanshin-Kai Karate, at Woodham Community Centre, introduced a new class, The Red Dragons, for children from 4-9 year old with the support of Woodham Community Association and funding from Great Aycliffe & Middridge Area Action Partnership.

Recently the first group had their first grading and the Instructors and assistants were very proud with the spirit, enthusiasm and effort shown by all the youngsters, who all went on to successfully gain their Red Belts.

Congratulations to Maddison Fenton, Martha Noble, Leo Henderson, Maia Haden, Harrison Dunn, Adam Smith, Emma Smith, Evie Wilds and Jensen Jones.

If you want to try karate, we invite you to come and give it a try, all newcomers get a four week Free Trial. Come down, keep fit and have fun alongside the rest of your family, everyone welcome from 4 years upwards.

Thursdays: 6pm - 7pm Red Dragons (Cadets) & Juniors, Adults 7pm - 8pm.

Sunday: 4pm - 5pm Adults, Senior Grades 5pm - 6pm.

For more information on Zanshin-Kai Karate or Zanshin-Kai Red Dragons call into Woodham Community Centre or telephone an Instructor on 07917 203421 / 07746 204064 or email zanshin-kai-karate@hotmail.co.uk. Facebook (zanshin kai karate newton aycliffe). "

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