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## Free Community Christmas Concert



Stephenson Way School students (above) rehearse for their performance at the annual Community Christmas Concert to be held at the Leisure Centre on Tuesday 15th December from 1pm - 2.30pm. Residents are invited to attend this free event to watch town schools perform a wonderful programme of Christmas items and to join in singing popular carols and songs. This event has been organised by the town's

Rotary Club for nearly 30 years and is a great start to the Christmas festivities. Everyone invited to come along.

## Police Appeal

Police are appealing for information after a caravan was damaged on Faulkner Road, Newton Aycliffe. The incident occurred between 5pm on 3rd December and 9am on 4th December. It is believed that an object, possibly a metal bar has been used to damage the caravan. Anyone with any information should contact PC 2687 Jamie Pitt on 101. D2 Relief Newton Aycliffe Tel: 101 or 999 in an emergency - jamie.pitt@durham.pnn.police.uk

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## New Charity Shop Opens in Town

The Salvation Army Trading Company opened a charity shop, at 31 Beveridge Way on Thursday 10th December. It was marked with a special opening celebration including a ribbon-cutting ceremony and refreshments. Volunteers have been preparing for the opening for weeks to ensure that all the best bargains go on sale on opening day. We regret the announcement came at very short notice so Newton News readers would be unaware of the opening day except for those who visit our website. Profits from the shop will contribute to The Salvation Army's work with people who are vulnerable and in need across the UK, including homelessness and addiction services, care for older people, help at emergency incidents, support for adult victims of human trafficking.

## Betting Shop Change of Use

A Planning Statement has been prepared by Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners Ltd ("NLP") on behalf of the William Hill Organisation Ltd accompanying an application for full planning permission seeking the change of use of 35 Beveridge Way from a betting office to food and drink and/or hot food takeaway. This enables the premises to be used as a café, restaurant or hot food takeaway.

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DATES: 10th-13th Dec &amp; 17th-20th Dec, 11:00-21:00

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TWO Great Acts - No c/c - Ticket only!

**Christmas Eve****"Blake Daniels in The Lounge"**  
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Great Act - £2 c/c

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**MORE CHOICE OF ALES  
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"After the very successful Autumn Beer Festival, The Turbinia, Newton Aycliffe, has now installed new cellar and dispensing equipment, so we will always have a minimum of three ales on the bar (4 on peak times).

Choice of will reflect the pub policy of a 50/50 split of locals and national ales, constantly changing, and mainly craft, with prices starting at £2-50. So far this year we have sold 132 different beers from 81 breweries, bringing the customers, ales from as far afield as the Scottish highlands, Welsh mountains, Cornish coast & Ferryhill Station (honest). We also stock a full range of bottled beers from Aycliffe's own 'Steam Machine Brewing Company' Beer Festivals remain important to us, and next years are already arranged for the end of April & October, sticking with our successful format of large choice of ales, and FREE music all weekend from

some of the top entertainment in the region. An extra event for us will be our first 'Cider & Comedy Festival' in July, featuring 'Stand Up Sunday' a full afternoon of laughter with some of the greatest comics on the circuit, stars of stage and screen.

This week we were very proud to host a Darlington Campaign For Real Ale branch meeting, one of only a few meetings held outside Darlington, which shows how highly regarded the Turbinia is for the quality of its cask ales. If you haven't been yet, give us a try, we are sure you will enjoy the visit. Friday is Open-Mic/ Buskers, showcasing some great local talent, Saturday is rock night with the best bands from all over the North-East, Sunday is Karaoke, your turn to entertain. We have darts, cheap pool table and the best jukebox on the town. For the footie fans, we show more football than any other venue. So what are you waiting for?

**Students Design MP's  
Christmas Card**

On Friday, Phil Wilson MP for Sedgefield, visited Heighington C of E Primary School, to congratulate the talented Aimee Webster, on winning his annual Christmas card competition.

Each year, Phil chooses to showcase the artistic talent of the children in his constituencies by asking a local primary school to submit designs for his Christmas card. The winning design is then sent to hundreds of Phil's family, friends, and colleagues, as well as businesses and organisations, across the constituency and Westminster.

As always, they level of talent was high, and Phil faced a difficult decision in choosing the winner. In the end Phil chose a design by Aimee Webster, which features on the front of his personalised card, and the designs of Hattie Raine and Ffion Lawrence-Hall which feature on the back of his card.

The cards, printed by the Newton Press, will be sent to nearly 300 people, with a further 600 people receiving an electronic copy. Commenting on the designs Phil said "As it does every year, the Christmas card competition shows there is no shortage of talent in the constituency. Aimee's card looks absolutely fantastic, and it is definitely a worthy winner of this year's competition. The standards were very high and

it was a very difficult decision to make. All of the children's designs were great, and it is clear a lot of thought and work went into them."

"I'd also like to say a big thank you to Heighington C of E School, the teachers, and all of the pupils for taking part, especially Aimee, Hattie and Ffion who have designed a fantastic Christmas card."

**YEAR 9 APPRENTICESHIP  
AWARENESS FINALE**

Over the past 8 weeks, Year 9 students at Woodham Academy have been working alongside seven key companies in the local area. The aim of the project has been to develop students' awareness and understanding of apprenticeships and opportunities that may be available to them in the community. As part of the project, students have been researching career opportunities within the manufacturing and engineering sectors, focusing particularly on the apprenticeship route. Each of the seven groups had to use their research in order to prepare both a display and a professional presentation with a view to educating students in Years 9, 10 and 11 about apprenticeship opportunities. The programme came to a close last week as students delivered their final work to students, staff and guests in the Woodham Apprenticeship Finale. The quality of

presentations was incredibly high, making it a tough decision for the judges. Well

done to 9GB and Palram for winning the best presentation and 9FR and Ebac for the display. Other companies that were also involved were South West Durham Training, Gestamp Tallent, Thorn Lighting, livin and Mears. The Apprenticeship Programme in Year 9 is one of numerous activities which educates students in careers. Last year it was recognised by the Department of Education as an example of outstanding practice and was used as a case study for other schools.

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**Saturday 12th December - "This Machine"**  
Gig-Ph Review: "Well, I don't know what to say, apart from... THIS MACHINE were absolutely amazing last night, one of the best... especially when the guitarists were on the tables and bar. Every song was awesome, perfect sound and just all round excellence. Also it was the best atmosphere I've ever experienced, everyone was having fun."  
"One of the most entertaining bands on the circuit, music by Motorhead, Van Halen, Metallica, Pearl Jam, Bon Jovi, Guns n Roses, Deep Purple, AC/DC, Billy Idol, Thin Lizzy".

**Saturday 19th December - "Born Villains"**  
For more information on bands go to  
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## Mock Interviews for Year 11 Woodham Academy Students



Students at Woodham Academy got their first taste of life in the working world last week by attending mock interviews given by a variety of local employers.

The Year 11 students who are due to leave next year have been preparing for what may be a real life scenario in the coming months as many begin applications for college and further education.

Organised by Durham Education Business Partnership (EBP), the day was an opportunity for students to enhance their employability skills, bringing together representatives from the business world and the students for an enriched learning experience.

During the day, students practised interview questions and learned how to showcase their skills. The students dressed to impress in sharp suits and dresses, hoping to make a good impression.

Helen Johnson, livin Futures Manager said: 'This is a really useful and beneficial exercise for the students as they get a lot out of it. Many have never had an interview before and from an employer's point of view it's great to be able to offer tips and advice so that students can sell themselves and hopefully this will result in a successful outcome in the future.'

One student who attended his first interview was Adam Byrne who said 'I was a little nervous as I've never had an interview before but I do have an interview for college soon so I am glad I had the chance to do this first, I think I did well overall.'

The Academy thanks the 12 employers involved; livin, Bishop Auckland College, HMRC, Esh Group, Hall Garth Hotel and Country Club, New College Durham, Northumbrian Water, Optimum Skills, Caterpillar, Durham University, Hitachi and Red Box Promotions.

## Parliament Right to Extend Bombing to Syria

Dear Syd,  
I'm so pleased that Ian Bussey was "so disappointed" at the vote in Parliament to extend RAF bombing into Syria. I imagine he is even more disappointed now that the RAF have successfully carried out missions in Syria which have further degraded Daesh's ability to spread their warped ideology. Further, I hope the RAF have killed at least one terrorist who was plotting to bomb Ian Bussey (and/or me)! The decision of Parliament was the correct one for all of the reasons given by David Cameron and summed up,

brilliantly, by Hilary Benn in the Opposition closing speech. What was absent from the naysayers was any semblance of an alternative practical strategy (only endless talk, while Daesh kill, rape, enslave, torture and recruit, is not a strategy). Get real! Parliament is not a debating society; it has to make life and death decisions, not least, when it comes to extending military action. I, for one, feel safer now that Daesh's power is being degraded in Syria. Phil Wilson voted on his conscience; it was a "free vote". Further, he was well aware that those Labour Party

MPs, who intended to support the extension of bombing, were being bullied by the resurgent undemocratic "Looney Left". The same "Looney Left" who made the Labour Party un-electable in the past, having brought down the democratically elected Heath government.

Phil's decision, in the face of such bullying, is to be applauded by all who would uphold democracy and our Parliamentary System (which, incidentally, Daesh seek to destroy).

Phil Wilson was not elected to do as Ian Bussey wants! He was elected to serve all of his

constituents regardless of who they voted for. This he has done to the best of his ability. I pray he can live easily with his decision which nobody, not even Ian Bussey, has a right to censure him for.

As for all those MP's who voted against bombing; if they think Tony Blair's mess will only be solved by talking to Daesh, can I suggest that they set up a meeting with Daesh in Syria. If they have the courage of their convictions to do so, I would be pleased to applaud them, especially if they invite Ian Bussey.

Alastair P.G. Welsh.

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## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Greenfield Arts' Christmas holiday activity programme is now live and kicking and available for bookings! We have some great free sessions on offer for young people and families, with Christmas crafts, family wreath making and even a Christmas film event! Activities are suitable for all ages, children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

For full details and to book your place please contact Greenfield Arts on 01325 379048, [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk) or pop in and speak to one of our members of staff. Please see website for all holiday programmes as well as lots of other opportunities on offer, including our new learning programme and gallery brochure soon to be released at [www.greenfield-arts.co.uk](http://www.greenfield-arts.co.uk).

We hope to see you over the festive season!  
Have a wonderful Winter holiday.

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37.5 hours per week

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**Post 1:** Adult Social Care Health Trainer, based at Meadowfield, County Durham

**Post 2:** Targeted Health Trainer, based at Shildon, County Durham

The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) is an award-winning North East charity whose mission is 'Health, Wellbeing and Learning for All'. We are seeking to recruit enthusiastic and motivated individuals who are keen to support local people to improve their health on a one to one and group basis. Health Trainers will support people to increase healthy behaviours, engage with their local community and achieve their goals.

**Key tasks include:**

1. Activity seeking to engage with people from targeted populations
2. Managing a caseload and maintain regular supportive contact with each person.
3. Creating personal health action/activity plans with clients.
4. Developing and delivering group activities aimed at improving health or wellbeing.
5. Working with partners and pro-actively signposting clients onto other services.

**Qualifications & skills required:**

- RSPH Level 2 Understanding Health Improvement
- At least 12 months experience of working or volunteering in the locality
- Knowledge of health and lifestyle of people accessing Adult Social Care service or of people living in Shildon (depending upon the post)
- The ability to influence, negotiate and motivate individuals in relation to health related behaviours
- The ability to independently travel across County Durham

For an application form and further information please contact the HR Department on:  
Telephone: (01325) 313133 Email: hr@pcp.uk.net  
Fax (01325) 301129 website: www.pcp.uk.net

**Closing Date for applications:  
Thursday 24th December 2015, 12 noon.**

We are an equal and diverse employer and particularly welcome applicants from groups who are currently underrepresented at PCP, such as men, people with sensory impairments and carers. Company Limited by Guarantee. Company Registered in England No: 3491237. Registered Office: Pioneering Care Partnership, Carers Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham, DL5 4SF. Registered Charity No. 1067888.



## Adding Xmas Sparkle



After the success of the Cree Lodge at Greenfield Arts' Winter Wonderland on 25th November, which brought together various handicraft skills to create a warming log cabin out of carpet rolls; a wonderful snowy mountain display out of folded paper and an inspiring light installation out of scaffolding; the Cree volunteers decided to spread the sparkle and warmth to the Greenfield Community College Sunnydale Campus in Shildon.

They worked tirelessly in the wind and rain, with the help of production manager Richard Agar, to prepare the metal structure, which replicates a

leaping unicorn, for the roof. The structure is lit brilliantly with stage lights and a net of fairy lights which make up its tail, spreading across the side of the building. Staff have said how brilliant it is as it brightens up their walk into work each day during the recent grey, dreary days. Arts Centre Director of Arts and Creativity, Katy Milne says "It is great to bring some sparkle and warmth with such a beautiful artistic piece and bring something positive and lovely to see, something which we at Greenfield Arts believes is important for all creative projects, courses, workshops and exhibitions."

## TOWN GYM COLLECT TOYS FOR KIDS



Lifestyle Fitness Newton Aycliffe and its members are supporting 'Cash for Kids' this December. Can you help? Many children are living in poverty so we are asking readers to buy an extra present this year. This will be given to a disadvantaged local child to make their Christmas morning special. We're looking for new and unwrapped gifts suitable for children and young people aged 0-18 years. We are offering all non members that donate a present a FREE pass to the gym. For more information contact Sarah O'Hare 07810 098 115 or email sarah.ohare@lifestylefitness.co.uk

## MP at Foodbank Collection



Phil Wilson MP visited the Foodbank Collection on Friday at Tesco's to show his support. Phil said "Whilst the reliance on Foodbanks is a sad reflection of today's society, the Neighbourhood Collection is a fantastic initiative which supports our local Foodbank at St. Clare's. The support from the dedicated volunteers, and customers, demonstrate the true generosity of the people in this town. I fully encourage all those who can to donate something to their local Foodbank this Christmas. None of us like to think of people having to go without, especially at this time of year."

ROTARY CLUB OF  NEWTON AYCLIFFE

## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG

*Come along to sing your favourite Christmas Songs and Carols with performances by School Choirs from Great Aycliffe*

**Tues 15th December**

**1pm - 2.30pm**

**Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre**

**Admission FREE! Everyone Welcome!**



# POLL ON DEVOLUTION AYCLIFFE'S SOLAR ENERGY FARM NEARING COMPLETION

Residents eligible to vote in County Durham will be asked for their views on the North East's devolution agreement via a postal vote next month (January 2016).

A pack, including information on the agreement from Government to the North East

Combined Authority, and questions, both prepared by Durham University, together with detail on how to take part will be sent to all people registered to vote in the county.

The approach was agreed by Durham County Council

members at a meeting of Full Council today (December 9) and will be funded from the council's revenue contingency budget.

The proposed devolution agreement was negotiated with Government by the North East Combined Authority, which is made up of the seven councils covering Gateshead, Newcastle, North and South Tyneside, Northumberland, Sunderland and County Durham.

It would see decisions about transport, investment, funding, skills training, business support, housing and strategic planning being made in the North East instead of in London.

It would also bring an additional £30m a year over the next 30 years, which would be pumped into the regional economy through investment, job creation, transport improvement and more targeted skills training.

The proposed devolution agreement which has been signed is conditional on further public consultation, the Government's spending review, legislation passing through Parliament and agreement by each of the seven councils in the Combined Authority.

The results of the poll will not be binding but they will help to inform the county council's decision.



In October Biosar UK Ltd Solar installers began the first phase of the farm located on School Aycliffe Lane. Mr Savas Savvaidis, the assistant project manager explained the adverse weather conditions had put the project slightly behind but now they are well underway with the first panels being fitted this week.

In total 17,000 panels will be fitted. Mr Roberto Sajva who is the project Manager is hoping that the whole site will be installed by the end of December. Once installed the panels will have the capacity to provide 5mw of energy, which will be fed into the national grid, this would be enough to power approx. 1500 homes, whilst saving 2,200 tonnes of carbon emissions.

When the installation is completed the landowner will be able to use the area under the panels for grazing sheep; and to allow the wildlife to return to the area, which is fenced off with a 2 meter high wide meshed security fence.

Mr Mike Bell safety officer, explained the site once completed, will be visited occasionally for monitoring and maintenance purposes, and the whole farm will be monitored by CCTV cameras for security and safety purposes.

There is a public bridle path along the east side of the site, so if you are interested go and have a look, but take your wellies.

T Sheppard  
Neighbourhood Coordinator



## Unexpected Repair Costs on your Car?

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**19560 H15 - £46.95**

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Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6UJ

**Telephone: 01325 304432**

**Opening Hours:**

**Mon-Fri 8am-5.30pm; Saturday 8.30am-2pm**

## Brafferton Village News

Preparations are well underway for our Badapple Theatre Company production of Farmer Scrooge's Christmas Carol on Friday 11th December. If you are coming, doors will open at 7pm, with the performance starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are still available to buy on the door but arrive in plenty of time. Please remember to bring your own drinks.

We also have a late booking for Teessdale Band The Rockroses on Saturday 19th December, 7pm start. They will be playing a selection of 60s-80s music, mostly dance music. Bring a few friends and come along for a bit of a good old fashioned Christmas boogie! And if you've got a favourite song from that era send us a message and we'll get it requested!

This will be a free event but there will be a donations bucket for anyone who would like to make a contribution. Remember your own drinks again, alcohol is permitted on the premises and we always ask for people attending events to be considerate to families in the village when coming and going. We won't be serving any refreshments but will have a table for a shared buffet if you'd like to bring a plate of your favourite snacks to share too.

As always you can find more details at [www.Facebook.com/BraffertonVHA](http://www.Facebook.com/BraffertonVHA). We look forward to welcoming you to our village for some festive fun!

## PUBLIC NOTICE BRITISH COAL COKING PLANTS DEADLINE - 12 FEBRUARY 2016

The High Court has appointed Hugh James and Irwin Mitchell as lead solicitors in a group action for conditions associated with employment at coke works operated by British Coal. Specifically:

- respiratory disease
- temporary exacerbation of asthma
- lung cancer
- squamous cell skin cancer

A closing date for the group register has been set by the Court as 12 February 2016.

If you think you or a deceased family member may have been affected and worked in a coke fuel plant as a coke oven worker and wish to consider joining the group, please contact Hugh James or Irwin Mitchell by 22 January 2016 who will send you further information and assess whether you may be eligible to join the group and claim compensation.

If you instruct an alternative solicitor other than Hugh James or Irwin Mitchell, it is their responsibility to submit notice of any individual wishing to join the litigation to Hugh James and Irwin Mitchell.

**Call Hugh James or Irwin Mitchell:**

**0808 271 4407**

Or visit:

[www.hughjames.com/cocomp](http://www.hughjames.com/cocomp) or

[www.irwinmitchell.com/cowb](http://www.irwinmitchell.com/cowb)



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Hugh James and Irwin Mitchell are authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Financial Conduct Authority. **Terms and conditions apply.** This advertisement has been placed pursuant to a Court order.



# Woodham Academy Christmas Concert

It is always a delight to watch children perform and spot outstanding talent in our young people, destined to be great entertainers.

Last Thursday I spent a lovely evening at Woodham Academy's Christmas Concert. The programme contained a wide variety of music and dance bringing tumultuous applause from an appreciative audience which included the Town Mayor Mary Dalton and her Consort son Michael.

Each student can be proud of their performance and the music teachers can be equally proud of their work with young people who showed great potential.

Particularly impressive was the dancing which was well rehearsed with everyone on point. Brilliant singing by Abbie Kennedy who, already well known for her dancing, made a very successful vocal debut.

Another star act was Eva Efstathiou a talented singer and banjo player whose rendition of "Riptide" was fantastic. The Gymnastics performed by Jessica Cherrie, Abbie Kennedy and Katie Leadbitter was graceful and breathtakingly spectacular.

Woodham Jazz Band played "The Final Countdown" superbly and the lively rhythm had everyone foot-tapping. Hannah Bussey and Victoria Witton, singer and guitarist were excellent. This duo can be seen performing outside school at local functions.

The audience heard Samba and cornet music, pianists and violin playing - truly a wonderful mix of live entertainment which was a joy to watch. Congratulations to Woodham Academy for staging this annual concert.



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

The Council, on 10.12.15 made 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: 11 December 2015

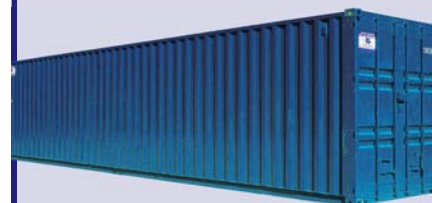


Colette Longbottom  
Head of Legal & Democratic Services  
County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL



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# POP STARS AT AYCLIFFE TOWN CENTRE CHRISTMAS SHOW



Local group "North Road"



The town Centre owner's Christmas Celebration Show was spoilt by horrendous weather, affecting the numbers turning out to see pop artistes of X Factor fame, Josh Daniels, Karen Harding and Kerianne Covell. Local Band "North Road" also appeared and were well received. The landlords are to be commended for their effort in promoting the town centre shopkeepers at Christmas.



Josh Daniels and Kerianne Covell - X Factor Contestants



Two other stars were our Mayor Mary Dalton and her consort son Michael who braved the foul weather to attend the event.



Santa arrived to hand out free gifts to children

## AGM of New Friends New Places Club



New Friends - New Places Club held their annual General Meeting this week attended by the Mayor Mary Dalton. Ken Robson and Syd Howarth were among the guest who heard how successful the group has been this year enjoying numerous social events and outings.

Over 7 years the group, which meets at the Navy Club and receives GAMP funding, has grown from 10 to 50 members with support for people who live alone or seek companionship. Each speaker congratulated the club on the service it provides and commended Dorothy Bowman, the founder, and Chairperson for her hard work in the community.

Great Aycliffe



Town Council

Notice of an

### Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council

Notice is hereby given that:-

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

**WEDNESDAY, 16th DECEMBER 2015**  
at 7.15 p.m.

#### Item on the Agenda

Minutes of the Special Policy and Resources Committee

To consider and approve the minutes of the Special Policy and Resources Committee held on the 9th December 2015.

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".

## R.A. TAYLOR

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## The Village Pharmacy

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### OPENING TIMES

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Saturday 9.00am-12.00noon

(Closed 1.00pm-2.00pm for Lunch)

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friendly staff who are always available to speak with  
anyone who would like help and advice.**

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## THANK YOU KWIK FIT!

Dear Sir,  
I would just like to extend a massive thank you to Mike Bunn at Kwik Fit in Aycliffe for helping me last weekend with my Citroen. I had an unfortunate meeting with an unruly drain/pothole which resulted in my tyre shredding. After a stressful morning trying to resolve the issue, we finally came to Mike who went over and above his duty to assist me. He came out to my car himself as I was unable to drive, took the wheel off and drove back to the garage to collect a new tyre which he then brought back. He is a credit to the garage and I cannot thank him enough for his help! It's so good to see customer service still exists. Chelsea Keedy

## WALKERS

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# SUPPORTING REFUGEES IN COUNTY DURHAM

Details of how County Durham could support the national response to the Syrian refugee crisis will be put before councillors next week. Members of Durham County Council's Cabinet will be asked to consider proposals setting out the level of support that could be offered to people fleeing war-torn Syria.

The proposals have been developed by the Durham Humanitarian Support Partnership, which was set up in September to consider County Durham's ability to provide assistance and to ensure the organisations involved can work together effectively. It followed the Government's

announcement that the UK would take an additional 20,000 Syrian refugees by 2020, with priority being given to the most vulnerable, including children.

The partnership, chaired by the county council, is working with churches, the voluntary sector and other partners to look at the needs refugees may have, including housing, food, health, education, translation services and community support. Under the proposals being put to councillors, County Durham would agree to take refugees, with a focus on family groups, over the next five years.

An evaluation would be carried out within 12 months of the first group of refugees arriving in the county to see how effective this had been in order to help determine whether additional people could be accommodated.

Cllr Eddie Tomlinson, Cabinet member for assets, strategic housing and rural issues at Durham County Council, said: "We have already pledged our support to this national effort to help refugees escaping from war and persecution in Syria."

"At a time when many families here are experiencing hardship themselves, these offers of support to some of the world's most vulnerable and desperate

people is heartening.

"The proposals being put before Cabinet set out the level of support which the partnership feels can be offered in County Durham."

"They recognise that we do not have significant experience of relocating vulnerable refugees in the area and take into account our current ability to support and accommodate people." Cabinet will be asked to agree the proposed response to the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme when they meet next Wednesday (16 Dec). The Government will work with councils to put in place the necessary arrangements to support and accommodate refugees and will meet full cost in the first year with funding tapering over the next four years.

## XMAS CRAFT EVENING

Great Aycliffe Town Council have joined forces with the local RSPB Explorer group to offer a free Christmas craft evening at Moore Lane Eco Centre for the whole family on Thursday 17th December at 6pm.

The activities will include decorating recycled timber log sections to make special rustic decorations for the tree plus much more. For more information and confirm your place please contact Great Aycliffe on 01325 300700.

# Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership Proves its Worth

Steven Mitton from CDFHS chaired the December meeting of GACAP which brought another new face to Great Aycliffe Community Action Partnership's monthly meeting which has been moved, because of increasing numbers, from the Agnew Centre to DISC Offices near the Blue Bridge.

There was a buzz round the table and partners shared what was happening in their own organisations. Val Fawcett from Durham Alcohol Support Services (D.A.S.S.) was the new partner. As many as 12 people with Alcohol Dependency issues meet every Thursday 11am-1pm at the Leisure Centre. The group is non-judgemental and non-religious.

Sheena Stephenson, who manages Community Alcohol Services on behalf of Lifeline Community Action, said she had a lady addict now 5 weeks without a drink. This was a significant achievement, Sheena also manages Baby Basics, which is a service for mums of all ages, who were short of even the basic requirements for their baby or young child.

Chris Palmer, again signing for Christine from the deaf community, said that with current cutbacks it was

impossible for people who are deaf or who like him have a hearing impairment to get much needed assistance.

Susan Sadler from Lifeline Community Action said Christmas food hampers and children's toys would be distributed to needy families on the town. She thanked Santander and Asda for holding toy collections to enable them to ensure no child - they were aware of - would go without a present at Christmas. A Christmas Lunch is on 19th December and partners were asked to advise of any lonely people who could benefit. The Rotary Club were also distributing hampers to needy families at Christmas reported Geoff Batchelor, Club Welfare Officer. Dorothy Bowman's groups were progressing well, the Dementia Group now met at the Western Area Community Centre Tuesday Morning and often all day on a Thursday. Junior Neighbourhood Watch also meet at the centre as did Kool for Kids. New Friends New Places meet at the Navy Club. The new Shopping Club is picking people up with trips to various shopping locations followed by lunch together. She also reminded partners about the Community Mini Bus which was available for

hire.

Liane Taylor from DISC advised of two opportunities for young people one being for 19 plus, offering advice and guidance, and the other for 18-25 years, which had run for 3 years giving support in a group or one to one. A free Coffee Morning with Mince Pies will be held on 11th December at DISC.

Chris from Homegroup said they were holding a Christmas Fair on 16th December from 11am-2pm to raise funds. Bric-a-Brac or clothing donations would be gratefully received. Clair, from Veterans at Ease, said they would be holding a networking coffee morning between 10am-11.30am on 22nd January at Bede House on Aycliffe Business Park.

Steven, from County Durham Furniture Help Scheme (CDFHS), asked for reports around the table for those who wanted to add comments. He said that NE First Credit Union would have a permanent office at his Chilton premises with trained staff from CDFHS available during office hours. For further details of any of the events please contact GACAP on gacap001@gmail.com. The next meeting for the Group will be 1st February 2016 at 4pm at DISC Premises by the Blue Bridge.

## 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 Budget Consultation Events, 16th (St John's RC School, Bishop Auckland) and 17th (County Hall) December, 6-7:30pm: bit.ly/DCCBudgetConsult
- Last Friday night was very busy for DCC: bit.ly/FloodNight
- Live local flood alert warnings: bit.ly/AycFloods
- Cobblers Hall SUDS pond worked exactly as it is supposed to: bit.ly/CHSUDS
- DCC environmental crime crackdown continues: bit.ly/EnvCrimeFines
- Visitors to Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre will receive 15 months for the price of 12 if they take out membership, and pay up front, in December
- My report on the Town Council's Policy & Resources Committee meeting of 2 December: bit.ly/GATC2Dec
- Upcoming roadworks of which I am aware: bit.ly/Roadworks4Dec

### COMMUNITY

- 'Come Eat Together' Carvery for over-50s at NAYCC, Monday 14 December, 12 noon to 2pm, £5: contact 0191 374 6577.
- UTC South Durham fly through: bit.ly/UTCflythrough
- Friends of the S&DR - December newsletter: bit.ly/FOTSADDec2015
- My report on last week's Agnew PACT meeting: bit.ly/AgnewPACTDec15
- Community groups can get a FREE cycle stand from www.parkthatbike.info or by calling 01594 564 344

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN GREAT AYCLIFFE

### ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

DECEMBER 7TH - 7PM  
CAROLS WITH BRASS BAND  
AT AYCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL  
DECEMBER 24TH - 3.00PM  
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT  
DECEMBER 24TH - 11.30PM  
CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

### XCEL CHURCH

DECEMBER 20TH - 10:30AM  
CHRISTMAS FAMILY SERVICE  
DECEMBER 20TH - 6.00PM  
CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION OF  
SCROOGE (TICKET EVENT)  
DECEMBER 24TH - 6.00PM  
CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

### METHODIST CHURCH

NEVILLE PARADE  
DECEMBER 20TH - 6 PM  
CHRISTMAS CAROLS  
DECEMBER 25TH - 10:30AM  
CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION  
BURNHILL WAY  
DECEMBER 20TH - 10:00AM  
NATIVITY SERVICE  
DECEMBER 24TH - 3.00PM  
CHRISTMAS CAROLS

### ST CLARE'S CHURCH

DECEMBER 19TH/21ST - 6.00PM  
"STRAW AND ORDER"  
TICKETS ARE ORDERED  
DECEMBER 20TH - 6.00PM  
CIVIC CAROL SERVICE  
DECEMBER 24TH - 4.30PM  
CHRISTINGLE SERVICE  
DECEMBER 24TH - 11.30PM  
CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST  
JANUARY 9TH - 4PM  
MESSY EPIPHANY

### ST. ELIZABETH'S CHURCH

DECEMBER 15TH - 1.30PM  
TODDLERS CHRISTINGLE SERVICE  
DECEMBER 21ST - 7.00PM  
PUB CAROLS IN THE HUNTSMAN PUB  
DECEMBER 24TH - 6.00PM  
CHRISTINGLE SERVICE  
DECEMBER 25TH - 10.00AM  
CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

### HARVEST CHRISTIAN CENTRE

DECEMBER 20TH - 10:30AM  
FAMILY CAROL SERVICE

### ST. MARY'S

DECEMBER 20TH  
7:30PM CHRISTMAS CAROLS  
DECEMBER 24TH  
5.30PM CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS  
8PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS  
DECEMBER 25TH  
10.00AM CHRISTMAS MORNING MASS

### ST. THOMAS'

DECEMBER 24TH  
4.00PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

### The Parish Of Great Aycliffe

www.parishofgreataycliffe.co.uk

Rev. Chris Pearson Tel: 01325 789439  
Rev. Debbie Loughran Tel: 01325 310767  
Rev. Elizabeth Bland Tel: 01325 324622

### Methodist Church

Minister Andrew Bryer Tel: 01388 7778207

### Harvest Christian Centre

www.harvestchristiancentre.org.uk

Pastor Geoff Walvin Tel: 01325 308284

### Xcel Church

www.xcelchurch.com

Pastor John Greenow Tel: 01325 329500

### St. Mary's, Great Aycliffe & St. Thomas', Shildon

www.aycliffecatholic.org

Father Michael Whalen Tel: 01325 313611



# CHRISTMAS IS NOT HAPPY FOR EVERYONE!

## Foodbank Thank Tesco for Collection



who is half-way around the world. It proved a fantastic experience for pupils to reflect on the opportunities that are available in the 21st century away from Newton Aycliffe. I wanted the pupils to feel inspired and motivated by this Skype call and to know that with commitment, determination and hard work they too can realise fantastic experiences around the world'. The Skype call was just the first in a series of Skype calls planned across the different houses at Greenfield Community College. Orange House made a skype call to Australia last week with Green House planning to Skype call to the United Arab Emirates in the coming weeks.

Christmas is all about heartbreak and loss, loneliness and disappointment stand out in sharp contrast to the sparkly excitement of Christmas.

"Christmas in our society is often about families, and families are not always happy. If you're facing a death or a divorce, the 'empty chair syndrome' becomes very real at this time of year."

Christmas gets all glammed up, but at the heart of it all, it celebrates a very quiet

moment. Christmas began with a little baby in a stable over 2000 years ago. It started with two parents who were tired from a long journey and caught off guard that the baby would choose this particular moment to be born. It wasn't glamorous, and it certainly wasn't shiny but it did mark the moment that Jesus came as the Light to the world to bring us all hope. You can read the Christmas story from the book of Luke.

time to stand and hand out leaflets, they all seemed to smile whilst I am sure their feet ached from standing - I know that mine did, thank you all very much.

Finally thank YOU, the shoppers at Tesco's who gave most generously to aid the work of your foodbank, it is only by the generosity of people that we are able to help those who find themselves in food poverty.

Once again, many thanks to you all.

Ernie & June Temple  
Foodbank Co-ordinators

## Meeting Football Professional



Students from Woodham's 'More Able Academy' recently paid a visit to Middlesbrough FC's training ground at Hurworth. The purpose of the visit was to see how the clubs sports science department operates. Many had the opportunity to work with Peter Hood, Head of Sport Science, to see how this developing discipline within professional sport helps stars such as Stuart Downing and Jonathan Woodgate achieve their best performances. Students were given a specific training task whilst on their visit, which revolved around creating a Speed Agility Quickness (SAQ) type exercise designed to rehabilitate an injured player. It was an excellent experience for all concerned and will become a regular visit within Woodham Academy's More Able and Talented programme.

## Coffee Morning

Newton Aycliffe Inner Wheel are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 9th January from 10am-12noon in Heighington Village Hall. Admission is £2 and includes coffee/tea and scones. Cake Stall and Surprise Tombola. The Inner Wheel Club invites you to join them on World Inner Wheel Day when it is customary to meet and raise funds for charity.



## NEW MANAGEMENT AT PHOENIX

Shirley Leighton, a resident for over 30 years, has taken over the Restaurant at the Phoenix Club (formerly The British Legion). Her career to date has covered many aspects including teaching, running a Training Centre, working with adults

and in Care Homes and as an NVQ Assessor. Shirley has always been interested in catering having trained people in Food Hygiene so when she heard there was an opportunity to take on the catering at the Phoenix Club was given the

contract.

She is very excited and has lots of ideas and ambitions for the restaurant including lunches through the week with a variety of food, and Sunday lunches with a choice of meats and all the trimmings. A Take Away service is also available. "I am also eager to introduce afternoon Cream Teas during the week as this is one of the things people in Aycliffe have requested. We will also be doing a breakfast service to eat in or take away," said Shirley. Although only open a few days there has been a lot of interest in full Christmas Dinners which Shirley is happy to provide. Bookings are now being taken for just £28.50 per person.

The restaurant is open for traditional Sunday Lunch offering a choice of three meats - all freshly made costing £5.20 for a standard size meal and £6.95 for large. A large selection of desserts will be available. The premises are available for Christenings, Birthdays and Funeral receptions, etc. For more details, contact Shirley on 07858 722968.



## CHRISTMAS THANK YOU CUPPA AND MINCE PIE



Liane Taylor, Assistant Director of Service Employment & Social Enterprise with Matt Roberts of More Time

Local people in Newton Aycliffe are invited to meet staff for a Christmas get-together at a popular second hand furniture shop. The More Time Furniture shop, next to the Newton Press offices near the Blue Bridge, is offering free tea or coffee and mince pies to customers next Tuesday, 15th December. The shop, which is already holding a Christmas Sale, will reduce items a further 20% for the day. Christmas wreaths will also be on sale.

Matt Roberts, furniture coordinator at the social enterprise shop, said: "We just want to say thank you to all our local customers this Christmas. More Time Furniture has had a wonderful year in Newton Aycliffe and we're hoping that 2016 will be just as good, if not better!" The free drink and mince pies are available between 11am and 1pm next Tuesday. The shop, which is open Monday to Friday, from 9am to 4pm and on Saturdays, 10am to 1pm.

## Will Our MP Vote for Tory Cuts Next?

Dear Sir,  
My wife and I have just read the letter from a reader regarding the person elected as our representative in Westminster, as a part of the Labour Party, who without seeking the views of those who gave him his job, voted in favour of Dave Cameron, against the wishes of the properly elected Party leader.

This member is the man photographed in your newspaper admiring the new town centre signs. Shame the town name was not correctly shown on the signs.

Should we wonder if at the next election he will stand as an independent or become a Tory?

I am aware there is much argument about the decision to bomb but this is about our MP's decisions. He may be voting for the Tory financial policies next, and is not what would be expected by someone in the area voting for a Labour candidate  
I & V Waine  
Disappointed Labour voters

## NOTICE OF ELECTION

### Election of a Town Councillor for WEST WARD OF GREAT AYCLIFFE PARISH

1. An election is to be held of One Town Councillor for the West Ward of Great Aycliffe Parish.
2. Forms of nomination for the Parish Election may be obtained from the Clerk to the Town Council or the Returning Officer at Room 1/104-115, County Hall, Durham. DH1 5UL (between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.) who will, at the request of an elector for any electoral area prepare a nomination paper for signature.
3. Nomination papers must be **delivered in person** to the Returning Officer at County Hall, on any day after the date of this notice but no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, 21st December 2015. Nomination papers may only be delivered by either the Candidate, Proposer or Seconder.
4. If the election is contested the poll will take place on Thursday, 21st January 2016.
5. Applications, amendments or cancellations of postal votes must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at County Hall by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 6th January 2016.
6. Applications to vote by proxy at this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at County Hall by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 13th January 2016.
7. Applications to vote by proxy at this election applied for on grounds of physical incapacity, where that physical incapacity occurred after 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 13th August 2016, must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at County Hall by 5 p.m. on Thursday, 21st January 2016.

Dated:- Tuesday, 8th December 2015 Colette Longbottom  
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## Amazing Results for Sedgefield District 75 Swimming Club

The weekend of 7th November started what was to be a fantastic month for Sedgefield District 75. They celebrated the success of this first weekend at the last club night before the closure of Newton Aycliffe Pool on 9th November with a host of titles, medals and PB's from a weekend of galas. Elizabeth Yaneski became the Scottish and British 1500m Champion at the Scottish Nationals on Saturday 7th November 2015, an incredible achievement for a highly talented swimmer. Whilst Elizabeth was swimming 13 other swimmers were collecting a host of medals and PBs at the Wear Valley Gala in Bishop Auckland. Most notable was Niall Coulthard who along with a PB in all 6 of his races also got gold in all 6. The other 12, Rebecca, Jessica and Daniel Hall, Jamie and Alice Darnton, Katelyn Craig, Kate Tolley, Leah Smith, Maisie Craggill, Kate Carmichael, Sophie Wilkinson and Lauren Chatt all had amazing swims and put into practice the work carried out in training. This was reflected with many of the 12 swimmers getting PBs in all their races.

The success of the weekend of the 7th was followed by another enormous success at the North Eastern Regional Championships which were held at the Sunderland Aquatic Centre on the 21st & 22nd November.

The event comprised of two gala's running at the same time NER age group and NER senior. The scale of the event was such that many spectators were unable to access the gala. Competing in the age group gala for Sedgefield 75 were Niall Coulthard, Rebecca Hall and Jessica Hall.

They swam in sixteen events with Niall taking the gold medal in the 200 FS in a time of 2:11:45. He won bronze in the 50 FS in a time of 28:03 and was placed 5th in the 200 Breast stroke and the 100 FS. Jessica was placed 5th in the 200 Back. They all swam well and in most cases improved on their entry times.

Representing Sedgefield 75 in the senior gala were Matthew Bradley, Hannah Featherstone and Zac Hodgkinson. They competed in twelve events and made a total of ten finals.

Matthew won silver medals in the 50 FS in a time of 23:41 and the 50 Breast in a time of 29:86. He took bronze in the 200 Breast stroke in a time of 2:21 and bronze in the 200 IM with a time of 2:08. He was placed 4th in the 100 Breast.

Hannah took the gold medal in the 200 FS, the 100 FS and the 100 Backstroke. Her times were 2:00:48, 56:07 and 1:01 for the Back. She was fourth in the 400 FS.

Due to the pool closure the preparation was not as we would have liked but they all showed what great athletes they are not only in the way they competed but in the way they supported each other. In every event they improved on their heat time in the finals. A credit to themselves, and to the club.

The importance of this event relates to the forthcoming National Championships to be held at Sheffield 17th December. The club extends its sincere thanks to Durham County Council and all the clubs

## 15 Minutes to Live - Now 18 years old



Lovely Chloe Miller of Eden Road was given only 15 minutes to live at birth after suffering lack of oxygen. She was placed on a life support machine and ended up with multiple problems and her parents were told to prepare for the worst. Chloe then shocked all the medical team by pulling through, but became a victim of cerebral palsy meaning lots of surgery, daily therapy and frequent visits to hospital. Despite all her problems Chloe never ceases to amaze people by her wonderful personality which is an inspiration to everyone she meets. She attends Darlington College and the medical profession still continue to be overwhelmed by her progress. As Chloe looks forward to celebrating her 18th birthday on the 15th December with family and friends, her parents wish to thank everyone, including the local community, for their support over the years.

## Prof Nincompoop in Panto

Gary Avery, known locally as Prof. Nincompoop, is appearing in his first professional Stage Panto at The Empire Theatre, Consett in "Jack and the Beanstalk" until 31st December.

Gary is really enjoying the experience and a number of Newtonians have made the trip to see him perform. Tickets are £15 for adults and £13 for concessions. Family and group discounts available. Box Office: 01207 217171 or book on-line at [www.leisureworks.net](http://www.leisureworks.net)

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## AYCLIFFE MASONIC LODGE HELPS CANCER GROUP



Aycliffe Masonic Lodge made a donation to the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group run by Allison White at the Youth Centre. Left to right with Allison is Graham Parker, Robert Jones Robbie Davison and Godfrey Bennett. The presentation was made at the Christmas Party last Thursday and Allison on behalf of the group expressed her sincere gratitude to the members of the Lodge.

## THE DEVOLUTION DEAL (3)

*In his penultimate article, John D Clare explains what the Devolution Agreement proposes in terms of Skills and Transport.*

## (2) SKILLS AND EDUCATION

The Devolution Agreement proposes to set up an 'Employment and Skills Board' to review post-16 support for harder-to-help claimants, and to develop new strategies for post-16 education, deepening links with business and encouraging "vocational training, experience of work and enterprise learning". However, there is no funding identified, except the post-19 adult skills budget and the new Apprenticeship Levy. The Board will be dominated by senior Whitehall civil servants, chaired by the Commercial Secretary to the Treasury, and responsible to the government - so it is hard to see much 'devolution' going on here.

## MY VERDICT:

One has to wonder whether the powers and funding on offer will achieve the ambitious aims, and it is very depressing to see a final proposal for a 'Service Transformation Fund' intended "to reduce high dependency on public services" - has the Skills part of the proposal been hijacked by the government's Welfare agenda?

## (3) TRANSPORT

The Devolution Agreement hopes "to create the UK's first fully integrated transport system ... to bring together responsibilities for rail, local highways, metro, buses and ferries, for urban, suburban and rural communities". To this end, moreover, the Agreement promises the Mayor legal powers,

and a multi-year transport settlement.

The Mayor will introduce a regional 'smart ticketing' system (e.g. like the London Oystercard). He will "oversee" the work of a government organisation called 'Rail North', which will have responsibility for rail services, rolling stock and connections in the north east. He will control franchising of bus services, and he will have a voice in inter-regional transport issues and investment, including Highways.

The Devolution Proposal also promises to "consider" funding a multi-year investment programme in the Tyne and Wear Metro. This is of particular significance to County Durham residents because funding the Metro - from which we currently gain nothing - was such a worry that we secured a specific exemption in the NECA agreement, and there is no such exclusion (yet) in the Devolution Agreement.

**MY VERDICT:** Very ambitious, but to be welcomed if it comes off. Doing the job properly, however, will require £-billions, and sceptics will note the absence of any specific numbers amongst the promises. Bus-franchising powers are included in the Buses Bill going through Parliament, but this may be compromised by the recent legal defeat of Tyne and Wear's attempted re-regulation. John D Clare

This is my interpretation only, and not official DCC policy. You can read the full Devolution Proposal here: <http://bit.ly/NECAdeal> Next, in the concluding article, I will explain how the Devolved Authority would be run.

## 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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## FESTIVE ISSUES OF NEWTON NEWS

**Christmas: - Wednesday, 23rd December**  
**Deadline: Monday 21st December, 5pm**  
**No Edition - Friday, 1st January, 2016**  
**Friday, 8th January, 2016 (back to normal)**  
**Deadline: Wednesday 6th January, 5pm**

Advertisements can be placed at our agents:  
**WALKERS (Simpasture),**  
**YOUNGS/POST OFFICE (Town Centre)**  
 or online at [www.newtonnewsads.co.uk](http://www.newtonnewsads.co.uk)

## Office Opening Times

Closing 4.00pm on Wednesday 23rd December  
 Skeleton Staff in attendance until re-opening on Monday 4th January 2016 at 8.30am

*The Management and Staff of Newton Press and Newton News would like to wish all Newtonians a Merry Christmas and Happy, Prosperous New Year*





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2 Bedroom Semi

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Admin £100

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## Birthday Remembrance

### DERRICK NELSON

8th December

Our thoughts are with you on this day

Happy memories

come to mind

Of one we loved with

all our hearts

And will till the end of time.

Not only our precious Dad, but our Dear Friend

Loving and missing

you always,

Valerie and Michael

Elizabeth and Kathryn

Allan and David

Jacob, Bronwyn,

Theo and Dylan

**PHILIP JOSS** 15th December 1959. Your photo stands in pride of place, a lovely smile lights up your face. You always seem to be so near, how I wish Phil, you were still here. Love and miss you, Lydia xxx

## In Memoriam

**JOHN CASSIDY** (Cass) 12th December 1987 This day is remembered, and quietly kept. No words are needed, we shall never forget. For those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Love you always, Doris and family xxx

**TERRY LENDRUM** 12th December 2002 If memories bring us closer, we are never far apart. Because you're always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts. Your loving Husband, John and family

**BOB DICKINSON** 10th December 1991 This day we shall remember with heartache, tears and regret. It's the day you were taken from us, how could we ever forget. I loved and missed every day. Loving Wife Peggy and all the family xxx

**STEVE STEWART** Still missing you every single day Son. Loving you always, Mam

**TREVOR PLASKITT** died 12.12.2010. You left too soon and broke our hearts. We find it hard to carry on without you, we miss you and are so proud of you. We love you and always will Trevor xxx

Thinking of you every day and in our hearts forever. Love Wife Valerie, Daughters Shirley, Jason, Julia and Adam and loving Grandchildren, Jonathan, Maxine, Louis, Mia and family xxx

**MARGARET KELLY** 12th December. Love and miss you so much. Always yours, Paddy xxx

**JOAN STOKER** 9th December. Today we celebrate your birthday Mam, we know you will be near. You'll be standing next to us smiling, as you wipe away a tear. Our love for you is eternal and will never go away. So we raise our glasses high Mam, to celebrate your 81st birthday today. All our love from Daughter Marie and Son-in-law Ray x Son Paul and fiancé Amanda x and love forever to Nanna Joan, happy birthday from Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. God Bless xxxxxxxx

**WENDY GRAHAM** 12th December 1960 My Darling Wife Wendy, who I miss with all my heart. Thinking of you always. Your Loving Husband, Charles xxx

**WENDY GRAHAM** 12th December 1960 Missing a wonderful Sister and Auntie. Love you always, Kay, Mike, Michael, Sean and Zoe xxx

**STEPHEN PARKER** 12th December 2004. Close to my heart you will always stay, loved and remembered every day. Love always, Margaret xxx

**STEPHEN PARKER** 12th December 2004. If tears could make a stairway and memories a lane, I'd walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again. From your loving Daughter Susan and Grandson Shaun xxx

**ENID PARKER** 17th December 1996. Loving memories we have locked in our hearts, you shall not be forgotten because we are apart. From your loving Daughter Susan and Grandson Shaun xxxxxx

**RALPH NELSON** 06/11/50 - 11/12/14 I wish that I could see you, for just a little while. I wish that I could hug you and see your smile. But wishing gets me nowhere and longing is in vain, so I will hold you in my heart, until we meet again. Love always, Kathleen xxx

**RALPH NELSON** 11/12/14 Deep in our hearts your memories are kept, to love and cherish forever Dad. Love, Daniel, Kerrilee, Emily Rose and Tristan

**RALPH NELSON** 11/12/14 One year ago today you went away, but thoughts of you are always in our minds and hearts, where you will always stay. Love you always and forever, 'till we see you again. Love you loads, Tracy, Scott, Beckie, Jordan and Brodie xxx

**RITA THOMPSON** 11th December 2008 Dear Sister and Auntie, your presence we miss, memories we treasure, loving you always, forget you never. Doris and family xxx

**JOC HAMMELL** 10/12/14 A heart of gold stopped beating, a year ago today. In life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still. You'll forever hold a place in our hearts, that no one else could fill. Love always, Pam, Philip, Andrew, Michael, Sharon, Catherine, Gemma, Jake, Jodi and Evie x

## Congratulations

### Happy 70th Birthday



**Maureen Ross nee Lidster**

Love from Robbie, Darren, Irene and Julie

### Happy 70th Birthday Nana

Love you lots from Mark, Ashleigh, Anthony Tor, Shannon, Paige and Megan and hugs and kisses to Great Nana Ross from Maisun, Cohen and Austin

### Daniel James Suffield



11/12/15

### Happy 21st Birthday

Have a fantastic day.

Lots of love,

Mam, Geoff, Amber,

Uncle Stu and Ted

xxxx

### Louise Ward



13-12-1996

### Happy 21st Birthday

Hope you have a great day!

Lots of love,

Mam and Dad xxx

### Happy 21st Louise

Love from

Thomas and Emma x

### Happy 21st Birthday

Lots of love from

Scott and Fredi-Jayne xx

### Louise Ward

Wishing you a

wonderful day.

Love from

Nana and Grandad

Champion and

Grandma and Grandad Ward

### Joyce and Eric Brown



**Happy 83rd Birthday Joyce and on our 61st Wedding Anniversary**

**MARK HUGHES** Happy 40th birthday. Have a nice one. Love, Dad

## Christmas Wishes

**MICHAEL & PAM** Lovelass of Langley Road wish all friends and neighbours a peaceful and happy Christmas and good health and happiness for 2016 xxx

**DORIS CASSIDY** and family would like to wish all their family and friends Seasonal Greetings and a Prosperous 2016. Love you all, Doris and family xxx

**CHLOE MILLER** 15th December. Happy 18th Birthday to a very special Niece. You are our little miracle and we are very proud of you. Enjoy your party. Lots of love, Auntie Mandy, Uncle Gary, Danny, Darren, Jenna and Baby Bump xxx

**CHLOE MILLER** 15th December. Happy 18th Birthday to our special Daughter. You are such an inspiration and a Daughter to be proud of. Enjoy your party, love you lots and lots. Love, Mam and Dad xxx

# Rotary Club's Annual Street Tour with Santa

The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe will be out with Santa's Sleigh on the following dates, each evening from 5.30pm - 7.30pm. They will be collecting to provide Christmas Hampers for needy families, an annual event which also involves a collection in Tesco.

**Monday 14th - Simpasture**

**Tuesday 15th - School Aycliffe**

**Wednesday 16th - Bluebell Way**

**Thursday 17th - Silkin Way**

*Listen for the music and bring your children out to meet Santa.*







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## FREE OPEN NIGHT AT NEVILLE PARADE

Dear Sir  
 May I thank everyone who attended the free Pie and Peas Supper at Neville Parade Community Centre incorporating The Cubby. A big thank you to the Coop store also Property Exchange who kindly donated towards the evening. The volunteers worked very hard throughout the day to organise it and last but not least a massive thank you to entertainers Deborah Eve and Amy of Kinexus who performed brilliantly. They are a first class group and I would recommend them to

anyone organizing an event.  
 Bill Blenkinsopp  
 Chairman

## Heighington Under 11's Into Next Round

Heighington U11's were away to 1st division Billingham Synthonia in the Challenge Cup. In a hard fought game the home side took the lead after a scramble in the box resulting in an own goal. Both sides had chances, but went into the break with just the one goal separating the two teams. Heighington came out much the sharper team and equalised through Owen Evans with a good strike from just inside the box. Heighington extended their lead midway through the second half with a cool finish from Alistair Garrow, but the home side hit back again with a really good worked goal from a good cross. A minute later Heighington keeper Charlie Harrison pulled off an amazing save to keep the game all square. But with extra time looming the ball broke to Owen Evans on the right and he put in a delightful ball for Callum Fraser to slot the ball home to send Heighington into the next round well done boys.

## JUNIOR FOOTBALL REPORT

Another wet week limited some of the games but Aycliffe Junior's teams still managed some great performances over the weekend.

Under 7's game was lost to the wet conditions but the Under 8's faced Trimdon on the 3G pitch at Sunnydale. A slow start led to Lucas having to pull off a great save to keep the game at 0-0. Aycliffe then took control of the game with a goal from Harvey. Aidan got his first of the season to move the score to 2-0 before half time. A fantastic second half performance saw three further goals with Connor curling one in the bottom corner then Rhys adding the last two in a 5-0 win. In the second game it was the same score line courtesy of goals from Niall, Jacob, James (2) and Jack. The games men of the match were Harvey and Niall.

Under 9's faced Billingham Juniors in a cup game and it turned out to be a very close encounter. Billingham came out on top 2-1 on this occasion, man of the match and Aycliffe's goal scorer was Charlie Brown.

The Under 10 TJFA side had a tough task away at Marton FC Whites in the League Cup. The first half performance was excellent and goals from Charlie and Lucas gave a 2-0 lead. The fine form continued



into the second half and a dominant display was rewarded with a third goal from Zack to complete a 3-0 win. This exciting team now progress to the quarter finals in their bid to retain this cup. Under 10 Russell Foster league side gained their third win, out of three winter league games, as they beat Sacriston Fulforth 3-0. The windy conditions were braved by both teams, Evan had a great strike saved and from the resulting corner Taylor headed the first goal. Evan doubled the lead with a great volley and Bo added the third. Oli was given the players man of the match on his return to the team after a period of illness.

Under 11's game was called off and the Under 12's had no fixture planned this weekend. The scheduled derby games for the Under 14's against Aycliffe Youth and the match

between our two Under 18 teams were both called off due to the heavy rain and waterlogged pitches. Under 23's were up against it travelling to top of the league and unbeaten Guisborough with an injury ravaged squad. The home team deservedly won the game despite a spirited Aycliffe effort.



## Rotary Club Santa Tour



The Rotary Club are touring streets of the town with Santa and his colourful sleigh, visiting homes, talking to children and collecting for Christmas hampers for Aycliffe needy families. Listen for the music between 5.30pm and 7.30pm. The club wishes to thank Gregg Little Testing Centre for the use of their van to tow Santa's sleigh.



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## FREE WEEKEND AT LEISURE CENTRES

Families were being encouraged to start their new year's resolutions early with a free weekend of workouts in County Durham.

In October new gym memberships were launched at Durham County Council's leisure centres.

And to encourage more people to find out about the fantastic fitness opportunities, visitors to the centres were offered free access to gyms, swimming and selected exercise classes from 28th to 30th November.

Andy Brown, Durham County Council's principal physical activity manager, said: "We are keen to see as many visitors as possible come to the centres and try out the facilities."

"And to encourage them to return again and again anyone who joins the gym during the weekend will get one month free."

The free weekend took place at Abbey, Chester-le-Street, Freeman's Quay, Meadowfield, Newton Aycliffe, Riverside, Shildon-Sunnydale, Spennymoor, Teesdale and Woodhouse Close leisure centres.

For more information and to find your local council run leisure centre visit www.durham.gov.uk/leisurecentres

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