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Aycliffe Churches & Schools Help Christmas Foodbank



Back Row: Fr. Michael Whalen, Des Swallow (FB volunteer), Rev Andy Bryer, Margaret Lee (CTGA), Anne Molyneux (CTGA), Kath Pinner (Tesco), Kerina Clark (Xcel), Julian Clark (Xcel), Gwen Morrison (Ladies Refuge), Rev. Chris Pearson.
Front Row: Ernie Temple (FB volunteer), Rev. Elizabeth Bland, Rev. Debbie Loughran, Pastor Geoff Walvin (Harvest Christian Centre).

Representatives from Churches Together Great Aycliffe saw Gwen Morrison receive a £150 donation from Rev. Debbie Loughran on behalf of the Women's Refuge and Ernie Temple receive a £150 donation from Rev Chris Pearson for the Foodbank. Wilkinsons and Tesco presented the group with donations of chocolates and there has also been a collection in Tesco for the Food Bank.

The committee of Churches Together in Great Aycliffe (C of E; Methodist; Harvest Church; RC Church; Xcel Church) met on Wednesday 16th December in St. Clare's church hall to make a donation to the Aycliffe Foodbank and the Family Help charity. The Family Help charity offers safe accommodation for ladies and their children who are victims of domestic



and sexual abuse. The ladies refuge is based in Darlington and accommodates ladies from the local area. Representatives from Wilkinsons also attended and presented Ernie and June Temple with boxes of chocolates, selection boxes, etc., which had been donated by their staff and customers. Foodbanks are not allowed to buy luxury items like chocolates so these are a very welcome item for the Foodbank at this time of the year. In addition to the very successful in store collection at Tesco, representatives from Tesco presented food and chocolates to the Foodbank.

Continued on page 2

Newton Press
would like to wish all our Readers and Advertisers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Aycliffe Churches & Schools Help Christmas Foodbank



The young people and staff at Greenfield College have been collecting items for the local foodbanks throughout December. Mr Temple Chairperson of St Clare's Church Foodbank in Newton Aycliffe received the boxes from the Aycliffe Campus of the school on Wednesday 16th December. The Sunnydale Campus of the school supported the Shildon foodbank.

Youthy Chairman's Christmas Message Exam Results

Much of our work over the last year has been to deal with the Asset transfer of the Youth Centre which is now in the latter stages, this transfer has come about due to austerity measures imposed by the Government on Durham County Council. As the Chair of the Board of Trustees my role was to re-write the Constitution which moved the Youth Centre form an unincorporated organisation to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation; (known has a CIO). The new centre will become more vibrant in our vision for the future to help others, in particularly when working with young people. The centre will become the central hub of the community. Over the next year we plan to make the Centre a better

place to be, over the festive period, I would ask that you also think of others, to call on a neighbour and remember all those who are struggling at this time. Even the smallest things can make a difference. Christmas is the feast that celebrates the ultimate Good News that a child is born for us. Christmas is all about this child. It is all about the gift freely offered that we cannot buy. He is the gift offered for our life, for our enjoyment; he is the ground of our hope. If we humbly accept his love as we do with any new-born child, he can and will transform us from within. There must be peace between us all, our unbelief, the wrath that we so unjustly

project must be removed. This is the deepest peace and our deepest need at Christmas. Peace be with you all and I hope you have a happy Christmas. Vince Crosby

The following pupil of Terence Lawson, School Aycliffe, has been very successful in the recent Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Examination. PIANO: William Kennington Grade 1 with Distinction

Town Entertainer in Consett Theatre Panto



Gary Avery well known as Prof. Nincompoo in the town is appearing at the Empire Theatre, Consett in "Jack and the Beanstalk" - his first professional Panto role. For details Ring the Box Office on 01207 218171 or book on-line at www.leisurework.net

BIN COLLECTIONS DURING THE FESTIVE PERIOD

There will be changes to some bin collections over the festive period in County Durham. The changes, during Christmas and New Year weeks only, affect rubbish and recycling bins which are normally emptied on a Friday. Collections which would have been due on Friday 25 December will instead take place on Monday 28 December. And collections due on Friday 1 January will be carried out on Monday 4 January. All other collections, including those due on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, will not be affected. Normal collections will resume on Tuesday 5 January. Residents are also advised that Durham County Council's bulky waste collection service will not operate between Monday 21 December and Monday 4 January. People can arrange to have their real Christmas tree collected free of charge by contacting the council on 03000 261 000 before Friday 8 January. People can check their bin collection dates by entering their postcode on the My Durham section of the council's website - www.durham.gov.uk

LETTERS TO SANTA

Santa receives many letters without a name, an address or both. The first batch of letters have just been delivered to Santa from the special post boxes in Aycliffe and he has attached the six which he cannot reply to. Normally, the elves would look up the names and addresses but they are just too busy getting presents ready. Santa would like the boys and girls to

know that he has received their letters and will try really hard to get the presents they have asked for, but not to be worried if they don't get a letter sent back to them.



Santa plad can you get the Mawoff for me on the 10th.



Christmas Songs

The Marie Clare Singers will perform a programme of Carols, Christmas songs and readings in St. Mary's Church Newton Aycliffe on Sunday 20th December at 7.30 p.m. Entry is free and open to all, coffee and mince pies served afterwards. A retiring collection will be taken in support of the church project to fund and extend a hospital for the poor and destitute.

CAROL SERVICE

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints will be holding the **Annual Christmas Carol Service on Wednesday 23rd December commencing at 6.30pm**

We open a warm invitation for all to come and join with us, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.
Bishop Richard Martin

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"MAD" Christmas Party Youth Council Toy Appeal



Aycliffe Youth Councillors collected toys and gifts for the TFM Christmas Toy appeal. Following the meeting in November where the Youth Councillors agreed the TFM toy appeal would be a great project to become involved in, a number of them donated their allowance which allowed Chrissy Walton to purchase a large number of toys. Over the next two weeks the remaining Youth Councillors continued to collect gifts to donate to the appeal. As you can see from the photograph it was a great success. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



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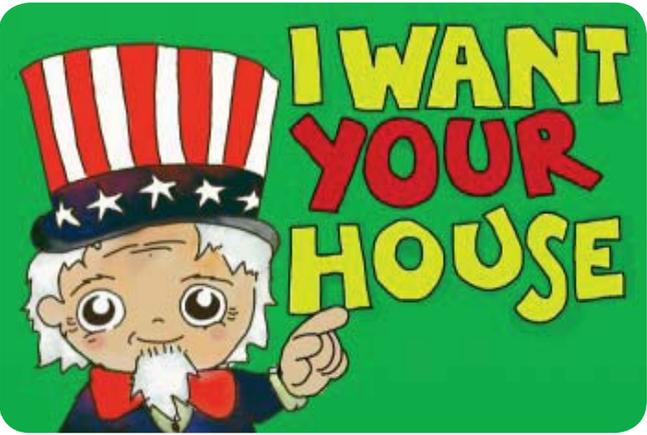
Last week Aycliffe "MAD" Choir held their Christmas Party at Woodham Community Centre where it meets for rehearsals. Guests were entertained with a concert from the talented members and this was followed by a free buffet and Karaoke entertainment. The choir has around 50 members and have a great time under the conductor Eve Lodge. Sonia Scott who started the group nearly 20 years ago is shown with Eve (front left). The choir has enjoyed great success over the years and is open to everyone. Tel: 01325 495219. Mobile: 07878 88435

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SALVATION ARMY OPEN NEW SHOP IN TOWN



The Salvation Army opened its charity shop in the town centre last week. Amanda Dowson is manager and Sarah-Jane is second in charge. The new shop is doing really well and would be delighted to receive your donations however they don't take in furniture.



CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

The office which takes bookings for Baptisms and Weddings in the Parish of Great Aycliffe, will be closed on 23rd and 30th December and will re-open on Wednesday 6th January at 5.30pm.

TOY RUN POSTPONED

Aycliffe Bike Club & the Turbinia's Toy Run, was postponed due to last week's adverse weather conditions, it will now go ahead this Sunday 20th December, with our SPECIAL GUEST - Francis Jones owner of Sparta Security, and star of BBC3 series Rent A Cop.

Every year 'Aycliffe Bike Club' & 'The Party Fire Engine' tour round pubs collecting toys that have been donated, to be handed over to 'Bishop Auckland Women's Refuge'. This event has been running for 8 years & has handed over thousands of toys, giving kids a Xmas they could only have dreamt about, so please support this worthwhile cause.

How you can help - please buy an extra present this year and leave it unwrapped with the staff at The Turbinia, or better still, hand it over in person & greet the cavalcade of motorcycles (many in fancy dress) the 'Party Fire Engine' & 'Rent A Cop' Francis, 3pm, The Turbinia

Bikers all very welcome to join in the fun, suitable for all sizes of bike, trikes & scooters, just donate a toy Meet The Turbinia, Aycliffe DL5 7PA - 11-45am CALL GARY 01325 313034

W.I. Xmas Celebrations

The members enjoyed our Christmas Party, with good food, entertainment and fellowship. We again welcomed new members and we seem to be growing rapidly. We would very much like to take this opportunity to say a very 'Big Thanks' to Honest John for his extremely generous donation. We hope, like us, other Newtonian's will continue to support John by donating to his business to enable him to help other local organisations. The ladies also enjoyed a fabulous Christmas Lunch at the Burtree, and for Andy to put up with over 40 WI members did us proud yet again. He and his staff enabled us to start the Christmas celebrations, thank you all at the Burtree! We are already looking forward to our Christmas meal in December 2016! Newton Aycliffe W.I. wish our members and future members 'Season Greetings'.

AUSTERITY TO DEEPEN IN COUNTY

An update on budget planning for the North East's largest council - including the impact of the Chancellor's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) - will reveal a total savings target of close to £290m by 2020.

Members will also hear that whilst austerity will continue, much remains uncertain at this stage as Durham County Council will not receive its financial settlement from Whitehall until mid-December.

However, an action plan, the potential use of an additional £25m from reserves and a continuation of the sound financial management approach adopted by the council means that despite the toughest of times, every effort will be made to minimise the impact of the cuts on the county's residents.

The budget planning paper before the authority's Cabinet next week (December 16) sets out a four year plan which will see continued consultation with the public on spending priorities, and also on the impact of proposed changes. Final decisions will be made on 74 proposals for savings outlined in the report by Cabinet and Full Council in February.

Alongside these measures continuing efforts will be made to highlight and support the 'Durham Ask', a programme which sees the council support communities and the voluntary sector to take over some council buildings and services.

The council Leader Cllr Simon Henig: "We have done our best to protect frontline services and to respond to the priorities set by the public and we are committed to maintaining this approach. "Continuing spending cuts on this scale inevitably mean making tremendously difficult decisions including changes to services, altering how we deliver those services and reducing our own costs at the same time.

"As we manage this we will use a potential further £25m in reserves to mitigate the impact on frontline services as best we can. We are also committed to ongoing consultation with residents so that we understand how proposed changes may affect people and we will pay special attention to those who are most vulnerable as well as people living in rural more remote areas."

The continuing austerity also means there will be a further impact on jobs at the council. In 2010, then facing budget reductions of £123m, Durham announced workforce reductions, of 1,950 posts. That figure remained, despite austerity continuing and a revised savings target of £260m earlier this year. However, facing additional savings the council may have to reduce the number of posts by a further 400. The freeing of vacant posts and redeployment - as well as skills training and the introduction of more efficient ways of working will be used to reduce the impact.

Cllr Henig said: "We recognise staff are our biggest asset, which is why we have strived so hard to protect as many jobs as possible, while making greater cuts to management and support costs. Sadly, like many public sector organisations, we may have to reduce our workforce further to prioritise spending on services wherever we can. Again, we will delete vacant posts and use redeployment to minimise the impact."

The council's financial planning is based on a 2% increase in council tax over the next four years. However the CSR offered local authorities the chance to help replace lost central Government funds by adding a further 2 per cent social care precept to council tax bills - with income from this ring-fenced for spending on adult social care. This option will be part of the upcoming budget consultation exercise.

Earlier in the autumn of 2015 the council's 14 Area Action Partnerships took part in the latest round of consultation on how the council should manage its reducing budget. Feedback from this, and an online consultation option, revealed the public's spending priorities had not changed. However, residents will continue to have their say via a second phase of consultation, starting December 16 and running until January 12, 2016. As well as an online option at www.durham.gov.uk/haveyoursay there will be three special events:

The full Cabinet report can be viewed here <http://democracy.durham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CID=154&Mid=7926&Ver=4>

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Santa's Christmas Eve Tour of Newton Aycliffe

ROUTE ONE

3.45pm
Welbury Grove
4.00pm
St Oswalds
4.10pm - 5.10pm
Washington Crescent area, Wycliffe, Armstrong, Wren, Whitehead, Hutchinson, Hylton, Matthew, Wolsey, Richardson, Trevor, Gardens, St Aidans, Felton
5.10pm - 5.40pm
Neile, Defoe, Trevor, Porter, Wheeler, Lamb, Espin, Bellasis
5.40pm-6.30pm
Wiseman, Ewbank, Hardinge, Chandler, Chapman, Crowley, Hardinge, Bousefield, Faber, Kendrew, Sanderson, Hamilton, Elstob, Burn
6.30pm-6.45pm
Westmorland, Henson, Whiteley, Thurlow, Aylmer
6.45pm - 7.30pm
Dalton, Hartley, Faulkner, Hullock, Allington, Walcher, Lilburne, Macmillan, Bertie, Alington, Webb, Westmorland, Newburn
7.30pm - 7.55pm
Humphrey, Silkin, Stead, Wright, Priestman, Marshall, Burdon, Lightfoot, Stephenson
8.00pm
Back via Pease Way

ROUTE TWO

3.45pm-4.05pm
St Cuthbert's/Bede, Anne Swyft, Clarence Chare, Close and Green, Baliol, Hackworth
4.05pm-4.45pm
Baliol, Travellers, Linguard Seton, Gilpin, Clanny, Palmer, Cosin
4.45pm-5.15pm
Co-operative Store, Bury Wilkinson, Van Mildert, Greathead, Shafto, and return to Yacley, Greville, St Cuthberts
5.15pm
St Clare's Church
5.30pm-6.00pm
Sheraton, Sheraton, Greville Henderson, Crewe, Sharp, Hunter, Lumley, Sheraton, Crawford, Sheraton, Biscop
6.00pm-6.25pm
Hatfield, Heild, Biscop, Skirlaw, Flynn, Beck
6.25pm-7.15pm
Via Shafto to Creighton, Moore, Swan, Gunn, Mellanby, Liddell, Kenny, Carr, Markham, Secker, Joicey, Kemble, Bulmer, Vane, Fowler, Warburton, Jackson
7.15pm - 7.40pm
Shafto, Shield, Stanfield, Denham, Ramsey, Eden, Langley, Malling
7.40pm-8.00pm
Central Avenue (Fire Station), Church Close

ROUTE THREE

3.45pm-4.45pm
Garburn, The Lanes, Burnhill, Hawkshead, Honister, Silverdale Lindsfarne Care Home Kirkstone, Langdale Whinlatter, Eskdale Greenfield
4.45pm-5.30pm
Linden, Beechfield Rowan, Elmfield, Pease Oakfield
5.30pm-6.15pm
Cumby, Crosby, Doxford Crosby, Lowery, St Godrics Mills
6.15pm-6.45pm
St Godrics, Watson, Simpature, Simpasture Moule, Finchale, Gregory, Lambton, Lee, Hopper
6.45pm - 7.00pm
Dixon, Walker, Emerson Butler, Castlereagh, Merz
7.00pm-7.30pm
Ritson, Lyon, Marley, Wallas, Isherwood, Bewick Emerson
7.30pm-8.00pm
Barrington, Ashfield, Beacon, Tunstall, Carileph, Ebba, Bruce, Pease, RAFA Club, Paulinus, Pease

ROUTE FOUR

3.45pm-4.40pm
Aycliffe Village Durham, Millfields, Atkinson, The Orlands, The Green (Mill House), South, St. Andrews, High Street, Heighington, Oakley, Congreve, Bickford,
4.40pm-5.20pm
School Aycliffe West, North, Eastfields, The Garth, Midfields, Lord Neville, Binchester, Menville, Burnynghill, Forresters, Smythsons, Sheppards, Thursby, Wilbore, High Barn, Meatlesburn
5.20pm-6.00pm
Springfields, Hazelrigg, Lowfields, Hansard, Jennison, Westfields, Hillfields
6.00pm-6.20pm
Malvern, Colwell, Bedford Wilton
6.20pm-7.00pm
The Chase Staintondale, Rookwood, Zetland, Covert, Stirrup, Bramham, Bedale, Post Horn, Saddlery, Greenfield
7.00pm- 7.30pm
Byerley Park Lascelles, Luttryngton Hambleton, Ranulf, Jesmond, Colburn, Elwick Claxton, Russell, Yoden Wynyard
7.30pm-8.00pm
Cobblers Hall Ashtree, Pinewood, Wellhouse, Bluestone, Oldwood

ROUTE FIVE

3.45pm-4.00pm
Brafferton, Grange, Chilton, Grindon, Whitton, Woodham
4.00pm - 4.35pm
Lowther, Brook, Cartington Mulgrave, Helmsley, Middleham, Burleigh, Badminton, Stoneleigh, Lowther
4.35pm - 4.50pm
Hickstead, Stag, Kennilworth, Cheltenham, Gatcome
4.50pm-5.25pm
Epsom, Kempton, Windsor, Fallow, Fawn, Hind, Raby, Brancepeth
5.25pm-5.50pm
Village, Bamburgh, Chillingham, Alnwick, Barnard, Pemberton, Farnham
5.50pm - 6.25pm
Beaumont, Kirkham, Egerton, Dudley, Howson, Clover, Sorrel, Yarrow, Harebell, Campion
6.25pm
St. Elizabeth's Church car park
6.35pm-6.55pm
Sandowne, Tattersall, The Oaks, Beechers, Paddock, Croft, Woodham Sunningdale, Low Green
6.55pm - 7.45pm
Spinney, High Green The Grange 1 - 4, Bridle, Woodham Gate
7.45pm-8.00pm
Acle Burn, Acle Meadows, Burnhill Way, St Andrews Court, Ryder Court

ROUTE SIX

3.45pm-4.20pm
Hallington, Tindale, Derwent, Angram, Scholars, Broomlee, Stocks, Waskerley, Fewston Greenwood, Blackton
4.20pm-5.15pm
Meadowfield, Ladybower, Greenlee, Stainmore, Winterburn, Grassholme, Burnhope, Stainmore, Hareson, Cestria
5.15pm-5.45pm
Lisle, Lockyer, Hoode, Cheviot, Pennine
5.45pm-6.20pm
Bluebell, Coverdale, Bluebell Meadows, Wolvestone, Alverton Drive & Court, Hamsterley, Barton, Paxton
6.20pm-6.55pm
Lancelot, Temple, Gamul, Raddive, Spooner, Thwaites, Eade
6.55pm-8.00pm
Malham, Reeth, Rylstone, Askrigg, Skipton, Arncliffe, Aysgarth, Hawes, Pateley, Stainforth, Keld, Marrick

ROUTE SEVEN

3.45pm-4.00pm
Rose Lodge at Cobblers Hall, Foxglove
4.00pm to 4.35pm
Ropemoor Way, Forster Patenson, Wakenham Youens, Haselwood Blackiston, Carwardine Karles, Bloomesley
4.35pm-5.15pm
Agnew, Kings, Ida, Osbert, Guthrum, Osric, Aldfrid
5.15pm-5.30pm
Wellhouse, Morrison Tanfield, Stargate The Ballarat
5.30pm-6.15pm
Kimbleworth, Fenhall, Hutton, Callerton, Deleval, Elemore, Phoenix, Brockwell
6.15pm-7.00pm
Heatherburn, Foxton, Herrington, Hardwick, Butterwick, Rushyford, Layton, Woodham
7.00pm-8.00pm
Scott, Bakewell, Booth, Bates, Sid Chaplin, Fox, Brockett, Loraine, Thornton, Sampson, Merlin, Burnhill, Kestrel

Listen out for my bells, I may be a little late




TOP ACHIEVERS HIGH TEA



Blake Charlton, Esther Young, Rebekah Cox, Lily-May Jeeves, Jessica Pugh, Scarlett Alderson, Katie Walker, Lucy Chappell, Loren Ballantyne, Kyle Taylor, Dane Appleby

At Woodham Academy students are acknowledged for their hard work, effort and good behaviour across the school. This was recognised in an awards ceremony held last week. The deserving students were presented with certificates for their excellent behaviour which had been noticed by teachers and staff. Students were also recognised for their efforts in the house awards system which encourages young people to become exemplary citizens by applying good effort in the classroom, having a positive attitude and being well behaved. On Wednesday 11th December, the top 12 students with the most house points were rewarded with an afternoon tea celebration complete with

cakes and scones. The youngsters had achieved 1,138 points between them in the space of 11 weeks. A huge well done to all the young people from Woodham Academy recognised in the awards ceremony this term.



Police are appealing for information after a window was smashed on Greenlee Garth, Newton Aycliffe. The incident occurred at around 9pm on Wednesday 16th December, 2015 in which a metal bar was thrown through a first floor landing window. Anybody with any information should contact PC 2687 Jamie Pitt on 101.

Grand Opening of Café 'O' at the Pioneering Care Centre



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Café 'O' at the Pioneering Care Centre will celebrate its grand opening at 6pm on Monday the 11th of January 2016. For Monday night's only, the Centre café will be run by members of the Options group, a PCP project for local disabled adults. All members of the local community are warmly invited to attend the grand opening on the 11th and to support Café O on following Monday nights in the New Year from 6pm - 7.30pm.

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Merry Christmas to all our Customers

Do You Have Australian Relatives?

Dear Sir,
I have received two Christmas cards and one birthday card for a Newton Aycliffe family (named David, Yolanda, Zack Annabel and Cody Cooke). They are from their Uncle/Aunty in Australia and were sent to the wrong David Cook in Aycliffe, so they must have lost their address. Newton News are publishing this letter in the hope the family can be reunited with their cards and their family in Australia.
The 'other' David Cooke!

Beer and Carols at The Huntsman

Wear your best Christmas jumper or festive hat and join us for this annual event at The Huntsman, Woodham, on Monday 21st December at 7pm.

What better way to get into the Christmas spirit than drinking beer* and singing carols?

Lots of merriment, laughing, beer* drinking and carol singing!

Event totally free - Just turn up ready to sing and drink beer (*other refreshments also available).

This event is brought to you by The Huntsman, Woodham and St Elizabeth's Church

Christmas Cheer at Woodham Academy



Christmas officially arrived at Woodham Academy on Saturday when the school opened the doors for its Christmas Fair.

The hall was filled with gifts galore with stallholders providing crafts and trinkets, jewellery, homeware and festive treats. There was lots to do for the youngsters with



free face painting, biscuit decorating, arts and crafts, table tennis and Santa's Grotto.

Each workshop was well attended with children taking home personalised mugs, Christmas decorations and presents for Mum and Dad. Visitors were entertained by performances from

Aycliffe Dance Academy and Woodham student Victoria Witton, performed a fantastic acoustic cover of a number of hits from the likes of Jason Mraz.

The snow arrived on cue to provide extra Christmas cheer while visitors enjoyed mulled wine, mince pies and other refreshments.



Horndale Appoint New Chairman

Mr Eddy Wood was appointed the new Chairman at our AGM on 2nd December. Eddy is looking forward to working with local residents to improve the lives of everyone.

He has lived in the area for many years and has a good knowledge of local issues and regularly attends residents/PACT and Council meetings. Eddy wishes all Newtonians a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

It is with sadness that the Association has lost another great member of the group, Jean Carter (Treasurer Martin's wife), who passed away last week after a short illness. Jean helped at events and was always willing to help, secretly we think she helped Martin with paperwork, but don't let him know. Jean was well known for working at Moss the Chemists, under the town clock, she was truly a lovely lady. Our thoughts go to Martin and his family at this sad time. Eddy can be contacted by email horndaleresidentsass@outlook.com



HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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

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



Woodham Academy
Washington Crescent, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 4AX
Telephone: 01325 300328
www.woodham.org.uk
Headteacher: Mrs. C. Forsyth

2 x Lunchtime Supervisors (Permanent)

NJC Points 5 – 11 (c£7.00 per hour - c£7.88 per hour)

Position 1 - 18.75 Hours per week Term Time Only
Term time hours - 10.45 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. (Mon-Fri)

Position 2 - 8.75 Hours per week Term Time Only
Term time hours - 12.45 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. (Mon-Fri)

Woodham Academy requires two friendly and reliable people to supervise and provide care for students at lunchtimes within the college building and grounds. This position may involve some working in the outside in a range of weather conditions.

Woodham Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment will be subject to receipt of a satisfactory DBS Enhanced Disclosure and references.

Woodham Academy is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We want to develop a more diverse workforce and we positively welcome applications from all sections of the community. Applicants with disabilities will be invited for interview if the essential job criteria are met.

For an application form, job description and person specification please download from the school website at <http://www.woodham.org.uk>

Closing Date 9.00 a.m. Friday, 8 January 2016.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



investing in children



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

- My report on Wednesday 9 December's (lively) DCC Council meeting: bit.ly/DCCFullDec2015
- My report on Thursday 10 December's DCC Scrutiny meeting on the controversial DLI issue: bit.ly/DCCDLI101215
- Are DCC 'wasting' £200k of our money on a non-binding opinion poll re Devolution? bit.ly/DQWaste
- Bin collections during the holiday period: bit.ly/XmasBins2015
- Chief Constable Michael Barton explained to Great Aycliffe Town Council how he would tackle the problem of heroin addiction: bit.ly/BartonDec2015
- Latest progress on the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan: bit.ly/GANPDec2015
- The Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan group is trying to get to 1000 members before Christmas: bit.ly/GANPfB
- Our MEP Jude Kirton-Darling's weekly update: bit.ly/MEP131215
- Friday - upcoming roadworks of which I am aware: bit.ly/Roadworks11Dec

COMMUNITY

- Recorded crime in County Durham continues to fall: bit.ly/PCCcrimeDec2015
- Police and Fire and Rescue services agreed a landmark deal to work together: bit.ly/PFRdeal
- Faith groups and councillors discussed providing sanctuary and support for Syrian refugees: bit.ly/SyriansDec2015
- MAIN offer short breaks services for anybody aged 5-18 with any additional needs or disabilities: bit.ly/MAINbreaks
- Call to donate unwanted furniture: bit.ly/ReuseDec2015
- Christmas holiday activities for children & young people in Shildon and Newton Aycliffe: bit.ly/Xmas15Act
- December issue of the Pioneering Care Partnership's Supporters' Bulletin: bit.ly/PCPDec2015
- Merry Christmas – back in the New Year!

Seasoned Hardwood Logs For Sale

£60.00 per bag
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Mix of Ash, Beech and Sycamore Trees
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Monday-Friday 7.30am to 2.00pm

ACORN Christmas Party



ACORN Christmas Party goes ahead despite heavy snow fall in and around the area.

Despite heavy snowfall the ACORN Christmas party held at Newton Aycliffe leisure centre went ahead. Fun games, dancing and food were appreciated by all. The highlight of the evening was a game of handbag bowls which was greatly enjoyed by adults and children alike.

Despite the heavy snowfall Santa managed to make an appearance and gave presents and wishes of good cheer to all of the children and their families.

Anyone interested in a whole new years' worth of events and adventures are welcome to come and meet the group at our next meeting to be held at The Phoenix Club Upstairs lounge (formerly Royal British Legion). On Thursday, 14th January, 2016. Little Acorn's meeting commences at 5:30pm; followed by the adult group meeting at 6:00pm.

ACORN monthly meetings are often attended by representatives from the

Town Council, Durham County Council, Livin and our PCSO. Representatives are available to speak to during and privately after the meeting if you have any questions to ask or issues to raise.

ACORN would like to wish our members, colleagues and fellow Newtonians a very merry Christmas and a happy successful 2016.

Ken Robson
On behalf of ACORN Residents Association

Talk on Attic Secrets

The next meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club will take place on Monday 4th January at 7.30pm at Shildon Civic Hall when speaker Tony Nicholson will entertain with a talk entitled 'Secrets in the Attic'.

Free to members. £5 for visitors. Pay on the door. For further information contact Chairman Pauline Wadge (01388) 834293

Report from the Front Line



It's that time of year when everybody is getting all excited for Christmas. Out comes the lights and the decorations, up goes the tree, and the kiddies excitement levels go through the roof. Sadly, it's a time where great care is also needed – the nights are dark, weather isn't at its' best with fog patches settling in making the conditions ideal for the opportunistic criminal looking to ruin the festive season for someone/s! I would therefore like to take the opportunity to deliver some straight forward crime prevention/awareness messages that – hopefully, will have everyone taking some extra precautions.

Doors and windows – I'm starting with the obvious one. Well, I say obvious but it's one of the primary factors in house burglary – where the criminal simply walks into your home because the front or back door is unlocked, or the windows are unlocked. Even when at home it's vital that everyone locks their doors and windows.

Property on display – don't keep valuables on display on windowsills for the undesirables to see. Opportunists are out there – don't dangle that carrot!

Burglar alarms – always ensure that – where present, you set your alarms whenever leaving your homes. This one might seem obvious but it's one of the most common omissions made.

Car keys – always keep these hidden somewhere safe. Do not keep them near to front/back doors. '2-in-1' burglaries are where suspects enter your home and in the process take vehicle keys, helping themselves to the family motor while they're at it – keeping keys tucked away will reduce the likelihood of your car getting stolen should some undesirables gain entry into your property.

Vehicle security – when parking your vehicle up always check that it is securely locked. You may think that it's locked because you pressed your central locking button on your key fob and heard the 'click' however a couple of extra seconds to double check that's the case will reduce a lot of potential heartache later on. The vast majority of the crimes within the Newton Aycliffe where we take reports of thefts from vehicles involve unlocked and insecure cars – some criminals (I say some) are opportunistic and will try your door handles to identify whether your car is locked or not. If unlocked...well we know how that story ends. If locked many (not all) will move on rather than risk exposure by forcing entry. And on that note..

Property in vehicles – this is another thing that we see time and time again. It doesn't matter how long you're leaving your car for – whether it's to nip into the shop, to pay for parking, etcetera etcetera, do not leave valuables on display on car seats, in foot-wells and the like. Some criminals will strike without you ever realising they were ever there. By embracing crime prevention together we can make it more difficult for those who don't understand the meaning of Christmas!

Many of you may have seen a recent post on the Neighbourhood Police Team's Facebook page (dated 18 November) where we stated that changes were coming in the way in which we engaged daily with the public and one of those changes concerned the way in which PACT meetings were conducted. The post also invited suggestions from local residents as to how the process could be adapted for the better. Unfortunately the post seems to have created something of a landslide with assumptions seemingly made that PACT was 'on its' way out'.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight that PACT is not going anywhere however the harsh reality of the current climate – and I refer naturally to austerity measures, means that for reasons beyond our control we have to be more creative at how we deliver our engagement. There are a large number of PACT meetings held across the Newton Aycliffe area – some monthly, some less frequent, and some of these forums are very well attended with a mix of residents, representatives from partner agencies, and local councillors present. There are some meetings however where attendance levels are very low – very low indeed, and with all of the calls for service that Police and partners receive it is these fixtures where we are suggesting making changes to maximise the opportunities for community engagement. It is here where we invite suggestions from those who would normally attend such events and to work with us at reshaping the process to maximum benefit. Many thanks.

Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Police Team would like to thank everyone who attended their community engagement event in the Town Centre on 5th December 2015. There were Operation: Spoke bike marking sessions that took place, general crime prevention advice given out by those Team members in attendance, and property marking kits (SelectaDNA) that were distributed to attendees. We still have supplies of the latter in stock and will be announcing some further events very soon. Please monitor our Facebook page (Newton Aycliffe Police) or our Inspector's Twitter feed (@Aycliffe_Five0) for details.

HONEST JOHN AIDS CHRISTMAS APPEAL



Mally Wheldon was presented with a cheque for £1000 from Honest John towards Lifeline Community Action (LCA) Christmas Appeal.

LCA have been working hard to make sure no needy families go without this Christmastime. With Honest John's extremely generous donation our team can make those vital purchases and deliveries of hampers and toys for families most in need this Christmas.

Mally said "Honest John has helped to make this Christmas one to remember for families lacking the

very basics. LCA want to provide every family we're supporting with a Christmas food hamper and toys and John has gone a long way to make this possible. When John handed me the cheque it took my breathe away and brought tears to my eyes as I thought about what a positive impact it would have on those struggling to cope."

DISC Cafe The Best!

Dear Editor,
Can I take this opportunity via your newspaper to pass on a good new story to go with the season we are in.

Last Thursday I was privileged to join Dorothy Bowman for my first of many Christmas lunches sharing the meal with me were about 10 people from her New Pathways Together dementia group.

The venue, the cafe within DISC, ably run by 'Members of More' run by Mel and her staff of volunteers who not only run the cafe but operate the furniture help scheme The venue was my first but will not be the last. The staff were all so helpful and served with a smile on their faces and friendly chat. The pate was one of the best I have ever tasted. Five veg, pigs in blankets, stuffing, turkey and ham. Who could want for more. I am not sure if the price was concessionary or not but was excellent value for money. Not the Ritz but pound for pound excellent value. Oh and did I mention the Christmas Pudding and White Sauce, to die for.

R.A. TAYLOR

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Saturday 9.00am-12.00noon

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NEWTON NEWS

Children in Need Thank Woodham Students



Woodham Academy students had a visit from Pudsey Bear this week who came to give thanks for the generous amount raised during this year's Children In Need. Children In Need provides grants for projects throughout the UK which benefit disadvantaged children and young people. Students participated in a cake sale and sponsored dress up, Year 7 students held a disco and Year 11 students took on the teachers in competitive netball and football matches. Although teachers took home the trophy for netball, the students were triumphant on the football field. After a combined effort by everyone involved, a grand total of £1088 was raised which will contribute to much needed support for a variety of youth projects.

THE DEVOLUTION DEAL (4)

In his final article, John D Clare looks at how the Devolved Authority will work.

(4) GOVERNANCE

The devolution agreement will not replace our existing Town and County Councils. Neither will it set up a huge new layer of government. What will happen is that – if the Deal is agreed – a Mayor-and-Cabinet will administer powers devolved to them from the civil service in London.

The idea of a Mayor alarms many people. It is something that Durham County Council has resisted throughout, but on which the government is adamant – if we are to have devolution, we will have to accept a separately-elected Mayor.

However, the Mayor envisaged in the Devolution Proposal will be a 'weak' Mayor, who:

- will not appoint his own Cabinet, which will be comprised of the Leaders of the participating councils.
- will not have a power of veto and, if two-thirds of the participating councils disagree with a Mayoral policy, then they will be able to veto even the Mayor's budget.
- will not have the power to raise a precept (so all the costs will have to be met from the £30 million annual grant). The Devolved Authority will not cost you a penny.

MY VERDICT: It is arguable that – given that the Devolved Authority will be a cooperation of rival councils with very different needs – it may be better to have an independent Mayor, as long as they are little more than a chairman/coordinator/peacekeeper.

(5) OTHER ISSUES

There are some other issues in the Devolution Agreement. The Authority

will have oversight of housing and climate change. There is also the suggestion that, in the future, it might take responsibility for Health & Care, and the Police & Fire authorities – both, in my opinion, suggestions which we need firmly to refuse. Health & Care is a financial crisis about to happen, and taking control of the Police would involve the reconstitution of the Durham Police force.

YOUR VOTE

In the New Year, therefore, you will vote to decide the region's future.

The vote cannot be a Yes-No referendum (which, legally, can only be held by the government). Thus DCC is holding a 'poll' asking four multiple-choice questions – on: the idea of devolution; a Mayor; the desirability of additional powers; the expected benefits.

By law, a poll cannot be binding, but the University of Durham will take people's answers and analyse them, and DCC will proceed accordingly.

MY VERDICT The existing structures are not solving the region's problems. And whilst I am aware of the risks, 'going back' is not an option.

The decision is not: 'Is this a good or a bad deal'. The decision is whether we go into the future as part of a regional Devolved Authority, or whether we go into the future alone and in competition with it.

John D Clare

This is my interpretation only, and not official DCC policy. You can read the full Devolution Proposal here: bit.ly/NECADeal and see the (independently designed) poll questions here: bit.ly/DCDevoPoll

Call to Donate Unwanted Furniture

A call for people to donate unwanted furniture has been issued in County Durham. The County Durham Reuse Forum, a partnership between five local charities and Durham County Council, is urging people to pass on unwanted items which could be used by other people.

The forum is hoping people getting new furniture and household items delivered in time for Christmas will consider giving their old items to charity.

As well as providing low cost furniture to local people, the forum also provides training and volunteering opportunities and helps to reduce waste – with more than 140 tonnes of furniture reused so far this year.

The partnership includes Consett YMCA, East Durham Partnership, Horden & Haswell Mencap Furniture Enterprise and Woodhouse Close Church Furniture Project.

Any Aycliffe people with furniture they are looking to donate can contact County Durham Furniture Help Scheme, Chilton. Monday to Friday, 9am – 4pm; Saturday, 9am –

1pm. Tel: 01388 721 509. DISC next to Newton Press at the Blue Bridge Centre is also open for donations: Newton Aycliffe is open Monday – Saturday 9-4.30 and Sunday 11-3, 01325 731294

Bishop Auckland (Finkle Street) is open Monday – Friday 9-4.30 and Saturday 10-1, 01388 743 938

The charities collect unwanted household items, such as beds, furniture and electrical items, free of charge if they are reusable and in good condition.

Upholstered items, such as sofas, chairs and beds, should be clean, without tears and must have the current UK fire safety standard labels attached.

All electrical items should be working, be free from rust, reasonably clean and have intact seals.

Items will need to be checked before collection is agreed and if there is any reason why an item cannot be accepted this will be explained.

For further information on which household items can be donated and purchased via one of the charities, please visit www.durham.gov.uk/reuse

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 NEEDED
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

Warning Over Button Battery Danger

As Christmas approaches the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) is warning young families of the danger of lithium button batteries to children.

The festive period can typically see a rise in the number of these small, button-shaped batteries introduced to the home as they are contained in children's toys, musical Christmas cards, remote controls and a host of other electronic items.

RoSPA is increasingly concerned about the danger posed by these batteries, and is aware of deaths having been reported in the UK as a result of them being swallowed by children.

Although a child may not choke, if undetected the batteries can do serious damage to the gastrointestinal system. Lithium batteries react with saliva setting up an electrical current resulting in a build-up of caustic soda, which will burn through the oesophagus and other major blood vessels.

Five-year-old Eva McCafferty, from Northern Ireland, was one of the children unlucky enough to swallow a button battery. Aged just 14 months, Eva was admitted to hospital with life-threatening symptoms, with the battery having eroded her oesophagus. She required emergency surgery to remove the battery, and spent a prolonged time in intensive care.

Her mother Kathleen said: "We want to highlight the dangers to other families, as we were

not aware of how devastating the effects of swallowing one of these batteries could be. We don't want any other children to have to go through what Eva did."

Sheila Merrill, public health adviser for RoSPA, said: "Young children are naturally inquisitive, and explore the world in part by putting things in their mouths.

"As more and more electronic items are introduced into the family home, the potential for children to swallow button batteries increases, and this can lead to choking or poisoning.

"We want parents, grandparents, childminders and carers to be aware of the danger and understand that these seemingly harmless little batteries can cause serious injury to children."

Parents should make sure that toys and other products using the batteries have lockable battery compartments so they are safe for children to use. Be extra vigilant with musical Christmas cards, frameless candles and remote controls – RoSPA advises that children are not given access to these products. Ensure that spare batteries are locked away, and spent ones disposed of correctly.

If your child swallows a battery, seek medical advice immediately. Remember that the saliva in their body will react with the battery, so time is of the essence.

For more information, see www.rospace.com/home-safety/advice/product/button-cell-batteries

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

St Clare's Church Annual Christingle Service – 24th December (Christmas Eve) at 4:30pm. This service is a real highlight in the Churches Calendar and it is always wonderful to see so many families having a great time together.

Come dressed as your favourite Nativity Character and be a part of our Nativity. Come and sing Carols and light your Christingle. Come and see friends old and new and come and welcome Jesus as a tiny baby into your celebrations this Christmas.

There may even be a visit from a man in red with a white beard – who knows... All welcome, All invited... So come and see and be a part of St Clare's Christmas Christingle Service. We look forward to seeing YOU there!

Disappointed Labour Voters

In last week's issue of the Newton News I & V Waine expressed their disappointment that our Labour MP voted with the Government to extend bombing into Syria. They also wondered if he would be voting for Tory Financial Policies next.

Can I point out to the Waines and all Labour voters that Phil Wilson was elected on the current Labour Party Manifesto which was a watered down version of the Tory austerity programme. The country elected the Tories who promised more austerity. I would therefore expect our MP to vote on austerity matters in accordance with the Labour Manifesto upon which he stood and was elected. I suspect that the Waines were not aware of this fact when they voted Labour. Presumably, they voted Labour because their parents before them always voted Labour.

The fact that the members of many disparate (looney) left wing groups have paid £3 to be allowed to vote for Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party does not mean that the Labour electorate, or the electorate at large agree with the new Labour leader or his shadow cabinet on:

- Their anti-war stance. If Argentina were again to invade the Falklands Jeremy Corbyn would not support a declaration of war. Note: Jeremy Corbyn was elected by 59.5% of the Labour Party membership. The Falkland Islanders voted almost unanimously to stay British.
- Their high regard for terrorists and complete lack of respect for our armed forces past and present. The Labour run Durham County

Council are proposing to close the DLI Museum in Durham! They seem to have forgotten the promise most of us have made on many a Remembrance Day – "We will remember them". They are too high minded to accept that the Defence of the country is the primary duty of all elected MPs.

- Their dislike of the current directive to armed policemen to 'shoot to kill' in the event of a terrorist event. They consider their conscience and moral stand to be more important than the lives and freedom of the electorate and the armed police we rely upon for our protection.
- Their continued support for Unilateral Nuclear Disarmament. We have already reduced our Nuclear Arsenal while potential enemies have been increasing theirs!

I would suggest that the electorate of Sedgefield Constituency are now entitled to an explanation from their MP and local Labour Party as to how they intend to stand by their Election Manifesto in the face of constant changes being proposed by the new Labour leader and his communist leaning Shadow Cabinet and 'cut price' supporters. Most importantly we need their assurance that our democracy and country will still be safe in their hands.

Yours faithfully,
Alastair P.G. Welsh

AYCLIFFE BREWED BEERS AT THE OAK LEAF



Nick and Gulen Smith owners of the Aycliffe Mini Brewery launched their beers at the Oak Leaf bar last week and they are shown here with the manager Judith. Nick gave a talk on the origin and production of the Aycliffe beers to a large audience gathered for a free tasting. During the evening an Irish Band entertained adding to a great atmosphere in the bar. The Brewery is doing very well and building up good local custom including The County at Aycliffe Village and Woodham Post Office where 100 bottles a week are sold.

Aycliffe TOWN CENTRE

Wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year

Aycliffe TOWN CENTRE

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.

Xmas Eve Santa Phone In

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

Aycliffe TOWN CENTRE

Wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year

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We wish all our customers a great festive season

Xmas Wonderland



Brian Nichol of 354 Sampson Place, is famous for his annual Hallowe'en fundraising efforts for the Great North Air Ambulance. He turns his home into "A House of Horrors" inviting people to come along to be scared - if the dare! He has decided to do something similar for Christmas and his home has been decorated and lit up for the festive season for all to enjoy. Pop in for a Christmassy delight.

Changes to Junior Cricket at NACC

It may be the close season but Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club have been busy making changes to their junior academy since the end of last season. Three years after the senior teams joined the North Yorkshire and South Durham League, the club have decided to move all of their junior teams under the NYSD umbrella. The under 11's and under 13's already play in the NYACC and will be joined next season by the club's under 15's who are moving from the Durham County League. Last years under 18 team are also moving and will now compete in the NYSD under 17 league. The club have also expressed an interest in entering a team in the ECB National under 19 T20 competition which will see Newton Aycliffe pitted against some of the best under 19 teams in the regions as they attempt to reach the national stages. Newton Aycliffe CC have appointed Adam Gittins as Junior Development Manager to oversee all aspects of junior cricket at the club. Adam's role will see him support the junior managers in their roles and co-ordinate training and match day support.

Tony Pearson will remain as manager of the under 17's in 2016, while Michael Tribble remains under 15's manager. Dean Greaves has been appointed manager of the under 11's but the club currently have a vacancy for an under 13's manager. Anybody who would be interested in becoming under 13's manager or would like to discuss the role in more detail is asked to contact club secretary Lee Weldon on 07759 754959.

The clubs juniors return to indoor practice nets at Woodham Academy on Friday 8 January from 5.30pm to 7.00pm. New and existing players are welcome and more details can be obtained from Lee.

Crossfit All Out at Gateshead "Glacier Games"

CrossFit All Out in Newton Aycliffe were very proud to have 2 teams representing on the competition floor on Sunday 29th November at the CrossFit Glacier Games competition in Gateshead. "Beavers Beavers" (Nicola Jacques & Claire Dale) and "Badgers Badgers" (Christopher Knight & Colin Wooster) placed 32nd and 10th overall respectively. Claire and Nicola said "we were excited just to be able to take part and the support from our members, Coaches and even other competitors was humbling. We originally

qualified at 54th and 36th so to climb up to 32nd and 10th on the day was amazing." Terry Anderson, Head Coach said "this is what we love about the sport of CrossFit, anyone can become an athlete and have a go at the competitions if they choose to put the work in. It's an inclusive sport and helps thousands of people worldwide to build confidence in themselves and what their body is capable of. It's good to push yourself out of your comfort zone, that's how achievement is fulfilled in all aspects of life"



Community Centre Christmas Lunches

Xmas lunches are now being served at The Cubby at Neville Parade Community Centre. Bookings now available please get in touch for a Christmas lunch.

Opening times for Christmas: Christmas Eve closed, reopening 28th December then closed from 31st December till 2nd January 2016.

We wish all our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Bill Blenkinsopp and volunteer staff

Broadband Speeds

Dear Sir
I live in Ryder Court, which is just over a mile from the centre of Town. My Broadband Speed in Ryder Court is on average 1.25 MBs, such that we cannot stream films, Football or any of the other facilities requiring higher download speeds. I understand that Open Reach have brought Fibre Cable to within 350 yards of Ryder Court so why can they not extend this facility to Ryder Court and Acle Burn. I have just purchased a Smart TV and at the moment I can only watch the Freeview and Sky Channels. We are not living in the wilds of the country so why, why can't BT not get a move on?
George Oakley

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ATHLETICS NEWS



Dez Fielden, 190th in 54:35, followed by Richard Campbell, 250th in 57:52 and John Burnside, 281st in 59:26. Jason Dixon was the next finisher, 297th in 60:35, followed by Trevor Needham 369th in 66:10 and Colin Gibson, 384th in 68:21. Michael Brunskill, 389th, completed the course in 69:06 and Rob Nicholson wasn't far behind, 393rd in 70:39.

The men's team finished 23rd out of 29 teams.

The women's team did even better than the men's team, finishing 14th out of 29 teams.

The weekend snow ensured gruelling conditions for the North-Eastern Cross-country Championships that were staged at Hardwick Park. The event, which was hosted by Sedgefield Harriers was the 110th edition of the championships and attracted 1,453 senior and junior runners.

Despite the conditions, the men's senior event over 11.96K, achieved a record 410 finishers.

Mark Wade was first home for the club, 63rd in 48:47, followed by John Surtees, 92nd in 50:11 and Peter Milburn, 141st in 52:33. Next to cross the line was

Tracy Surtees was first female finisher for the club, 41st and nearly 3 minutes ahead of her team-mates in 39:55, followed by Michelle Scott, 76th in 42:46 and Michelle Zamir, 78th in 42:54. Next finisher was Michelle Jane, 82st in 43:01, followed by Cyd Upton, 124th in 45:28 and Wendy Bake, 145th in 46:51. Susan Milburn, 152nd in 47:36 and Michelle Dixon, 199th in 52:49 completed the women's output.

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

FOURTH MMA TITLE FOR NEWTONIAN

Saturday 12th December saw Aycliffe MMA star back in action. Dave Cunliffe who is a mixed martial artist is back in action after almost a year out due to injury. He was matched against a fighter from Yorkshire to fight for the Machine MMA title up in Stanley which is ran by famous UFC legend Ian 'the machine' freeman. David already holds 3 featherweight titles but was keen to prove he had what it takes to beat this particular opponent. The show, based in Stanley, saw fighters from all over the country battle it out for the win. Dave, who trains at DBMA Darlington and Itaipava bij Newcastle, took on pav sahota, a fighter based in Huddersfield. The fight was action packed with Dave dominating from the bell landing punches and kicks before submitting his



opponent with a flying triangle submission! A huge win for Dave and the gyms he trains at. Dave is now looking to turn professional in the new year and follow his hobby. Dave would like to thank everyone involved in all his training and support.

SILVER AWARD FOR KATE



Kate Avery on the podium with Sifan Hassan (c) and Karoline Bjerkeli Grovdal (courtesy SkySports.com)

Newtonian and former Woodham Academy pupil, Kate Avery landed a top three position at the European Cross Country Championships held in Hyeres, France this weekend.

Athlete Kate held a strong position throughout the race before powering on in the final lap to achieve an emotional silver medal.

Kate, who did not expect to be attending the championships due to recently losing her father, commented "It was a totally different race to last year. I feel like I really had to build up for that second place. My dad was my biggest support, I thought a lot about him today."

This is the second consecutive year the 24 year old has achieved a silver medal.

PE teacher and Deputy Head at Woodham Academy, Danny Morgans, said: "We are immensely proud of everything Kate has achieved. She is a shining example of someone who works hard to achieve their goals and we wish her the very best in all her future competitions." Britain topped the table with every participant receiving a medal on the night, taking the team to a 13th consecutive win.

THE SILENT TEA HOUSE

Love thy Cupcake would like to bring some Community spirit to the town, by inviting The Deaf and Hearing Community to join together at The Silent Tea House where everyone can enjoy Tea / Coffee and Homemade Cakes, Cupcakes, Scones and many more delights.

Margaret Bain who is known for her Deaf Community work over a number of years, Teaching British Sign Language to main stream schools and bringing Deaf Awareness in the Durham area. Both Margaret and Saffron would like for the Deaf Community to feel that they can communicate in their preferred language, and enjoy the atmosphere of the room.

The Hearing Community can also enjoy the atmosphere and if they are learning British Sign Language, they can practice or just gain some Deaf Awareness. You may order your refreshments by either Sign Language or by talking. The Silent Tea House grand opening is on Tuesday 22nd December at 10am.

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ROF 59 APPOINTS TOP CHEF



Arturas Lapinskas in his kitchen at ROF 59

Lithuanian Chef Arturas Lapinskas has realised a long-held ambition of becoming a head chef at one of the region's newest restaurants. He has lived in County Durham since taking on a job with Bishop Auckland College in 2009, and has now been appointed to head up the kitchen at the new ROF 59 complex on Aycliffe Business Park.

His love for food started while watching his mum cook when he was a child. "Lithuanian food is rich in flavour and is very diverse so appeals to his culinary senses in every way," says Arturas, known as "Art" for short.

"I remember the very first meal I ever made, cold beet soup or saltibarsciai and how proud I was to impress my mum. After this I wanted to cook more and more!"

Arturas also recalls helping his grandad to prepare and smoke their home-reared pigs, learning invaluable butchery skills from a very young age and how to utilise every part of the animal, with smoked pig ears a particular favourite. Arturas first came to England at the age of 19 where he held his first job picking strawberries in Kent. He moved to the North-East to be near his partner's family and started a training course with Bishop Auckland College in 2009, where he qualified and took his first cooking job.

He was a chef at Jersey Farm Hotel in Barnard Castle and Junior Sous Chef at Rockcliffe Hall in Darlington, before taking a Sous Chef position at the Talbot in Bishopthorpe. As a husband and father to two

daughters, Arturas is already sparking their interest by cooking and baking with his girls when he's at home. Now the 31-year-old is relishing his new senior role at The Blitz Restaurant, at the ROF 59 leisure complex on Durham Way South. "It's not like any other venue in the country," says Art, who studied English and Russian languages at University before moving to the UK in 2006.

"It has a unique style and environment. It's not just a restaurant attracting people for the quality of the food and service, but the activities available are appealing to a wide audience.

"It's a great venue for all the family, in addition to the Blitz restaurant the Bunker bar lounge has a lovely relaxing atmosphere where visitors

Xmas Thanks

Dorothy Bowman would like to wish all her friends a very Happy Christmas especially all members of New Friends New Places, Newton Aycliffe Dementia Awareness Group New Pathways Together. Thanks to The Navy Club for allowing us to use their premises for our meetings, and The Blacksmiths Arms for their excellent meals and especially Mel at "THE MORE CAFE" at Blue Bridge Centre for her fantastic Christmas Lunch. This is a fantastic cafe for dropping in for a cup of coffee sandwich, cooked meal. I would also like to thank all the knitters that have helped me provide warm blankets, jumpers, cardigans and hats for all ages.

Please keep on knitting Dorothy Bowman
 01325 308094
 or 07967 901477.

Brafferton Village News

We were overwhelmed with the success of our Badapple night, we had a full house and everyone reported an enjoyable evening. It's hoped that we will repeat this again. A full review of the evening will follow next week.

The advertised free event which was planned to take place on Saturday 19th December by The Rockroses has been cancelled. This is due to circumstances beyond our control and we apologise for any disappointment caused. We are planning to reschedule for early next year and will keep you posted. Keep up to date with village news by liking us on Facebook (search BraffertonVHA).

can enjoy a coffee and cake or a glass of wine or beer which makes this venue very different from others." ROF 59 has been built on the site of the former Presswork Metals factory after Finley Structures invested more than £1.1m in creating the new facility, which created 15 full-time and 15 part-time new jobs. ROF 59 now includes a huge park of 75 trampolines and a

series of adventure climbing walls for climbers of all abilities - including one of the biggest in the country, standing at 20 metres tall. ROF 59 will eventually include several items of Aycliffe Angels memorabilia which will enable the town's proud history of the munitions-making factories to live on. For all enquiries and bookings at ROF 59, call 01325 728222 or email hello@rof59.co.uk

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PCC & Fire Service Collaboration Deal

A landmark deal has
been signed by Durham
Constabulary and County
Durham and Darlington Fire
and Rescue Service. The
"Statement of Intent" sets
out the two organisations'
intentions to work more closely
together and to enhance co-
operation and collaboration.
They hope this will further
improve the already excellent
service they provide to the
public, as well as saving them
money.

Police and Fire already work
well together operationally,
and share estates and facilities
such as a joint station at
Newton Aycliffe and training
centre at Bowburn.
But this deal marks a step
change in how they will work
together.

Police and Crime
Commissioner, Ron Hogg,
said: "The people of County
Durham and Darlington
already benefit from having
outstanding Police and Fire
and Rescue Services.

"I believe there is great
potential for closer
collaboration to improve
services even further and to
help us manage through the
tough financial times that are
ahead. I am committed to
making swift progress with
the Fire and Rescue Authority
so that we can achieve
improvements and savings
quickly, for all our benefit."

Chair of the County Durham



and Darlington Combined Fire
Authority, Councillor Michele
Hodgson, said: "We already
have a very constructive
relationship between the
fire and rescue service and
police in this area. Providing
an efficient and effective
emergency response for
the communities of County
Durham and Darlington is
our number one priority; any
proposals that aim to help
us do this must be carefully
considered."

Stuart Errington, Chief Fire
Officer for County Durham
and Darlington Fire and
Rescue Service, said: "We
welcome this opportunity
to explore all of the options
for collaboration. There is
a strong base to build on
as we already have strong

relationships and work
very closely with the police
operationally, in training, on
special projects and by sharing
facilities and expertise. We
will consider any proposals
which will safeguard frontline
services and, when and where
appropriate, support further

collaboration."
Chief Constable of Durham
Constabulary, Mike Barton,
said "Stuart Errington and I
have worked closely together
for several years. This puts our
working together on a more
formal footing and will allow
us to improve the service we
provide to the public."
Councillor Joy Allen, Chair
of the Police and Crime
Panel, said "Partnership
working between emergency
services is second to none in
the region. This statement of
intent formally cements these
productive and professional
relationships which will
deliver tangible benefits
to both services and more
importantly help protect
valuable front line services."
Areas on which the services
will look to collaborate include
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and community engagement.

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SAVE THE DLI MUSEUM



Dear Editor:
As a former soldier and
having a grandfather who
served in the Durham Light
Infantry, I am disgusted at
the response of Labour
councillors of County
Durham (in particular
Aycliffe). They have total
contempt for the voters who
elected them, (not being one
of them myself, I'm glad to
say) in their attitude to the
closing of the Durham Light
Infantry Museum in Durham.
They have shown that they
are not interested in what
their constituents have to say
on the matter. I believe 81
Labour councillors in County
Durham voted not to having
a debate on the matter, even
though they were lobbied by
members to do so, instead
they chose to 'fillibuster'
during the meeting and talk
about sprout farmers in
Norfolk!

Is it the case then, that these
Labour councillors are afraid
of saying anything against
the 'mighty' 10 in charge
of DCC for fear of them
being deselected and losing
their places at the 'trough',
or do they really just not
care about the men from
this county (some of whom
have ashes spread on the site
of the museum) who gave
everything for their freedom,
it would be interesting to
know.

In my opinion, and the
opinion of many people

in County Durham (who
were once labour voters and
now state they will not vote
for labour again after this
betrayal), they should all
hang their heads in shame.
This has got nothing to do
with glorifying war (war is
not glorious, it is a dirty
business and not something
for this letter).

This museum is about
remembering the sacrifices
men from this County made
in two world wars and
conflicts since. DCC should
be honoured to have this
museum in Durham City
instead of thinking of the
profit to be made by selling
off the land for development
(although they will tell you
this is not the case . . . watch
this space).

I would urge all residents
of Newton Aycliffe who
are as disgusted at this as I
am, to lobby their Labour
councillors for answers, as
none have been given so far
from any labour councillors
that have been asked. If that
does not work, there is always
voting them out at the next
election!

I would welcome any
comments on this from the
Labour councillors of Newton
Aycliffe who all voted no to a
debate and their reasons for
doing so. Especially the one
who is 100% for the closure
(you know who you are!).
Paul Redhead

(The Dirty Little Imps)

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Cadets on Top Form



1407 (Newton Aycliffe) Squadron Air Cadets have won 2015's Crofton Trophy. This trophy is awarded to the squadron who performed best out of Durham and Northumberland's 35 squadrons in their annual Wing Commander's Inspection. Cadets had to put on an impeccable display of drill with the smartest uniform under the watchful eye of Sqn. Ldr. John Scott RAF VR(T). Aycliffe cadets excelled themselves to take home the trophy with a score of 89%.

Other annual awards were up for grabs. 1407 finished third in the Durham Trophy. Since this is awarded to the squadron who has provided the greatest opportunities to its young adults it's brilliant to see Aycliffe maintaining their high position. We also finished third in the

Pusey Trophy, awarded for how well the squadron is managed. This strong result is testament to the hard work and dedication of our devoted team of officers, civilian instructors, committee members and Padre. Combining these results, 1407 were the second best squadron in the Wing in 2015. The squadron consistently ranks highly. If you're interested in joining an award winning squadron and want to experience fun and adventure with flying, shooting, sport, kayaking, rock climbing, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, BTecs, camps, fun and friends then why not join? We are open to boys and girls from school year 8 up to their 17th birthday. Find us on Facebook, see our website www.1407aircadets.org or call (01325) 318603 for details.



Acknowledgement

RICHARDS Lily and the family of the late George, wish to express our sincere thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours for kindness shown, also for cards and floral tributes. Thanks to staff of Ward 14 Darlington Memorial; special thanks to Brian Shepherd of Whitehouse Funeral Services and to the Rev. Debbie Loughton for a beautiful comforting Service

THE HUSBAND and family of the late Maureen Barron wish to thank all those who sent messages of sympathy. Special thanks to Rev. Andy Bryer for the Service at the Methodist Church, Neville Parade; Mr Brian Shepherd of Whitehouse Funeral Service and Defoe Court and Aycliffe Care Homes.

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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Urgent Appeal for Helping Hands

Christmas is upon us and everyone is frantically doing their Christmas shopping, buying gifts and planning what lovely food they are going to eat during the festivities. Aycliffe charity "Helping Hands" are hoping that kind people and businesses from Aycliffe will once again come to their aid by helping raise money to pay for the Christmas items needed to make sure that those families/individuals on a low income or living in poverty can be helped to have food on the table this Christmas.

The demand for help from Helping Hands continues to rise and as the cold weather looms some people, through no fault of their own will have to choose between putting food on the table or keeping their home warm. Helping Hands would like to take delivery of at least 50 hampers this week.

Alwyn White, says "these hampers represent exceptional value for money as we only have to pay around £1 for each £10 worth of goods. For example £200 donated will feed 20 families, £100 will feed 10 families over this special time of the year.

We are hoping that generous readers and local businesses who read Newton News will come forward to generously support our Christmas Appeal. This will then enable us to distribute essential items in time for Christmas to the most disadvantaged and vulnerable members of our community"

The team from Helping Hands and its founding charity Lifeline Community Action will be preparing to receive these provisions as they expect to have an increase in

the number of people seeking assistance over the next week leading up to Christmas. Please contact us on M: 07936431262 or e-mail lifeline.action@googlemail.com NOW to pledge your support. Thank you so much for your support.

Obituary

POUNDER, Newton Aycliffe. 10th December, peacefully after a short illness bravely fought, Michael Arnold (Mike), aged 68 years. Beloved Husband of Patsy; much loved Dad of Phillip and Joanne; loving Father-in-Law to Claire; Grandad to Matthew, Joseph, Lauren, Lola, James, Jack, Maddie and Abby; Brother to Marjie, Brian and Roger. Funeral to be held on Wednesday, 23rd December. Would friends kindly meet for Service in Darlington Crematorium at 1.15pm. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu, if so desired, in aid of OCHRE (Oesophageal Cancer Charity), may be given at the crematorium or on line at www.memorygiving.com/michaelarnoldpounder or will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6EN. Tel: 01325 318600

MAUGHAN (nee Brown). Died suddenly, 8th December, Age 46. Much loved Daughter of Norman and the late Lorna Brown; devoted Mother to Neave; loving partner of Mick; beloved Sister of Esther; special Auntie to Naomi wonderful, caring friend to many more special people. Funeral to be held on Friday, 18th December, at 1pm in St Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe. To be followed by a short Service for family only at Darlington Crematorium. Friends and family to meet afterwards at Woodham Golf Club.

BILLY PALMER 14th December, peacefully at home, surrounded by his family. Billy, aged 77, devoted Husband of Dorothy; cherished Dad of Kevin, Linda, Dorothy and David; dear Father-in-Law of Kathryn; much loved Granda of Ruby, Milly, Daisy and John; loyal friend to many. Funeral to be held on 22nd December 2015, would friends kindly meet for the Service at St Clare's Church at 8.45am, followed by Cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon at 9.30am. Family flowers only please. Donations, in lieu, may be given in aid of the Oncology Unit at James Cook University Hospital and The British Heart Foundation.

MOLLY JOHNSON, Woodham. 10th December, peacefully in hospital. Molly (Mary), aged 88 years. Dearly loved Wife of Tommy; devoted Mam to Angela, Pam, Tom, Bernard, Paul and Anne; much loved Mother-in-Law and proud Nana to fifteen Grandchildren and fourteen Great Grandchildren. She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral to be held on Monday 21st December, would friends kindly meet for Service in St Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe at 1.00pm, followed by cremation at Durham Crematorium at 2.00pm

£3,800 from Honest John

Honest John has donated £500 from his "Community Kitty" to Newton Aycliffe Women's Institute to whom he sends thanks for the scrumptious Christmas Cake.

£300 has been given to Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group and a £1000 to Simpasture area to buy a community defibrillator. A further £1000 goes to Lifeline Community Action Christmas Appeal. The final Christmas gift of £1000 is donated to Aycliffe's RocSolid to give young people in the town a better time over the holidays.

Fundraising begins again on 4th January for another defibrillator to be placed in a suitable location in the town. John said: "Seasonal thanks to DISC, Newton Press, Val, Roger, Les Gibson, and all those Newtonians who have supported the charity over eight years and made it a success".

Student's Poster Promotes Responsible Dog Ownership



A talented 10-year-old girl has created an eye-catching poster to encourage people to pick up after their pets. Satine Cator's design was named overall winner in a competition run as part of Durham County Council's responsible dog ownership campaign in Ferryhill and Chilton areas.

Satine, who attends Chilton Primary School, came out on top with her 'Scoop that Poop' poster, which will be made into bin stickers and put on dog fouling bins in the area. Every entry will also be displayed on

school fences. Dog fouling can be reported at www.durham.gov.uk/dogfouling or by calling 03000 261 000. People can join the Green Dog Walkers scheme by downloading a form at www.durham.gov.uk/greendogwalkers or call 03000 261 000. Find out more about the council's Civic Pride team at www.durham.gov.uk/civicpride and email civicpride@durham.gov.uk or call 03000 261 000 to receive the Civic Pride newsletter.

Christmas Wishes

I WISH all my friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Ann Naylor

MARY VALLIER would like to wish all her family, friends and neighbours the very best for Christmas and teh New Year 2016.

SEASONS Greetings to the Residents of Great Aycliffe. From the Ward Councillors of Aycliffe Central, Shafto, St Marys and Neville Ward.

COUNTY Councillors Sarah Iveson and Jed Hillary wish the residents of Great Aycliffe a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

ANN TOMLINSON would like to send her best wishes and Christmas greetings to all her family, friends and neighbours

Christmas Remembrance

DENNIS CHENTRENS Another Christmas has come without you again Dad. We miss you so much. Our Christmas celebration has never been as good without you here with us. Love from your Daughters, Margaret, Doreen and Denise xxx

Birthday Remembrance

FOSTER FARRELL, Bryce Peter. 21st December 2001. A special Son - birthday wishes we send today to a star in the sky not far away. Engraved in gold on a cloud above, just for you Son with all our love. Lots of love, Mammy and Daddy.

FOSTER FARRELL, Bryce Peter. 21st December 2001. Happy birthday special Brother. Lots of love, Jordan, Tia and Ethan xxxx

FOSTER FARRELL, Bryce Peter. 21st December 2001. We wish that you were here today, even for a little while. So we could say "Happy Birthday Bryce" and see your beautiful smile. Lots of love, Nan and Grandad

FOSTER FARRELL, Bryce Peter. 21st December 2001. Happy birthday Bryce. Thinking of you today and every day. Lots of love, Uncle Mally, Auntie Tracy, Uncle Mark, Auntie Rachel, Ashley, Ellie, Evie and Bobby xxxxx

NOEL NEEDHAM (85) 24th December. Birthday memories are lovingly kept of one we loved and will never forget. Love, Sheila and families xxxx

In Memoriam

Dennis Archer

19th December 2010

Dear Dad

You always had a smile to share, time to give and time to care. A loving nature kind and true, is the way we will remember you. All our love, Helen, Stephen and Natasha xxxxx

Five years have passed away, but we still think of you each day, too dearly loved to ever be forgotten by his loving Mam, Dad, Daughter Sharon, Neil and all his loving family and friends. Till we meet again.

Merry Christmas Dennis xxxxxxx

JIM NAYLOR 23rd December 2007. It's been eight long years since you passed away. You are in my thoughts every single day. The memories you left me are worth more than gold, they will be with me always as I grow old. Your loving Wife Ann. Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad

BRENDA SCOONES. Merry Christmas, miss you always, but we are not really apart. Jacqueline, Vic, Rob and Boys

JOAN HURN Three years have passed and not a day goes by when you are not in our thoughts. What we would give to spend a little more time with you, we miss you so much. Love, Dianne, Gary, Stacey and Carl

ALBERT ROBINSON 17th December 2003. No one know how much we miss you. No one knows the bitter pain. Without you, life has never been the same. In our hearts your memory lingers. Sweetly tender, fond and true. There is not a day, dear Albert, that we don't think of you. From loving Wife and family

WINIFRED HAYES 29th December 1999. This day is always remembered for those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near. So loved, so missed and very dear. "Loved Always". Stan, Patricia and family

PAT FORRESTER (nee Kane). In loving memory of our Daughter Pat. Time goes by, but you will never be forgotten. Lots of love, Mam and Barry

JOHN WILSON died 22nd December 2002. A dearly loved Husband and Father. Remembered every day by Judith and Victoria xx

Congratulations

Louise Ward



13-12-1994

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

MIA PRIESTLEY Happy birthday on 20th December. Merry Christmas. Lots of love, Daddy, Sharna Reed, Alexis Reed and Scarlet Reed xxx

MOLLIE BROWN Have a great 50th. Love, Craig, Lauren and Mark, Katey and Mark and all the family

EHTERINGTON 17th December. Congratulations Shelly on your 40th birthday. Love from Rich, Calum, Nick, Clare, Macauley, Leah, Max, Lindsey, Craig, Bella, Mam and Dad xxxxxx



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Fantastic Gymnastics Show at Leisure Centre



Christmas celebrations started with an amazing showcase on Saturday, as Athena Sports Academy held its 4th Annual show at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. The weather outside was certainly frightful, but the gymnasts who took part in this showcase certainly brought delight to nearly 400 people, including the Mayor, Councillor Mary Dalton, who was guest of honour for the event. The showcase theme this year was "Number 1 hits", with each class performing to a musical hit over the decades! The showcase itself was totally amazing and had the audience engaged; singing and even dancing throughout the 2½ hour extravaganza, complete

with full-floor display. The Academy runs many different classes throughout the week at both Aycliffe and Shildon Leisure Centres and all the classes were well represented throughout. The first to perform were the Acro Bases class who performed a wonderful routine, to the King of pop himself, Michael Jackson, and 'Thriller'. The biggest cheer of the first half of the showcase went to the youngest gymnasts, Rec 1, aged 3 and 4 year old who performed a lovely routine to Cheerleader, and all the audience were upstanding which will stay with the children for a long time. All the other Rec Classes performed superb routines, Rec 2a did the Gangnam Style, Rec 2b wanted to know if this was the way to Amarillo, Rec 3 went back to the 80's and became the Gymnasts from Fame, Rec 4 had a poker face with Lady Gaga, Rec 4 Shildon asked Are You With Me, Rec 5 did some Uptown Funk, The Warriors got Ready to Rumble, Fast Track 1 did All About the Bass and finally Fast Track 2 showed how talented Athena really are when not only did they perform a superb gymnastic routine, but they also sang to Any Dream Will Do from the stagemusical, Joseph. The first half finished as fantastic as it had begun, with the very energetic Tumbling Squad performing a routine to Party

Rock Anthem. Athena had another successful year, with several Gymnasts reaching National finals in Stoke, including a bronze medal win! The hard work has already begun for several of next year's NDP partnerships, who competed last week in South Shields who were on show too; Cheeky chaps, Josh and Henley, the magnificent trio Maddy, Asia and Kaytlen, last week's gold medallists Nicole and Amelia and last year's Bronze Medallists in the Nationals, Emily and Millie, who all wowed the audience with fantastic Acro routines. This showcase had everything, superb gymnastic displays, brilliant music as well as a little audience participation, but the best was kept till last... Earlier this year, Athena performed two routines at The Sage in Gateshead as part of 'Gymfusion' 2015 and the club used these as the finale to this year's Show. The Disability Group, who had earlier performed a Peter Pan routine, did a very emotional piece, 'Athena Angels'. The routine was beautifully choreographed to Robbie Williams, Angels and was dedicated to the memory of one of Athena's founders, Gerry Fuller, who sadly passed away at the beginning of the year. It was hard to find a dry eye in the house. Finally, the most amazing routine of the day, the

Gymfusion Team, inspired by the legend of our namesake - the Greek Goddess, Athena. All gymnasts looked elegant in their gold costumes matching the golden performance by all the Gymnasts, resulting in the audience showing their appreciation with a standing ovation! The club would like to thank everyone who attended the Christmas Showcase as this is a major fundraiser for Athena, who aim to improve its facilities for its gymnasts and also to attract new gymnasts to the club. If anyone would like any more information about Athena Sports Academy please check out our new and improved website at www.athenasportsacademy.co.uk

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