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WORK STARTS ON 125 NEW HOUSES FOR AGNEW



Paul Webster, Cllr Eddie Tomlinson, Peter Coe CEO Chapter Homes, Cllr Mike Dixon, Cllr Jan Blakey Chair of the Council, Cllr John Clare, Sarah Robson Director Chapter Homes

CHAPTER HOMES aims to establish itself as one of the region's premier house-builders with an investment set to generate more than £35 million for the County Durham economy.

The investment comes as the house-builder begins work on its first development, Eden Field, Agnew in Newton Aycliffe, which will create 15 new jobs, 18 work placement opportunities and create or safeguard 23 apprenticeships. Durham County Council's Chairman, Cllr Jan Blakey, and Cabinet member for assets, housing and rural issues, Cllr Eddie Tomlinson, officially cut the first sod on the site which will provide 125 new high-quality homes for the town, including 12 affordable homes.

Cllr Jan Blakey, said: "We're delighted to be able to officially break ground on what we hope will be the first of many sites. We intend to provide our ongoing support to the construction industry in the county, by playing a more active role in delivering a high quality product, and ensure investment, jobs and training opportunities which benefit local communities the most."

Construction will take two years and once finished Eden Field will house a new community of two, three and four bedroom homes benefiting from a semi-rural setting with public open spaces and landscaping plus excellent local road, rail and public transport links.

Cllr Eddie Tomlinson, Cabinet member for assets, strategic housing and rural issues, as well Chair of Chapter Homes' Board of Directors, said: "We have worked hard to ensure that we are providing only the best quality housing through excellent design and carefully thought-out plans."

"This significant investment means new and safeguarded jobs, training opportunities and an improved housing offer which is great news for Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding areas, offering real, tangible benefits for local people and businesses. "We're very proud of the final plans and housing on offer and confident that the Eden Field development will be the first of many successes for Chapter Homes."

Gentoo Tolent is the construction partner for the site. Managing Director Paul Webster said: "This was a fantastic contract win for Gentoo Construction when we were appointed the sole contractor in 2015. We look forward to building a great relationship with Chapter Homes."

Homes on the development are on sale now with a show home expected to open in June.

For further sales information telephone 0330 353 0056 or visit the website at www.chapterhomes.co.uk

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Friends of West Park Meeting

The next Meeting of Friends of West Park will be on Tuesday 10th May 2016 at 7pm in the Upstairs Lounge at the Phoenix Club.
All residents welcome

RESPITE HOLIDAYS Aycliffe's Future Dance Stars

Dear Sir,
With Parkinson's Awareness Week upon us, I'd like to tell you readers about this progressive disease which inhibits the way the brain controls movements such as walking, talking and writing. It affects nearly 130,000 people in the UK alone. There are many well known people living with the disease including boxing legend Muhammad Ali, who was diagnosed in 1984. You may have seen the campaign for Britain to award Ali an honorary knighthood – not just for his services to sport but also for fighting against poverty and raising money to combat Parkinson's. Because of his condition, his public appearances are now rare. Unfortunately being house-bound is a problem for many people with advanced Parkinson's. People with the disease, like other people with disabilities, often face financial and

physical barriers when it comes to taking a respite break- but that should not be the case. Our research has found 96% of disabled people and carers think proper breaks are essential to sustaining a good relationship. Yet respite is still not viewed as a necessity. I work for Revitalise, a national charity providing respite holidays with 24-hour care, and we see things differently. Each year we welcome thousands of disabled people and carers to enjoy much-needed respite breaks at three accessible centres around the UK. Our guests tell us the breaks are invaluable to them in maintaining caring relationships. If your readers would like more information about Revitalise or would like to support our vital work, please call us on 0303 303 0145 or visit www.revitalise.org.uk.

Sisters from Newton Aycliffe are fast making their way to success with their dancing. Sisters Emilie (aged 17) and Georgia Thelwell (aged 13) who attend 'Stepping Out with Clare Walton' in Newton Aycliffe, attended Rising Stars Dance Convention in Washington to take part in an all-new audition style lecture day! The convention had lecturers from the very top of their genre in dance, bringing first class training to aspiring young dancers in the area. Scouts were in attendance watching for talent from over 250 dancers. Emilie was spotted by Ben Davies in a commercial lecture for an opportunity to win a fully paid 3 year degree course in Dance with Addict Academy in Leicester, where she had to go head to head with other spotted dancers from the lecture. What a feeling for her when they announced her as one



Emilie Thelwell with sister Georgia (below)

of the two winners and what an opportunity for Emilie's future. This scholarship value is in excess of £20k and is the real start to professional training that Emilie needed. Georgia (Emilie's younger sister) was also spotted at the convention by UK Dance Elite bypassing the first stages of audition, fast tracking to regional finals. This is the second scouting for Georgia with UK Dance Elite as after a very successful time at 'Move it 16' the biggest event ever in London where Georgia was selected to front a new clothing label, scouted by Talent Inc UK and Matilda West End opportunities along with the rest of the school after performing improv on the main Freestyling stage at the convention.

Georgia is very excited to be performing at 'Can You Dance' Newcastle this Sunday 8th May after being selected last year as one of their 'Can You Dance' Stars. She will also be heading her way to London this summer to take her place on a fully paid scholarship place at Urdang Summer School.



Dance teacher Clare Walton, teaching team, parents and pupils are delighted for them all. "Their future is very bright and we can't wait to see what it holds" said Clare.

Flower Demo

Lovers of all-things floral are invited to Shildon and District Flower Club's Open Meeting at Shildon Civic Hall on Monday, 9th May when Jackie Charnock from Shrewsbury Area of NAFAS will present an evening of flower arranging under the title 'Melody of Contrasts'. There will also be a variety of stalls with interesting items, to buy including floral sundries. Members £5.00, Visitors £8.00

REME Raffle Raised £600

The South West Durham Branch of the REME Association held a Spring Charity Raffle on Wednesday 27th April at the Scout Centre, Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe in aid of our two local nominated charities for 2016 - The Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) and Macmillan Cancer Support. Over £600 was raised on the night and the branch members are to be commended for their hard work for making this our best charity raffle to date.

A special thank you to all the local businesses and individuals who donated prizes to make the raffle a great success: Hewden Crane Hire, North East Stairlifts, MMB Construction, Rockcliffe Hall Hotel, Bay Horse Heighington, Upex, Mr. Boynton, Mr. Bell and Mrs. K Taylor.

Under-used Hall at School Aycliffe

Councillors Ken Robson, George Gray, Arun Chandran and Kate Hopper would like to thank School Aycliffe Community Centre for hosting our recent surgery. This wonderful building is much under-used, contains a great hall suitable for parties and wedding receptions. Has a fully functioning kitchen and a separate meeting room. Anyone wishing to hire the building can Contact David Steel on 315954.



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Saturday 14th May - "Captain Rock"

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DANCE SHOW HELPS TWO STUDENTS GO TO HOLLYWOOD

Woodham Academy hosted its annual Dance Showcase on the 28th April, inviting students, parents and the general public into school to enjoy a night of fantastic talent.

The students that are part of Woodham Dance Academy had rehearsed for months for a variety of routines including acrobatics and street dance.

Woodham Dance Academy consists of 36 extremely talented young people who attend rehearsals every Wednesday after school as well as showing extra commitment during most lunch times. The Dance Academy, which will be competing in the Great Big Dance Off in Northampton this summer, has had many previous successes and recognised around the county.

Woodham Dance Academy has most recently performed in the Durham Gala Showcase, dancing to a very high standard in front of other schools in the district. It has also performed at other events such as the Sedgfield Sports Partnership Dance

Festival and Rotary Christmas Concert at the Leisure Centre.

The night was a great success, with the hall filling to capacity and the audience contributing £300 to the fundraising for Year 10 student Charlie Lough and Greenfield College Student, Emily Halford.

Both students danced on the night to showcase why they've been chosen for a scholarship to Hollywood to pursue their dancing careers. The duo need to raise £8,000 for the dream trip and will be organising a variety of events over the coming months to help fund the once in a lifetime experience.

Dance Academy Teacher, Miss Kent, said: 'A huge well done to all the girls for their hard work and fantastic performances on the night. Their commitment and determination really paid off. Thank you to all the students who helped behind the scenes too. The night would not have been possible without everyone pulling together and working as a team.'



Charlie Lough and, Emily Halford with their mothers

13yr old in Great North Swim

Open Water Swim for Charity

A young Aycliffe water polo player will take part in the half-mile event at this year's Great North Swim in Windermere. Jake Mendelsohn is entering the event to raise money and awareness for the Brain Tumour Research Campaign. The 13 year-old is taking on the challenge in support of a family friend Anna Swabey who was diagnosed with a terminal brain tumour just over a year ago. Jake is making the short trip to take part in Europe's biggest open water swimming event. Taking place over three days from the 10-12 July, around 10,000 participants of all ages and abilities are expected to join young swimmer in the annual challenge, over a number of different distances. Jake is a keen pool swimmer

and began playing water polo at age eight, five years on and he is already representing his club and the North East regional team. He has also recently taken part in the British Schools Modern Biathlon Championships. After qualifying in the Yorkshire heats, he reached the finals at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre. Jake finished in 14th place in his category representing his school, Woodham Community Technology College. Jake's experience in the water has certainly put him in good spirits leading up to the event, 'I'm excited about doing something I've never done before but a bit nervous as well, I feel proud to be doing something to raise money for

brain tumour research".

Mum Allison highlighted how keen and excited Jake was to take on the challenge, despite never experiencing open water swimming before, "Jake knows how different open water swimming is to simply swimming up and down a pool. Whether or not this is just a one off event for him we'll have to wait and see how he feels after his race. If he likes it, he will likely continue to do it every year".

Entries for the Great North Swim are still open. Please visit greatswim.org/north for more information or to enter.

If you would like to check out Anna's campaign, please visit <https://annaswabey.wordpress.com/charity-fundraising/> - all donations welcome.

After-School Computer Sessions for Year 5 & 6

Is your child interested in coding and programming? Do they know more about computers than you or would love to learn?

Woodham Academy is launching a new after-school, computing session for Year 5 and Year 6 students. The sessions will focus on writing and understanding code as well as programming Micro:bits which have been commissioned by the BBC.

But what exactly is coding? Coding is what makes it possible for us to create computer software, apps and websites. Your browser, the apps on your phone, social media and websites - they're all made with code.

Learning coding empowers you to do many things including developing websites, becoming a career coder or even starting a technology business. Students will be able to use this knowledge in a variety of career paths and most importantly, be able to understand the technology shaping the future.

The first session will take place on May 11th at 3:30pm - 4:30pm; the Woodham Science Sparkies Club will take place straight after this session at 4:30pm - 6:00pm so students are more than welcome to stay for both clubs. The next Nano Bit Club will run on June 29th. For more information please visit the schools Facebook page or contact info@woodham.org.uk.

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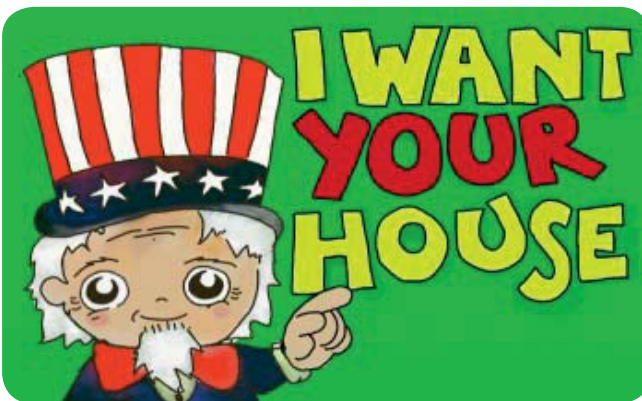
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Composting Awareness

As part of National Compost Awareness Week (1-7 May) Durham County Council is held a composting session on Thursday 5th May, 9am – 12pm at Durham University Botanic Garden.

The composting session was suitable for all levels of experience, including people who have never composted before. Topics covered will be: the benefits of composting, how to start composting, the materials that can and cannot go into a compost bin and tips and problem solving for composting.

Around one third of the contents of an average UK household bin can be composted at home, such as

vegetable peelings, tea bags, cardboard and shredded paper, as well as garden waste.

Home composting helps to reduce the amount of household and garden waste being disposed of and also produces nutritious compost, which can be used on flower beds, vegetable plots and hanging baskets.

Residents are reminded that the council, in partnership with getcomposting.com, offers discounted compost converters to residents as well as a 'buy one get one free' offer on selected products. Go to www.getcomposting.com, or call 0844 571 4444 to order a compost bin.

Earn While You Learn to Drive HGV's at Stillers

Stiller Warehousing and Distribution has launched another innovative scheme to get more people into driving heavy goods vehicles.

The family-run company, based on Aycliffe Business Park, is tempting young people to take up a career in driving HGVs with its own in-house "earn while you learn" training pathway programme. Stiller has previously run successful programmes to attract ex-servicemen and overseas employees in a bid to combat a nationwide shortage of drivers. While Stiller's



Stiller Warehousing and Distribution's head of pallet distribution Chris Bain (centre) with driver trainers Graham Bedford (left) and John Parker

proactive approach to taking on new drivers is already reaping rewards, the firm is now targeting potential young employees who have no previous experience of driving HGVs.

Three new drivers will be taken on every two months – costing the company £5,000 per driver in wages and training – as Stiller looks to increase staff numbers this year. The scheme could cost the firm up to £90,000 a year. Stiller will also loan each driver £1,250 to pay for the HGV class C practical training and test fees with a nearby driving school, to be paid back over six months.

Commercial Manager Matthew Stiller said: "This is a way of getting people giving them a permanent job at the end of it. Training up young people into HGV drivers will have long-term benefits for the company, because we know when we've put them through their training, we've given them job specific real-world skills."

"There is still a nationwide shortage of drivers, although we're not feeling too much of a pinch here at the moment, mainly because of the proactive work we've already done in recruiting drivers."

"We want to encourage people who haven't driven HGVs before into the industry with younger people taking up the profession"

"This shows we're willing to invest up front in people and we're also trying to think outside the box in our recruitment drive."

The successful applicants will spend up to two months undergoing Stiller's in-house training while earning £400 a week before taking their HGV test.

Matthew added: "First we'll give them all the know-how they need to be able to apply for their provisional licences. They will then spend up to two months with our ROSPA-accredited drivers learning about load security, safety, economical driving and various other elements of driving HGVs in our own training vans."

"Once they have all the skills and knowledge we'd put them through an intensive week of training with a test at the end of it by a professional training school."

Stiller provides cost-effective warehousing and distribution services to businesses in the North-East region as well as commercial property lettings and is also a member and major shareholder in

Palletline, a national co-operative network of 70 companies.

Stiller's turnover climbed from £10m to £13m in 2015, after the firm made investments of more than £5.7m on equipment and people.

The firm spent £125,000 on five brand new trailers at the end of last year, and earlier in 2015 invested £1.1m on a new state-of-the-art, 40,000 sq ft, 5,000-pallet warehouse, increasing by nearly 50% its warehousing capacity to 200,000 sq ft.

That followed the acquisition of a fleet of 12 new vehicles, including two 12-tonne vehicles, two urban trailers and four long double-deck trailers in 2014.

Potential drivers, who must have a clean driver's licence for a minimum of two years, can send their CV to info@stiller.co.uk

Creative Opportunities on Your Doorstep

Greenfield Arts boasts a vibrant and engaging programme of activities for adults and young people every term, with some regular courses and other one off opportunities. We host various specialist Arts, health and well-being courses as well as providing a comfortable and inspiring environment for you to learn new skills in the Arts. These include our regular Art Club for young people and Floral Art course with the lovely Cynthia Scott, as well as our ever changing Specialist Art Courses. This term they include Drawing Techniques for varying abilities with Elena Zeniou and Digital Textiles.

Join textile designer Rebecca Hayman for a crash course in turning your drawings into patterns and printing them onto fabric in our SHED. There are three one off sessions available on Monday 9th May or 16th May or 23rd May, all 6pm - 8pm at £15 per session. Please bring

an image to use, all other materials are provided. The SHED is our artist's hub with various professional items of digital kit as well as PC and Mac which include design software to help you develop your skills and connections. These workshops offer access to this specialist equipment not normally on offer at this fabulous reduced rate.

We are always looking to get your input into what we offer, so is there something we don't currently offer that you want to see or do? Is there something we could do more of? If you are an artist and want to work with us or you're looking to learn a specific skill, get in touch and we can see how we can help. We are always looking for new ideas that can work and are here for you!

For more information on any of the above or to book a space please speak to one of our lovely team on 01325 379048, info@greenfield-arts.co.uk or pop in and say hello!



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Local Estate Agent Celebrates Anniversary Greenfield Arts Holiday Extravaganza



left to right - Peter Smith (Director) Nadia Khomani (Zoopla) Sean Lawless (Director)



Elvet Estates are this week celebrating their first year in business. Established in May 2015 by Newtonian, Sean Lawless, their first year of business has ended with the company receiving two national accolades at the ESTAS Awards.

The event is unique in the industry, as all of the winners are decided solely on the basis of customer feedback.

Elvet Estates' clients

overwhelmingly gave the thumbs up as the team won a Gold ESTAS for Best Estate Agency in County Durham and a Silver for North East Estate Agency.

TV property expert Phil Spencer hosted the ceremony at London's Grosvenor House Hotel, which was attended more than 900 of the UK's top agencies from the property industry.

Founder, Sean Lawless said:

"We're delighted that our newest venture, Elvet Estates, is receiving such positive feedback and has achieved two major accolades in its very first year of business."

"This is the only ceremony which puts our customers directly in the judge's chair and asks them to deliver detailed opinions about us, so it means a great deal to know that they appreciate what we offer. We're very proud of the personal, efficient service we provide, and our three awards are a testament to our dedicated staff who work tirelessly to deliver the best possible standards of service to both of our client bases – landlords and tenants."

"We're now determined to improve our service even further, to ensure we stay at the top of the tree in such a competitive market."

Simon Brown, founder of The ESTAS, said: "The ESTAS are special because shortlisted and winning firms are selected purely on the service they deliver to their clients. In fact, just taking part shows a firm's commitment to their customers, so to be shortlisted is a great achievement in itself and for the winners this is the highest accolade they can receive in the industry."

TV's Phil Spencer, who has hosted the ceremony since its inception in 2003, said: "For many customers, moving home is one of the most stressful experiences of their lives, so it's our job

as agents, mortgage brokers, conveyancers or developers to help make the journey as smooth as possible. It only takes one bad apple to reflect badly on the others so it's crucial everyone provides the high quality service the customer expects and deserves."

To celebrate their one-year anniversary, Elvet Estates are offering free no obligation valuations on all properties and a no sale, no fee offer for all property sales. See the advertisement below for more information.

The May Half Term Holiday programme is now available for bookings! We have lots of great sessions on offer for young people and families and this holiday we expand our offer to Shildon. We have two 'Crazy Craft' sessions, one at the Eco Centre on Moore Lane in Newton Aycliffe and the other at the Foundations Building in Shildon. We hope to continue this offer in Shildon for more holidays to come but this



is only possible with your support. Spread the word, pop along or share our information! That way we can work together and expand the Greenfield Arts community.

May Half Term will also host our Story Makers Family Fun Day at Greenfield Arts, Newton Aycliffe. Students from Greenfield Community College have been hard at work with young people in local primary schools developing a love of stories. They created 'mechanimal' puppets who featured in the stories they created with the primary schools and are now the basis for a new app, which is aimed at helping promote literacy through creative play. Come and join us for a

wonderful day celebrating our love of stories and the brilliant creations from the students. Join in lots of fantastic activities creating your own stories, make mechanical puppets and receive your free kit bag to take home. All are welcome with refreshments and entertainment available.

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 or pop in and speak to one of our friendly team.

Please see website for all holiday programmes as well as lots of other opportunities on offer, www.greenfield-arts.co.uk.

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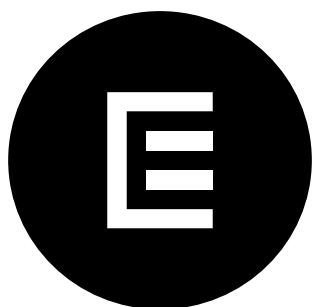
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£4.3m Sales Boost Gets Steel Firm Back on Track

Aycliffe-based Raisco, which works on projects up and down the country, saw turnover drop to £5.4m from £7.5m at the end of March after a lull in the construction industry. Managing Director Gary Raistrick says he wasn't too concerned and is predicting a record year for Raisco. He's also expecting to land a further £1.2m in sales in May, pushing his annual turnover to Gary said: "There seemed to be a massive lull in the industry from November through to March, which saw our forecast sales reduce. It seemed to be booming until the orders dropped off towards the end of the year. Everyone seemed unusually quiet in December, January and February. "But I think there's going to be an even greater boom later this year as we've had an influx of orders throughout March and April and I'm confident we'll improve on our record of £7.5m by the end of our current year."

Raisco was boosted by two orders from two new clients, including a 160-tonne residential apartment block in Whitecraigs near Glasgow, for McTaggart Construction, which is expected to be on site in June.

The Aycliffe firm has also won a project to fabricate and erect 450 tonnes of steel for a new Raisco has been awarded three other repeat business contracts, including a 40-tonne extension in Stanley for STP Construction and two other Lidl stores – one in Weston-super-Mare, Gary says the rising cost of steel will have impact on profitability, but added: "It will still be a much stronger year for us. We're already seeing a big increase in the cost of steel and the forecast is that it will continue to rise throughout the year."



M.D. Gary Raistrick

"We are not massively concerned about the rise as this will also have to be taken into account nationally, which means competition should remain on a level playing field."

Raisco was last year awarded a contract to build a new Lidl store in Crook – it's third turnkey project for the retailer but first in the North East of England, after planning was approved by Durham County Council last September. More than 130 tonnes of steel will be erected by Raisco and fabricated in-house at the firm's 35,000 sq ft premises

on Aycliffe Business Park, and the project is currently on site.

Since being formed eight years ago, Raisco has rapidly grown into one of the country's leading construction and steel fabrication firms, diversifying from purely a structural steel company to having the ability to provide a full construction turnkey package.

It now works with clients up and down the country and has delivered a wide range of fabrication and secondary steelwork projects for many of the construction industry's well-known main contractors.

Construction Company's Warning of Dangers on Building Sites



Willmott Dixon a local Construction company visited the children of last Wednesday morning to talk about safety on and around building sites.

Nigel Lewis, Senior Building manager attended with the company mascot Ivor Goodsite to show a powerpoint presentation about children not playing on or near building sites. He will be returning in a weeks time as he set the children a competition to design a safety poster.

The winner will have their poster made into A1 size and will be displayed at their building site to warn other children about the dangers.

He was very impressed with what the children already knew.

Photos shows children with the mascot Ivor Goodsite

Livin's £8,500 Grant Helps Struggling Aycliffe Parents



Yvonne Beynon (left) and Baby Basics Manager Sheena Stephenson

Lifeline Community Action operate a very successful project aimed at easing the pressure on families under extreme financial pressure who are having or have had a new baby and struggling to afford the basic necessities needed to take care of a their new arrival.

Having a baby can be expensive but when you find yourself unexpectedly in a situation where your income has dropped significantly, then suddenly you find that you just can't pay all the bills and put food on the table. When a mum-to-be is faced with the fact there are a number of things she needs to take into hospital for herself and for the baby. As well as the essentials she will need to take care of the little one at home without the resources to pay for them, the pressure and stress on her is quite considerable. Baby Basics which operates from cramped premises at the Western Area Community Centre at Silverdale Place was set up to ease this stress. It provides support to those who need it with Baby Basic packages which are made up to suit the individual need. Baby Basics is managed by volunteer Sheena Stephenson and helped by hard working volunteer Yvonne Beynon. Livin have very kindly stepped in and awarded the charity £8,500 to help fund this very important project and will refer Livin Tenants to Baby Basics who they identify may need help. Sheen Stephenson the Project Manager said "the support

from Livin is a fantastic and we at Lifeline are extremely grateful for their support".

Baby Basics can be contacted by telephoning Sheena Stephenson on 07594297462

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SEE G5 STEAM LOCO BEING BUILT AT SHILDON

An on-going project to rebuild a G5 Steam Engine is making slow but great progress with thousands of £££'s donated by railway enthusiasts all over the country.

The first engine was built in 1895 and 110 were produced at Darlington Shops and put into service until steam was replaced with diesel and electric in the 60's.

The engine is being built at Hackworth Industrial Estate in Shildon and can be viewed on the first Saturday of each month from 10am - 12 noon.

Donations are required and more information can be obtained by visiting: www.G5loco.co.uk

TESCO SUPPORTS TOWN'S BABY BASICS PROJECT



Aycliffe Tesco's Community Champions have offered regular support to Lifeline Community Actions Baby Basics project, providing the charity with baby milk, nappies etc to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged families in the town.

This is a huge boost to the Charity as baby milk and nappies have always been in short supply according to the Baby Basics project manager Sheena Stephenson. Sheena said "Joe Riley, Customer Experience Manager and Shirley Cormack, Community Champion have been incredibly helpful and

supportive of the work we do in the community and we cannot thank them and Tesco enough for supporting us in

this way, we are extremely grateful". If you need help contact Sheena Stephenson on 07594 297462.

Join the Acorn Players

20 years ago local drama group "Acorn Players" performed their first Show - "Cinderella" at the Methodist Church Hall. Since then they have produced a number of great shows and this year they present "The Little Mermaid" at Woodham Academy.

Rehearsals have started in preparation for the show in November and if there is anyone wanting to join the friendly group we meet at the RAFA Club on Monday 9th May at 7pm. So if you like to act, sing dance or help with front of house or back stage please come along to meet us - you will be very welcome. More details from Anne Harland on 01325 787503.

Christian Meditation

A six-week course on Christian Meditation starts this Sunday, 8th May, at 6.00pm in St Elizabeth's Church, Woodham. Speaking about the course, Revd Elizabeth Bland said, "Many people are unaware that meditation has been part of Christianity from its earliest years, nearly 2000 years ago. The Bible tells us that Jesus himself went regularly away by himself to pray in solitude, and the Desert Fathers and Mothers were contemplative people.

As our world becomes increasingly busy and noisy, 24 hours a day, so we human beings increasingly need space and stillness. The lack of that is, I believe, part of what has contributed to the rise in mental health issues in our times.

This six week course uses material from the World Community of Christian Meditation. All that is required from those who attend is a desire for stillness and the persistence to seek that."

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

Councillor Sleeps Rough to Help Homeless

Local councillor John D Clare is planning to 'sleep rough' to raise money to support a North-East homelessness charity. The charity CEO Sleepout has organised the night to raise money to fund a not-for-profit restaurant which will provide catering jobs for people who have been homelessness, as well as recovering addicts and

Film Show

The "FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW" at St Clare's Church on TUESDAY 10th MAY will feature Disney's "MALEFICENT" starring ANGELINA JOLIE. This 2014 film tells the story of one of Disney's most iconic villains, the evil witch from "Sleeping Beauty" who is pure at heart until betrayal turns her heart to stone.

Tea and coffee will be served at 1pm, included in the £2, and the film starts at 1-15pm. A variety of chairs are provided for your comfort, and tables so that you can bring a spot of lunch to eat while you enjoy a great film in friendly company. EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME. For further details ring Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755.



alcoholics, and those recently released from prison.

The Sleepout event takes place next Thursday 12 May, 8pm to 6am, and you can sponsor Cllr Clare online at bit.ly/JDCsleepout. Every little – however little – helps. Cllr Clare said: "Enduring homelessness is rarely merely the absence of a house.

It is often the result of a complex set of problems, which not only throw the person onto the street, but then prevent them from picking up the pieces and starting again. They therefore need us to offer a 'help up', and this idea will provide the opportunity to develop the routines, skills and self-belief to break the cycle.

"I cannot experience the discomfort, danger or despair of someone really sleeping rough. But I can raise awareness of this growing problem, and raise money to support this proactive initiative."

• The number of homeless people has doubled in the last five years.

• If you are homeless or threatened with homelessness, Durham County Council's Housing Solutions team – bit.ly/DCCHomeless – can help; phone 03000 26 8000 (office hours) or 01388 722 538 (out of hours).

• If you see a rough sleeper, report it to 'No Second Night Out' by phoning 0191 371 0541 or 0300 500 0914.

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Amazing Talent of Students at Woodham Academy Dance Showcase

Woodham Academy Dance Showcase held on Thursday 28th April was nothing short of amazing! The audience including the Mayor of Great Aycliffe and her Consort was completely astounded by the brilliant performance of all 35 dancers.

It was quite obvious the all-girl cast had put a lot of work into rehearsal to attain such a high standard and Miss Kent, a recent appointment to the teaching staff, can take great credit and pride in producing such a wonderful show.

There were some extremely talented

individual performances, but it would be unfair to single out those dancers for their particular skill as the whole troupe worked very hard together to entertain the audience with a solid and confident display of contemporary dance.

A lot of the solo numbers were choreographed by the girls themselves and they were both imaginative and spectacular. The energy and vitality of the acrobatic dancing was breathtaking and brought gasps of amazement along with tumultuous applause from those privileged to attend.



County Newsbits

Compiled by
County Councillor
John Clare

Type the shortened bit.ly and ow.ly links into your internet browser to go to the relevant webpages and find out more.

COUNCIL NEWS

- New Constituency Boundaries Review proposed: bit.ly/PCBReview
- DCC Council Tax Shocker! bit.ly/DCCLCTSS
- 60+ and live in Newton Aycliffe? There are places left on the Town Council's FREE senior citizens excursions to all destinations: bit.ly/GATC6016
- Latest Aycliffe area roadworks information: bit.ly/Roadworks6516
- Last week's report from our MEP: bit.ly/JKD1516

COMMUNITY NEWS

- Healthwatch County Durham May E-Bulletin: bit.ly/HWCD516
- Tesco Community Grants Scheme open for applications: bit.ly/TCGS16
- M&S Energy Community Energy Fund: bit.ly/MSECEF16
- Young people asked to contribute to Home-School Transport Survey: bit.ly/DCCHCTY
- Dying Matters Awareness Week, 9-15 May: bit.ly/DMAW516
- Buddha's Birthday Festival – Saturday 14 May, noon till 5pm – display, food, arts & crafts, Korean drum group – FREE, Oriental Museum, Durham: bit.ly/BB14516

Well done girls - you were truly amazing and Woodham Academy can be very proud of these dedicated dance students. The Academy acknowledges the support of sound Engineers Joe Dixon Dawson and Alex Wilson, with Lighting operated by Adam Dixon Dawson and Paul Blades. Mr Jenkins gave technical support and back stage help was provided by Flynn Leybourne, Thomas Galalgher, Harry Robson, George Slatcher and Billy Wade. Thanks to Joanne Banks and Kay Clarey for their work with Dance Academy and to parents and Carers for their continued support.



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Heighington Football

Under 8s

Heighington made the short trip to Ferryhill in atrocious conditions and with a depleted squad. Heighington took the lead with a well taken goal from Man of the match Jay Bulch. Ferryhill quickly equalised after a ball over the top caught the Champions sleeping. Heighington regained the lead just before Half Time with a great goal from Tyler Woodward. After the break Heighington really took the game to the Home side scoring 8 times in the second half Jay Bulch adding another 3 to his tally, Joe Neild scoring Twice, Layton Collier with one, and Tyler Woodward with another 2 completing his Hat trick including a thunderbolt from practically on the byline.

The second game Heighington won 4-0 with a Hat trick from Joe Neild and one from Tyler Woodward. Man of the Match for this game went to Joe Neild

LOOKING FOR PLAYERS

Heighington AFC Under 8s (aged 8 between 1st Sep 2015 - 31st Aug 2016) are looking for a couple of new players to join our squad. After a great season this year, gaining promotion, we will be playing in the TJFA 2nd Division from September. We are having open training sessions throughout May starting May 12th, 5pm at Heighington Parish Fields, if your Child would like to come along please Get in touch with Dean Marcus on 07713577364

Athena Have an Aycliffe Gym

It's been a very busy time at Athena Sports Academy, with moving into their very own Gym in the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre last month. This will enable the club to offer better facilities to its current gymnasts and also to offer the chance for children in the area to take up the sport as the club announce new sessions for new comers of all ages from its new mother and toddler sessions to its Recreation sessions for ages 3 and above, and of course its Disabilities Group. The club is also about to announce details of a new Adult Gym which they are looking to start in the coming months.

The last couple of months the club have been training



for the Deerness Floor Championships in Durham, with over 50 gymnasts from the club making the trip to Durham to take part in the competition. These floor championships have always been noted as a friendly competition which gives the gymnasts a chance to compete in a regional competition, and in a manner that allows them experience as many of the gymnasts compete for the first time. The gymnasts have been training hard for this competition and all the gymnasts who took part did their parents, coaches and of course the club proud with some marvellous

performances. The club gymnasts gained 15 Gold Medals, 12 Silver and 4 Bronze during the full day event against clubs from all over the North East. The club still has places available within the Rec Classes that they are currently running, so if you interested in any of these classes and want more information please email Athena at athenasportsacademy@gmail.com or visit our website www.athenasportacademy.co.uk.

AYCLIFFE RUNNERS TAKE CHALLENGES

Aycliffe Club runners take on two challenging off-road courses and venture into a local duathlon to test their abilities. On 17 April two Aycliffe runners ran in the challenging Guisborough moors 12 mile fell race. It was a dry sunny day but conditions under foot were boggy and slippery.

Seasoned fell runner Dez Fielden was first back for the club in 13th position in an excellent time of 01 hour 39 minutes. John Burnside managed to complete the course in 02 hours 15 minutes finishing in 103rd position. On Saturday 23 April, club runners also participated in Hamsterley 10K, a challenging trail race with some tough climbs. Dave Blewitt was first home for the club in an impressive time of 45 minutes 30 seconds, he was followed by Martha McBarron in a time of 47 minutes 32 seconds. Next came John Heywood with a time of 48 minutes 04 seconds, who was followed by John Young in 49 minutes 49

seconds.

Club runners branched out on 24 April by getting involved in a duathlon. On a cold but dry Sunday morning five Aycliffe runners took on different events at the Stockton duathlon.

Jimmy Wilson entered the novice race 2k run/ 10k bike/ 1k run and finished in a excellent time of 47 minutes 32 seconds.

Three runners competed in the sprint event 5k run/ 20k bike/ 2.5k run with Peter Milburn first back for the club in a superb time of 01 hour 07 minutes. He was followed by John Burnside in 01 hour 16 minutes (who placed 3rd over 60), closely followed by Peter Smith, who is returning from 18 months out due to injury, in 1 hour 20 minutes.

Top club triathlete Graham Atkins took on the highly competitive standard event 10k run/ 40k bike/ 5k run and finished 82nd position in a brilliant time of 2 hours 16 minutes.



(L-R) Peter Smith, Peter Milburn and John Burnside

BATTLE OF THE BOXES 2016



Over 50 CrossFit All Out members from Newton Aycliffe attended the 'Battle of the Boxes' event in Colchester on 10th April, to support their qualifying team of 5 in the finals. "Team All Out" for their second year, consisted of Head Coach Terry Anderson, Coach Joe Allinson, Coach Kelly Keers and longstanding members Colin Wooster and Yasmine Meite.

Up against 47 other qualifying teams battling through 5 gruelling team workouts, their highest placing throughout the day was 7th, then making it to the semi-finals and finishing in 12th place overall. Coach Terry said "I'm very happy with our results, we have a great team who support each other and between us we have some strong skills in CrossFit. Each team member has a solid work ethic and the support from our members is just outstanding and constantly growing. We look forward to seeing what next year brings!"

2 of the Academy teens, Connor Elston and Kieran Martin also competed for the first time in a venue other than their own CrossFit gym. Coach Terry has assistance at Academy sessions from fellow Coach Kelly Keers, who was really impressed with their performance, saying "these teens have certainly done

themselves proud this weekend, showing tremendous maturity and performing to a very high standard." Coach Terry added "They are improving week in, week out, gaining more experience with every competition they enter and they give it their all at every session, we couldn't be more proud of them. The highlight was all the teens cheering on the girl last to finish the final workout, struggling to get her last pull-up. CrossFit is the only sport where the last to finish gets the loudest cheers, even from other competitors. It's humbling to see."

Last but not least, the youngest competitors of the day were Zack Cooke aged 12, Natalie Fawcett aged 10 and Dylan Hackett aged 9, taking part in the kids competition. This was not scored and was designed to introduce kids to the competitive arena, but ensure that having fun and enjoying the experience was priority. Vikki Anderson, Terry's wife and CrossFit All Out Business Manager, was amazed at the kids confidence throughout the event. "Terry has been running the CrossFit Kids and pre-school sessions for less than a year and they are very popular with 32 kids, 18 pre-schoolers and a waiting list! However, as parents ourselves we were nervous for these few

kids in their first competition, in a large venue, miles away from home, with hundreds of adult athletes spectating - we hoped they wouldn't get stage fright and be put off, but of course they were completely undeterred! They confidently carried out all the movements to such a high standard and fully embraced the experience. Natalie literally smiled throughout each workout! It was great to see them all working so hard and enjoying themselves. We have to thank their parents for being so supportive and bringing them along to take part, it's exciting to see the kids progressing so well each week, gaining confidence whilst having fun, which is exactly what it's all about!"

For more information, please visit www.crossfitallout.co.uk or contact Vikki at hello@crossfitallout.co.uk or 07788 123321.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN 2016
CrossFit All Out competitor Yasmine Meite placed 32nd out of the top 60 that qualified for this competition in Birmingham on 17th April, whilst competitor and Coach Kelly Keers placed 13th in the Masters category (40+). "Both girls delivered strong performances and are constantly improving. To compete two weekends in a row is impressive and they did themselves proud, as always."



PLANT SALE

Pollards Allotments at Bishop Auckland will be holding its annual Plant Sale on Saturday 21st May 10.00am - 4.00pm and Sunday 22nd May 10.00am - 12 noon

Bedding plants, items for hanging baskets, together with a wide variety of vegetables will be on offer, and all grown by some of the best gardeners in the area. Come along and support local growers!

VOLUNTEER REQUIRED

Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre require a volunteer who has a keen interest in catering. Possession of a Level 2 Food Hygiene is preferable, however for the right person we will put you through the course. What NAYCC sees as more desirable is the enthusiasm for this kind of work. If this sounds like you, please send a copy of your CV to info@naycc.org.uk or drop in a hard copy addressed to the Centre Manager. Closing date for interest is Friday 20th May with a view to you starting volunteering on Wednesday 1st June 2016. Thank you
Beki Metcalfe
Centre Manager
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Come to our Open Evening

Tuesday 10th May 2016 6pm-7.30pm @ Whitworth Park School

For more information visit - www.sedgfieldssp.org.uk

Contact: apprenticeships@sedgfieldssp.org.uk

Phone: 01388722317

Deadline for applications: 9am Monday 6th June 2016



British Titles for Aycliffe Thai Boxers



Two brothers from Newton Aycliffe are fighting their way to success after attending a series of Thai boxing competitions around the country.

Jon and Jak Hardy, who attend Woodham Academy, have spent consecutive weekends competing for titles in Birmingham and Sheffield.

Year 9 student, Jon, who has been training for over three and a half years, now has three British titles and one Intercontinental title after winning at Sheffield last weekend.

Both boys, who train with Gary Mcallister at Phoenix Thai Boxing four times a

week, have just returned from the Thai Boxing British Championships in Birmingham. Jak encountered another close call but was unfortunately beaten in the final by the eventual winner. Jon was awarded a British title after his proposed opponent couldn't fight due to injury.

DO YOU LIVE ALONE?

Would you like to eat a hot two course lunch with company?

Why not come along to **Neville Parade Methodist Church Luncheon Club** on a Tuesday at 12 noon. You will receive a warm welcome. For more details contact Dave on 321720.

TRI CLUB SPRINGS FORWARD

The race season has definitely started for ATC as April saw no fewer than four major races being attended by club members.

Straight in on the 3rd of April was Graham Atkins, who came 1st in his age group, 24th overall in a time of 1.34.36 in the City of Durham Duathlon. This was a perfect start to the month for Graham, as he would later go on to represent his country nationally. (Read below to find out how Graham got on.)

More success was to follow on the 16th, when Michelle Scott and Dan Halladay competed in the Haltwhistle Aquathlon (400mswim open air pool/4km muddy, cross country run), a race used as preparation for the forth coming Brecca Swim/Run competition. In freezing cold conditions, Michelle crossed the finish line 1st female, in a time of 25.29 and Dan finished 3rd male in a time of 24.15.

That same weekend, on the 17th, Graham Atkins competed as a member of Team GB in Kalkar, Germany, at the ETU Duathlon European Championships. It was a hard



day's race with a strong German field, but Graham prevailed the home competition, the strong winds and occasional monsoon

showers to finish 20th, 6th Brit home in his age group. (A fantastic achievement and Graham's first experience

racing abroad, with an unmistakable sense of pride and comradeship shared through the team.)

To finish the month off, 6 of our members entered the annual Stockton Duathlon on the 24th. In the novice race, James Wilson finished 2nd in his age group, 27th overall, in a time of 47.32. In the sprint discipline, Nicola Darragh crossed the line 9th in her age group, 137th overall, in a time of 1.13.05, while Tracy Warrior finished 9th in her age group, 231st position overall, in a time of 1.20.53, (a good warm up for her impending half ironman race next month.) With a little energy left over from Germany, Graham Atkins finished 13th in his age group in the standard distance race, 82nd overall, in a time of 2.16.42. Also racing in the standard distance, Stuart Rimmer finished 21st in his age group, 160th overall, in a time of 2.30.25, while Melanie Rowland crossed the line 14th in her age group, 214th overall, in a time of 2.53.54.

A brilliant month of racing for ATC, with the first triathlon races beginning next month,



starting with the Ashington Triathlon on the 2nd of May. The club would like to thank GAMP for the funding they provided for coaching courses successfully passed recently by members of ATC. Their kindness has helped the club to further develop their coaching staff, which will undoubtedly improve the quality of coaching provided by the club for its members. If you would like any further information regarding membership or sessions delivered, please don't hesitate to check out our website, or you are more than welcome to come and chat to any of our friendly coaches at our swim sessions held at the Newton Aycliffe Woodham Academy Swimming Pool, Wednesday evenings 7-8pm.

Heighington Football

Under 8s

Heighington made the short trip to Ferryhill in atrocious conditions and with a depleted squad. Heighington took the lead with a well taken goal from Man of the match Jay Bulch. Ferryhill quickly equalised after a ball over the top caught the Champions sleeping.

Heighington regained the lead just before Half Time with a great goal from Tyler Woodward. After the break Heighington really took the game to the Home side scoring 8 times in the second half Jay Bulch adding another 3 to his tally, Joe Neild scoring Twice, Layton Collier with one, and Tyler Woodward with another 2 completing his Hat trick including a thunderbolt from practically on the byline.

The second game Heighington won 4-0 with a Hat trick from Joe Neild and one from Tyler Woodward. Man of the Match for this game went to Joe Neild

LOOKING FOR PLAYERS

Heighington AFC Under 8s (aged 8 between 1st Sep 2015 - 31st Aug 2016) are looking for a couple of new players to join our squad. After a great season this year, gaining promotion, we will be playing in the TJFA 2nd Division from September.

We are having open training sessions throughout May starting May 12th, 5pm at Heighington Parish Fields, if your Child would like to come along please Get in touch with Dean Marcus on 07713 577364.

AYCLIFFE RUNNING CLUB

Presents

The 3M 10K & Fun Run Sunday 19th June 2016



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10k Run 10.00 am
3k Run 9.15 am

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Fun Run

- Commemorative medal

(accurately measured with kilometres marked)

Entry Fees: 10k Run £13.00 Club Runners/£15.00 Non Club Runners
£4.00 extra to enter on the day
3k Run £4.00 All entries

Enter online at www.entrycentral.com/Aycliffe10k or email: Aycliffe10k@gmail.com

Race details: <http://ayclifferrunningclub.org.uk/about-aycliffe-10k-and-fun-run/>

Cheques to be made payable to 'Aycliffe Running Club' Entries to:

Michelle Scott, 4 Salisbury Terrace, Shildon, DL4 1JR

Closing Date for Entries midnight Friday 17th, June 2016

NOTE! allow extra time to collect your race number and chip on the day.

If for any reason the race is cancelled at short notice (which in the 17 year history has never occurred) Aycliffe Running Club cannot return your entry fee as the club is committed to the organisation cost of the event regardless.

Surname Forename(s)

Address

County Post Code

e-mail address Telephone No.

Date of Birth Age on June 19th, 2015 Athletics UK Affiliated Club

10k or Fun Run please tick 10k Fun Run male female
(For 10K runners must be 16-years or over on June 19th, 2016)

UKA Reg Number for club members

Declaration: I wish to enter the 3M 10K or Fun Run and I declare that I am an amateur as defined by England Athletics Laws and certify that I am medically fit to run. Furthermore, I agree that the organisers will not be held responsible for any injury or illness as a result of my participation in the events. I understand that my details will be stored on the entry computer, but will not be distributed to any other organisation or running club.

Signature

Date



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ACORN May Meeting

Popular local Residents Association ACORN will be holding their May meeting in the upstairs lounge of the Phoenix Club on 12th May. Beginning with the fun Junior Section Little ACORNS at 5.30 pm where plans will be discussed for the coming year including the ever popular fun days on a local green. At 6pm the main ACORN meeting begins where local issues are discussed. Meetings of ACORN are usually attended by interested community partners including Police, County Councillors, Town Councillors and representatives from livin.

Lively debate is encouraged but attacks on individuals prohibited, we seek to inform and encourage involvement in the society in which we live giving a voice to the public in an amusing interactive group. ACORN are often found to be leading the way with protests and campaigning, also many of our members take part in training sessions such as first aid, food handling, governance and trusteeship. ACORN are a very proactive group with events such as Easter egg hunts, Petting Zoo, animal inspired fun days, and parties for Halloween etc., already being planned for this year. ACORN also arrange outings to educational establishments and seaside trips throughout the year. ACORN events and outings are often featured on our Facebook page. We welcome new members to come along and get involved with our activities that are helping to build a more inclusive community.

Ken Robson, on Behalf of the ACORN group Tel: 01325 321471

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New Good Neighbour Programme will award local good causes with thousands of pounds ..

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Public Notice

Come on Ladies

Join us every Tuesday from 1-3pm with raffles, bingo, a natter and a cup of tea at the New Phoenix Club Town Centre (Ex-British Legion)

DONATIONS needed of Bric-a-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring Honest John 316630

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JAFFA are you aged between 5 and 12? Then why not come and join us at JAFFA. Mondays 3.45 to 5.00pm at Burnhill Way Methodist Church, Newton Aycliffe for bible stories and activities.

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• Provident's Good Neighbour Community Programme will provide funding to support local organisations voted for by their community
• Voting is open and closes on 9th May.

From today residents from across Durham are invited to nominate the projects or organisations that make a real difference to their local communities to receive funding of up to £2,000 each.

The funding will be delivered by Provident's Good Neighbour Community Programme, which invested more than £1m into the community during 2015.

Until 9th May, the public can nominate good causes across Scotland and the North of England with an online submission. A shortlist of the top four nominations across this region will be announced next month.

Once the shortlist is announced, local people will again get the chance to vote to decide on their winner Andy Parkinson, Provident's Home Credit Director, commented: "Provident agents have always worked closely within the communities in which we operate and see first-hand the importance of community spirit. We believe that people do have pride in their communities and sometimes just need a helping hand to develop it and improve it."

"In 2015 we invested over £1m in our communities through our Good Neighbour Programme, and we want to extend our support to new projects this year. It's because of this that we're now inviting the public to nominate the organisations that they think make a real difference in their local communities. No matter how small the project or organisation, I'd encourage people to nominate those who deserve support to continue their great work."

To nominate a local good cause visit: providentgoodneighbour.co.uk

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TOWN COUNCIL DECISIONS ON SUMMER FESTIVAL QUESTIONED

Dear Sir

I thank Cllr. Brian Hall for his response to my letter, however, I have the following comments in reply

Q1. The issue of room hire is irrelevant as I believe this was waived prior to the council meeting and in fact was mentioned by Councillor Fleming. Whilst Aycliffe Village Hall should be complimented for not charging room rent, the Big Club, irrespective who organises the event, will make a reasonable profit from the sales of drinks on the evening.

Should all the profits from this evening go to a charitable organisation? If so I will be the first to send a letter of thanks, if it is a local charity.

Q2. You state there is "currently only one Party in the Park" does this mean that the two 'picnics in the park' are not events?

Q3. You state that in the Council Newsletter it was clearly stated that "The Festival Working Group is currently considering event applications" Smoke and Mirrors and mentioning the Council's website is a bit superfluous as the majority of people never visit the website. In the "Newsletter" you tell people, in respect of the Aycliffe Village Hall event, to "buy your tickets early as it was a sell out in 2015!" Then regarding the Music Night at the Working Men's Club, you state "Another immensely successful event in 2015 was the Music Night in the Working Men's Club and this too will run again this year" This is definitely a promotion of approved events irrespective of your

statement!

Q4. Absolute Discretion - You threatened Councillor Blenkinsopp with disciplinary action if you found he had been going against policy that a councillor cannot speak if he has a declared interest in a subject.

That's like sending the Chancellor to a World Finance Meeting, but not letting him put his case forward. Does this mean councillors who approved the Public's Money to be spent on a council event do not have a declared interest and if not who did?

The term "Absolute Discretion" smacks of the tail wagging the dog. It is not the council's money but the public purse, and therefore should be spent with the utmost care and scrutiny.

Q5. Council working parties made up of councillors, recommending spends to the council without external involvement is a dangerous proposition. If you expect us to believe that there isn't any collusion or off-the-record discussions then I shall jump on the next ship to Mars because it happens in all walks of life and especially in public offices.

Q6. The amount of events put forward by one group should be applauded as trying to make this festival a success. They should not be penalised

Brafferton Village News

A Family Fun Day of a different kind happening at Brafferton Village Hall on Sunday 15th May, from 12-4.30. There will be pre-bookable workshops including Lego, Relax Kids, Step into Storyland, Victoria Clark (Holistic practitioner and spiritual coach) & BIG Little Gigs along with activities going on all day so if you'd rather just turn up on the day to suit you there's lots going on! Parents will also have the opportunity to get a mini hand or foot massage from the lovely ladies at The Magnolia Tree and Pampered Soul.

You can book places or get more information at www.Facebook.com/RelaxKidsDarlington

What is National Children's Day?

Supported by the Big Lottery Fund, this year's National Children's Day UK (NCDUK2016) is all about the importance of adult wellbeing for child wellbeing and everyone is being invited to get involved. People can run any kind of mindful, heartfelt, big or small event that they want for the week up to and including the day. Happy parents, carers and teachers help to create happy, healthy kids!

You can find lots more information at www.nationalchildrensdayuk.com

because a working group feel that one area of the town is being proactive. If the council feels this way then maybe the Councillors themselves should be pushing their own wards to participate. Saying that it might have been nice for our local ward councillors to become engaged with the community centre and bring some of their local knowledge and experience to the table.

I thank Newton News for publishing my letter and the subsequent response, however unpalatable. I have drawn an end to this public debate as I do not want to engage in a tit-for-tat column. Should any councillor wish to discuss any of my comments with me I am at The Cubby every morning, Saturdays included, except Wednesdays. Stanley T. Wise
Neville Community Centre.

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 Town Council Election may be obtained from Room 1/104-115, County Hall, Durham. DH1 5UL from the Returning Officer who will, at the request of an elector for any electoral area prepare a nomination paper for signature.

3. Nomination papers must be delivered by hand to the Returning Officer, Room 1/104-115 County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL on any day after the date of this notice but no later than 4p.m. on Thursday, 12th May 2016.

4. If the election is contested the poll will take place on Thursday, 9th June 2016.

5. Applications, amendments or cancellations of postal votes must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Room 1/104-115, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL, by 5.00p.m. on Tuesday, 24th May 2016.

6. Applications to vote by proxy at this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at County Hall by 5.00p.m. on Wednesday, 1st June 2016.

7. Applications to vote by proxy at this election applied for on grounds of physical incapacity, where that physical incapacity occurred after 5p.m. on Wednesday, 1st June 2016, must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at County Hall by 5.00p.m. on Thursday, 9th June 2016.

Dated:- Tuesday, 3rd May 2016.

Colette Longbottom
Returning Officer

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Youthy - Under 13 Champions

U13 Falcons had their final game of the season with a long mid week away trip to East Cleveland to play Skelton. A win would secure the championship but the lads wanted to win in style. The Falcons were all outstanding and proved that they were worthy champions as they put on a stylish performance. They controlled the game from start to finish winning 11-1. This was great preparation for their end of season tour of Belgium and Holland over the bank holiday weekend.

U14 Girls v Bishop Auckland, Bishop brought the game to Aycliffe and took the lead half way through the first half. Aycliffe defended well and played as a team getting to HT 0-1. The girls had the slope and the wind going into the 2nd half and the game turned with most of the time played in bishop's half. 2 goals from Chloe secured the points FT 2-1. Still the championship to play for

U11 Girls v Easington, another tough game against a fast improving and physical side. The girls however were finding and creating acres of space and with the pace of the front three. The goal came from a flowing move finished by Alex. Then Hattie breaks forward picks out Kate who gives the keeper no chance HT 2-0. We knew Easington would push everyone forward so it was important we weathered the early storm. A great second half by both teams but the final word came from Aycliffe as once again Kate got in behind the defence to slot for our third and secure the points FT 3-0, with our



main rivals drawing we sit joint top with 4 games to go U16 Eagles v Brompton. Early in the game free header from a corner and Brompton went ahead. Some good football and quick passing got us back in the game and to half time winning 3-1. Second half the boys continued to play good football and ended up winning 5-2 with goals from Ryan Harris 2, Harrison Johnson, Nathan Murray and Danny Pickering. Two more games and the lads can still finish runners-up Other results
U10 Girls 3-2 Deerness
U8 Eagles 5-2 Wear Utd

U10's 0-4 Billingham
U11's 4-1 Stockton Yellows
U12 Eagles 0-0 Acklam FC
U12 Falcons 11-3 Mount Pleasant

U12 Hawks 0-3 Redcar
U13 Eagles 2-3 Acklam
U16 Falcons 5-1 Eaglescliffe
For more information visit www.naycafc.co.uk

Aycliffe FC Up & Down

Mixed results for Newton Aycliffe FC in recent days with a magnificent win over league title favourites Shildon followed by a loss at Consett.

When the heavens opened on Thursday afternoon Aycliffe supporters began to worry that we would see another postponement. Fortunately a week or more of dry weather had given the Moore Lane pitch time to recover & cope with the downpour.

Shildon came into the game knowing that a win for them and a loss by Marske would secure them the title that night. However, Aycliffe had not read the script and a hat trick from Jordan Laidler secured the points for the Newtonians.

The first goal came after 10 mins when Laidler took advantage of a scramble in the box to shoot into the corner of the net. The Aycliffe number 9 made it 2-0 five minutes before halftime turning in a cross which was missed by the Shildon keeper.

Laidler completed his hat trick on the hour by getting on the end of a good cross from John Campbell on the right wing.

Aycliffe then visited Consett on Saturday and suffered a 4-2 defeat. Both sides had several players missing. Aycliffe's season was planned to end on 23 April but has now been extended to 11 May. Inevitably some players will now be unavailable, added to the injuries being sustained in three games a week.

Stuart Banks came close to an early goal at Consett but his third minute effort was ruled out for offside. There were chances at both ends



in the first half hour but no goals until 35mins when Alan Harrison made a good run through from midfield, passing to Banks who played a delicate chip out of the reach of Consett keeper Gareth Young. The home side equalised five minutes later with a cross headed into an open goal. Consett finished the first half the stronger with Aycliffe keeper Lewis Brass pulling off a good save, tipping a good shot over the crossbar, just before the break.

Aycliffe made a good start to the second half and Laidler hit the bar within five minutes of the restart. Consett put Aycliffe under more pressure and came close to taking the lead with twenty minutes to go when a header went wide. Two minutes later they got the lead with a shot from close range.

Aycliffe equalised on 77mins thanks to a 35 yard Dennis Knight free kick from the wing. The long range effort caught out the stranded keeper who couldn't reach the ball as it crept in just under the bar. In the last 10 minutes Consett piled on the pressure on and scored two more goals to take the points. The punishing fixture schedule continues for

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's first team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store were well beaten by nine wickets at home to local rivals Shildon Railway 1st XI in the NYSD 2nd division. Aycliffe lost the toss and were asked to bat first on a drying wicket and were dismissed for a below par 124 after 46 overs. Mark Woodhead (sponsored by Michaela's Nails) top scored with 31, Sam Telford smashed a quickfire 27 and Adam Gittins with a patient 21 not out were the main contributors.

In reply Shildon romped to victory after only 22.2 overs with the Upton brothers, Greg and Bret, both smashing unbeaten half centuries with Aycliffe captain Luke Telford taking the only visitors wicket to fall.

Thankfully the first team performance improved significantly on the bank holiday Monday as they earned a winning draw away at Hartlepool 2nd XI in a rain affected match, which was reduced to 37 overs per side.

After being asked to bat first Aycliffe finally found their form scoring a very respectable 174 for 8 from their 37 overs, thanks to an excellent 55 from Adam Gittins (sponsored by GetMeCheapBills.com) and good contributions from both Sam Telford with 28 and debutant Subhan Christudas with 25.

In reply a superb spell of seam bowling from Aycliffe's Colin Myers, taking 4 for 16 from ten overs had the home side in trouble. However Hartlepool held out for a draw finishing on 68 for 9 from their 37 overs, despite a couple of wickets each from Michael Howe and James Layfield-Carroll.

The second team were also defeated in their first game of the season away at Saltburn 2nd team in their NYSD 3rd division match. Asked to bat first Aycliffe were bowled out for 110 after 35.3 overs, but were grateful for a brilliant innings of 60 from vice captain Jack Slatcher (sponsored by Mr & Mrs Greaves).

15 year old Dan Bowmer batted well and scored 27 and Pritpal Grewal chipped in with 15 runs to help give the Aycliffe innings some substance. In reply, the home side reached their winning target for the loss of two wickets after 30.2 overs.

The game was marred when man of the match Jack Slatcher suffered a bad hand injury when trying for a catch and was immediately taken to hospital for treatment to repair the damage.

Birthday Remembrance

JOANNE McCOURT (Turner). 5th May 1961. Happy birthday Mum. Thinking of you is easy, we do it everyday. But another birthday without you, is another day of heartbreak. This pain never eases, wish we could hold you one more time and tell you we love you and always will. We miss you Mum xxxx Love you forever, Michelle and family

JOE MINNES 2nd May 1947. Not a year has gone yet Dad, but seems only like yesterday we were joking and laughing. Forever gone but never forgotten. Love, Scott, Tracy and Bob xxx

For Sale

RENT a washing machine only £3.99 per week, no deposit, fully maintained. Bargain Buys, Shafto Way, 01325 321678

"ALL SORTS" Charity Shop at the side of St. Clare's Church is open 10am to 1pm every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. On sale is a huge selection of bric-a-brac, toys, household goods, jewellery, electrical goods . . . the list is endless. All items are perfect and at low prices. All money raised will continue to be given to good causes. All Sorts is a charitable project run and funded solely by Godfrey Bennett.

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Thank You

THANK YOU to the Phoenix Club for use of the venue; Louise for the wonderful choice of hot and cold food. Great day and evening. Thank you to family and friends for coming and making the party fantastic. Ann Cairns

In Memoriam

George Stokes

5/1/1955 - 5/5/2015

A devoted Husband of Joy-Marie. Your love and all our special memories I treasure xxxxxxxx

Adrian Cairns

1st May 2011

It is five years since you left us with a huge void in our lives. But we have memories, all good, of a loving and caring Son. In our hearts you will stay, you are loved and remembered every day. Dad and Mam xxxxx Also sadly missed by Brandon and Ebony xx

AGNES MORTON Died 8th May 2007. To my darling Wife, miss you and love you loads. Forever in my heart. Your loving Husband Rich xxxxx
AGNES MORTON Died 8th May 2007. Treasured memories of a dearly loved Mam, Nanna, Great Nanna. Remembered always. Lots of love from your children John, Carol, Gail, Peter, Christine and Steven xxxxx

Congratulations

Karen Robinson



60 TODAY

Happy birthday to my lovely Daughter. Lots and lots of love, Mam

CALLUM McWILLIAM 7th May. Happy 13th birthday Callum. Have a great day. Lots of love always, Nanna and Grandad Reed xx

CALLUM McWILLIAM Happy 13th birthday Callum. Love, Uncle Wilf and Auntie Ann

CALLUM McWILLIAM 7th May. Happy 13th birthday Son. Have a great day. Lots of love, Mam and Glen xx

CALLUM McWILLIAM 7th May. Happy 13th birthday from a Goose

CALLUM Happy 13th birthday. Ltos of love Uncle Marc, Auntie Vicky, Cam, Rhys, Jade and Jacob xxxxxx

CECILY ABRAHAM Happy 60th birthday. Love, Mam, Frank, Maureen, Yvonne, Harry and Dale xxxxx

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16-0 Win & the Championship

It was goals, goals and more goals for Aycliffe Juniors this week as the season comes to a conclusion. More great news as well with the Under 18's 'Blacks' being crowned League Champions this week. The Under 18's finished their season with a huge 16-0 win against Seaton Carew after beating third placed Darlington

Spraire Lads 3-0 in midweek to open up an unassailable lead at the top of the table and seal the league title. They have lost only 2 of their 18 league games scoring more than a hundred goals in the process. Their top scorers Taylor, Hansom and Raisbeck dominated the league scoring charts with each of them in the top 4 scorers only

separated by Peart from the Aycliffe Reds team. Fantastic effort from this team and their coaches Joe and Dean. From one of our oldest teams to a new side, our Under 6's who played their first game on Friday evening against a strong Darlington team. The squad played brilliantly and really enjoyed the experience, particularly when celebrating their first goals! The Under 8's concluded their league season on Sunday with a 5-0 win against Middleton Rangers. The Under 10 TJFA league team finished off their championship winning campaign at home against Seaton Carew and sealed a great 4-0 win. Charlie was in fine form with two goals which were added to by Lucas and Jacob to ensure the victory. This gave them a record of 16 wins from 18 games scoring 67 goals and conceding only 10. This is testament to the scoring prowess of Lucas and Zack who each got 20 goals or more as well as the great efforts at the back from goalkeeper Tom along with Aaron, Harry, Charlie and Chloe who have been the mainstay of the teams defence. The Under 11's won 9-3 at home to Richmond with Charlie Cayless among the goal scorers.

The Under 14's concluded their season with a derby game against Aycliffe Youth, they headed in to this final league game full of confidence from last weeks win. They started nervously but then settled to put in a fine team performance. The passing was good, defence solid, midfield inventive and the forward line deadly as they ran out 12-1 winners. Goals came from Burrows (7), Pattinson (2), Dunn, Barnes and Imelia. The team have now won their last three games to end the season strongly as they now look forward to end of season trip to Scarborough where they will be joined by the Under 8's and 10's over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. The glorious Bank Holiday weather led to cancelled games for the Russell Foster league Under 10 team and the Under 23's with the latter still having seven games to fit in somehow! Of the 5 teams that did play league games they all won and an amazing 46 goals were scored over the weekend – a superb effort from all the teams

Aycliffe WMC Could Win the Premier League

Newton Aycliffe WMC football team have a very important game this coming Sunday. It's the last game of the season and they are currently joint top of the Durham County Sunday Premier League with Pelton ROAB. Needless to say winner takes the League Championship and the team would value your support. They have goal difference advantage. The KO is at 10.30am at Woodham Academy ground.

Aycliffe Water Polo Players Remain Champions



Sedgefield Water Polo Club based at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre were hoping to retain the National Under 17 ASA Boys Championship they won last year when they travelled to the Manchester Aquatic Centre for the last 4 play offs for the medals. Sedgefield had beaten Manchester, Crawley, Northampton, Watford, Wales and London Invicta in qualifying. They faced Caledonia most peoples favourites, which is basically the Scottish National team in the Semi Final.

The Scottish team ended the first quarter 2-1 in front and the score at half time was 5-5. In the third quarter Sedgefield's extra fitness told as they took a 2 goal lead and kept the Scottish team at bay in the last quarter to win 12-10 to reach the next day's final. Sedgefield scorers were Ben Stephenson 7, Michael Cousins 2, Kris Egginton 2, Connor Keeble 1. In the final Sedgefield were up against North East rivals Sheffield. In a tight first half the score was all even at 4-4 but as usual Sedgefield's tremendous fitness started to tell as they scored 4 goals without reply to lead 8-4 going into the final quarter. Sedgefield stormed to victory 15-7 to retain their title and this was Sedgefield's 3rd National title in 18 months. Sedgefield were the only team in the competition to have a shallow water pool but teams do not have an answer to Sedgefield's tremendous defence, fitness, organization and flair even with their Olympic size pools and other resources. The scorers in the final

were Michael Cousins 15 with 6, Ben Stephenson 14 with 5, Finlay Parnell 16 with 3 and Connor Keeble 15 with 1. Richard Murray 16 was voted best goalkeeper in the finals from the 4 clubs. Ben Stephenson 14 with 12 goals was Sedgefield's outstanding outfield

player. The other members of the Sedgefield team were Jake Mendelson 13, Haydn Craggs 13, James Moore 14, Mathew Alderson 14, Mathew Bottomley 15 and Joe Barron 16. The Sedgefield coaches are Richard Cousins and Peter Griffiths.

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