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Athena Gymnasts Win British Championship Gold Medals

Four gymnasts from Athena Sports Academy, had a very special weekend when they travelled to Stoke-on-Trent for the Acrobatic Gymnastics NDP National Finals.

Emily Wharton and Henley Bruce from Aycliffe, Millie Foster from Heighington and Joshua Greenwood from Shildon had previously won their Regional Finals in South Shields earlier in the year and qualified for the National finals last weekend. First to compete, Joshua and Henley, on the Men's Pair Grade 2 category. The pair took to the floor and eased through their fantastic routine. The standard for the British Champions at this grade is incredibly competitive but the boys were fabulous and achieved a great score, finishing in 5th place, only .31 from a medal: So close!

Joshua and Henley have worked so hard in training and to come this far has



certainly taken the boys on a great journey, which we're sure has only just begun. Emily and Millie competed

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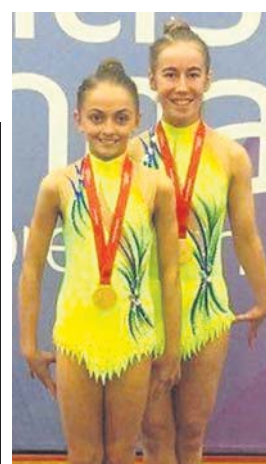
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Continued on Page 2

Newton News Live on Air

As our commitment to reporting on local news, events and our new partnership with Star Radio, a member of the Newton News team will be giving a news report live on air every Friday morning. The "Editor's Minute" will give an analysis of the top stories of the week as well as a look at future events in and around Newton Aycliffe. Newton News encourages readers to tune into your local radio station, *Star Radio* for regular local news updates and stories: 102-107FM.

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Consultation Event

Woodham Burn, Newton Aycliffe

Willmott Dixon are preparing an outline planning application for a new residential development on land at Woodham Burn, Newton Aycliffe. We would like to invite you to view the proposals and discuss any thoughts you may have at a public consultation event to be held on:

WEDNESDAY, 15th JUNE, 2016, 4pm-7pm
AGNEW COMMUNITY CENTRE
 Morrison Close, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4QZ

“Secret Millionaire” Gives Town Choir a Uniform



The MAD Community Choir would like to publicly thank the “Secret Millionaire” who generously donated into our group. This donation enabled us to purchase MAD Choir T-Shirts for our 40 members providing us with a uniform for performances. The T-Shirts were designed and created by Ugly Duck

Clothing based in Bishop Auckland and we would like to thank them for their excellent service, doing a great job at a brilliant price. MAD Choir cannot wait to wear our new T-Shirts at our next performances. We have been invited to sing at the GATC Party in the Park for The Queen's Birthday on Saturday 11th June and everyone is in for a treat as we are sounding great in rehearsal. Our second performance is an Intimate Cream Tea Supper at Woodham Community Centre on Wednesday 15th June. This is a ticket event, you will be entertained by MAD Choir and enjoy a Cream Tea supper for the great price of £2.50. If you would like to purchase tickets please call 01325 310991 to book.

The future of MAD Choir, our next performance will be our big Charity Show in October 2016, as usual all money raised will be donated to a local charity. All details and ticket will be released very soon. There may be some other exciting news and performances coming up so keep your eyes open for the details in the Newton News.

If you love to sing and would like to join the choir please feel free to join us at our next New Members Night on Wednesday 22nd June 2016 at 6.45pm, Woodham Community Centre. There are no auditions, no pressure to perform just a warm friendly welcome and an evening of singing. Thanks again for the support of the local community who attend our events we can't wait to see you soon.

Athena Gold Medals

Continued from Front Page

in the Disability Woman's Pair - Grade 3 category. The girls performed, without a single nerve in sight, nailing their routine superbly. The pair certainly put on

a display to earn the gold medal and also the title of British Champions. This is an amazing achievement from two incredibly dedicated gymnasts who have done themselves and their supporters proud! This weekend has once again brought recognition to a very young club, who are continuing to grow rapidly as its success continues to attract aspiring gymnasts.

Head Coach, Brittainy Fuller, who was with the Gymnasts over the weekend, said, “I am so proud of all four of the gymnasts, their hard work and commitment has certainly paid off. I can't wait to see what the future holds for these gymnasts and Athena now we're in our own facility”.

Athena Sports Academy, who have just moved into their own facility full-time within Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, are always looking for youngsters to join us both recreationally and competitively. If you would like the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of our newly crowned British Champions at a National level there are classes for all ages and abilities including pre-school, disabilities and boys-only sessions.

Further information can be obtained from our website www.athenasportsacademy.co.uk or our facebook page www.facebook.com/gymnasticsatathena. Alternatively, you can contact athenasportsacademy@gmail.com

Honest John Donations

Honest John has donated cash to the following organisations: Children's JAM Club - £350, JAFFA Club - £350, Defoe Court Residents Fund - £100.

Fundraising now for Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club Under 17's strips.

Special thanks to DISC, Val and all supporters for donating and buying goods at the shop which operates without any overheads whatsoever (thanks to DISC) and where every penny made goes back into our community.

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Davy's Rock Page Review: “All in all, a great night with a great atmosphere and a lot of people dancing, so if you want to hear newer covers with a good mix of older rock 1 0 1 deliver.”

Saturday 11th June - “F.M.”

For more information on bands go to

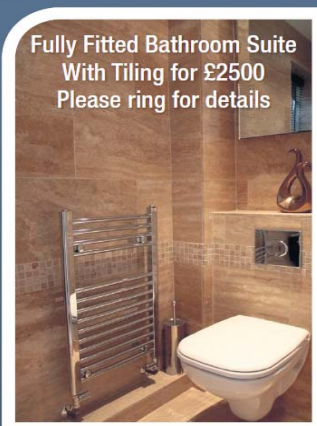
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Wow Factor as Crafters Companion Open An EU Nightmare?



Last Friday, 27th May, Deputy Mayor Michael Dalton had the honour of officially opening the new Crafters Companion store at Horndale Avenue.

A large number gathered outside the store eager to see this magnificent new facility and take advantage of purchasing from the wonderful array of tools and materials crafters need to pursue their hobby.

Founder Sara Davies was thrilled by the response and it was particularly heart-warming to see crowds of people sitting and being taught craft. This is a big part of the set-up with demonstration areas where visitors can hone their skills. Michael Dalton in opening the store, commended Sara for her entrepreneurship, welcoming the store to Aycliffe and wishing her every success for the future. Sara said she was excited with the move to Aycliffe and wanted to be involved with the community, working to bring jobs and prosperity to our town.

"I've been completely blown away by the response to the opening of our flagship store here in Newton Aycliffe. People travelled from all over the UK to visit us and we've also met lots of new customers from the area which is wonderful.

Everything I envisioned it would be all those many months ago has turned into reality, and I'm really looking forward to seeing the store grow and become a central hub for crafters to come, share their skills, make new friends, learn new techniques, and find lots of new products" said Sara. Readers are encouraged to visit the friendly store and be prepared to be staggered by the range of goods. While there have a cuppa, in the cafe, relax and enjoy yourself.



Dear Sir,

The following is a verse from the classic 1960's song "Eve of Destruction" made famous by Barry McGuire . . .

*The eastern world it is exploding
Violence flaring bullets loading
Your old enough to kill, but not for voting.
Even the Jordan River has bodies floating.*

This has more meaning now as we are in the EU of destruction! Imagine this exaggerated scenario - where you are a young family man at home with your wife and children, sitting comfortably watching "Britain's Got Brussels" enjoying fish and chips just delivered by REDS.

Then there is a sound of a disturbance coming from outside which takes you to the window - panic and fear as you see 50 men, women and children heading up your street, knowing that one of them could be a fake refugee (ISIL) coming to harm your family.

You remember you have a fully loaded AK47 rifle in your possession - WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

That is near enough the nightmare we could find ourselves in as we accept invasion by wolves in sheep's clothing - or is wolves in E-EWE'S clothing?

They could be coming to wreak havoc on our NHS, Schools, Housing, Prisons, welfare etc. But we have an opportunity to put our wonderful country in order by voting LEAVE on June 23rd! Please do the same as it is not out of order to secure our border. I am not scare-mongering - I leave that to the REMAIN promoters.

Honest John

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WI MEETING

Our members had another fun evening with our guest speaker Indgrid Kilner - who enlightened us on her 'Year under the Veil' - her experience being a wife in Iraq many years ago.

There were many funny moments and many sad ones, but it was so kind of her to share her experience. Our next meeting will be held at St Clare's Church Hall on June 14th starting promptly at 7.15 pm.

We would also like to invite you to our "Evening of Sweet Delights" and event which is by ticket only on Friday 1st July 2016.

For more details contact Joan on 01325 327 286

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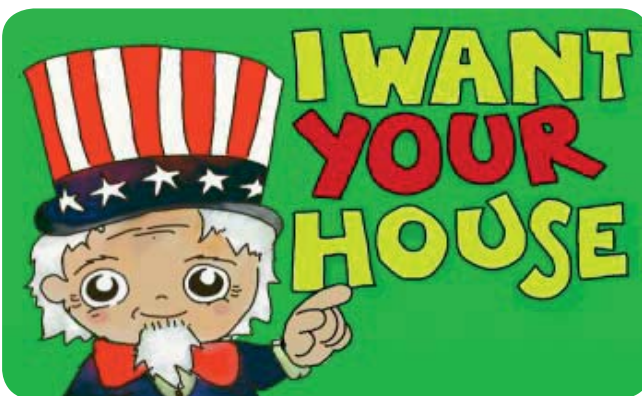
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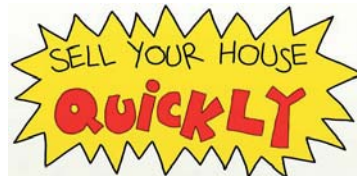
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"I WILL VOTE 'OUT' FOR MY GRANDCHILDREN IN REFERENDUM"

says Bob Fleming, Leader of Town Council

Having read last week's Newton News, I was concerned over the coverage given to the IN Campaign in the paper. One full page was devoted to being IN but not one word regarding being OUT. I contacted the editor and he explained that no one had come forward from the Brexit Campaign and he invited me to submit my views on the issue.

Let me state that these are my views and are not the views of the political party I have been a member of for almost 64 years, or the Council I am a member of. They are my views but are also shared by many of my friends and the people I represent.

Before the referendum on our membership in Europe was proposed, I did not give our membership of the Common Market too much thought. One year when I went on holiday to Spain and marvelled at magnificent new highways, paid for by the European Union funds, I thought 'why don't we have such roads in Britain?' Why should the Great North

Road North of Alnwick be two-laned when the Spanish have such facilities.

When I visited Germany I also thought that if the steel works I visited in Duisburg could be subsidised, why should our steel works not benefit from a similar arrangement? David Cameron went throughout Europe, trying to have something to present to the British public. When he descended from his aeroplane he stood there with a piece of white paper, which reminded me of another Prime Minister in 1939 saying 'peace in our time'. Cameron had very little, only some vague promises which would need to be endorsed at some time in the future.

Since the announcement of the referendum, we have been inundated with so much information that many of us find it difficult to absorb. Amongst the information there are truths, untruths, lies, damned lies and statistics. Cameron said that the referendum would be played

on a level playing field. That was until he found he was fighting for his political life. Then he spent nine million pounds on the IN Campaign but nothing was given to the OUT Campaign. Then he unleashed many government departments, who surprisingly found overwhelming evidence to stay in. In the vanguard of the departments was George Osborne and the Treasury Department. Their record on financial predictions has been so far off the mark, and so often, that they would be laughable if not so serious. Just look at the last two budgets. They have been subject to more u-turns than the Monaco Grand Prix!

The level playing field has become so skewed that the only sport that could be played on it would be ski-jumping. Which predictions should we believe? Well on one hand we have a relatively new Governor of the Bank of England advising us to stay. On the other hand, we have his predecessor of many years advising us to leave



as soon as possible.

We have numerous market predictions advising us but models are reliant on the information you put in. Put rubbish in and you get rubbish out. If the only information you put in is pro staying in and against leaving, it is not surprising what the prediction will be. Let's feed the following facts into the model.

1. The Euro is in danger of collapse
2. The Greek economy is in tatters. They are unable to meet their debts and have enforced austerity imposed on them.
3. Italy is in line to join Greece. Their gross national product is declining. In some regions unemployment is over 65% - yes, two out of three people are unemployed.

4. Spain is also in the group of high unemployment, especially among young people. What will this model predict? We are told that if we leave the sky will fall on our shoulders. It did not do so before we joined the Common Market. Then we had many flourishing industries.

Shipbuilding flourished on our North Eastern rivers. There were several steelworks in the North East. At that time, I took my family to Seahouses for a summer holiday and we watched the fishing boats unload the beautiful silver herring. Now Robsons of Craster, of Craster Kippers fame, have to import the herring from Norway and Iceland. Why? Because European companies hold the quotas for fishing in our waters and land their catches on the European mainland.

If our few remaining fishing boats have a quota, they are restricted to the number of days they can fish, and perfectly good fish has to be dumped if quotas are exceeded.

In his article in last week's paper, Phil Wilson, our MP, makes some remarkable statements. First he states that 13.2% of our laws are made in the EU. I find that alarming. Our laws have evolved over centuries and are the envy of the world.

To state that 1 in 7 of our laws are imposed by the EU is totally unacceptable. That is not the end of the story. Not only do we have laws imposed on us but also EU directives which tell us what we must do, how we must do it and when we must do it.

These directives come from the European Parliament but it is the first parliament in history which cannot propose legislation. That is done by the European Commission. The European Commission are unelected bureaucrats who govern Europe. The European Parliament cannot repeal legislation, only amend or delay.

Let me give you an example of a European directive which affected Newton Aycliffe. Two years ago, the Council decided to replace a play area in West Park at a cost of £40,000. In the past, we would have gone out to tender to British companies who work to very tight British standards. Owing to a European directive, we had to go out to the whole of the EU, seeking tenders but having to accept work to much poorer standards. This led to a waste of time and money and the work has been delayed for almost a year.

We are also told that 'membership of the EU has helped bring rights to working people, such as paid leave, working hours and maternity leave'. I applaud such action but I ask myself why did we rely on the EU? We had a Labour Party government for three terms of office. A party of the people and the workers. Why did we not implement such laws ourselves at Westminster? How much does the EU cost us in contributions? Regardless of who tells us the story, the amount of money is staggering and varies between £15 million pounds a day and 55 million pounds a day. Yes, we do receive large amounts back in rebates. We also have large sums returned to us in projects which are decided by the unelected bureaucrats. Would it not be better if we were to decide ourselves how we spend our money?

A number of predictions are stating the EU will have the upper hand when we negotiate trade deals. As we buy far more from Europe than we sell, I am not sure that is the case. Doom and gloom. Cameron predicts the possibility of a Third World War if we leave

and that we have not had a World War since the European Union. That is not true. We have not had a global war because the weapons are so powerful that the human race has the power to destroy itself. There would be no winners, although we came close to that in Cuba in the 1960s.

It was also stated that the EU has helped to preserve peace in Europe - that is not so. What about the war in the Balkans and Russia's annexation of large parts of Ukraine and the Crimea? We are told that the soft power of European diplomacy cannot be underestimated. Well tell that to Vladimir Putin. Russia still holds what it annexed.

Now I wish to address two issues which were not addressed namely immigration and federalisation.

Prior to the last two general elections, David Cameron predicted (another prediction) and promised that net immigration would come down to the tens of thousands. Last Friday it was announced that the figure for last year was 300,000. That is the size of a city the size of Nottingham. To put it another way, it is twelve times the population of Newton Aycliffe in one year, or the population of Newton Aycliffe every month.

So far, immigration has not affected the North East. I do not have problems with people coming here, providing we have the infrastructure to serve an increase in population levels. It is a matter of time before we feel the effect of migration. Already in Goole a town in Humberside just South of the North East, the population has risen by almost 15%.

There is a shortage of affordable housing, employment oppor-

tunities for the local residents have fallen, basic service provision is affected. In a programme I watched it showed a school in Goole and the Head Teacher explained that although he immigrant children were very good pupils, the class sizes were in the order of 50 children, speaking 15 different languages.

Being in the EU entitles all of its passport holders access to Britain to live and work. We can expect an even greater influx in the future when the minimum wage reaches over £9 per hour in 2020. I doubt if we will have the infrastructure or service to cope.

Finally, I wish to address federalisation. Watching a Jeremy Paxman programme on the EU I was surprised at the number of European MPs who are striving for a United States of Europe. Britain would then become one state and our sovereignty gone forever. Who would preside over us? Who would command our army? Who would decide if we engaged in war or peace? History has shown that we have fought against losing our independence to those who wanted a large European state, controlled by France and recently Germany.

I remember the shout of 'Ein Volk, Ein Reich, Ein Fuhrer (one people, one land, one leader). Are we in danger of losing what could not be achieved by force of arms being achieved by stealth?

At the polling station, I will not be voting for myself but for my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Every vote carries the same weight, regardless of rank or position. It is essential that we all vote as this is the most important referendum in generations.

Great Aycliffe



Town Council

NOTICE OF ELECTOR'S RIGHTS IN RELATION TO THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2016

Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (Sections 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28)
Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (Regulations 9, 10, 14, 15 and 17)

Right to Inspect the Statement of Accounts and Accounting Records

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 that the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement of Great Aycliffe Town Council for the financial year ended 31st March 2016 have been published on the Council website and will be made available for public inspection between Friday 3rd June 2016 and Thursday 14th July 2016.

Local government electors may inspect and make copies of the accounts and any supporting financial records including books, deeds, contracts, bills, invoices and receipts.

The accounts and supporting records can be viewed during opening hours at the offices of Great Aycliffe Town Council situated at School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, and appointments should be made with the Finance Manager at the Council who can be contacted on telephone number 01325 300700 or by email to Daniel.Austin@great-aycliffe.gov.uk.

Please note that the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement have not yet been audited and are therefore subject to change.

Right to Question the Auditor and to Make Objections at Audit

Notice is also given that during the thirty day public inspection notice period between Friday 3rd June 2016 and Thursday 14th July 2016, the Council's external auditor, at the request of a local government elector for the parish of Great Aycliffe, will give the elector or any representative of the elector an opportunity to question him about the accounts and supporting financial records, or to receive an objection which:

- (i) concerns a matter in respect of which the auditor could make a public interest report under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- (ii) concerns an item of account in respect of which the auditor could apply for a declaration that the item is unlawful under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

The Council's auditor is Mr Cameron Waddell of Mazars LLP whose address is; The Rivergreen Centre, Aykley Heads, Durham, DH1 5TS.

Any requests to question the auditor or make an objection must be made in writing to the auditor and a copy of the notice must also be sent to the Finance Manager at the Council.

Mr Dan Austin C.P.F.A.
Finance Manager
3rd June 2016



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Town Council By Election West Ward - 9th June

SARAH CLOUGH

Hello I am the Independent Candidate at the upcoming election in the West Ward. My name is Sarah Clough I am a 33-year-old mum of two small children.

Previously from Darlington I have lived in the West Ward of Newton Aycliffe for six years. Currently I am studying Social Work with the aim of becoming a social worker.

I am driven to be a Great Aycliffe Town Councillor because I feel strongly about the welfare of my community and would love to make a positive difference.

Crime in my area seems to be centred around the local convenience store which keeps late hours and seems to attract an anti-social element, recently readers of your newspaper will have learned of a serious assault upon a WPC outside of the premises and only last weekend an attempt was made to rob the shop by a masked hammer wielding thug.

I don't want to give the impression that our area is beset by criminal elements but the shop is not very well illuminated outside and is situated in a dark area adjacent to the Boating Lakes.

As a young mum my focus will be upon the needs of young children and facilities for them to play and grow in a safe and harmonious area. As a student studying social work I have also come to the conclusion that we are in danger of becoming very insular in our treatment of the elderly, many of whom rarely see a friendly face during the



and attend council meetings whilst at the same time teaching young people. Should I be elected my promise

is to represent my ward to the best of my ability. Sarah Clough INDEPENDENT Candidate.

Town Council By Election West Ward - 9th June

PAUL SYMONS

I am standing as the local UKIP candidate in the forthcoming West Ward Town Council By-Election, and I'm writing to let the residents know what electing a UKIP councillor means.

UKIP believes that a person elected to public office has an absolute responsibility to listen to the wishes of their residents, even if it goes against official UKIP Party policy. The wishes of the people and the interests of the community must always come first.

West Park boating lake and becks, now need cleaning out, and they must be there for families and the community at large to enjoy. I will campaign to ensure they are cleaned out. UKIP firmly believes community halls are lifeblood of a community and they must be protected and preserved, that's why I will campaign for community halls to be kept open for residents to use.

UKIP is the only real Party of opposition – all the old Parties are so similar that it



is difficult to tell them apart. UKIP, however is committed to providing the democratic, accessible and accountable representation that people living in West Ward deserve. Voting for UKIP on the 9th of June will show common sense, honesty and democracy are alive in our area, despite decades of deception by the old parties in tearing those virtues apart. Thank you and I look forward to your support. Paul Symons UKIP candidate

Labour Election Candidate Angers Victim of Assault

Dear Editor, Having read the remarks made by Peter Lewis Davis in this week's Newton News, and being the subject of the attack I would like to express my anger. He is ignorant of the full details of the incident, of how deeply shocked I was by what happened and he has no knowledge of my personal circumstances. Yet he obviously feels he has carte blanche to lecture me and the public on the history of the treatment of those with learning difficulties and disabilities. Living, therefore, I would like to put the record straight.

I have worked in Adult education for a long time providing discrete provision to help those who have been deemed to have failed in compulsory education. I have helped these wonderful people to upskill and achieve their full potential while listening to horrific tales of how they feel school teachers have abandoned them at the back of the classroom choosing to give their attention to 'the brighter ones'. (The student's words not mine). Being an English teacher and having worked with students with learning needs and mental health issues for many years; I would like to suggest this man returns to adult education and recap his knowledge on how to read a letter correctly. He should also pay particular attention to the use of tone, style, fact, opinion and

inference in text.

At no point was it advocated the lady who hit me should be penalised for her actions.

Since this event I have been stopped several times and listened to people relating how they have suffered similar incidents. The conclusion of the conversation being; that those who require care are simply not being watched over properly.

Using the premise that freedom of speech is one of our British core values I am compelled to state how offensive this man's vicious comments are. I would like him to reconsider his remarks and apologise for the hurt he has caused me by writing such an aggressive letter. So in exercising my right to rant in reply to his remarks would like to say: "I am not a town councillor; I do not engage in politics apart from voting at elections. I am someone who experienced an unexpected act of violence. Now I find I must endure this grotesque invasion of my privacy. Without my permission this man stole an episode from my personal life; twisted it out of context and used it for a muck raking exercise to score political points. If I was not married to the man who beat him at the last by election in January; one wonders if he would have bothered to write the letter at all.

This man is the Labour candidate standing again at the By Election in June. I have the intelligence to see this is yet another dubious and bitter

electioneering strategy and a badly disguised attempt to bully those people who are related to Independent Councillors; as they are not signed-up members of the Labour brethren.

The lives of individuals with learning difficulties and disabilities and the lives of those related to councillors, regardless of their political persuasion, should be treated with respect. Our lives should not be manipulated and used in sleazy dirty tricks campaigns. At a local level all parties should be working together to improve the environment of Newton Aycliffe; so that its townsfolk can enjoy a better quality of life.

Should the Labour Party machine close ranks and attempt to reply to this letter. They will be showing themselves to be as dishonourable as the candidate they have chosen.

I am left in no doubt that members of the Labour party have no conscience if they have allowed him to stoop so low as to use such an extremely sensitive issue in this outrageous manner.

Finally, I apologise to your readers being unable to entertain them by writing a long list of historical I can only offer them some words once spoken by Plato.

"One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors"

Elaine Lawson Robson

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Door to Door Shopping Trip for Over 50's - £4



Newton Aycliffe Shopping Club Friday trip was to The Arnison Centre Durham which was enjoyed by 10 people including Pam, Carol and Joan shown in the photo. Last week we went to Tindale Shopping Centre and next week we may return where after shopping we will go to a local farm shop for our home cooked lunch where we can all enjoy a good gossip. If you wish to come on our shopping trips which will take place every Friday starting at 10.30am you will be picked up and dropped off at your door. Help can given with your shopping or you can go off in groups. You must be over 50 years and a donation of £4.00 is requested. Please ring Dorothy on 01325 308094 or Mobile 07967 901477

PROMINENT MEMBER OF LOCAL COMMUNITY DIES

Valerie Hindmarch preferred to be known as Val, born 12 May 1939. Passed away 28 May 2016.

Born in Leeholme, Coundon to Mary Alice Baron and John Williams.

Val's life was one of music, adventure, travel and celebrities.

Starting her musical debut at 14 years in the Bishop Auckland Youth Choir, she became professionally trained vocalist and pianist including playing the pipe organ, which she was proud to say played at Durham Cathedral.

Her working life led her to Bishop Auckland Hospital as a secretary and their met her future Husband; Kenneth Hindmarch. Their desire to create their own business started young as they moved to York and bought a newsagency which they managed for 10 years. Family commitments brought Val back to Coundon and thereafter Newton Aycliffe where she worked in several companies; Linear, GEC, Viskase in a customer

service/supervisory capacity. Once established in Newton Aycliffe with her husband and three children, Gillian, Geoffrey & Lesley; Val become a significant part of the local community as secretary of the Arts Council; long serving member of the Operatic Society in Newton Aycliffe and Shildon.

Val's strong religious beliefs and dedication brought her the position of secretary and organist at Neville Parade Methodist Church as well as singing in the church choir. Later on Val founded the "Auvin Singers" based in Bishop Auckland and following the demise of the Operatic Society started her own company with her son, Musicals North providing professional shows. One of her fondest memories was starring with Danny La Rue. A further international company was born "Showcase Productions" providing entertainment to theatres, cruise ships and hotels abroad with celebrities like Paul Daniels, Canon & Ball, Little & Large to



name but a few. Through this business Val travelled the world up until her sudden illness. Irrespective of her music, work and community responsibilities her passion and love was undoubtedly always for her family. Valerie's Funeral will be held on Monday 6th June 2.00pm at Neville Parade Methodist Church and thereafter at Coundon Crematorium at 3.00pm. All welcome.

Workers on Temporary Contracts Lose Out

Dear Editor,

The introduction of the Tory living wage was designed to boost the pay packets of the working poor. This week, I've spoken to a number of employees working at Gestamp Tallents, on ongoing temporary contracts employed by Mtrex recruitment agency.

A number of employees informed me that they have been given new contracts to sign on the implementation of the living wage. One worker explained to me how, in addition to their basic pay, they are paid a shift allowance of £2 an hour for night shift and £1 an hour for afternoon shift.

The increase of their basic pay to the living wage would see these workers significantly better off. However, alongside the raise of the basic wage, the night shift allowance has dropped from £2 to 80 pence, and the afternoon shift allowance dropped from £1 to 40 pence. One worker calculated that his family would be £5.40 a week better off.

The ongoing temporary workers are not unionised as the permanent workers are, and therefore have no recourse to address this injustice. And an individual refusing to sign the new contract will simply not continue to work there.

It is a disgrace that measures to lift the most poorest workers out of poverty see the benefits of such a policy absorbed by big business. It is uncertain whether Mtrex continues to be paid the shift allowances by Tallents at the previous rates.

Most likely, the reduced shift allowances, which are absorbed by the workers' new basic pay, will be used as a measure to reduce the wage bill, a measure we'll now see implemented across all our of local industry. This practise is a shameless blight on the living standards of local people by ruthless employers, it must be stopped.

Warren Saunders,
Editor: We contacted Mtrex for a statement and their response was "No Comment".

NASSA News & Events

Newton Aycliffe Scout Supporters Association is hosting the fantastic Duo ROAN on Saturday the 11th June at 7.30pm. at the Scout centre Bluebell Way. This

popular duo will entertain the audience signing hits from Billy Ocean, Bryan Adams, Temptations, Billy Joel, Stereophonics, The Drifters, Take That, Kings of Leon and many, many more. Tickets are only £4.00. and are available at the bar.

Why not come and join in the fun, our licensed bar sells alcoholic and soft drinks at competitive prices. This event is open to non-members

We also have a number of other events scheduled for the coming months

27th August DANIEL COLE singing in the bar – no cover charge 28th August – NORTHERN BYGONES CLASSIC CAR SHOW and DISPLAY OF VINTAGE CARAVANS free entry 15th October The return of YEARS GONE – by popular request.

Newton Aycliffe Scout Supporters Association is a registered charity that raises the funds necessary to run and maintain the Scout centre Bluebell Way Newton Aycliffe that is used by the scouting groups to hold their meetings – up to 80 young people attend the meetings on a regular basis. Our social club is open from Friday 6.00pm till 11pm Saturday 1.00pm till 11pm Sunday 1pm till 11pm And Monday 7pm till 11pm, membership is £3.00 per year.

The hall is available to hire at weekends £25.00 for afternoon hire, £35 evening (including licensed bar) If you need more information please call in to the premises and speak to a committee member or tel 01325318901 – please note our phone is only manned at weekends.

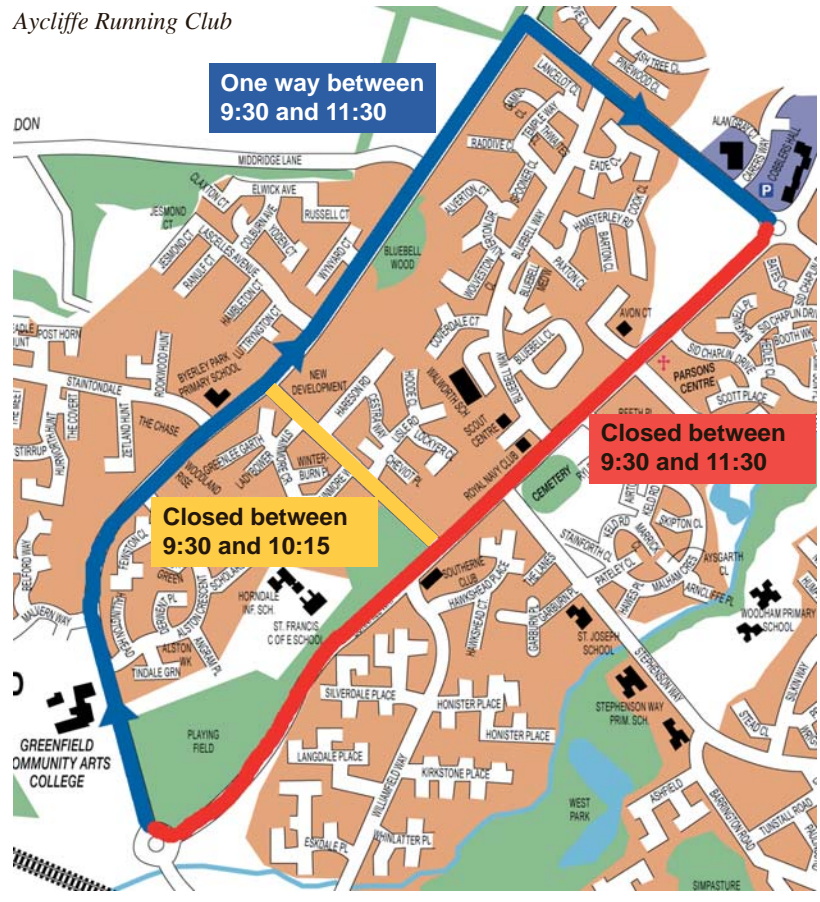
Notification of Road Closure

Sunday 19th June - Aycliffe 10K and Fun Run

From 9:30 to 11:30 Burnhill Way in both directions is closed with no access, Burn Lane from Cobblers Hall to the junction with Greenfield Way is one way West-East towards the town centre, Greenfield Way from Burn Lane to the roundabout with Burnhill Way is one way South-North towards Rope Moor. Meadowfield Way is totally closed in both direction for the first lap 9:30 to 10:15. Aycliffe Running Club are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, the road closures are a requirement of the race safety risk assessment agreed with Durham County Council and Durham Constabulary. We hope you will join others in cheering the competitors on their way.

This is the 19th annual Aycliffe 10K and Fun Run with over 600 competitors taking part. If you wish to take part you can enter online at www.entrycentral.com/Aycliffe10k, information is available at <http://ayclifferunningclub.org.uk/about-aycliffe-10k-and-fun-run/>, you can enter on the day with a £4 administration charge, alternatively post your entry to Aycliffe Running Club c/o Michelle Scott, 4 Salisbury Terrace, Shildon, DL4 1JR or email Aycliffe10k@gmail.com. The Closing Date for online entries is midnight Friday 17th June 2016.

Aycliffe Running Club



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INTERNATIONAL BRASS BAND FESTIVAL IN DURHAM

Brilliant bands from across the globe are set to ensure a sensational summer music festival is truly top BRASS. Acts from across three continents are Durham bound this July as the county's annual celebration of musical culture and traditions returns to celebrate its 10th anniversary.

Early highlights of this year's BRASS Festival programme include New Orleans' Hot 8 Brass Band, The Fairey Brass Band, the Durham Hymns, a "battle of the bands" between New York Brass Band and Oompah Brass, and a county-wide Party in the Park tour. Building on the success of previous years, there will be an absolutely cracking line-up of international and local musicians.

Once again BRASS will show off our stunning city and county, with performances everywhere from Gala Theatre and the Cathedral to street corners and the magnificent, newly refurbished Wharton Park.



This year's festival includes free outdoor extravaganzas, brass-tastic collaborations and even its own fringe events programme – with all the latest updates available by signing up to the BRASS newsletter at www.brassfestival.co.uk. The council's festivals and events manager, Kate James, said: "The festival is a celebration of the eclectic and often surprising breadth of brass music from around the world – and everyone is

invited.

"From France to Portugal, Germany to India, and closer to home, BRASS brings together the very best brass bands for four jam-packed days of celebration."

Among the main acts on the festival's calendar, New Orleans based Hot 8 Brass Band will bring their "roof-raising, jazz-infused, funk and hip hop fuelled marching band music" to Durham's Gala Theatre on Friday 15 July.

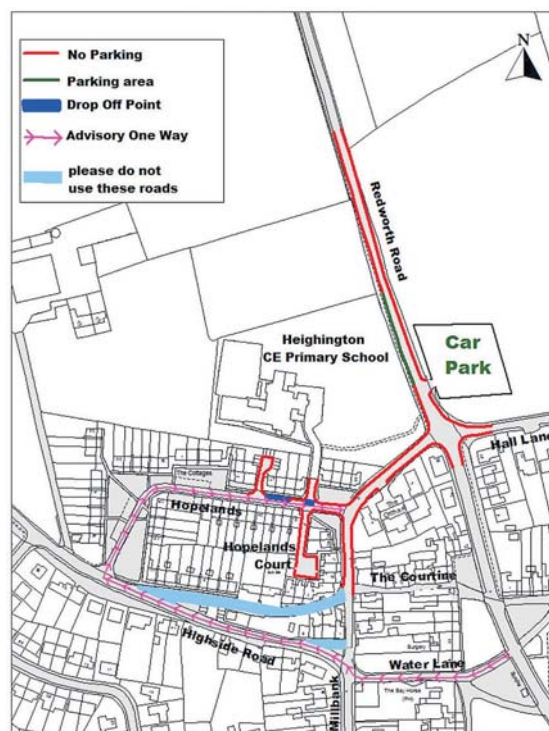
One of the great Louisiana brass acts, Hot 8 have faced an unimaginable series of trials, from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, to the separate deaths of five of their band members, and the horror of their trumpeter losing his legs in a car crash. They honour their fallen friends and help towards the future of their community by putting their energies into positive projects at home and touring as much as possible. The band have performed with a wide range of artists, from Lauryn Hill to Mos Def, and their incredible story was featured in Spike Lee's two New Orleans documentaries When The Levee Broke and The Creek Don't Rise. They played themselves in The Wire creator David Simon's hit series Treme, and in 2013, were nominated for a Grammy award for their album The Life and Times Of...

As a warm-up for the festival, each evening from Tuesday 12 July, New York Brass Band and Oompah Brass will go head-to-head in week long party-in-the-park tour across County Durham, culminating in a grand finale at Wharton Park on Saturday 16th July. There they will be joined by local pit-pop sensation Dennis, and the fabulous Hope and Social, who will be reprising their collaboration with New York Brass Band which wowed audiences in 2015.

BRASS Festival 2016 also sees the premiere of the Durham Hymns, at Durham Cathedral. Featuring new writing from Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy and music from composers Orland Gough, Jessica Curry and Johnny Bates, the special World War One commemorative project will see over 100 performers from the Centenary Choir & Brass Band and Voice of Hope community choir perform on Saturday 16 July.

The full programme will be announced at the beginning of June.

Heighington School Parking



PARENTS' DRIVING TO SCHOOL CHARTER

Objectives of the Parents' Charter:

1. To minimise the number of vehicles driving to school
2. To reduce the volume of traffic outside the main school gate
3. To improve the safety of each and every child attending Heighington PRIMARY SCHOOL

• ALWAYS Drive with CARE, COURTESY & CONSIDERATION
• Plan your journey correctly – give yourself MORE TIME to drive your child to school

HEIGHINGTON & REDWORTH CHILDREN

- Please leave your vehicles at home & walk your children to school
- Infant (older) children
- Parents of Infant children use the accepted ONE WAY system to school
- Drive into and along Highside Road and turn into Hopelands
- Stop your car on the LEFT side of Hopelands EITHER before the School Keep Clear markings OR across the entrance to the school between the two sets of School Keep Clear markings
- Let your child out of your vehicle using your NEAR side car door only so that your child does not have to cross the road
- Having watched your child go into the school access road drive into Millbank and continue your journey. Do not wait to see them actually go through the school gate.

JUNIOR CHILDREN

Parents park your vehicle in the following locations;

- Sports Field car park in Redworth Road
- In Redworth Road on the school side between the bus stop and the double yellow lines
- Centre of the village using The Courtine to reduce walking distance to school
- Highside Road and walk along Hopelands

STRICTLY NO PARKING OR STOPPING LOCATIONS

- Do not park in Hopelands Court
- Hopelands garage area (facility for local residents only)
- Millbank (narrow road)
- Hopelands (no waiting areas)
- Redworth Road (no waiting areas)

ALL RESTRICTED PARKING AREAS ARE SUBJECT TO ENFORCEMENT BY COUNCIL WARDENS

ALL INAPPROPRIATE/OBSTRUCTIVE/DANGEROUS PARKING MAY BE SUBJECT TO POLICE ENFORCEMENT

In September parents of Heighington Primary School will find a change in the parking layout down Redworth Road and Hopelands. Car parking will now be permitted from the bus stop on Redworth Road down to the end of the School playing field and No Parking double yellow lines will be painted from the end of the school playing field down towards the A6072, the Heighington Bypass.

This is to stop all vehicles parking on this stretch of road which as it leads up to the brow of the hill, has been causing a lot of concern from many people who have to drive on the wrong side of the road up to the blind summit.

Obviously, this new No Parking area will reduce the available number of cars that will be able to park on Redworth Road so it is important that all parents give some thought to car sharing which will help improve the safety of our children when they come into school

The area leading into the school main gates will also be a No Parking area. Any vehicle found parking on any of these new No Parking areas or any of those areas that are protected by yellow lines, will receive a fine

Should anyone want to discuss further please contact me on 314622 or gerald.lee@darlington.gov.uk

Film Show

The "FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW" at St Clare's Church on TUESDAY 7th JUNE will feature the classic comedy "THE INSPECTOR GENERAL" starring DANNY KAYE in a really happy, funny, family film with plenty of slapstick and witty songs; a real feel-good film.

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.

Flower Demo

Enjoy an evening of flower arranging with Kate Riley, from Branton, Doncaster Area of NAFAS, entitled 'Design for Now' at the next meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club on Monday, 6th June at 7.30pm at Shildon Civic Hall.

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ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

Foreword by the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Mrs Mary Dalton

This has been another wonderful year for me to represent the Town Council of Great Aycliffe in my role as Mayor. I had the pleasure to attend 155 engagements in addition to the formal civic duties. Meeting so many residents, some of who were celebrating special occasions, is one of the things that I enjoy the most about being the Mayor.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped me raise £4,350.00 for my nominated charities, Renal Unit at James Cook Hospital; Friends of Senior Citizens; Baden Powell Scouts; Newton Aycliffe Division Guides Association and 1st Newton Aycliffe Scout Association. This included a generous donation from Barclays Bank.

This annual report provides a brief summary of some key achievements from the past year and an overview of financial information.

SOME KEY THINGS WE DID LAST YEAR

The Council made **capital investment of nearly £315,000 in 2015/16** and the main capital works completed are listed below:

- replacement play equipment in Horndale and Oak Leaf play areas;
- a new multi-use games area at Moore Lane Park;
- the upgrade of the play area and other improvements at West Park;
- a replacement tractor, utility vehicle, ride-on mower and new golf machinery,
- golf course safety improvements and irrigation system repairs;
- play area safety surfacing repairs and footpath repairs.

In addition to the capital works the Town Council:

- ✓ achieved £186,000 savings across all service areas;
- ✓ once again achieved a clean bill of health with our finances and received our ninth unqualified audit;
- ✓ we supported 13 different local organisations by giving grants over £2,979.
- ✓ provided and managed a wide range of special community events such as Fun-in-the-Parks; Santa Tours, Senior Citizens' Excursions; Christmas Lights; Firework Display and the Aycliffe Festival;
- ✓ assisted and supported other event organisers – 10K race; 3K Fun Run; Remembrance Parade; Junior Cross Country; Vintage Vehicles Event and Community Enhancement Awards;

A message from the new Mayor, Councillor Jed Hillary

It was an honour and a privilege to be appointed Mayor of Great Aycliffe at the Town Council's Annual General Meeting on 11 May 2016. I have chosen to raise funds for the Rifles Care for Casualties, which looks after the needs of wounded veterans who served in the Regiment. As an ex-serviceman who served in the Light Infantry (a predecessor

of the Rifles) I felt this was a most worthy cause. I am also supporting Aycliffe Village Hall Association and the Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre. Both of these have taken on properties from Durham County Council under asset transfer and have become financially self-sufficient however public buildings need to be maintained and I



Cobbler's Hall Project Progressing

The Town Council is working with Durham County Council to take responsibility for the County Council's play area, located to the rear of Eade Close, adjacent to Burn Lane – please see the location plan below.

Funding of £75,000 has been agreed by the Town Council, matched by £80,000 from Durham County Council.

A comprehensive consultation exercise has been undertaken with local residents and stakeholders, the responses from which are currently being analysed. A formal lease for the land is awaited from the County Council.

The current proposal is to provide a play area, with equipment suitable for 6-14 years, with the possibility of an additional Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA).

Further information on the project will be available as it progresses. In the meantime, It is not too late to comment on the proposals – the Town Council would be pleased to receive your views – contact the Council Offices on 01325 300700 or e-mail info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Possible Location of Equipment



● Play Area

■ MUGA

hope to be able to help in a small way. My wife Wendy and I are looking forward to supporting and representing the town, businesses and community.

During the coming year will present many challenges and opportunities. The Council has already made plans for a Queen's Jubilee celebration event in the Town Park on Saturday 11 June; the Senior Citizens trips are almost fully booked; the Festival fortnight is mapped out in July; Fun in the Parks events will run during August; the firework display will take place again this year (free for all residents of the Parish of Great Aycliffe); and of course the Santa Tours.

The Neighbourhood Plan is nearing the end of its incredible journey and adoption will be subject to a public referendum in the autumn. The plan will provide safeguards in terms of future planning and development on the town; protection of our wonderful green open spaces; and give guidance on our expectations for future retail provision.

If you would like me to attend any special event or occasion, please contact Christine Ryder at the Town Council offices on 300700.

The **Capital Programme Budget for 2016/17 totals £254,750** and some of the key planned projects are:

- a new park development in the Cobblers Hall area of the town, detailed on the front page;
- replacement play equipment at Byerley Park play area;
- play area surfacing repairs and skate park repairs;
- a new scoot track at Horndale Park;
- council offices flat roof replacement and energy efficiency works;
- hand held digital radios for special events and the park patrol service;
- replacement of the golf irrigation system control panel and tank;
- replacement litter bins and public seating on Town Council owned land and
- improvement works at Woodham bridleway.

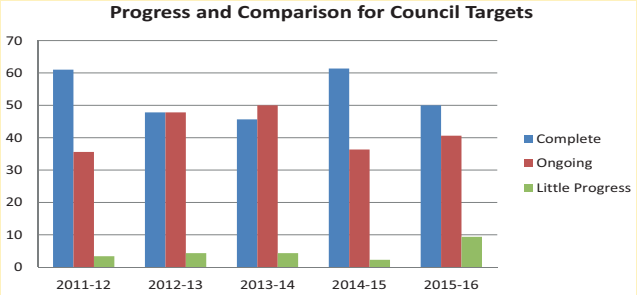
We also continue to provide our usual services such as:-

- ✓ An environmental centre at Moore Lane
- ✓ Held another successful Town Pride Environment Week working with the Youth Council, local schools and volunteers
- ✓ Manage 9 parks, all with play equipment and provide additional play areas at Scott Place, School Aycliffe and the Oak Leaf Sport Complex
- ✓ Continue to provide 6 football pitches, Mini-soccer and six-a-side pitches
- ✓ Continue to run the Oak Leaf Sports Complex - indoor bowls, sports hall, squash courts, bar and catering, children's holidays courses, indoor/outdoor sports activities
- ✓ Continue to run the Oak Leaf Golf Complex – 18 hole golf course and an 18 bay floodlit driving range
- ✓ Continue to provide a limited supply of free dog poo bags
- ✓ Continue our partnership working with Durham County Council
- ✓ Worked with a range of partners to deliver a variety of events and services
- ✓ Manage Stephenson Way Cemetery and West Cemetery and provide grounds maintenance and burial service at St Andrew's Churchyard
- ✓ Provision and maintenance of Aycliffe Angels Memorial Garden
- ✓ Maintenance of war memorial and flagpole
- ✓ Run a pre-school play setting at St. Oswald's Park – with a 'good' Ofsted rating

- ✓ Provide a range of civic events
- ✓ Provide 212 allotment plots in 5 different locations. Including 2 allotment sites with pigeon or poultry facilities
- ✓ Employ a Town Pride Team and a team of Park Patrol Operatives
- ✓ Provide public seats in many locations
- ✓ Provide bus shelters with litter bins (not the ones with adverts)
- ✓ Grounds maintenance and environmental management at a number of key sites
- ✓ Assist Aycliffe Youth Council
- ✓ Provide a lorry park
- ✓ Encourage Community Empowerment through Customer Panel, Consultation and Open Days
- ✓ Provide small grants to local voluntary organisations
- ✓ Continue to support the preparation of the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan
- ✓ Comment on planning applications

Town Council Targets and Progress

The table below shows progress, as a percentage, on the Council targets over the previous 5 years. Regular reports are provided to both Councillors and the Customer Panel who have the opportunity to discuss progress on individual items. A number of targets were specifically included following the consultation as part of the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan process.



The Town Council aims, targets, policies and strategic documents have been subject to an in-depth review by a sub-committee of the Council to ensure everything is up to date and still fit for purpose.

A section on Town Council Services was incorporated into the neighbourhood plan consultation including questions on ‘value for money’ and ‘satisfaction with services’. It was extremely pleasing, in the current economic climate, to receive responses which showed continual improvement on previous surveys:-

Provides value for money			Satisfied with the work of the Town Council		
2007	2009	2014	2007	2009	2014
63%	72%	79%	67%	72%	77%

When more detailed analysis of the negative responses was undertaken, a large number of comments did relate to Town Council services, such as the state of the town centre, comments about street lights, refuse collection and the state of the refuse tip. When these specific items were removed this took the adjusted satisfaction figures to:-

Providing Value for Money	84%
Satisfaction with the Town Council	82%

- Town Council Targets for 2016 to 2017**
- AIM 1 - TO PROVIDE GOOD QUALITY GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL**
- 1 Publish a Town Council Service Delivery Plan by 31st May each year
 - 2 Publish an Annual Report
 - 3 Provide a Member and Town Clerk training programme
 - 4 Undertake an annual review of the Council Constitution, Financial Regulations and Council Policies to ensure compliance with current legislation
 - 5 Undertake a review of all records and filing systems annually to comply with Data Protection and Freedom of Information Act
 - 6 Improve advertising of Council facilities and services by targeting a service area in each publication
 - 7 Improve use of all media, including social media, to advertise the Council’s services and facilities

- 8 Undertake research where appropriate for new policies and procedures
 - 9 Keep up to date with any changes in legislation and report to council as and when required
 - 10 Continue to monitor energy consumption and reduce usage where possible
 - 11 Implement an annual appraisal scheme for all staff with a view to completing all appraisals by September each year
- AIM 2 - TO MANAGE THE COUNCIL’S FINANCES AND ASSETS IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER**
- 12 Produce annual statement of accounts by June each year
 - 13 Achieve an unqualified audit opinion on the Audit Completion Report
 - 14 Achieve an unqualified audit opinion of the Accounts by 30.9.16
 - 15 Ensure the Medium Term Financial Plan is approved by 30th June each year
 - 16 Deliver the Internal Audit Plan Schedule of Work and report to Council
 - 17 Manage the financial impact of the localisation of support for council tax (LCTSS) and any future cuts to LCTSS funding
 - 18 Ensure compliance with the Transparency Code/ Openness of Local Government Regulations
 - 19 Delivery the work set out in the Asset Management Plan via the capital programme and, a six monthly review is undertaken with Officers and Member Asset Management Group.
 - 20 Quarterly budget control reports are presented to Policy and Resources Committee
 - 21 Budgets/Precepts approved by 31st January 2017
 - 22 Undertake a review of all Council risks every March and report to Council
 - 23 Continue the programme of financial reviews of all service areas
 - 24 Undertake an annual update of the Asset Register including the schedule of expected life and replacement costs for buildings, plant and machinery. Ensuring that any works are prioritised by the Equality Act and replacement plant and machinery is built into the capital works programme as necessary

- AIM 3 - TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE LEISURE FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES**
- 25 Deliver the Council’s programme of special events
 - Fun in the Parks
 - Aycliffe Festival
 - Senior Citizens Trips
 - Firework Display
 - Santa Letters
 - Santa Tours
 - Christmas lights

- 26 Undertake a review of the Santa Tours to ensure volunteers and members of the public are safe and as much, as possible, of the Town has a visit from Santa
 - 27 Help co-ordinate and deliver the Aycliffe Festival, providing assistance, financial support if required, training and publicity and undertake a review as soon as possible following the event
 - 28 Install a scoot track at Horndale park subject to finance becoming available
 - 29 Undertake a review of activity usage and explore the possibility of any new activities that could be implemented at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex
 - 30 Undertake a review of golf complex usage and explore ways to improve membership and income through new initiatives
- AIM 4 - TO PROVIDE PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION AS APPROPRIATE IN GREAT AYCLIFFE**
- 31 Ensure the continuous improvement of the service and obtain at least a ‘good’ and aiming for ‘excellent’ Ofsted Inspection
 - 32 To complete a service review of the existing and future provision at St. Oswald’s Pre-School

- AIM 5 - TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT OF AYCLIFFE BY MANAGING AND DEVELOPING PARKS, PLAY AREAS AND GREEN SPACES**

- 33 Works & Environment Manager to arrange to work with local schools and community groups to develop volunteer opportunities
 - 34 Undertake the works arising from the survey of trees on Town Council land in accordance with the Tree Policy and prioritise any work needed
 - 35 To continue to monitor the health and condition of the trees on Town Council land
 - 36 Commission The Groundwork Trust to undertake a Hydrology and Ecology report on the lakes at West Park and investigate ways and means to implement any recommendations
 - 37 Undertake landscaping improvement works at West Park working in conjunction with the Works & Environment Manager and Friends Groups
 - 38 Works and Environment Manager to organise and help deliver public countryside events
 - 39 Complete at least 5 targeted Himalayan Balsam removing working parties along The Burn
 - 40 Improve and increase the planting, including additional plant species, in the wildflower meadows
 - 41 Undertake maintenance and management of specific Durham County Council environmental areas as per the management agreement
 - 42 Undertake a limited snow clearing and gritting service for Durham County Council (DCC) as per the winter maintenance agreement for the benefit of residents
- AIM 6 – HELP AND ENCOURAGE PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO IMPROVE THE SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF GREAT AYCLIFFE**
- 43 Support and encourage Aycliffe Youth Council (AYC) by:
 - Organising the election process –
 - Holding at least 8 meetings a year -
 - Helping to organise at least 1 project a year
 - 44 To continue partnership working with DCC and build on the existing initiatives
 - 45 Work with the Youth Council, schools, community and voluntary groups hold a Town Pride Environment Week
 - 46 The Works and Environment Manager, the Town Pride Team and Park Patrol Officers to work with DCC Officers to ensure that at least 2 areas in the Great Aycliffe Parish have a targeted Anti-Dog Fouling campaign in addition to the work already scheduled by DCC
 - 47 The Works & Environment Manager and Town Pride Team to work with DCC Officers and Tidy Britain to ensure that the Great Aycliffe Parish has a targeted Anti-Littering campaign, in addition to the work already scheduled by DCC
 - 48 Work in partnership with residents and friends groups to improve our parks, play areas and environment areas
- AIM 7 - ENCOURAGE THE RESIDENTS OF GREAT AYCLIFFE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN LOCAL DEMOCRACY**
- 49 Hold an aims and target meeting each March to discuss progress on existing targets and new targets with the Customer Panel Group
 - 50 Hold a budget setting consultation meeting with the Customer Panel
 - 51 Continue the development of a Neighbourhood Plan, improving community engagement and encouraging the residents of Great Aycliffe to become involved and help achieve the following.
 - Help promote the Plan
 - Review the draft plan
 - Assist with the independent inspection
 - Vote in the referendum asap following independent inspection
 - 52 Hold a Parish Meeting
 - 53 Hold an Allotment AGM
 - 54 Hold 4 allotment representative meetings
 - 55 Hold or take part in at least 2 events to inform residents about Town Council services

- AIM 8 - TO RESEARCH INFORMATION AND MAKE THE CASE FOR GREAT AYCLIFFE**
- 56 Produce timely responses to all major consultations carried out

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016 / 2017

Number of Members

COUNCIL (All Members) Councillor Jed Hillary (Mayor), Councillor Michael Dalton (Deputy Mayor)

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (27 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors E. Adam, M. Ashcroft, D.G. Atkinson, J. Atkinson, P.J. Bergg, B. Blenkinsopp, A.M. Chandran, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, N. Collinson, Mrs. M. Dalton, M.A. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, G.C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, Mrs. I. Hewitson, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, P. Kjenstad, Mrs. V.M. Raw, K. Robson and C. Wheeler.

RECREATION COMMITTEE (27 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors E. Adam, M. Ashcroft, D.G. Atkinson, J. Atkinson, P.J. Bergg, B. Blenkinsopp, A.M. Chandran, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, N. Collinson, Mrs. M. Dalton, M.A. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, G.C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, Mrs. I. Hewitson, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, P. Kjenstad, Mrs. V.M. Raw, K. Robson and C. Wheeler.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE (25 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors E. Adam, M. Ashcroft, J. Atkinson, P.J. Bergg, B. Blenkinsopp, A.M. Chandran, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, N. Collinson, Mrs. M. Dalton, M.A. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, G.C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, Mrs. I. Hewitson, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw, K. Robson and C. Wheeler.

SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS from the Policy and Resources Committee

SERVICE REVIEW WORKING GROUP (9 Members)

Councillors J. Atkinson, A.M. Chandran, R.S. Fleming, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, B. Hall, M. Iveson, K. Robson and C. Wheeler.

GENERAL APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE (Members chosen as necessary from appropriate Committee)

MEMBER APPEALS PANEL (Members chosen as necessary from Personnel Sub-Committee)

APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE (9 Members + Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors E. Adam, W.M. Blenkinsopp, A.M. Chandran, J.D. Clare, K. Henderson, J.P. Hillary, W. Iveson, P. Kjenstad and C. Wheeler.

PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE (12 Members + Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors M. Ashcroft, J. Atkinson, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J. Clark, M.A. Dalton, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, Mrs. W. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE (8 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors M. Ashcroft, A.M. Chandran, M. Dalton, Mrs. M. Dalton, G.C. Gray, B. Hall, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson and Mrs. S.J. Iveson.

ASSET MANAGEMENT MEMBER WORKING GROUP (10 Members)

Councillors J. Atkinson, P.J. Bergg, A.M. Chandran, R.S. Fleming, G.C. Gray, B. Hall, K. Henderson, M. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw and C. Wheeler.

CHARGES WORKING GROUP (Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Environment, Recreation and Policy and Resources Committees plus the Mayor and Deputy Mayor)

Councillors J. Atkinson, A. Chandran, M.A. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, B. Hall, J.P. Hillary and M. Iveson.

REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE (11 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors J. Atkinson, A.M. Chandran, M.A. Dalton, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, B. Hall, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V. Raw, K. Robson and C. Wheeler.

WORKING GROUPS from the Recreation Committee

GOLF COURSE WORKING GROUP (4 Members + Chair and Vice of Recreation)

Councillors D.G. Atkinson, J. Atkinson, R.S. Fleming, B. Hall, J.P. Hillary and M. Iveson.

SPORTS COMPLEX WORKING GROUP (Members chosen as necessary)

FESTIVAL WORKING GROUP (4 Members + Chairman & Vice-Chair of Recreation)

Councillors M. Ashcroft, J. Atkinson, J. Clark, M.A. Dalton, Mrs. M. Dalton, B. Hall and K. Robson.

SANTA TOURS WORKING GROUP (2 Members + Chair & Vice-Chair of Recreation and Policy)

Councillors J. Atkinson, R.S. Fleming, B. Hall, M. Iveson, P. Kjenstad and K. Robson.

REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2016/17

- (a) Youth Council - Two + Corporate & Policy Officer
Councillor D.G. Atkinson, Councillor J. Atkinson, Corporate & Policy Officer
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils - Two Members only at AGM + Town Clerk - Councillor R.S. Fleming, Councillor M. Iveson, Town Clerk
- (c) Aycliffe Village Community Association - One - Councillor C. Wheeler
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association - Two
Councillor N. Collinson, Councillor K. Henderson
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Council's Committee - Two + Town Clerk
Councillor R.S. Fleming, Councillor B. Hall, Town Clerk
- (f) Larger Local Councils' Forum - Two + Town Clerk
Councillor R.S. Fleming, Councillor M. Iveson, Town Clerk
- (g) Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre - One - Councillor C. Wheeler
- (h) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society - One - Councillor I. Gray
- (i) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve - One - Councillor I. Gray
- (j) Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway - One - Councillor J. Atkinson
- (k) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group - Five
Councillor J. Atkinson, Councillor M.A. Dalton, Councillor I. Gray, Councillor B. Hall, Councillor C. Wheeler
- (l) Crime and Community Safety Task Group - Two
Councillor M. Iveson, Councillor M. Ashcroft

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

25th May 2016	Environment	7.15 p.m.	23rd Nov. 2016	Environment	7.15 p.m.
25th May 2016	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.	23rd Nov. 2016	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
1st June 2016	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.	30th Nov. 2016	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.
8th June 2016	Full Council	7.15 p.m.	7th Dec. 2016	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
29th June 2016	Environment	7.15 p.m.	11th Jan. 2017	Environment	7.15 p.m.
29th June 2016	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.	11th Jan. 2017	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
6th July 2016	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.	18th Jan. 2017	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.
13th July 2016	Full Council	7.15 p.m.	25th Jan. 2017	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
31st Aug. 2016	Environment	7.15 p.m.	22nd Feb. 2017	Environment	7.15 p.m.
31st Aug. 2016	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.	22nd Feb. 2017	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
7th Sept. 2016	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.	1st Mar. 2017	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.
14th Sept. 2016	Full Council	7.15 p.m.	8th Mar. 2017	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
12th Oct. 2016	Environment	7.15 p.m.	5th Apr. 2017	Environment	7.15 p.m.
12th Oct. 2016	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.	5th Apr. 2017	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
19th Oct. 2016	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.	12th Apr. 2017	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.
26th Oct. 2016	Full Council	7.15 p.m.	19th Apr. 2017	Full Council	7.15 p.m.

* The Recreation Committee will commence immediately after the Environment Committee Meeting.

17th MAY, 2017 - COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING - 7.15 p.m.

24th MAY, 2017 - PARISH MEETING - 7.15 p.m. (***)

The Public and Press are cordially invited to attend.

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

COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEES

Personnel Sub-Committee - This Sub-Committee will be held as and when required. Audit Sub-Committee – This Sub-Committee will meet, as a minimum, on a quarterly basis. (Dates as appropriate) Appeals Sub-Committee – This Sub-Committee will be held as and when required. General Appeals Sub-Committee – Will be held as and when required. Review Sub-Committee – This Sub-Committee will meet as required.

The following Working Groups will meet as and when required.

Charges Working Group Asset Management Member Working Group

Golf Working Group Sports Complex Working Group

Show Working Group Service Review Working Group

Personnel Member Appeal Panel Santa Tours Working Group

(***) (N.B. – this is not a meeting of the Town Council but a meeting of local government electors in the Council's area. Any queries about the Parish Meeting can be made to the Town Clerk on 01325 300700).

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Listed below for public disclosure is the allowances and other expenses claimed by the

Council's Elected Members during the financial year 2014/15 in line with statutory requirements as set out in the Local Authority (Members Allowances) Regulations 2004.

Surname	Forenames	Title	Total	Allowance	Subsistence	Mileage
			Payment		Claim	
Adam	Edward M.	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Ashcroft	Martin	Mr	£697.57	£697.57		
Atkinson	Derek George	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Atkinson	James	Mr	£1,085.10	£1,059.60		£25.50
Bergg	Peter John	Mr	£618.10	£618.10		
Blenkinsopp	William M.	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Bowman	Thomas R.	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Chandran	Arun	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Clare	John Duncan	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Clare	Barbara Anne	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Clark	John Joseph	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Collinson	Neil	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Dalton	Maria	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Dalton	Michael	Mr	£10.37	£0.00		£10.37
Fleming	Robert Stuart	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Gray	George C.	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Gray	Ian	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Haigh	Sandra	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Hall	Brian	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Henderson	Keith	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Hewitson	Irene	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Hillary	Wendy P.	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Hillary	Jeremy Paul	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Iveson	William	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Iveson	Sarah Jane	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Iveson	Malcolm	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Kjenstad	Paul Einar	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Palmer	Alison	Mrs	£206.03	£206.03		
Raw	Valerie M.	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Robson	Kenneth	Mr	£176.60	£176.60		
Summers	Daniel Luke	Mr	£176.60	£176.60		
Twissell	Tom	Mr	£618.10	£618.10		
Wheeler	Christopher A.	Mr	£883.00	£883.00		

Any subsistence figures are for Conferences – As per approved Members Allowance Scheme

MEMBERS

ATTENDANCES

13th MAY 2015

TO

4th MAY 2016

Councillor	Att.	Apol.	Poss.
Adam	35	3	39
Ashcroft	17	1	18
Atkinson DG	38	9	48
Atkinson J	64	6	71
Bergg	17	1	18
Blenkinsopp	44	6	51
Bowman R	14	2	38
Chandran	55	1	56
Clare Mrs BA	32	12	45
Clare J	34	4	39
Clark	22	8	39
Collinson	25	8	39
Dalton Mrs M	60	6	67
Dalton MA	35	17	52
Fleming	59	2	61
Gray GC	43	1	44
Gray I	39	4	43
Haigh	39	6	48
Hall	73	1	74
Henderson	21	0	41
Hewitson	27	10	39
Hillary JP	55	6	62
Hillary Mrs WP	53	3	56
Iveson M	53	10	64
Iveson Mrs SJ	45	11	56
Iveson W	27	12	39
Kjenstad	25	5	30
Raw	43	4	47
Robson	2	1	3
Twissell	1	0	16
Wheeler	24	25	52

GRANTS / DONATIONS

The Council considered applications for Grants and the following were agreed and paid out over the year 2015/16.

• Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe	£52.00	• Bite the Ballot	£200.00
• Great North Air Ambulance	£500.00	• Shine Choir	£300.00
• Newton Aycliffe F.C.	£300.00	• Great North Air Ambulance	£200.00
• Aycliffe Village Hall Association	£100.00	• Durham Cathedral Fund	£250.00
• Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe	£100.00	• St. Clare's Foodbank	£500.00
• Aycliffe Village Local History Society	£275.00	• Mr. P. Billany - Squash Court Usage	£150.00
• Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe	£52.00	Total	£2979.00

Aycliffe Youth Council has 21 members whose ages range from 12 to 19. They approved four grants which benefited local organisations totalling £975.



The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Youth Council placed a wreath at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday and took part in the TFM Christmas Toy Appeal with some Youth Councillors donating their allowance and others collecting toys and gifts with fantastic results.

30 Year Service Award

The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Jed Hillary, congratulated Mr. Andy Hill on his achievement of 30 years' service with Great Aycliffe Town Council and Team Leader in the Works Section. The Mayor thanked Andy for his loyal and committed service to the Town Council.



Annual Report on the Council’s Finances 2015/16

1. Introduction

Welcome to this annual report on the Council’s finances which we hope you will find informative and of interest.

This report sets out the Council’s spending plans for this year; 2016/17, whilst also providing a summary of the Council’s financial performance over the last year; 2015/16, including the outcome of the annual audit inspection.

2. The Council Budget

The Council Budget is an estimate of the resources that the Council will require to be raised from council tax to fund all of the services it provides for the year ahead.

The Budget covers the financial year which runs from 1st April to 31st March.

The Council needs to set a Revenue Budget and a Capital Budget each year.

The **Revenue Budget** funds the day to day running costs of the Council’s services such as salaries and supplies and the net cost, after deducting any income receivable from fees and charges and grants, is met from the Town Council proportion of the Council Tax bill.

The **Capital Budget** funds major one off investment in the Council’s fixed assets such as its buildings, vehicles and play areas and is funded from the Council’s Balances and Reserves and any external grants that may be available.

3. 2016/17 Revenue Budget

The 2016/17 Revenue Budget was developed on the principle of maintaining services whilst keeping the required increase in council tax as low as possible.

Additional budget provision needed to be made for the following:-

- The officer pay award, implementation of the National Living Wage, and the associated restructure of the Council’s grading structure;
- The end of the ‘contracted out’ rebate on employer’s national insurance contributions for all staff in the Local Government Pension Scheme;
- A cut to the Council Tax Support Grant funding;
- A fall in pre-school funding income due to a projected reduction in numbers;

Service Area	2016/17 Budget £
Members and Civic Expenses	74,350
Corporate Management, Finance and Administration	461,350
Neighbourhood Plan	10,000
Capital Financing Charges	30,650
Pre Schools	161,000
Community Events	135,150
Sports Complex	759,300
Golf Course and Driving Range	276,050
Environment and Open Spaces	97,200
Parks, Sports Pitches and Play Areas	324,050
Works and Depot	224,650
Street Equipment	8,250
Cemeteries	79,450
Allotments	18,800
Contingency Sum	30,750
Total Cost of Running Town Council Services	2,691,000
Capital Programme Investment in Council Assets	147,250
Contribution to Capital Reserves	25,000
Removal of Depreciation	(330,000)
Total Planned Revenue and Capital Spending	2,533,250
Less Income	
LCTSS Grant	(220,750)
Pre-Schools Funding and Fees	(82,750)
Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(422,250)
Golf Course and Driving Range Fees and Charges	(183,500)
Cemeteries and Allotments Fees and Charges	(31,150)
Feed In Tariff Income from Solar Panels	(10,500)
Other Income	(9,200)
Investment Income	(4,750)
Total Income	(964,850)
Less Use of Council Balances - Capital Programme	(147,250)
Less Use of Council Balances - Neighbourhood Plan	(10,000)
Net Budget Requirement / Council Precept	1,411,150

This small increase will help to ensure that all services can continue to be provided to the standard expected by the residents of Great Aycliffe next year, whilst continuing to provide a firm foundation, and some contingency resources, to meet the challenges, spending commitments and funding cuts that lie further ahead.

The above table provides a summary of the Council’s 2016/17 spending plans:-

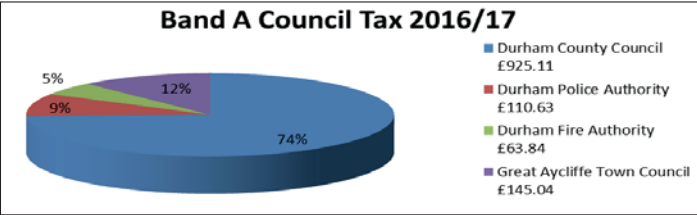
4. 2016/17 Council Tax

The 2016/17 Band D Town Council Tax is £217.57 per year.

This represented an increase of 1.99% on the 2015/16 Council Tax.

However, it is important to note that more than half of the properties in Great Aycliffe fall within Council Tax Band A and therefore pay only two thirds of the Band D Council Tax.

The 2016/17 Band A Council Tax is £145.04 per year which equates to £12.09 per month or



£2.79 per week. This equates to an increase of £2.83 per year.

A breakdown of the 2016/17 Council Tax is shown on the table demonstrating that only **12p in every £1 of the total Council Tax comes to the Town Council:-**

5. 2016/17 Capital Programme Budget

The Council will continue to make capital investment in order to deliver the Council’s Asset Management Plan and invest in community assets.

The **Capital Programme Budget for 2016/17** has been **set at £344,250** and includes provision for various building works, replacement vehicles and machinery, computer hardware, replacement play equipment, footpath and safety surface repairs, environmental improvements and a new park in Cobblers Hall.

The Capital Programme Budget **will be funded from the Council’s Earmarked Capital Reserves and external capital grants and contributions.**

6. Council Balances and Earmarked Reserves

The Council’s Balances and Earmarked Reserves stood at £1.05 million at the 31st March 2016. This is better than anticipated and is as a result of the savings delivered on the Council’s Revenue Budget last year as well as the lower than expected spending on the Capital Programme Budget.

This is considered to be an adequate level of reserves to fund capital spending commitments for the foreseeable future and to provide some protection against future revenue budget pressures and possible cuts to funding.

2014/15 £	Service Area	2015/16 £
66,075	Members and Civic Expenses	65,970
425,663	Corporate Management, Finance and Administration	439,256
28,354	Neighbourhood Plan	19,997
29,842	Capital Financing Charges	29,872
236,715	Pre Schools	187,616
146,513	Community Events	111,682
725,989	Sports Complex	769,488
266,740	Golf Course and Driving Range	267,123
312,529	Parks, Sports Pitches and Play Areas	310,556
280,214	Environment, Works and Street Equipment	296,199
77,832	Cemeteries	79,822
18,190	Allotments	22,378
-	Contingency Sum	4,000
-	A167 Lights Commuted Sum	47,507
-	By Elections	21,718
2,614,656	Total Cost of Running Council Services	2,673,184
	Less Income	
(255,847)	Council Tax Support Grant	(228,899)
-	Neighbourhood Plan Grant	(7,521)
(196,562)	Pre Schools Funding and Fees	(141,765)
(436,140)	Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(420,083)
(202,440)	Golf Course and Driving Range Fees and Charges	(185,774)
(26,575)	Cemeteries Fees	(24,450)
(6,413)	Allotments Rents	(6,292)
(44,785)	Other Income	(25,204)
(28,354)	Use of Balances	(81,701)
(6,370)	Investment Income	(6,644)
(1,203,486)	Total Income	(1,128,333)
(329,898)	Exclusion of Depreciation Charges	(382,417)
1,081,272	Actual Net Cost of Council Services	1,162,434
235,328	Contribution to Council Balances / Savings	186,116
1,316,600	Council Precept / Council Tax	1,348,550

All savings achieved on the Revenue Budget will be set aside in the Council’s Earmarked Reserves to provide for further investment in Council and community assets for the benefit of the tax payers of Great Aycliffe over the coming years.

8. 2014/15 and 2015/16 Actual Capital Investment

2014/15 £	Investment Area	2015/16 £
83,078	Council Building Works and Improvements	25,737
30,190	Replacement Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment	45,120
10,745	Information Technology and Office Equipment	31,972
55,426	Parks and Play Area Improvements	72,966
-	Golf Course Safety and Irrigation Improvements	18,983
11,896	Infrastructure Works (Drainage, Bridges, Footpaths)	6,710
-	Street Equipment (Bus Shelters, Bins, Fencing)	-
191,335	Total Capital Investment	201,488
	Funded by:-	
39,307	Capital Contributions	29,042
152,028	Use of Council Balances	172,446
191,335	Funding of Capital Investment	201,488

financial standing of the Council is set out in an Annual Audit Letter.

The auditors look at three main areas of the Council finances:-

1. Statement of Accounts
 2. Annual Governance Statement
 3. Value for Money Assessment
- The Council is pleased to report that it has again received a clean bill of health on all aspects of the audit inspection.**

This means that the external auditors consider that:-

- The Council’s Statement of Accounts presents fairly its financial position;
- The Council is well managed and governed with sound strategies, policies, procedures, systems and internal controls;
- The Council’s finances are in good order and it is well placed to meet the challenges that lie ahead;
- The Council secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public money and delivers value for money services to the local community.

This was a very positive Audit Report for the Council and has been achieved as a result of the hard work and commitment of all councillors, management and staff.

7. 2014/15 and 2015/16 Actual Revenue Spending

A summary of the Council’s actual expenditure in 2014/15 and 2015/16 in running its various services, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed here:-

The financial position and spending of the Council is continuously monitored and controlled in order to help achieve the most efficient use of public resources and, as can be seen above, this prudent management of the Council’s spending has resulted in significant savings being achieved in both 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Spending in 2015/16 was £186,000 or 14% under the level of Precept and this was made up of the £25,000 contribution to Earmarked Capital Reserves, as well as efficiency savings and increased income on the Revenue Budget of £161,000.

A summary of the Council’s capital investment in Council and community assets in 2014/15 and 2015/16, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed here:-

9. Annual Audit Report

The Council is subject to an annual inspection by its external auditors and the overall opinion on the

WHY WE MUST LEAVE THE EU

Disorganised Grass Cutting

Dear Sir,

I'm writing in reply to Phil Wilson M.P's article in the Newton News (27th May), in which he set out why we should stay in the EU.

Companies such as Hitachi, Gestamp and many others, have all made long term commitments to invest in our region regardless of our membership of the European Union, they will still be here if the UK votes to leave the EU.

The figures released by the ONS in February this year, showed the UK has a trade deficit to the EU to the tune of £89 billion a year, a figure which fully demonstrates the importance of the UK as the EU's biggest single trade market. To put simply the EU needs us far more than we need them.

Phil Wilson, Labour party, and the 'Remain' camp, would have you believe EU gives you equal pay and maternity rights, but they are wrong. The Equal Pay Act was signed into law in the UK in 1970, additionally maternity rights such as 26 weeks leave, are all enshrined in UK law. They cannot be removed unless a British government repeals them.

They are lying to scare you into staying. The same as they are lying about more expensive holidays, mobile phone roaming charges and airfares, in actual fact a few companies said they could be cheaper, as would our energy bills after leaving the EU.

NATO has largely kept the peace in Europe not the EU; it was NATO which prevented Soviet expansion during the cold war. But when the EU gets involved, like in the Ukraine, situations get worse not better.

If we remain we are not voting for the things as they are now; we will be voting for TTIP, which will end the concept of a free at the point of use NHS, a European Military which will see the end of any British control over our armed forces, we will be voting to remain in a shrinking economic area, down from 30 per cent of GDP in 1980 to 15 per cent by 2025 and projected to fall to single figures by 2039 and unlimited migration putting huge strains on our transport, health and other services.

If we vote to leave we can avoid much of these negatives, plus restore trading links around the globe, an impossible task under the EU's Treaty of Rome, keep our laws and historic rights, better control our borders and restore a full, proper democracy in the UK again.

John Grant



This is what is happening to grass cutting in our town. This photo shows a piece of land owned by Durham County Council cut very nicely while the edge owned by Livin has been left.

Why don't both pay our Town Council to cut the grass? They have good machinery and do a proper job. Of course they would have to be paid, but in the long run both Livin and the County Council would save money by using machinery and staff based locally.

A letter in this issue gives an example of how the front piece of grass in front of your

house can look with a bit of imagination. The owners of the land should give the land to the house occupier to use and keep tidy. The savings would be greater in the long run and the area would look tidier and more interesting.

MARIE CURIE TEA PARTY

The Bishop Auckland Fundraising Group of Marie Curie will be making their Blooming Great Tea Party a 'Right Royal' affair on Sunday 12th June at The Manor House, West Auckland - 12noon - 4.00pm, as it happens to coincide with national celebrations for Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday.

Support this very worthy cause and help raise funds to provide 'end of life care' in the Bishop Auckland area.

Each £20 raised will contribute 1 hour of nursing care to someone in need

Entry £3 to include tea and cream scone. Raffle, tombola and much more. Come along and raise a tea cup to Her Majesty!



From the Editor

syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Readers will read with interest the letter from our County Councillors who proclaim that Aycliffe is the County's Focus for the Future (page 14).

Many like me will reply "AND IT'S ABOUT TIME!"

For too long the emphasis has been about the County around Durham City and elsewhere, who have benefitted in so many ways while we have been neglected.

At times it would seem Newton Aycliffe has fallen of the edge of the County boundary, fuelling the idea that we would be better off as part of Darlington Borough. A good example is the Council magazine which very rarely has any information about Aycliffe.

Aycliffe has so much going for it situated so close to the motorway, railway and airport. It has thrived due to its own ambition rather than any real interest shown by the County Council.

Our Councillors have found it hard to fight our corner being only seven out of a total of 126 councillors. If you have a cabinet post in the Council your chance of getting something done for your town is increased. Take Shildon for instance, who have a cabinet member in Brian Roberts. It has just been announced they are to have another town centre refurbishment.

Other large investments have been made in areas of the county, introducing retail parks when Aycliffe, with a real need and a prime site on our Business Park, have been denied the opportunity.

We blame the County Council for maintaining the former Aycliffe Development Corporation's stance in reserving our industrial area for manufacturing.

Over the last 30 years Retail Parks have sprung up around us and have grown rich from Aycliffe's residents forced to travel out of town to obtain the goods they require.

The only really good thing heard in praise of the County Council is how well they look after our grass and floral areas.

The gardening staff are often commended for the beautiful displays and well tended green areas of the town.

The real complaint is the corridors of power appearing too far away and the remote feeling we get, even though our local councillors do their utmost to make up for this with walkabouts, attendance at PACT meetings and their general good accessibility.

We now hope this is a turning point in recognising Aycliffe as one of the biggest towns in the county and we will, at last, get a fairer share of the contribution we make to Co. Durham.



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¹Price shown is for a 48 month Personal Contract Hire agreement for a MINI One 3-door Hatch, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and excess mileage charge of 3.41p per mile. ²Price shown is for a 48 month Personal Contract Hire agreement for a MINI Cooper Clubman, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and excess mileage charge of 4.52p per mile. ³Price shown is for a 48 month Personal Contract Hire agreement for a MINI Cooper Convertible, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and excess mileage charge of 4.27p per mile. Applies to new vehicles ordered between 1 April 2016 and 30 June 2016 and registered by 30 September 2016 (subject to availability). Retail customers only. At the end of your agreement you must return the vehicle. Excess mileage, vehicle condition and other charges may be payable. Hire available subject to status to UK residents aged 18 or over. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Terms and conditions apply. Offer may be varied, withdrawn or extended at any time. Hire provided by MINI Financial Services, Summit ONE, Summit Avenue, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 0PB. Inchcape Retail Ltd, trading as The Cooper Group commonly introduce customers to a selected panel of lenders including MINI Financial Services. We may receive commission or other benefits for introducing you to such lenders. This introduction does not amount to independent financial advice.

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ACORN Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th June upstairs in the Phoenix Club at 6pm. Everyone is welcome to join our group.

We usually have representatives from the Police, livin and our local Councillors present. We also have a guest speaker but this is yet to be confirmed for this month.

A trip to South Shields on 25th June is being organised and tickets will be on sale on the 9th on a first come, first served basis. Enjoy a cheap day out!

We are an open, non political group and welcome any ideas and discussions which will help to enhance our Town. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided.

Fighting to Beat Cancer

Natasha Grainger was born and attended the Avenue Comprehensive, but moved to Woodham Comprehensive when the school closed. She has been married to Phil for 10 years and they have two girls - Ruby, 9 and Daisy 5). My main hobby is Taekwondo which I am a black belt and enjoy along with my children.

Natasha lost two loved ones to cancer and had one survive, so wanted to raise money for Cancer Research UK as the more money raised then hopefully more and more people will be able to say they survived.

She heard about Ultra White Collar Boxing and thought that it was a great challenge and hopefully something people would want to sponsor me for considering I've never actually boxed before.

Ultra White Collar Boxing has raised over £4 million for Cancer Research UK and hold these events all over the for 8 weeks training which is provided by a local gym before climbing into the ring to fight another fundraiser. The fight night will take place at Rainton Meadows Arena on Saturday 2nd July with approximately 40 fights taking place. It is a fabulous night where each



contestant gets to pick a fight name and comes out to a crowd of approx 1500 people under spotlight to their own music. The Unity Gym in Durham are the organisers for Ultra White Collar Boxing Durham and the photo attached is Natasha with Nick Hands the owner and one of the coaches.

Natasha said: "I am hoping by getting the article in Newton News it will encourage people to sponsor me so that I can raise as much money as possible for Cancer Research UK. Most people have been affected by cancer either directly or indirectly and it is a cause that a lot of people relate to".

People can sponsor me in two ways: TEXT: NWCB77 followed by the amount £1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10 to 70070 Online: via my just giving page at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Natasha-Grainger Businesses can also sponsor Natasha for a £50 minimum donation and their company name will be announced at the event. Any business wishing to sponsor her can e-mail Natasha at: natasha.grainger@tiscali.co.uk

AYCLIFFE IS THE COUNTY'S FOCUS FOR THE FUTURE

First, may we congratulate Aycliffe North & Middridge Councillor Mike Dixon on being appointed Vice-Chair of Durham County Council last week. It was, however, not the only senior position to which Cllr Dixon was appointed at the County Council's AGM – in addition he was made Portfolio-Holder Support for Assets, Housing and Rural Issues on the Council's Cabinet, and also Vice-Chair of South-West Area Planning Committee.

Neither was Cllr Dixon the only Aycliffe Councillor to be given a senior appointment at the County Council. Cllr Jed Hillary was made Chair of the Human Resources Committee, Cllr Sarah Iveson was made Vice-Chair, and Eddy Adam was appointed Vice-Chair of the Environment Scrutiny

Committee. It is sometimes suggested that Newton Aycliffe does not figure in the County Council's considerations – that "Durham begins at Durham Gate" and that the town is neglected because it is at the extreme south of the County. Nothing could be further from the truth. Your County Councillors fight hard every day to raise the profile of Newton Aycliffe at County Hall, the majority of them from senior positions. In the meantime, Newton Aycliffe is rapidly establishing a claim to be the 'jewel in the crown' of the County Council. Aycliffe Business Park is the exemplar of the County Council's business strategy, and the Council is just about to embark upon a £10 million project to install the infrastructure for a major extension to the Park. Similarly, the Locomotion Way route from Shildon to Aycliffe Station, the Cobblers Hall SUDS system, and the Chapter Homes development at Agnew 5, are all flagships for new Council initiatives. Meanwhile, in a time of austerity, the County Council is ploughing £2½ million into developing the Leisure Centre. We believe that Aycliffe can be a focus for the future of County Durham, we are delighted that the County Council agrees with us, and we are working with partners and stakeholders to help our town step up to its potential. County Councillors Sarah Iveson, Kate Hopper, Jed Hillary, Joan Gray, Mike Dixon, John D Clare and Eddy Adam.



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

- My report on last week's DCC AGM: <http://bit.ly/DCCAGM16>
- An invite to nonagenarians: <http://bit.ly/DCC90S>
- Mental Health & Wellbeing consultation: <http://bit.ly/DCCMHWC>
- Cutting the grass: <http://bit.ly/DCCgrass>
- If you are not already registered to vote, the voter registration deadline for the EU Referendum is 7 June: <http://bit.ly/UKGOVRTV>
- The Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan Presubmission consultation

ends Sunday 5 June: bit.ly/GANPpsme

- Latest Aycliffe area roadworks information: <http://bit.ly/Roadworks3616>
- Last week's report from our MEP: <http://bit.ly/JKD290516>

COMMUNITY NEWS

- This month's unemployment figures: <http://bit.ly/CDUF516>
- HealthWatch County Durham E-Bulletin: <http://bit.ly/HWCD616>
- Exhibition: Shoes – Pleasure & Pain, Bowes Museum, 11 June-9 October (Adults: £10.50, Children Free): <http://bit.ly/BMSPP>

STAR RADIO

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Frequency: 102-107FM

Friday June 3rd

- 6am-10am Wes Stakes
- 10am-2pm John Clayton
- 2pm-3pm Everything 80's
- 3pm-7pm Craig Andrews
- 7pm-10pm Dancing Through The Decades
- 10pm-12am Wind Down Zone
- 12am-6am Non-Stop Star

Saturday June 4th

- 6am-9am John Clayton
- 9am-2pm Michael Weadock with "The Mystery Years" at 9am
- 2pm-3pm Everything 80's
- 3pm-6pm Craig Andrews
- 6pm-12am Dancing Through The Decades
- 12am-6am Non-Stop Star

Sunday June 5th

- 6am-9am Easy Like a Sunday Morning with John Clayton
- 9am-2pm Wes Stakes with "The Mystery Years" at 9am
- 2pm-3pm Everything 80's
- 3pm-7pm Craig Andrews
- 7pm-10pm Non-Stop Star
- 10pm-12am Wind Down Zone
- 12am-6am Non-Stop Star

Monday June 6th – Thursday June 9th

- 6am-10am Tim Lichfield with "The Mystery Years" at 9am.
- 10am-2pm John Clayton
- 2pm-3pm Everything 80's
- 3pm-7pm Star Radio Drive
- 7pm-10pm The Evening Takeover
- 10pm-12am Wind Down Zone
- 12am-6am Non-Stop Star

Radio House - Woodland Road - Darlington - DL3 7BJ
Telephone: 01325 341801

HEIGHINGTON FAIR

SATURDAY 11TH JUNE 2016

WEST GREEN

10AM - 4PM

To celebrate 90 years of HM Queen Elizabeth in Heighington Parish Council area

Stalls	Face Painting	Morris Dancing
Face Painting	Fire Engine	Afternoon tea
Fun fair rides	Children's sports	Birds of Prey
Musical Entertainment	Vintage Cars	Exhibitions
Scarecrow trail and so much more		
Children's fancy dress competition judged at 2pm		
Theme Kings, Queens, Princesses, Knights and all things Royal		

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Sugar Hill Receives Rare Award for E-Safety



Sugar Hill Primary School has become one of the first primary schools in the region to be awarded the 360 degree safe E-Safety Mark. An Assessor from the South West Grid for Learning recently visited Sugar Hill Primary School to review the school's e-safety provision.

The Assessor met school staff, parents and carers, Governors and pupils and was pleased to find that the school provides a high level of protection for users of the new technologies.

To qualify for the E-Safety Mark, Sugar Hill School was expected to show that it has provided a high standard of e-safety education and awareness for all staff, pupils and also for parents and carers, to ensure that these users of the new technologies can be safe online – whether they are in school, in their homes, or out and about using mobile phones or other handheld devices.

Children at Sugar Hill have worked incredibly hard, with help from Mrs Noble, ICT Co-ordinator at Sugar Hill, to gain a better understanding of how to protect themselves against the dangers that the internet and new technologies can bring.

Ron Richards, Lead Assessor for the E-Safety Mark, congratulated the school on its success and commented that it was re-assuring to know that the school had put a lot of thought and effort into improving the on-line safety of the staff and young people, by addressing these important safeguarding issues.

Play Badminton Naked

Dear Newtonians,
As the early summer is finally upon us, I thought it would be a good time to present a fresh idea to our town - Naturism. Whilst travelling around Europe last year I visited many fantastic clothes-free resorts and was able to feel a wonderful sense of freedom (no worry about tan-lines either!).

Since my return to Aycliffe, clothes have felt like a burden, binding my spirit. Of course, around the house I can ventilate my skin, but I know that others must share my passion for nakedness, and I'd like to take this opportunity to start

a group. We could partake in social and sporting events such as coffee afternoons, badminton, orienteering etc. The main problem is finding a venue. I intend to speak to The Oakleaf once I have a rough idea of numbers, but if anyone else has any other suggestions they're more than welcome.

Once we have organised our first meeting please remember to bring a flannel to sit on. As we naturists always say, "If you don't want a scowl, sit on a towel!" Please contact me direct - thank you and peace out. S. Jordinson
jordinsonsam@yahoo.com

AYCLIFFE RUNNERS IN WYNYARD RACE

Aycliffe Club runners participated in a 6.5 mile race and a regional track and field league, enjoying success.

Club runner Ian Wilks competed in the North East Masters track and field league at Monkton Stadium. He ran 85 seconds for the 400 meters, 3.03 for the 800 meters, 5.59 for 1500 meters and 12.44 for the 3000 meters. He placed first in his age group.

It was a good turnout from Aycliffe Running Club for the Wynyard Whitsun 6.5

mile trail race at Wynyard Woodland Park, with 12 runners from the club participating.

First home for the club and placing 9th overall was Richard Campbell in a time of 42.36. Next came Tom Porter in 43.00, Christine Mudd who placed 2nd lady overall in 45.43, Michelle Zamir in 47.51, Rob Jayne in 48.15, Michelle Jane in 48.31, Dave Blewitt in 50.41, Trish Kay in 54.12, Angela Barrett in 56.59, Rob Nicholson in 59.10, Denise Evans in 60.43 and Susan Clark in 67.15.

Aycliffe Cricket Club Report

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's first team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store were beaten by four wickets away at bottom of the league Whitby 2nd XI in the NYSD 2nd division. After being put into bat, Aycliffe found themselves in deep trouble at 57 for 7, but a brilliant unbeaten innings of 65 from Mark Woodhead, (sponsored by Michaela's Nails) and superb contributions from both Colin Myers, who scored 32 and James Layfield-Carroll, who hit 16, helped to rescue the innings as Aycliffe were eventually dismissed for a creditable 161 after 49.1 overs.

The homeside seemed to be coasting to victory at 131 for 2, but a spirited late burst from seam bowler Michael Howe, who finished with the excellent figures of 5 for 43, briefly gave Aycliffe hope, but Whitby dug in and duly reached their winning target of 162 after 31.5 overs.

On Bank Holiday Monday the first team had a fantastic eight wicket victory at home to Marton 2nd XI in a game that had over 500 runs on a belter of a wicket. The visitors were asked to bat first and scored a formidable 252 for 9 from their 50 overs with Michael Howe the pick of the Aycliffe bowlers taking 3 for 75 from his 12 overs.

Opener Sam Telford (see photo) smashed the bowling to all parts of the ground to reach his third century for Newton Aycliffe. Telford (sponsored by his Mam and Dad) reached his 100 off just 78 balls and was finally out for a brilliant 117 from just 91



balls, including ten boundaries and four sixes. Once Telford was dismissed his opening partner Ryan Dawson continued the good work with an unbeaten 79, including nine boundaries and with support from Michael Howe who clubbed 35 off 19 balls with seven boundaries, the pair took Aycliffe to a superb win after just 42.4 overs.

The u15's played well but still lost by 43 runs at home to a strong Stockton team. The visitors batted first and scored 163 for 5 in their 20 overs with John Grey the pick of the bowlers taking 2 for 33. In reply opener Jack Lowery batted superbly smashing 49 from just 52 balls including nine boundaries and he was given good support from captain Dylan Tribble who scored 32 from 42 balls with three fours helping Aycliffe to a respectable total of 120 for 4 after 20 overs. The u13's team were well beaten at home to Darlington

by 95 runs, but there were good performances from acting captain Joe Bowsher who top scored with 12 not out and Matty Greaves, who took the only Darlington wicket to fall thanks to a smart catch from Luke Grindlay.

The u11's performed well away at Stockton despite losing by 33 runs. A very special mention must go to 7 year old Will Dearden, who was making his debut and bowled superbly finishing with the excellent figures of one wicket for just two runs from his two over spell.

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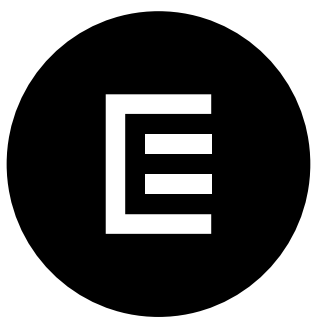
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The fly tipping enforcement team at Darlington Borough Council, have said that on 31/05 the present consultation time re the cuts will come to an end. The results will be discussed on the 22nd June at a special council meeting and then announced on 29/06.

The proposals are for no enforcement in littering, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles, commercial waste, back street waste and fly tipping. Basically there will be one member of staff left, this will be the dog warden, the other three are being made redundant. They have strongly recommended that Brian Graham who is the service manager is contacted and feeling made clear about the proposed cuts and lack of enforcement, his email is brian.graham@darlington.gov.uk

They believe that the people of Darlington have not been adequately informed of the impact of the proposed cuts and I feel this is correct.

We all understand that budgets have been cut and savings must be made, however perhaps the council should be looking in other areas for these cuts. Summerhouse village, have a de-restriction sign and the council have just advertised a new speed limit for traffic through the village of 50mph, which will come into effect probably in July. This will require new 50mph signage. Is it possible the council could look at how much money is wasted on unnecessary jobs before they start to cut services that we need to prevent our rural areas looking like landfill sites?

We need enforcement for fly tipping. If we don't fine those who think it's ok to dump rubbish anywhere they please (often taking money from householders to pay for the disposal of building/garden refuse) it will increase.

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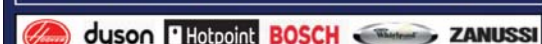
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JAFFA are you aged between 5 and 12? Then why not come and join us at JAFFA. Mondays 3.45 to 5.00pm at Burnhill Way Methodist Church, Newton Aycliffe for bible stories and activities.

3 BED HOUSE to rent in Woodham, recently refurbished to high standard, off road parking, large shed, secluded garden. £500 pcm. Tel 07770 965 148
3 BEDROOM properties available to rent in Eskdale Place, Newton Aycliffe. Please contact Lucy on 07826 925 652 for further details (please note we do not accept DSS)
3 BED DETACHED house, Woodham, excellent condition with garage. £550 per month. Tel. 07866 622 243
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3 BEDROOM beautiful spacious house in Yoden Court, £600 pcm. Recently refurbished to a high standard with new extension, garage and gardens, front and rear. 07770 965 148
2/3 BEDROOM house to rent on Shafto Way. Large garden, off-street parking. Tel 07888 397684
2 BEDROOM Semi-detached in Woodham, Newton Aycliffe. Quiet area, carpets, fitted kitchen, DG, driveway, Combi boiler, garden front and rear. Working person/s only. One month rent and bond in advance. £475pcm, Tel: 07570 140140 or 07977 003838

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Taste of Secondary School



Year 5 children were given the opportunity to spend an exciting and educational day at Greenfield Community College this week. Not only were the children able to get the opportunity to take part in a typical school day, but they also experienced how the staff taught and supported students. The lessons were prepared to ensure the children were engaged, challenged and had fun. They enjoyed French, dance, SOLES, PE and science during their day. With the children on the photo are Mr. David Priestley, Executive Headteacher and Rachel Raper, Transition Worker

Bargain Clearance & Warehouse Relaunch at Bargain Buys

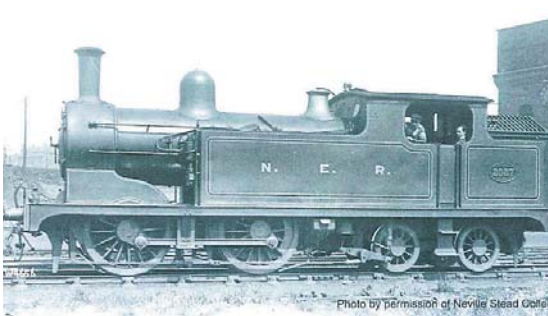
Bargain Buys warehouse & showroom on Northfield Way, Aycliffe Business Park has undergone a change in direction over the last few months. Managing Director David Rowland tells Newton News: 'We have noticed a shift towards entry level products and are trying to cater for that with the relaunch of our warehouse and showroom as a clearance outlet'. A lot of people are looking for the cheapest washer, cooker or fridge that they can get and many want to take it away with them, so Bargain Buys are now catering for both requirements new and 'seconds'. They always advise to buy brand new products as most are covered with a two year



manufacturer's guarantee. 'A washing machine at £169.99 brand new with a two year guarantee still washes clothes like they all do. 'We do still supply 'premium' items and they are on display upstairs' added David.

The warehouse is open to the general public, so why not pay them a visit. See advert on Page 20.

Help G5 Engine Rebuild



A group of enthusiasts are building a steam engine from original drawings at a unit on Hackworth Industrial Estate, Shildon.

The first G5 engine was built in 1895 at North Road Railway Shops and 110 were brought into production and stationed all over the North East.

Most of the work has been completed and paid for from generous donations, however there are many small items needed to complete the build and any help would be appreciated.

You can see the engine under construction in the workshop on the first Saturday of the month and the next one is this Saturday 4th June from 10.00am to 1.00pm.

More details on how you can support the project is on the website: www.g5loco.co.uk.

E-mail: chairman@g5locomotiveltld.co.uk

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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.

BRAND NEW double divan with quilted Damask mattress, can arrange delivery, £120. Tel 07789 113 343

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3 SEATER and 2 seater settees, finished in cream corduroy fabric, £50 the pair, buyer to collect. Tel 07788 190662

USED TWICE child's see-saw, excellent condition, £30. Ring for details. Other items also available. Tel 01325 314286

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Queen's 90th Birthday Picnic in the Park

Free Entertainment, Tables, Flags etc

The Town Council are to hold a 'Picnic in the Town Park' event to celebrate the Queen's Official 90th Birthday. It will take place on Saturday 11th June 2016 from 11 am – 4 pm in the Town Park, Burn Lane.

Please note that there will be no parking on site and you should walk or use public transport to get to this event. If you must bring a vehicle, please park considerately in the surrounding streets.

The event is not 'ticketed' however, entrance will be on a first come, first in, basis. The Council will supply the entertainment, tables complete with table coverings and a limited supply of flags. There will also be a marquee in case of inclement weather.

Please bring a picnic and join us to share in the celebrations. There will be a catering van and an iced cream van on site so don't worry if you haven't time to make up a picnic basket!

To keep the children and adults entertained, we have the following activities on site which are all entirely free. Please note that some activities may not be suitable for all ages/abilities.

Dot & Zooky's Circus Skills' Workshops & Performances
Action Wheels
Krafty Kritters
MAD Choir
Professor Nincompoo's Magic and Balloon Modelling
Inflatable Clown Activity Centre
Face Painting
Fire Brigade Appliance
Small Fairground Ride
Pole Lathe Demonstrations
Police Interceptors

As well as the activities shown above, there is a range of play equipment on site for toddlers and older children and a skate park.



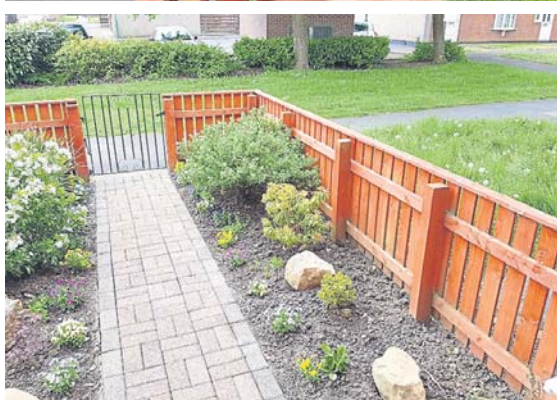
Grass Cutting Service Question

Dear Sir,
 As a home owner in the West Ward I've managed and cared for the front garden myself; having erected a fence many years ago, and I'm quite proud of it.

The properties that did not erect a fence always had their lawns cut by the County Council, Livin or contractors. This has always been the case and as such was the understanding of all home owners and non-home owners alike, that if this area was left alone (not fenced off) the grass would be cut as part of the town's maintenance schedule for which we pay council taxes.

Over recent weeks I've seen a massive degradation of service, whereby properties are being singled out and the grass left to become overgrown. This includes a massive increase of weeds, reaching seeding point and will spread into other people's gardens, resulting in additional work and cost. If the County Council, Livin or its contractors are changing their services then the public should have been notified.

If people are now to cut their own lawns, (That are not fenced off) are the County Council going to reduce the Council tax bill so as to accommodate the additional costs incurred by those who are affected? Furthermore seeing as I've had my property fenced off for over 20 years will I (and many others who tend for their own gardens) be able to recover the monies paid in



What can be done if you fence off the front of your house

Council tax over the years? If so I would like to donate my refund back to the County Council, Livin or contractors to allow the cutting of grass that has been missed out. Additionally the other grassed areas "which are not in the property line" are being left out in sections i.e. cutting one block of grass and missing out another or as seen in the photographs supplied; cutting half a grassed area

WE ENJOY LIFE IN LANGDALE PLACE

Christine and Eric Knowles rang Newton News from Langdale Place outraged by the bad name given the whole estate in recent press and TV coverage.

"We have lived here almost 30 years after buying our house, making it our home and enjoying life in Newton Aycliffe. We could not believe what is being said about this area where we have only ever witnessed one incident", said Christine. "Granted there are kids that make a noise now and again during school holidays, but that happens everywhere and you have to learn tolerance" added Eric.

Christine originally came from Tow Law and she met Eric at a Country & Western Evening in Bishop Auckland. Eric spent a lot



of his early life in Cyprus where his father was in the military, he attended Woodham Comprehensive, leaving first to work for Concordia Wire and then BIP, (now Ineos), for 35 years until made redundant.

The couple are both classed as disabled, and fill their time keeping a nice garden,

craft work and genealogy. It was through interest in their ancestry that Eric discovered he had a relative who was at Rorke's Drift made famous by the film "Zulu". His massive file on Private Caleb Wood destroys a lot of the myth

Princess & Heroes Party

Two talented teenage dancers, Emily and Charlie from Aycliffe with a chance of a USA scholarship will be travelling to Hollywood.

But they need cash for travel and other expenses so need to organise fundraising events themselves.

On Sunday 5th June they hold a "Princess & Heroes" Party from 2 - 4pm at the Youth & Community Centre and everyone is welcome - Admission £2.50.

In Memoriam

Philip Joss

7th June 2015

These special memories of you will always bring a smile. If only I could have you back for just a little while. Then we could talk and talk again. Just like we used to do. You always meant the world to me, and always will do too.

The fact you are no longer here will always cause me pain. But you are forever in my heart. Until we meet again. Miss and love you always, Lydia xxxx

Lee Smith



3rd June

Another year has gone by Lee and the pain is still here. We would give the world for just one more day with you. We will miss you and love you forever. Mam and Dad

ADA HUTSON. 4.4.27 to 5.6.07. They say that time heals everything, but we are not so sure. For every time we think of you, we miss you even more. The pain and heartache linger on and make us feel so blue. And even when we wear a smile, we are longing Mam for you. And so we just want you to know that you will always stay loved and remembered in our hearts forever and a day. All your loving family xxx

JOE CARRUTHERS 03/10/1936 - 04/06/2012. In memory of my beautiful Husband and a wonderful Dad and Grandad. We miss your beautiful smile and lovely blue eyes, your warmth and kindness. Never a day goes by that we don't think of you. We all miss you so much because we loved you so much. Jean and family xx

Obituary

Maggie Barella



left this world on the 29th of May 2016. She was the greatest, strongest and most wonderful Wife and Mum anyone could ask for. We miss her so much.

Family and friends welcome for the Service at St Mary's Church in Newton Aycliffe on Thursday, 9th June at 11:15am followed by a Committal Service at Coundon Crematorium at 12:00

Wayne Seal



29th May

Sadly missed. Love you always. Mam and Dad

Forever in our thoughts Love, Julie, Garry, Jack and Dan

Hope you are at rest now. Love, Matty and Ollie

Forever missed. Love, Tony, Owen, Trish, Julie and Baby Dylan



behind the film. Caleb was a soldier in the Sherwood Foresters and it was not only the Welsh Regiment who fought, nor did they sing "Men of Harlech" during the Zulu attack which in fact was a slaughter where dead natives were piled knee high.

Christine a keen crafter was one of the first in the queue when Crafters Companion opened last Friday and she was delighted to see them move to Aycliffe.

Christine and Eric were keen to show there is another side to every story and the area is not as bad as painted. They hope in their area if you exercise a little understanding and recognise there is always a minority in every town which display bad behaviour.

Acknowledgement

THE FAMILY of the late Don Thompson wish to thank all family and friends who attended the Service at the Wear Valley Crematorium. We would also like to thank Dr. Clarke, Gillian Cogan and Staff at the Co-op Funeralcare, Carol for the lovely buffet and the Big Club for hosting the reception.

JAMESON. The family of the late Sheila Jameson wish to thank relatives, friends and neighbours, for kindness and sympathy shown, also for all the letters, cards of condolence and beautiful floral tributes received during their recent sad bereavement. Special thanks to Darlington & District Hospital Trust, Bethany Court, Rev. Malcolm Masterman, Avon Court, Newton Aycliffe and Bryan Shepherd and all at Whitehouse Funeral Service.

Congratulations

Lisa Howarth



Happy Birthday
 To my beautiful Wife,
 Love you loads.
 John-Paul xxxx

Lisa Howarth



Happy Birthday Mam
 Have a great birthday.
 Love Loren, Aimee
 and Dylan xxx

LISA HOWARTH Happy birthday Lisa. Have a great day. Love from Mam, Fraser, Dad, Sam, Gran, Grandad and the rest of the family
LISA HOWARTH happy birthday. From all the Howarth family.

TO GED my best friend and soul mate, but above all that, the best Dad I could wish for to our boys. Happy 1st wedding anniversary!! People doubted us and it certainly hasn't been an easy year by far, but we did it. I love you so much!! Your Wife Leanne xxxxxxxx
LEANNE Happy Anniversary. What a year we have had, but I am glad I did it with you. You are my soul mate and best friend. I love you so much and can't wait to see what the future brings. All my love. Ged xxx

Birthday Remembrance

TOM STOKER 31st May. Happy birthday Dad - 81 years. I know you are not with us now, but your special day is here. We will always celebrate in style, raising our glasses to cheer. In our hearts forever. From loving Daughter Marie and Son-in-Law Ray; Loving Son Paul and Daughter-in-Law Amanda. Happy birthday Grandad Tom. Lots of love from Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren xxxxxxxx



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JUNIORS IN BRIDLINGTON TOURNAMENT

Aycliffe Juniors entered four teams in to a high profile tournament played in Bridlington over the Bank Holiday weekend. The Under 8's played two tournaments one on Saturday

then started again on Sunday. On the first day they had a record of playing three games, winning two, losing one and finishing second in the group. They progressed to the final and missed out against a strong



Redhouse Farm team. In to the second tournament and new teams joined meaning four group games and they again made the final but this time two goals from Rhys sealed a great 2-1 win to take the title. The players were superb over both days and thoroughly deserved their win. The Under 10's fielded two teams who were named 'Lions' and 'Tigers' for the event. Each team played nine group games. The Lions competed well and showed great spirit playing some strong teams. There were several close games and they came away with 3 draws and a superb win in the last game against Washington which was sealed with a wonderful Jake Blythe free kick. The Tigers were superb over the two days. They won eight and

drew one of their group games against teams from Newcastle, Cheshire and Scotland. This put them at the top of the group and in the final against Montague and North Fenham. It was a great game that finished in a 0-0 stalemate and went to penalties. The Tigers won the shoot out and took the title. In ten games played they scored 21 goals with Lucas (6), Charlie (5), Zack (4) and Jake (3) the top scorers. Amazingly over 2 days only 1 goal was conceded as Aaron, Chloe, Jacob were great in defence with Tom pulling off great saves when called upon. The Under 14's played eight games over the weekend and put in some fine performances. They were narrowly defeated in a few, picked up two draws and a win against teams from across the country.

Aycliffe Tri Club Race Report

The first triathlon races begin in May and not a month too late. Our keen members were raring to go, itching to get their feet wet.

Ashington Sprint Triathlon was first on the calendar, held on the 2nd. In windy damp conditions, Michelle Scott was our first lady home, 3rd in her age group, 5th overall in a stupendous time of 1:12:48. Tracy Warrior was next, finishing 10th in her age group, 27th overall, in a time of 1:26:20. Penny Johnson was our final lady home that day, 18th in her age group, 39th overall, in a time of 1:28:39, admitting that at one point on the bike, the wind blew her 'sideways', but the race was 'awesome'. Both Tracy and Penny used this event as a warm up for their forth coming middle distance triathlon challenge – The Outlaw Half – held over the end of May bank holiday weekend in Nottingham. Good luck Ladies. For the gents, Dan Halladay finished 15th in his age group, 37th overall, in a fantastic time of 1:12:09, while Stuart Rimmer, also using the event as a Half Outlaw warm up, finished 14th in his age group, 70th overall in a time of 1:19:20.



At the Richmond Aquathlon (500m swim, 4k run) on the 8th, Anne Kellet, our only lady in the race, finished 21st in a time of 38.02. The gents were represented by Jez Ladbury, 10th in a time of 30.04, Alan Kellet, 20th in a time of 36.04 and James Wilson, who finished just behind Alan in 21st position, in a time of 37.58

The ever popular Cleveland Sprint on the 15th in Stokesley, saw no fewer than five entrants, Nicola Darragh representing the ladies finishing 2nd female, 56th overall in a time of 1:09:05 which was an amazing result. Graham Atkins was our first gent home, 4th age group, 33rd overall, in a time of 1:03:56. Austin Donoghue was next, 6th in his age group, 67th overall, in a time of 1:11:18. Michael Casey finished 6th in

his age group, 101st overall, in a time of 1:19:07, and James Wilson crossed the line 8th in his age group, 110th overall in a time of 1:22:42.

We had only one entrant in the Loch Lomond Standard Distance Triathlon held on the 23rd. Dan Halladay travelled all the way across the border to compete, exiting the water 1st, finishing 3rd in his age group, 7th overall, in a very commendable time of 2:50:16. If you would like any information regarding membership to our club or to the sport of Triathlon, don't hesitate to send us an e-mail to Aycliffetriclub@gmail.com or call in to one of our swim sessions and speak to any of our friendly coaches, Wednesdays 7-8 at Woodham Academy Swimming Pool. You can also find us on Facebook.

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Cricket Club Support Air Ambulance

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club have designated their second team fixture against Marske seconds, on Saturday 11 June as Great North Air Ambulance Day. In association with Waitrose, the Club will be putting on activities during the afternoon to raise money for the Great North Air Ambulance. The game starts at 1.00pm and from 2pm there will be Kwik Cricket for the kids and a barbeque. Families, who may never have attended a cricket match at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club, plus regular visitors, are invited to attend, get involved in the activities and help raise money for this good cause, while sampling what the Sports Club and Cricket Club have to offer. The barbeque food will be free with people asked to donate what they feel is appropriate for the food, with all proceeds going to the Great North Air

Ambulance. This day also coincides with England football's opening Euro 2016 fixture against Russia which will be shown on the Sports Clubs many screens, so why not make a day of it and stick around to catch the match.

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