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Aycliffe Students Petition for Fairer Exam System MP Phil Wilson Pledges Support

Three students at Greenfield College have launched a petition after finding the "New English GCSE 100% Exams" rule doesn't apply to everyone, with Independent Schools getting it much easier, which they believe is unfair.

The petition started by Aidan Wong (15), Melissa Foster (16) and Christina Davis (15) fights for equality in exams regardless of the type of school. After investigation the students discovered Independent Schools were able to include 40% GCSE course work while State Schools MUST do 100% exams to be completed in May/June. Independent Schools have the option to spread their exams between January - May/June.

More information can be found on the two blogs:
<http://everythingenglisheducation.co.uk/gcseverusigseguess-who-benefits/>
<http://everythingenglisheducation.co.uk/english-examinations-state-100-gcse/>

The three students want everyone in England to know about this by spreading the word in the hope they will sign the petition and changes will be made.

Everyone should be allowed to do 40% course work and the option of spreading exams between January and June. This would be fairer and achieve equality - State Schools should not be disadvantaged.

A spokesperson for the students said: "We aren't attempting to make it worse for Independent Schools, we are simply trying to make it the same for English State Schools".

"Signing the petition is a small step to achieving equality in education. It has been said that 'it won't make



Left to right: Phil Wilson, Christina Davis, Melissa Foster, Aidan Wong and Greenfield Head Teacher David Priestley.

a difference' but a long shot is better than no shot at all! A lot of things look impossible to change, yet often do, in the same way that Brexit seemed impossible."

"For Aycliffe, it is even more important, contributing to a movement starting from their town and a chance to make a big change. Schools in Aycliffe are state schools so it will have a positive effect on students in this area."

Head Teacher David Priestley said: "We are proud of these young people who are seeking support to challenge an injustice. The new English GCSE qualifications appear flawed when only state schools in England have to do 100% final examinations with the rest of the UK and the independent sector retaining some element of course work in their examinations."

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LCA JOB CLUB AT PCP Brown Owl Flies the Nest

Lifeline Community Action will once again hold their Job Club in the PCP at Cobblers Hall on a Tuesday Morning starting on the 31st January 2017.

The Job Club aims to help people back to work by providing a personal service which gives people both practical and emotional support to meet their personal needs while looking for work.

People who are looking for work tell us they need advice on how to fill in a good job application form, or in some cases help to complete an application form that they have for a job they want to apply for at that time. The Job Club programme offers this kind of support. Sessions cover other practical topics such as identifying strengths & skills, CV writing and interview techniques. The sessions build confidence and self-esteem which is often

low in those people who have been out of work for a long time.

The next FREE course starts on 31st January. The sessions start at 10am and finish at 12.30pm and include free lunch and refreshments. If you would like to come along email paulinechamberslca@gmail.com or telephone 07746111385

Councillors' Surgeries

Shafto, Central and Neville Ward

Councillors Sarah Iveson and Jed Hillary will be in attendance at St. Mary's Meeting Room, Burn Lane on Saturday 14th January from 11am - 12 noon.



December saw the end of an era as Brown Owl – aka Paula

Bromley as she finally put away her famous Guiding rugby top! Paula has led the Newton Aycliffe Guides and Brownies at St Clare's Church for quite some time now and as she said (with a twinkle in her eye) that now she is approaching her 29th Birthday she felt it time for a new challenge!

What Paula has never publicised is just how much she has given to the Community over the last 32 years. Not only has she had an influence over literally hundreds of young people from all over the town, inspiring them with her indomitable patience, enthusiasm and energy, but she has also been a mother figure to all the children she has fostered.

Paula is also regularly found helping at Messy Church at St Clare's - where I am sure she will continue her involvement - and always willing to lend a helping hand, always smiling and unfailing in her optimism. As a token of appreciation, Paula was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a bottle of champagne by Jennifer and Kira Banks and is pictured

with some of the Brownies who were there to see her off. Brownies and Guides will continue with Susan Mills taking over the leadership. Susan can be contacted by anyone interested in joining or helping on 07881 684713.

CHAIRMAN RESIGNS



Bill Blenkinsopp is resigning as Chairman of Neville Parade Community Centre and The Cubby.

Bill regrets he has to leave but needs to concentrate on other things during 2017. He wishes the organisation every success and thanks everyone who has helped him over the 10 years at The Cubby and the last few years, after taking over Neville Parade Community Centre.

He has worked tirelessly without recompense to ensure the facilities were in good order and the centre financially viable. "The volunteers have been wonderful and without them both ventures would not have been possible - they are some of the nicest people I have ever known" said Bill.

Bill told Newton News that he was happy leaving in the knowledge that both The Cubby and the Community Centre were in a healthy financial position after being nearly insolvent.

Bill leaves on 11th January and a meeting will follow to discuss the future administration of the Community Centre.

Honest John's £5000 Xmas Gifts

Honest John thanks all those who applied for the Christmas hand out from his Community Kitty and the successful applicants below received £1000 each.

Newton Aycliffe Scouts, MAD Choir Productions, Aycliffe Village Primary School PTA, Newton Aycliffe Youth F.C., ACORN Residents Association - Little Acorns.

"Special thanks to DISC, my assistant Val, donors and customers and may you have a very Happy New Year" said John.

The Street Collection on Christmas Eve by Val and John raised £360 which was well worth the effort and they had a great time. They thank Karin and Gary for the scrumptious hot pies and roast chestnuts and all who kindly donated. Thanks also to the Women's Institute for their gift of a Christmas Cake and massive hamper - already half consumed!

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Saturday 7th January - "GateCrashers"

A performance by the Gatecrashers on 12th March 2011 prompted this review in a local North East 'rag': "The Branding Villa in Gosforth, Newcastle, buzzed with excitement. The place was packed to the rafters with fans as well as musicians from other local bands - all here to spend an evening with the fabulous 'Gatecrashers'. It was the first time I'd seen them with their vibrant new lead vocalist. And I was impressed - so very impressed. Nick (Saints of Arcadia) Jennison has more than enough charisma to set a stage alight - and then some. And he can sing - oh, can he sing! Sharing lead guitar with Ant Wright (who provides great backing vocals) they had a ball while entertaining their discerning Geordie audience. And the crowd roared! Add the brilliant bass guitarist, Dave Hildreth and talented drummer, Doug Hayes to the flavoursome mix - and the Gatecrashers were a big green GO!"

Saturday 14th January - "Queens of Noise"

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Cut Out Sugary Drinks!

NHS England is calling upon patients and the public across the North East to have their say in a consultation on plans to cut the sales of sugary drinks sold on NHS premises.

The formal consultation means that England would become the first country in the world to take action across its health service in this way.

The consultation seeks views on an outright ban, as well as alternative measures to reduce sales of sugary-drinks.

Not only will this improve the health of patients and families visiting hospital, but also the health of hospital staff. A recent survey found obesity to be the most significant self-reported health problem amongst NHS staff, with nearly 700,000 NHS staff estimated to be overweight or obese.

Rising rates of obesity is not only bad for personal health,

but also affects sickness absence and the NHS's ability to give patients credible and effective advice about their health.

Dr Jonathan Slade, medical director for NHS England Cumbria and the North East, said:

"Our hospitals receive heavy footfall from the communities of which they are a part, and the food and drinks sold in them send a powerful message to the public about healthy diet."

"We live in a time of rising obesity, type 2 diabetes and child dental decay, it's time for the NHS to practice what we preach."

"People are encouraged to have their say by filling in the online consultation at <https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/consultation/sugary-drinks/> before 18 January 2017"

Abuse of Tesco Recycling Area Could See it Removed



A number of readers have noticed how badly the recycling area at Tesco's has been abused over the holiday period. Tesco Manager Helen Maynard wishes to remind people that it is a recycling area not a rubbish dump, with the usual does and don'ts of what can and can't be recycled.

So upset by the abuse she is looking to have the service withdrawn completely, but with some hesitation as Tesco's do not really want to remove a service that has been available for our customers convenience.

"As it is not being respected

we may be left with no other choice as the additional cost is substantial to have contaminated waste removed from the site" said Helen.

The area was cleared at end of trade on Christmas Eve but by Boxing Day it was in again in an awful state. This is despite having 10 lorry loads of additional collections three times a week.

"Could we remind people that the local tip is only 1.6 miles away from our store and that red bins are meant for mixed recyclables ie anything you would put in your household recycling.

There is also a facility for bottles and glass recycling. The clothing recycling bin has already been removed due to abuse however we do still have a shoe recycling bin," added Helen.

This is not a place for general household waste, carpets, TV's and electricals, mattresses and countless other items currently being dumped in this area. Tesco staff are policing the area and if they catch people fly tipping car registrations numbers are taken and reported to the police. People are avoiding this by returning out of hours and leaving rubbish.

"I would respectfully request ask that people use the area for what it is intended and if the bins are full to take their recyclables to another facility and not just add to the problem. By leaving their waste on the floor others just follow suit," said Helen.

Police Help at Buddy's Christmas Party

Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Police assisted the Pioneering Care Partnership - PCP and Cornforth Partnership with the Buddies Christmas Party.

The buddy project is funded through Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership - GAMP. The event was held at Woodham Village Community Centre, food was cooked by Bishop Auckland College Catering and Hospitality and Tesco provided puddings and a gift to each member of the Buddies. The event was a great day, with great entertainment and helped the community come together for a great festive occasion.



Joy-Marie Hairdressing

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KNIT & NATTERING RESTARTS

The Knit & Knatter group at St. Elizabeth's Church, Woodham restarts on Monday 9th January from 2 - 4pm during school term time.

You are warmly invited to come along, knit for yourself, charity, premature babies, shoe box appeals or just for pleasure. Please feel free to bring your own craft ideas. Pop in to swap patterns, drop of knitted items and spare wool for charity purposes (Thanks to GAMP funding). £1 donation for Tea, coffee and biscuits.

Contact Milly for details on 313819 or just drop in!

Flower Club Meeting

The next meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club takes place on Monday, 9th January at 7.30pm in Shildon Civic Hall when historian Robert Hillary will give an illustrated talk entitled Raby Through the Ages.

This will be followed on Monday 6th February with the monthly flower arranging demonstration entitled Around Every Corner, presented by Area Demonstrator, Audrey Foster, from Whitty. These events are free to members Visitors £5 (pay on the door)



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Aycliffe Cancer Support Group Ready to Help

Great Aycliffe Cancer Group members send a huge thank you to everyone that has raised and donated money to our funds. Our group is growing from strength to strength thanks to all your support.

There is no meeting on in January but we are always here for anyone that is, or has been affected by cancer. To find out more information about the group you can visit www.greataycliffecancersupportgroup.co.uk or contact Allison on 07762 258696.

As well as monthly meetings we offer help and support to all our members, take them on various outings to help get their self confidence back and to stop them feeling isolated. We also offer respite care for those who simply just want a few days away from hospital and to spend quality time together with their families.

If anyone would like to help raise funds or give a donation for our group please make contact. We are planning our next Table Top Sale so if anyone has any unwanted gifts they don't want and would like to help our charity please contact Sharon Parkinson our group's secretary on 07944 187877

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year



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0900-1000 - Mystery Years – Wes Stakes
1000-1400 - Craig Andrews
1400-1500 - Everything 80's
1500-1900 - Drivetime – Emil Franchi
1900-2200 - Dancing Through the Decades
2200-0000 - Wind Down Zone

Saturday 7th January

0600-0900 - Best Of Breakfast – Wes Stakes
0900-1400 - Michael Weadock
1400-1500 - Everything 80's
1500-1800 - Craig Andrews
1800-0000 - Dancing Through the Decades

Sunday 8th January

0600-0900 - Easy Like A Sunday Morning with John Clayton
0900-1400 - Dave Sherwood
1400-1500 - Everything 80's
1500-1900 - Sunday Afternoon
1900-2200 - Non Stop Star
2200-0000 - Wind Down Zone

Monday 9th to Thursday 12th January

0600-0900 - Star Radio Breakfast – Wes Stakes
0900-1000 - Mystery Years – Wes Stakes
1000-1400 - Craig Andrews
1400-1500 - Everything 80's
1500-1900 - Drivetime – Emil Franchi
1900-2200 - Non Stop Star
2200-0000 - Wind Down Zone

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

“Come Dancing” Nativity Play by Shine Choir

The SHINE, Children's Community Choir held two sell-out shows of their musical nativity “LIGHTS, CAMEL, ACTION” at Christmas-time. They thrilled and delighted the packed audience with a mixture of song, dance and drama which was very funny at times!

The nativity was based around the hit TV show Strictly Come Dancing and the whole cast enjoyed learning the different routines and songs and performing in the Bethlehem Stable.

Some brilliant acting and singing by these very young children and older youth with funky camels, ballet angels, Morris dancing, shepherds and disco stars. The judges and hosts kept it all moving and with a whole cast hand jiving to finish the show, everyone left with huge smiles on their faces.

Massive thanks to all who came and watched and all who came and helped - a super team effort.

SHINE then performed at the Mayor's Carols and Readings Service also with a great turn-out after their busy weekend and sang all about the angels bringing good news.

SHINE CHOIR brings good news also in all the singing and performing they take part in, and are great ambassadors of the Gospel message.

Shine Choir meets again on Monday 30th January with an After-Show Party 5-6pm at St. Clare's and will then begin rehearsals for an extra special event to be held in Tesco in March. They also have plans to record some of their own songs on a CD this year.

Shine is a Community Choir open to all children from 5 years upwards, meeting every Monday evening 5-6pm. There is no charge to join - just a love of singing and performing required. This is a great way to meet new friends.

Contact is Helen McCormick - Youth/Children St. Clares.

Introduction to “DCC”

Locomotionmodels.com will present a series of talks during 2017, giving railway modellers the opportunity to learn more about their hobby and develop new skills.

The first talk will take place in the Hackworth Room at Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon on Saturday January 14, 2017, starting at 10.30am.

The speaker is Simon from SHModelmaking, and the topic is “An Introduction to DCC” (Digital Command Control). This talk is ideal for anyone just starting out in the hobby, or thinking about converting to DCC.

Simon will explain what DCC is, how it works, and will try to answer any questions you may have. Tickets for the talk are £2.50 each - this includes tea/coffee. Tickets are available from the gift shop at Locomotion: The NRM at Shildon or from www.locomotionmodels.com.

For more information, please call the Locomotionmodels.com team on 01904 685785.



Santa Thanks his Christmas Eve Helpers

Following his tour of Great Aycliffe on Christmas Eve, SANTA would like to say (on behalf of Great Aycliffe Town Council) a huge thank you to all his volunteer helpers for their time and support; to Newton Press for publishing his routes; to Aycliffe Fabrications and Pinkney Builders for the use of their 'Santa Sleighs'; to all those who came out to greet him despite the weather, and for the cash donations which raised £186.34 for the Mayor's Charities.

Wishing everyone a very happy and healthy New Year - see you next Christmas!

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A TASTE OF COLLEGE LIFE



During December a group of 23 Greenfield Students attended a Poetry Workshop run by Julie Ashmore at Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College. The students had a real taste of a Sixth Form lesson whilst also having the opportunity to develop their poetry skills to a higher level in preparation for their GCSE exams in the

summer. Mrs Goodfellow, Subject Lead for English, commented on how well the students engaged with the session and said 'the session really seemed to boost their confidence, the students seemed more willing to challenge each other and to make their own points without seeking reassurance first'.

The session provided food for thought for the students, not just in poetry but when thinking about their futures. One student said 'I really want to do Literature at College now, but I was set on doing the Sciences, I will have to have a real think about it now.' The students would certainly be more than welcome at the college after impressing Mrs Ashmore who said that she 'hoped to see them at Bridging Week'. The students really were a credit to themselves and the school.



Come in from the cold this January and share a movie with friends at St. Clare's Children's Movie Club. On Saturday 7th January at 2pm we will be watching the Disney BFG film.

Ten year old Sophie has an adventure of a lifetime when she meets the BFG. Naturally scared at first the young girl soon realizes the 24 foot giant is actually quite charming and gentle. As their friendship grows it attracts unwelcome attention from some jealous giants. Sophie and the BFG travel to London to convince Queen Victoria to help them.

Written and produced by the talented Steven Spielberg this is a must see, feel good film. All are welcome - film club membership is only £1 and we have a great value tuck shop selling sweets and drinks.

In addition to this we have hot chocolate and cake or ice-creams priced at only 50p each, so start the new term off with a treat.

Film Club is for all children with or without an adult to accompany them. Doors open at 1.30pm for the pick of the seats - St. Clare's Church Main Hall.

Crafter's Companion Smashes the 100 Staff Mark

LEADING craft supplies company, Crafter's Companion, has topped off an impressive year by reaching 100 employees across its UK and US operations.

The fast-growing company, which is on track for a record year, has gone from strength to strength in 2016 opening two UK retail stores, including its flagship outlet in County Durham, and creating over 40 jobs in Newton Aycliffe and Chesterfield.

Crafter's Companion's US operations hugely expanded during the year after the company relocated its US office and warehouse Santa Ana, California. The company also picked up several major North American contracts and launched several new product lines, including premium adult colouring range, Spectrum Noir Colorista, which has since been launched in the UK too. The company's founder, Sara Davies, finished off the memorable year after being appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the Her Majesty's Birthday 2016 Honours List. She said: "This year has been absolutely incredible for everyone at Crafter's Companion. We've almost doubled the size of the team and it's amazing to look back



at how far we've come. "We started 2016 with big ideas and big dreams and thanks to the continued hard work and dedication of the Crafter's Companion family we've been able to achieve more than we ever expected. "As well as creating many new jobs locally, we've also exported more product this year than ever before. We are very proud to be flying the flag for North East businesses as well as contributing to the

local economy." Now located at its new global headquarters in Newton Aycliffe, Crafter's Companion is a leading supplier of craft tools and products, selling them to a global customer base online, on TV shopping channels, via independent retailers and in its own UK retail stores. For more information about Crafter's Companion visit www.crafterscompanion.co.uk.

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LABOUR PARTY IS ON THE WAY OUT!

Dear Sir,
It has been about four years since we had a similar letter in the Newton News, our local paper. In a letter week ending 9th December 2016 Miss K. Beetham begged people to join the Labour Party.

Does she know that long term Labour councillor members have resigned from Durham County Council - people that have been in the Party for over 45 years?

I would suggest to Miss Beetham that before the ink is dry on her membership card she finds out what happened to the two young members of the Labour Party elected onto Great Aycliffe Town Council at the last election. One spent more time in France with his job, so he could not attend meetings, while the other could not have time off work to attend meetings. They both had to resign meaning A Bye-Election costing more money from the rate payers.

Since the coalition put the brakes on Labour's out of control spending in 2010 there have been 500,000 jobs losses and cuts to the services, such as meals-on-wheels, parks and libraries, also care homes.

Tough though it is, that was the right thing to do, WE couldn't go on spending money we don't have. But it's completely wrong that tax payers and the people who depend on local services suffer, while the councillors who make the cuts carry on pocketing their own allowances as if nothing has changed. They behave as if it's their right to grab as much of our money as they can.

And when Peers claim thousands of pounds, despite

not speaking or even voting, it is no wonder people think politicians are only in it for what they can get. And can I say that I was in the Labour party, but left some years ago.

I attended all branch and group meetings and took notice as to how the Labour Party has given this great country of ours more problems than we wanted. Taking us to war - 375 soldiers lost their lives, and many lost limbs.

We went into the common market that has cost this country of ours a fortune, now the people have voted to come out, but it appears the Labour party are going against the people's vote, why?

I am waiting for which way our MP votes if the EU goes to Parliament vote. He should remember he was voted in by the people to do what they want and have voted for and that is to come out of the EU! If not, at the next election, he could be on the dole.

Miss K. Beetham, said that the Labour Party is a way forward, based on honesty, equality, and fairness, then why is the Party losing long serving members? Because of all the cut backs that do not need to happen it is only Labour councillors voting! They are not supporting the community and what the people want.

Not one of our Labour councillor's spoke up to support TA staff so where is the honesty and fairness in that? It seems to me as long as they are pocketing the Tax Payers money, and keeping the Labour Group happy, it just does not matter about real people.

Mrs M Tomlin



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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 18th January 2017

Policy & Resources Committee, 7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 20 minutes has been set aside for an elector to ask questions, give evidence or make representation on any item of business included on the agenda of the Council, and its Committees.

If members of the public have any questions it would be appreciated if they could make them known prior to the start of the meeting. Agendas/Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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

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Drop in Anti-Social Behaviour Across County

Recorded incidences of anti-social behaviour dropped overall by 14 per cent across County Durham and Darlington in the twelve months to end of September 2016, in a report published today, with some areas seeing a 25 per cent reduction. The decrease is highlighted in the latest Public Performance Report from Ron Hogg, the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for County Durham and Darlington. There were reductions in every neighbourhood policing area, a trend which has continued since Ron published his last report in June this year. The areas with the largest drops in anti-social behaviour are Crook (down by 25.7 per cent), Newton Aycliffe (down by 24.9 per cent), Peterlee (down by 22.8 per cent) and Stanley (down by 21.6 per cent). Ron said: "Residents have told me during past consultations that tackling anti-social behaviour is a priority for

them. This decrease in anti-social behaviour is good news for everyone living in the area, and police and partners are continuing to work hard on behalf of our communities. Whilst these figures are good news, we will not rest on our laurels and will continue to work with local people to prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour". The report also shows that victim-based crime has increased by 27.1%. This is partly due to changes in recording practices and compliance with national recording guidelines, which mean that cases of harassment are now recorded as crimes when they may not have been previously. This has also contributed to the drop in Anti-social Behaviour. There have been increases in burglary, vehicle crime, shoplifting and criminal damage. Following his latest meeting to discuss the figures with the Constabulary's Executive team, Ron said: "I would like to reassure

people that the Constabulary has a number of plans in place to tackle these increases. Burglary figures are already reducing back to their previous level, suggesting plans like this are effective. I will continue to monitor all crime, public confidence and victim satisfaction closely, and I will release my Public Performance Report every quarter. It is important to remember that the Durham and Darlington area is one of the safest in the country to live, work, visit and do business. "Between July and September there was a slight drop in victims' satisfaction with their experience with the Police. I understand that this is due to methodological changes resulting from the Constabulary's new ICT system. I expect that levels will increase again in the next quarter. "In the meantime, especially over the festive period, I encourage residents and businesses to take appropriate steps to keep themselves and their property safe. Remember to keep your properties and cars locked, stay visible on dark winter nights and if you're going out to enjoy the festivities, please make sure you can get home safely." Ron's Public Performance Report is available on his website at: www.durham-pcc.gov.uk Further crime prevention advice is available on the Constabulary website at www.durham.police.uk.

Good Service

Dear Sir,
I would like to comment on the fantastic service from Brian Venables Carpets in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre. I recently had my whole house fitted with new carpets with Brian offering a good price on his carpets and underlay - far more competitive than the big commercial stores. He came and measured up straight away, arranged several different fitting dates to suit my requests and amended these when I needed him to. The fitters were professional and did a good job and didn't hang around waiting for tips like some might. I paid once the job was complete and not before! Overall a very good service from a local company and I won't hesitate in using them in the future. Thank you Brian Louise Young

Soup is Off!

St Elizabeth's Church would like to let everyone know that due to reorganisation of the catering team activities there will be no Souper Lunch. We'd like to thank everyone for their support, for attending and of course to all who cooked and served at the various lunch events. Don't worry it's not over, we're just having a short break and we will be back in the Spring with fresh new ideas and a new lunch event for all to enjoy. Watch this space!

£1000 Donation for Youth Football Club



Left to right: Berni Borsberry Secretary Honest John and Mike Pearson, Chairman

Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club have received a generous donation from Honest John to help the club cover the costs of providing Winter Training for their 21 girls and boys teams. The Club spotted in the Newton News that John was looking for good causes for a Christmas donation, the club applied outlining how the children would benefit by having safe and suitable facilities. Club Secretary Berni Borsberry commented "Winter Training Facilities is by far the single biggest cost for our club. To receive this donation helps the club to keep weekly

subscriptions affordable for everyone. All the facilities we use are in Newton Aycliffe and therefore there will be a further benefit from this donation to the NE Autism Centre, the Youth Centre, Greenfield and Woodham Schools. If you want more information visit our website www.nayfc.com

ACORN R.A. Meeting

Our first meeting of 2017 will be held on Thursday 12th January in the Phoenix Club (upstairs) at 6pm. Little Acorns meet at 5.30pm. We will have a guest speaker for the evening and you can catch up with events over the holiday period. We will also be discussing forthcoming events for the year ahead. Our local Councillors and PCSO usually attend and are open to questions. Everyone is welcome to our meetings. We all wish you a Happy and Healthy 2017 and look forward to meeting any new members.



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Why You Should Quit Smoking

Dr Anjali Mahto, Consultant Dermatologist tells us how smoking affects the skin, giving you an extra incentive to ditch the habit for good. She explains "Unlike damage to the heart or lungs, the effects on skin are often outwardly visible. Not only is smoking related to the development of certain skin disorders, it is a major culprit in premature ageing of the skin."

Here are the key ways smoking can affect your skin:

Premature Skin Ageing

Women seem to be more susceptible to this than men. It commonly manifests as fine lines around the eyes and mouth at an earlier age than non-smokers.

Poor Wound Healing

There are a large number of studies that demonstrate that smoking will delay wound healing - including wounds created by surgery. There are higher rates of wound infection, decreased wound strength, skin graft failure, necrosis (death of tissue), and blood clot formation.

Smoking and Skin Cancer

Smokers are at higher risk of developing a type of skin cancer called squamous cell carcinoma (SCC). Even individuals that only smoke a few cigarettes a day remain at risk. It's thought that tobacco

found in cigarettes acts to suppress the immune system, allowing cancer cells to evade recognition. Whilst SCC is easily treated if found early, it does have the potential to metastasise (spread) to other parts of the body and can potentially be life-threatening.

Inflammatory Disorders

Smokers have a higher risk of developing psoriasis, which results in dry, scaly patches on the body. Nicotine is thought to directly affect the immune system, potentially triggering psoriasis in those who have an underlying tendency to develop the condition.

Both hidradentitis suppurativa and lupus are found more frequently in smokers, with lupus sufferers responding less well to treatment than non-smokers.

Smoking & Viral Infections of the Skin

Smoking enhances the risk of developing genital warts, possibly due to the immunosuppressive effects of nicotine. Smokers also have a higher risk of developing wart virus-related cancers including cancer of the vulva, anus & penis.

So remember, quit this new year and feel the benefit to all the organs of your body - skin included!

New Year Coffee Morning

St Elizabeth's Church would love to welcome you to join us at our monthly Coffee Morning to be held on Saturday 7th Jan at 10am. Make new friends, take part in the raffle or buy delicious goodies from the cake and produce stall. Take time out of your busy week and recharge your batteries to celebrate this new year.

NEW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION PLANNED IN WEST WARD

This is a new Residents Association which is hoped will be a platform to enable the voices of people to be heard throughout the western area of the WEST WARD including Ashfield, Beechfield, Oakfield, Rowan, Elmfield, Linden and the Williamfield area. For too long the people of these areas have not had a strong voice, so let us join together as residents to change this. Come along and enjoy refreshments and hopefully unite to make your hopes and aims for the whole area become a reality. We hope to have meetings monthly, alternating between the RAFA Club and The Western Area Community Centre (behind Lindisfarne Nursing Home). The first meeting will be on Wednesday 11th January 2017 at 6pm - The Venue for the first meeting will be at The Western Area Community Centre. For further details ring Dorothy Bowman 01325 308094 or 07967 901477.



Ceilidh Night
Saturday 28th January 2017
7.30pm Start • PLUS buffet and raffle



The hedgehog's skin ceilidh band
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GX Timetable
Group exercise Autumn/Winter 2016

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County Durham DL5 4EH
03000 266 446
leisure-newton-aycliffe@durham.gov.uk
www.durham.gov.uk/GX

Intensity 1-2

Day	Exercise	Time
Mon	Cyclenergy	9.30-10.00am
Mon	Gentle circuit*	10.00-11.00am
Mon	Bodypump	5.45-6.30pm
Mon	Cyclenergy	6.00-6.45pm
Mon	Metafit*	7.00-7.30pm
Mon	Pilates	7.30-8.30pm
Tues	Cyclenergy	6.45-7.15am
Tues	Pilates	10.00-11.00am
Tues	Super circuit	6.00-7.00pm
Tues	Beginner Pilates	7.00-8.00pm
Wed	Bodypump	9.30-10.30am
Wed	Metafit*	7.00-7.30pm
Wed	Pilates	7.30-8.30pm
Thurs	Bodypump	9.30-10.30am
Thurs	Yoga	10.45-12noon
Thurs	Gentle circuit*	12noon-1.00pm
Thurs	Cyclenergy	6.00-6.45pm
Thurs	Boxing circuit	7.00-8.00pm
Fri	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
Sat	Metafit*	9.00-9.30am
Sat	Cyclenergy	9.45-10.30am

Intensity 2-3

Intensity 4-5

GX Timetable Autumn/Winter 2016

*Class suitable for 14-15yrs with adult supervision

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FOSTER CARERS MAKE CHRISTMAS MAGICAL FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

Foster carers made ordinary moments extraordinary this Christmas when they provided a loving home for hundreds of children in County Durham.

Seven hundred and sixty children spent Christmas in the care of Durham County Council. And foster carers gave young people an experience some may never have had before.

Carers Graham and Melanie Petre spoke of the magical Christmas moments they have had with their foster children.

"You get up on Christmas morning and you see their little faces, and some of them don't know what to do because they have never ever had Christmas and never had Christmas presents," said Melanie. "It's things like that which stick in your mind."

Across County Durham the number of foster placements

continues to grow, but more prospective parents are needed to open their hearts and their homes to an increasing number of children in care.

The more foster families the council has, the more children will be able to remain in their local communities. In addition to mainstream fostering, the Foster Xtra scheme is also being developed to enable foster care to be provided to young people with some of the most complex needs.

Prospective adoptive parents are also urged to find out more about providing a permanent home for a Durham child. For more information about fostering with Durham County Council call 03000 269400 or visit www.durham.gov.uk/fostering. For more information about adoption visit www.durham.gov.uk/adoption.

Greenfield Spring Courses Now Available



The new Spring Term Community Learning Programme at Greenfield Arts is available for bookings, with courses starting the week commencing 16th January 2017 and lots of opportunities for everyone. We are pleased to announce the return of our hugely successful Core Arts course, which is designed to give participants a rounded understanding of core artistic skills via 3 different art forms, including: photography, drawing, and digital design, and enable further development opportunities. This term we have added elements which will develop artistic practice, including digital uploading and storage; advice on materials and a complimentary SHED digital hub induction, worth £80, to continue to develop your skills after the course.

Rosi Thornton also returns with her brilliant Re-Jig Sewing sessions, which are a great way to learn new skills whilst building friendships and confidence. The group have developed some great work and friendships over

the last term and always enjoy meeting new friendly faces.

New additions will be a Beginners Painting and Creative Writing masterclasses. Jilly Johnston will be in residence for 5 weeks to develop your skills in watercolour, oil and acrylic painting. John Dean will be offering a one off beginners and advanced masterclass in the skills you need to succeed with your creative writing.

We offer many other courses for adults, which run for 10 weeks at a time in various arts and well-being disciplines including Spanish, floral art, fitness, health and music. Try something new and meet some wonderful people along the way.

Young people can come and join our after school team and enjoy our weekly Art Club or Young Yoga. Great ways for young people to try new skills and make friends in a safe environment. We also host the South Durham School of Dance which is a constant fixture at the centre and a great opportunity for young people to develop their passions.

If you would like to join any of the above courses please book via the link on the website: www.greenfield-arts.co.uk, or to find out more please contact Greenfield Arts on 01325 379048, info@greenfield-arts.co.uk or pop in and speak to one of our members of staff.

Film Show

The "FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW" at St Clare's Church on TUESDAY 10th JANUARY features the great musical comedy "THE ROYAL WEDDING" Starring Fred Astaire, Jane Powell & Peter Lawford, and set in London at the time of Princess Elizabeth's wedding to Philip Mountbatten. Songs like "Ev'ry Night at Seven" and "How could you believe me When I said I Love You" and Fred Astaire's amazing dance routine to "Sunday Jumps" make this a timeless Feel Good Film.

Tea and coffee will be served at 1pm, included in the £2. 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.

Kieran Maxwell Receives Rotary International Honour

Inspirational teenager Kieran Maxwell whose long and brave battle against a rare form of bone cancer touched the hearts of people throughout the UK when his story was reported in the national press, on radio and television, has been awarded Rotary International's highest honour, a Paul Harris Fellowship.

Eighteen-year-old Kieran was presented with his much-coveted award at his Heighington home by Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club President Nora Scott. She told him: "You have been an inspiration to many people who are battling life-limiting illnesses. We are all very proud of you." Kieran lost his left leg to cancer in March 2011 after being diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer. The following year, he carried the Olympic torch through Bishop Auckland and in May, 2013, won Gold at British Gymnastics NDP Acro Championships after learning eight days previously that his cancer had returned to his lungs (he had eight new tumours).

Kieran completed treatment, including a stem cell transplant, and two months afterwards, started athletics. His highest achievement was in December, 2015, when he won a gold medal in the 100 metres sprint at the Brazilian School Paralympics. But, at a routine check-up in October, Kieran learned his cancer had returned and was terminal. His friends rallied round and raised enough money to bring Christmas forward for the family. When they heard this, the villagers of



President of Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club, Nora Scott, presents a Paul Harris Fellowship to Kieran Maxwell

Heighington decided to make the village as Christmassy as possible by putting up lights early so that Kieran could have a taste of the festive season. "I couldn't believe it", said Kieran this week. "I was speechless when I heard what local people, some of whom I didn't even know, had done for me."

Throughout his illness, Kieran has been very active in a campaign in his name to raise money to enable a specialist to undertake research into Ewing's Sarcoma. The fund now stands at around £11,000. Anyone wishing to donate to the Kieran Maxwell Legacy can do so via: <http://bit.ly/KMLegacy>

Northern Soul Night

The Scout centre is hosting a night of NORTHERN SOUL on January 7th from 7.30pm. Tickets are £3 and are available on the door. The last night was a sell out so get yourselves along early and don't miss out.

This is our 1st event of the New Year and more will be coming shortly. We would like to thank our members and friends who have supported us through 2016. We are a friendly club and always welcome new members – so come along and if you like what you see ask about becoming a member only £3.00 a year. All profits raised by the club are used to run and maintain the Scout Centre enabling us to provide the Scout groups that use the premises free use of the hall for their meetings.

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Are You Getting Married?

If you or your partner live or lived in Newton Aycliffe or the surrounding villages and are planning to get married, **Newton News** would like to record this special day, using your photo; to let our readers know about your happy occasion and recording the event in print and on our website.

Contact Paul or Syd on 01325 300212 to find out how

SCREWFIX TO OPEN NEW STORE AT NEWTON AYCLIFFE



Screwfix are opening their Newton Aycliffe store on 17th January, with a big launch planned for the 9th February. The new store is next to Crafters Companion at the former Holiways Garage premises on Horndale Avenue.

Carols by Schoolchildren



Lindisfarne Care Home had lots of entertainment during December for the residents, getting well into the Christmas spirit. Children from St Francis School visited the home to sing Christmas Carols. This was enjoyed by all and we found some talent amongst the staff, and had an afternoon of singing and dancing.

Kieran Inspires Students

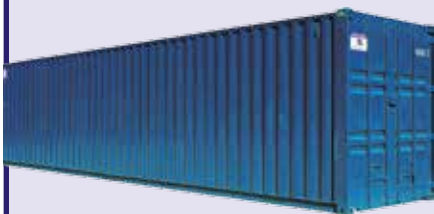


Members of the Student Leadership Group handing over the donation to Kieran

Just before Christmas Kieran Maxwell visited Greenfield Community College to collect a cheque for £400 which students raised for the Ewing's Sarcoma Research Trust. Kieran and his dad Alistair met members of the Student Leadership Group and chatted about the events they had helped to organise, as well as telling them how he is working through his bucket list and about his ambition to raise as much money as possible to help others. Donna Randall, House Leader, said "Kieran really is an inspiration, and it was fantastic for our students to meet him and understand exactly why we have raised this money"

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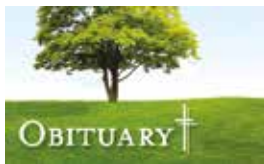


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Death of CDFHS Managing Director

It is with the deepest regret we announce the sad and untimely death of Ray Brown (Managing Director of the County Durham Furniture Help Scheme - CDFHS). This occurred December 26th late evening at his home in Newton Aycliffe surrounded by his loving family, following a hard fight against a short and cruel illness. Ray was a loving Husband who was very passionate about family, life and CDFHS and is a great loss to those that knew him. R.I.P. Ray.



Aycliffe Juniors Win 5 Games 15 Goals - None Against



Newton Aycliffe Juniors Under 11's entered the Christmas Tournament at Alun Armstrong Sports Centre and had a great day's football. In the group games they faced Shildon, Leven and Leyburn. The first game against Shildon saw some great football and the lads made a super start with a 5-0 win. Next up were Leven who compete in the same league as the Aycliffe team. It was another strong showing with a solid 2-0 win. The third and final group game was played against Leyburn, and our squad were looking good and earned a 4-0 victory. As group winners they then faced Barnard Castle who had finished as runners up in their group. Some lovely passing football involving the whole team was on show and this led to the team's dominant 5-0 victory. Leven had beaten the other

group winners, Whickham Fellside, in their semi final so it was a repeat of the group game against Leven in the final. The game opened with a stunning strike from Aaron giving Aycliffe the lead in the opening minutes. More chances were created and the woodwork was struck twice, but no more goals. The tournament victory

was secured with a 1-0 win. A superb effort in five games scoring a total of seventeen goals and conceding none. Everyone played their part with Tom keeping five consecutive clean sheets, Jake M showing great form and goals coming from Aaron, Jake P, Charlie (2), Zack (3), Jacob (4) and Lucas (6).

Aycliffe F.C. Face New Year with Optimism

It's been a long Christmas break for Newton Aycliffe

ACORN ENJOY GALA PANTO

On Tuesday 3rd of January a group of 75 people of mixed ages came along to enjoy the hilarious Jack and The Beanstalk Pantomime at the Gala Theatre in Durham City.

There were giggles galore as children, parents and grandparents enjoyed the antics being performed on the stage although the use of a water hose to soak the crowd brought on squeals of laughter and delight. With a selection box handed to all on the return trip a great time was had by all.

ACORN Residents Association funded by the Big Lottery fund have been taking groups to the panto in ever increasing numbers since their formation in 2012. As we come towards the end of another successful year and look forward to new ventures in 2017 I would like to thank our members and committee without whom our endeavours would not be the great triumphs which we enjoy. Ken Robson Chairman ACORN Residents Association

FC. However, the lack of on-field action doesn't mean nothing's been happening at Moore Lane. The squad that turned out for training on New Year's Eve under the supervision of new joint managers Deano Browne & Danny Mellanby had a very different look to the one we saw just a month ago. The managers have lost no time bringing in new players and some are very welcome returnees. Striker Jamie Owens has returned as captain while Dan Mitton has earned Man of the Match awards in both games he has played since his comeback. Meanwhile another former player has come back home with Darren Craddock transferring from West Auckland and should provide a valuable addition to the squad.

There are still two injury worries for the management. Ben Wood has been missing since the awful leg injury he suffered at West Allotment in November while keeper James Winter continues to recover from a hamstring strain. The Club has two home games this week with a Durham Challenge Cup tie against Brandon Utd on Tuesday 3 January followed by a league game against Chester le Street on Saturday 7th.



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£1000 for Town Choir



Aycliffe's MAD Choir was one of the lucky recipients of a £1000 Christmas gift from Honest John's Community Kitty. Founder Sonia Scott is shown receiving the cheque watched by Sheena Stephenson and Choir Conductor Evelyn Lodge. The choir will use the cash to enhance their charity performances with better sound equipment.

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READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



While most people enjoy Christmas off work incidents like a car crashing into a tree on Lascelles Avenue on Christmas Day helps us appreciate those who provide emergency services over holiday periods.

Aycliffe FC Through to Quarter Finals

Durham Challenge Cup holders Newton Aycliffe progressed to the quarter final of this year's competition, with a 3-1 win over Brandon United. Both teams deserve credit for playing some neat football on a muddy pitch in cold, windy conditions. Aycliffe's Club Captain Jamie Owens had to pull out through injury before the match.

Then 3 minutes into the game Liam Browne had to go off with an ankle injury, with recent signing Gavin Wilson coming on at right back to replace him. Brandon had the benefit of the wind in the first half, but failed to capitalise.

Indeed, Brandon's goalkeeper Thomas Orton was the busier of the two in the period, making good saves from Corey Nicholson and Ben Trotter before he was beaten by Josh Gray, only for the shot to crash against the crossbar and come back out. Brandon's Steve Turnbull tested Phil Pentony in the home goal, but Phil made a good save. Half-time 0-0.

The first 20 minutes of the second half were fairly even, with both sides trying to prise an opening. But then Aycliffe made the breakthrough on 65 minutes when Stuart Banks played in Zak Boagey, who rounded Orton to finish for 1-0. Aycliffe were on top, but then let Brandon back into the game when they failed to clear a free-kick on 71 minutes.

Phil Pentony made a good save low down, but could only push it into the path of Joe Calvert, who side-footed home for 1-1. Both sides went for a winner, and it was Aycliffe who got ahead when Scott Howes ventured forward to finish off a good team move for 2-1 on 76 minutes. Two minutes later, Josh Gray sealed the win with a fantastic shot direct from a free-kick 25 yards out.

Both sides kept attacking and counter-attacking until the final whistle, but neither could finish off some good moves. Final score 3-1. Many thanks to the 73 supporters from both clubs who braved the elements. Next game is at home to Chester-le-Street at 3.00pm on Saturday 7th January. Seaham Red Star will then be the next visitors to Moore Lane on Saturday 14 January.

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RENT a washing machine only £3.99 per week, no deposit, fully maintained. Bargain Buys, Shafto Way, 01325 321 678
"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 - Closed from 24th December - reopen Thursday 12th January.
BRAND NEW double divan with quilted Damask mattress, can arrange delivery, £120. Tel 07789 113 343
WHEELCHAIR £40; 4 wheel mobility aid £40. Can deliver. Tel 07340 303180

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Christmas Creativity Fun at Greenfield Arts



Young people had a fabulous time getting creative over the Christmas holidays. Greenfield Arts offered free activities both at Newton Aycliffe and Shildon giving young people the chance to have great fun making festive decorations and enjoying seasonal activities. The week began with a lovely session where participants were able to make a 'Card for Santa', the activity was led by talented artist Sharron Bates who inspired the group



create their own decorative Christmas Tree from recycled books, the group worked really hard and the results were fabulous! The session was led by Dawn Belshaw who also finished off the week at Greenfield Arts with a very popular session making Christmas Wreaths, this year saw a bit of a twist as the wreaths were made from recycled plastic bags - the effect was fabulous and the young people thoroughly enjoyed the session. Greenfield Arts are committed to bringing activities to the community and with the new year we bring our new learning programme, which is now available with the option to book online! If you would like to find out a bit more check out our website on www.greenfield-arts.co.uk or give our friendly team a call on 01325 379 048.

to create a very special thank you card with some lovely collage and illustrations, the young people were thrilled with the activity and were able to take the card home with them. Greenfield Arts were also busy at Foundations Building in Shildon where young people were able to

FREE "ALPHA" COURSE AT EXCEL CHURCH



What if God was actually real? What if Church wasn't what we thought it was like? What if God was for us and not against us? What if we really knew why we existed? What if we were one decision away from a totally different life? Over the next few Sunday mornings at Xcel Church in Aycliffe we are going to take some time to answer some of these 'what if' questions, the ones that are to do with God, life and the what if possibilities He has for us. Everyone is welcome. Xcel Church meets at the Xcel Centre at 10.30am every Sunday morning. Come earlier to connect with others and enjoy a free cup of tea

or coffee. There is also an excellent Kids Programme for all ages available during the service. We would love for you to join us. We will also be starting the Alpha Course on Monday 16th January at Burnhill Way Methodist Church. This is another great opportunity to discover the truth about Christianity, who Jesus is and how much God loves you. We will start at 7pm every Monday for 8 weeks. Alpha is free and open to all. Let us know you will be coming on Sunday or to Alpha by sending a message to info@xcelchurch.com. Check out xcelchurch.com for more information about who we



County Newsbits

Compiled by
 County Councillor
 John Clare

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

COUNCIL
 • DCC County Planning Committee, 3 January: bit.ly/DCCP3117
 • Bus shelter vandalism: bit.ly/BSV117
 • County Councillors working for Newton Aycliffe: bit.ly/CCW4NA
 • My Eight Resolutions for a better town: bit.ly/8R4NA
 • Thinford Roundabout roadworks: bit.ly/Thinford117
COMMUNITY
 • Dry January - will you sign up: bit.ly/DJAAR16
 • Fighting the Festive Flab with the PCP: bit.ly/PCPFFF17
 • Free Group Exercise taster classes at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre: bit.ly/FGX117
 • Greenfield Arts courses: bit.ly/GANYC117
 • 'Mysterious Mummies' - Durham Oriental Museum, 1-3pm Saturday 14 January: bit.ly/DOM14117
 • Learn how a steam train works - Locomotion Museum Shildon, 10am-4pm, 14-15 January: bit.ly/LMS14117

Pets

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3 BEDROOM house in Reeth Place, totally refurbished, £450 plus deposit. Tel 01325 319842 or 07970 201841
3 BEDROOM small house for rent. Contact Heather 07882 440377
1 DOUBLE 1 SINGLE SEMI. Woodham. Short or long term "let" (maybe with a view to buying). £450 pcm. Text 07515 868253
3 BEDROOM house to let in Newton Aycliffe. Tel 07760 256772
3 BEDROOM large house in Watson Road. Fully redecorated, carpets, kitchen. £550 plus deposit. Contact Mark on 07506 611286

New Shopping Experience as Tesco Refurbish Store

No Disruption - Business as Usual

Tesco is pleased to announce they have started to refurbish their Aycliffe Store from the 3rd of January with the minimum disruption to customers and business as

usual.

This exciting new development will introduce four favourite Arcadia Brand clothing stores to further enhance the shopping experience at Newton Aycliffe. These include Dorothy Perkins, Wallis, Evans and Burtons. These fantastic clothing brands will save residents from having to travel to Darlington or West Auckland, giving you the choice of improved shopping in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre.

Helen Maynard Store Manager told Newton News: "As we improve the store, it's business as usual and we are here to help. Our team will go over and above their best to do what they can to ensure your shopping trip is as easy as possible.

The layout of the food shop will stay exactly as it is, with minimal disruption as we replace equipment and install new refrigeration. We are excited to tell customers some of the improvements to existing departments include a new style Bakery where you can pick your own freshly baked bread, a New Fruit and Vegetable department. Our recently refurbished New Café was the start of the improvements and is already delighting our customers with Costa Coffee and freshly made

Food, to order."

"Myself, and my team look forward to seeing you in the shop and experiencing these exciting changes with us whilst we improve your shopping visit" added Helen.

Obituary

Margaret Harvey

(nee Winter)

It is with sadness that we announce the death of our beloved Wife and Mother Margaret, aged 72, on Sunday 1st January. Funeral to be held at Wear Valley Crematorium, DL14 8PE on Wednesday 11th January 2017 at 1.00pm. Family flowers only please.

HIRST. 27th December, peacefully. Beryl, aged 75 years of Bramham Chase, Newton Aycliffe. Beloved Wife of Kelvin; loving Mam of Warren and Grant; also a dearly loved Grandma, Sister and Sister-in-Law. Funeral on Monday 9th January. Would family and friends please meet at 1.00pm for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, may be made after the Service for Cancer Research UK.

PAYNE, Newton Aycliffe. 28th December, peacefully in hospital. Stanley John, aged 86 years, of Aylmer Grove. Dearly loved Husband of the late Olive; beloved Father of Carole; dear Father-in-Law of the late Paul; much loved Granddad of Adam and his Wife Diane, Matthew and his Wife Sarah and a proud Great-Granddad to Emelia. Funeral on Monday 9th January. Would friends kindly meet for Service in Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu in aid of The Great North Air Ambulance Service, may be given or will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6EN. Tel: 01325 318600.

EVELYN BARNETT of Newton Aycliffe peacefully in hospital on 19th December aged 89 years. Dearly beloved Wife of the late Joe; a much loved Mam, Nanna and Mother-in-Law. Family and friends please meet for Service at St. Clare's Church on Monday 9th January for 1.30pm. Followed by interment at the West Cemetery, School Aycliffe.

JULIE HUTCHINS (nee Britton) of Newton Aycliffe died peacefully at home on 24th December aged 54 years. After an illness bravely borne. A dearly loved Wife of Robert Hutchins; a much loved Mam to Paul; a dear Daughter to Gwen and Barry. Family and friends please meet for Service at Darlington Crematorium on Thursday 12th January at 11.45 am. (Motorbikes please meet at Moule Close, Newton Aycliffe).

'Post-Truth' Assertions are Just Wrong

Dear Sir,
May I make the following corrections to Mr Welch's error-strewn letter of 22 December ('Labour Voters Supported UKIP'):

(1) County Durham's Primary School outcomes are among the best in the country, not the worst as he asserts.

(2) Durham County Council is not financial incompetent or undemocratic:

- DCC's outsourcing of care home provision was an unavoidable response to government cuts which he supports.

- The Teaching Assistants' dispute is distressing and contentious, but both sides agree that it is about equal rights.

- Council Taxpayers do NOT pay twice for the A167 lights.
- DCC's handling of the Cricket Club crisis is common sense, not clueless.

(3) And meanwhile, at the national level:

- The Labour Party does not support unilateral disarmament.

- Labour advocates a balanced budget, with infrastructure investment.

- Labour's plans for rail re-nationalisation are popular and much-needed.

If you are interested in the

details, I have answered Mr Welch's points at greater length on my blog: <http://bit.ly/AWPTL> We need to beware of long ranting lists of false claims and exaggerated promises, however assertively proclaimed.
John D Clare

Births

Joshua James Henderson



26th December 2016

Congratulations to Phillip and Rachael on the birth of your beautiful Baby Boy "Joshua James", weighing 8lb 2½oz. Baby brother for Louie. Lots of love and best wishes from both families
xxxxxx

In Memoriam

Tom Moore



Died 20 years ago this week.
Still in our hearts and in our thoughts every day.
Dave and Brenda

WYN CROSSEN 9th January 2016. Miss you so much Mam. But I know you will be dancing with Dad in Heaven. Good night, God bless from Louise, Peter, Aidan and Isaac xxxxx

MARY YOUNG - 8th January 2016. It's been strange this Christmas without you. We miss you every day. All our love, David, Louise and Stan xxx

MARY YOUNG 8th January 2016. It's been one year since you passed away. Missed by us all. Michael, June and all the family xxxxx

MARY YOUNG 8th January 2016. It's been our first year without you Mary. Think about you every day. Love and miss you so much. Love, Trish and Dave xxx

MARY YOUNG 8th January 2016. Forever in our thoughts and hearts Auntie Mary. Never to be forgotten. Love, Peter, Stephen, Michelle and families xxxxx

ALAN PARKER 3rd January 2012. Memories of a special Dad and Granddad. Love, Kay, Mike, Michael, Sean and Zoe xxx

Christmas Wishes

Seasonal Greetings to all our many friends, old and new.
From Godfrey and Shirley Bennett

Congratulations

Olivia Kidd



Happy 21st Birthday

Lots of love from Mam and Jack xxx
Lots of love from Dad, Jean, Sean, Sammy, Maddie, Joanna and Ant xxx
Happy birthday Sister, love from Michael xxx
Happy 21st Auntie Olivia. Lots of love from Josslyn xxx
Love from Jack and Laura xxx

Happy 21st birthday to a very special Granddaughter. Lots of love from Grandma and Grandad xxx
Congratulations to my beautiful Granddaughter. Lots of love from Grandad Ray xxx
Happy 21st birthday, love and best wishes from Auntie Linda, Uncle Dave, Lauren, Chris and Kate xxx
Hope you have a great day. Lots of love, Uncle Gary, Auntie Joannah, Alex, Ellie, Mica and Callum xxx

Aimee Victoria Newton



Happy 30th Birthday

So proud of you. Lots of love, Gran and Grandad Percival and all the family

AIMEE NEWTON Happy 30th Birthday Aimee. Have a wonderful day. Lots of love, Mam & John xxx

LYN ROBSON Happy 50th birthday Nana Lyn on the 9th January. To a special Nana, have a happy birthday. Love you lots and lots, kisses. Michael and Tyler xxxxxx

LYN ROBSON To Lyn, my beautiful Wife, happy 50th. Hope I get to spend lots more birthdays with you. Love and adore you, Phil xxxxx

LYN ROBSON Happy birthday for the big Five 0. Lots of love, Paul, Emma and Lyndsey

Acknowledgement

Barbara Thompson



21/10/42 - 13/11/16

We, Barbara's family, would like to thank all our relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown during our recent bereavement.

Many thanks also, to all at Bewick Surgery, the 24/7 District Nursing team, the MacMillan nurses, and Barbara's sister Sandra, who all enabled us to grant Barbara's wish to be cared for at home for her last weeks and to die at home with her family.

Many thanks, too, to Brian Shepherd and Whitehouse Funeral Service for the professional and sympathetic way they helped us to organise our (probably unusual) celebration of Barbara's life at Wear Valley crematorium.

We had poems and songs, some sad, some jolly with rousing choruses; we had tears, we had smiles and we even had laughter. Almost 150 people filled the crematorium and they, and those of you who couldn't be there but donated anyway, very generously gave £700.20 for the MacMillan Nurses fund, for which we thank you. £700.20?? Who put the 20p in? You know who you are, but thanks anyway!
Peter and Family

RICHARD GENT Margaret, Anthony and Alison would like to thank everyone for their overwhelming support following the loss of Richard. We have been touched by the many cards and messages of condolence, and the number of people who have been part of our lives over the years who attended the Church Service and who donated so generously to Church Funds and the GNAAS. Special thanks to Revd. Barbara Hilton, Pat Pickersgill and Syd Howarth for their contribution to what was a very comforting Service and to Tracey of John Meynell's Funeral Home for her guidance throughout.

TO ALL who attended the late Norman Robertson's Funeral on 2nd November. Thanks to you we handed over a donation to Darlington Coronary Care Unit, just short of £165. For which they were extremely grateful
BOB CARRUTHERS passed away 17th December 2016. Mary, Tracy and Joy would like to thank all family and friends for the cards, flowers and kind donations to Cancer Research UK given on the loss of a very dear Husband, Father and Friend. Thank you to the Peaseway Clinic nursing staff, Bryan Shepherd and staff at Whitehouse Funeral Services at this sad time.

Mr & Mrs Claus in Town



Mrs Claus was in attendance at Santa's Grotto in an empty town centre shop organised by Dorothy Bowman just before Christmas.

Getting Married?

We remind those who are planning to get married they can have their wedding recorded in Newton News at no charge.

Send in a photo and details by e-mail to syd@newtonnews.co.uk

or call in at our offices on St. Cuthberts Way.

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MIDDRIDGE HISTORY SOCIETY TALK

MIKE STANSFIELD will give an illustrated talk on JAMES RAINE - 1791 -1858. Thursday January 12th at 7.30pm in Middridge Village Hall.

The Blacksmith's son from Ovington near Barnard Castle, became a learned scholar in many disciplines - a writer, editor, publisher as well as an ecclesiastical court judge.

Everyone is most welcome

RUGBY CLUB MAINTAIN UNBEATEN HOME RECORD



Saturday 22nd of October saw Newton Aycliffe 1st XV play host to league pretenders Wallsend. Wallsend have recently descended to DN3 from DN2 and as might be expected, have been in the top end of the table all season. The game saw the first use of Aycliffe's new scoreboard, sponsored by Whitehouse Funeral Service and the home side were led out by another excellent mascot in Felicity Lineton, daughter of first team Captain Alex. The game began with Aycliffe receiving the kick off, which was taken well and Aycliffe's lines cleared. The chase and pressure to the clearing kick led to a turnover which was put through the hands and saw eightman Andy Littlefair cross for the first points of the game, the try converted by Captain Lineton. The following period saw the ball yoyo from twenty-two to

twenty-two, with Wallsend unable to make any progress, and Aycliffe victims of their own mistakes. Following a Wallsend infringement at the breakdown, Lineton opted to slow things down and kick for posts, which he duly slotted, taking the lead to ten to nil.

It was the visitors, however, who struck next, making the most of an Aycliffe infringement, kicking for touch and setting a solid maul which they broke from to dive over in the corner. Embarrassed by gifting five points to Wallsend, Aycliffe bounced back immediately, storming up field and taking the first opportunity to kick for touch and take the lineout. The throw from hooker Ash Bolsover was received perfectly by and taken into a solid maul which powered toward the Wallsend try line, the defenders stopping the maul just short, forcing second row Ben Carpenter Merritt to break off down the short side, beating a tackler and diving for the line, managing to just roll over and take the home team into a ten point lead once again. The kick was received well by Aycliffe who set the phase through the forwards, allowing outside centre Luke Tinkler to profit from a well worked backs move and cross just before half time. The final act of the half was to be the visitors too, as pressure in the Aycliffe half yielded a penalty which the visitors took, shortening the deficit to twelve.

Half time score Newton Aycliffe 1st XV 20 - 8 Wallsend. The second half saw Aycliffe return to the field with an unchanged fifteen, and despite a firm team talk at half time, the first points were the visitors, as they took three points from a five minute spell spent between the halfway and Aycliffe's twenty-two.

The next ten minutes saw neither team making any real progress, with Wallsend struggling to make it out of their half, and Aycliffe struggling to translate possession into points. This spell was ended following a broken phase of play which saw Aycliffe backs flood up the right wing, with fullback Adam Gascoigne crossing to take the home side to a fourteen point lead. Wallsend continued to frustrate the home side, holding on to possession for an extended period, though

the commanding Aycliffe defence held the visitors at bay.

This period of Wallsend possession was broken on eighty minutes, as centre Tinkler struck again, perfectly reading a ten-twelve pass and picking it at full reach, taking it in, breaking the line, beating the fullback and crossing under the posts to score the final try of the game, which was converted by out half James Cocks.

Final score Newton Aycliffe 1st XV 31 - 11 Wallsend.

The game finished with a total of five tries run in by Aycliffe with the backs taking three to the forwards' two. Tries came from Andy Littlefair, Ben Carpenter Merritt, Luke Tinkler (2) and Adam Gascoigne. Two penalties were kicked by Alex Lineton and two of the tries were converted, one by Alex Lineton and one by James Cocks.

Aycliffe's bonus point win saw them return to second in the league table, overtaking Wallsend and only twelve points behind main league rivals Richmond, despite Aycliffe's having two games in hand.

Durham Amateur Football Trust Exhibition

From the 1940's until the turn of the century, many County Durham villages had their own football team competing in one of several local leagues. These leagues were well supported during this time, often with more than one division. Durham Amateur Football Trust's "Grass Roots" Exhibition - on display at Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon from Monday January 16th to Thursday February 16th with displays and photographs of a selection of these teams throughout this period. The Auckland & District League is the main one featured, but it is hoped that other local league teams from Crook and Darlington will be on show also. In addition, there will be a display of trophies awarded to league and cup winners over the years. Locomotion: The NRM at Shildon is open daily from 10am to 4pm, and parking and admission are free of charge. For more information, please call the museum on 01388 777999.

Aycliffe Thai Boxers in Championships Trials



Six representatives from Aycliffe Thai Boxing recently attended British ISKA regional K1 trials for the European championships in Italy in April 2017.

Three juniors; Anna Dooney, Kezzy-Joe Armstrong and Mark Simpson, and three seniors Luke Dooney, Paulie Shaw and Karl Joyce funded their own travel to Sheffield, and over a three hour period proved themselves as capable representatives for the British

team. They demonstrated a high level of fitness and impressive endurance sparring over twenty rounds with some of the best national K1 fighters.

All six individuals from the Aycliffe Thai Boxing team qualified for the next round, to be held in Birmingham next month, and if they perform at the same high level will qualify for the national team, to represent our country and County at international level.

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