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Dear Sir,  
The people of Newton Aycliffe seem confused as to what is happening with the Town Centre and this is the latest information I can obtain for you taking into consideration confidentiality clauses. Phase 2 of the Avenue Site redevelopment will comprise:

- Construction of a new fully integrated building comprising a new Library, Health Centre, Social Care and Health Offices and a Cubby (drop in centre for the elderly).
- Construction of further non-food retail units.

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Construction of the new Town Square, Full integration of the new and the existing Town Centres, The closure of part of Greenwell Road, A new link road between Greenwell Road and Burn Lane. Planning permission has been granted for the temporary relocation of the existing Health Centre, Library and Cubby. These will be housed in temporary accommodation, located on the green area adjoining Dalton Road and Faulkner Road.

All legal agreements between all parties are close to being finished and signed, following which a "start on site" date for the construction of the Phase 2 development will be finalised. It is aimed that construction of the Phase 2 development will start sometime this year. Councillor Terry Hogan

## Changes at Aycliffe Village Association



Left to right: Bill Blenkinsopp, Julian Lenahan, Harry Moses, David Lewis, Andrew Hutton, Paul Brown, and Tony Etheridge.

Last Monday the committee of the Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association gathered for a meeting that was immediately adjourned. Instead, the committee convened in The County, Aycliffe Village - to show appreciation for the time and effort put into the hall over the last 23 years by David Lewis & his wife Elizabeth.

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David held the position of Treasurer, until retiring from the post last year, giving Paul Brown (shaking David's hand) a year's grace as deputy. Many of the committee have given many years service to the hall, ensuring that it remains the focus of the village community. It was felt that the committee should honour David & Elizabeth's commitment as they have been lynchpins in the organisation. I would like to take this opportunity to also thank Harry (& Audrey) Moses and Chris (& Barbara) Wheeler for their contributions as Chair & Deputy respectively. It only remains to say that everyone had a pleasant evening, David & Elizabeth were presented with small tokens of appreciation, the food was excellent, and no committee business was discussed - so heads down on the 9th of May, which is the date for the next meeting (all welcome as usual). Julian Lenahan (Chairman - GAVHA)

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## Letters to the Editor

### Neville Community Centre

**Tabletop Sale**  
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**Auction** Saturday 14th May. Viewing 11am, auction 1pm. If you have anything to donate for this charity event please ring 313924.

**Aycliffe/Brancepeth Brass Band** Saturday 21st May 3pm admission £2. Phone bookings ring 313924.  
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## Who I would vote for?

Dear Sir,  
It would be the person or persons who could deliver the promises and has a good track record. I was deeply shocked to read the scathing facts and figures attack on two men, that I hold in high esteem in this newspaper by J.D. Clare.

I wouldn't doubt that he is correct in what he says, however, whether it is deselection or defection the question is why one or the other?  
Why have Terry Hogan and Bill Blenkinsopp taken another path, why have they been drawn away from their Labour Party roots?

That, they would have to answer for themselves, I can only speak for myself and also speak as I find. I have been a shop steward and always try hard to see the workers (Labourers) got a fair deal in all aspects of their working environment.

I have voted for Labour since Harold Wilson came to power. This Labour/Conservative Government have been in power for the last eight years, with false promises and proven lies over the Iraq War (WMDs)

The state of the Health Service, Schools and Home - never a Police present when you want one, but always there when you don't, with their money making speed camera's. I understand they have to make ends meet, but isn't that pathetic for 2005? Out of control yob culture, people frightened to go out at night.

It is obvious to me we need a change and we don't need your namby pamby, do gooder, soft lefties! We need people who will stand up and speak for, and get the public what is needed. A healthy, safe, well policed society, who will chuck this political correctness in the bin.

I know that Terry and Billy don't think so right wing as I do, but they are not 'Yes' Men. In today's Political arena it does not matter which flag you fly, I believe you could fly the 'Jolly Roger' as long as you got things done for the public instead of attending meeting after meeting, going round in circles, getting nowhere at tax payers expense.

For some 6 years now, as Councillors, every time I have asked for something to be done or looked into by one or the other, these guys came up trumps!

I see by the press that they are both going to stand in the election as Independent. It is a sad day for the Labour Party, but when you're a member of such a large party you have to toe the Party line and if you don't you are ditched.

I would urge all people sitting on the political fence to vote for your Independent Councillors in whichever ward you are in. These are the people who will get things done for you.

My vote will be going to Terry Hogan, shame I don't live in the Village as well.  
Mel Hayes

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## ANTIQUES FAIR

An Antiques and Collectors Fair is to be held at Aycliffe Village Hall on Sunday 24th April from 10am until 4.00pm. Entrance fee 50 pence per person.

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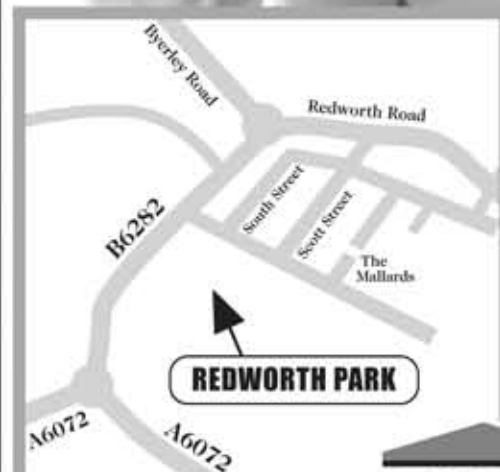
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#### FRIDAY AT THE BRIT Exotic Dancers

4.00pm to 7.00pm (3 girls, 2 spots each)

#### Live Bands from 8.30pm

Friday 15th April - "The Kicks"  
Friday 22nd April - "F.M."  
Friday 29th April - "Safe Healer"

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#### THE CUMBY GIG GUIDE

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## Honour Funding for CAB

Dear Sir  
The Leader of Sedgfield Borough Council shamefully hides behind a barrage of statistics in his attempt to cover up his Council's withdrawal of funding from the Newton Aycliffe Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). The Borough Council has cut the Bureau's funding by £12,000 this year, which despite the best efforts of the bureau volunteers, will result in the closure of Newton Aycliffe's advice and information service for a full day every Thursday. Whilst the Borough Council is to be applauded for its history of support for the CAB, it now must honour that commitment and sustain the level of service that residents have come to expect. As one of the County's largest towns Newton Aycliffe has more people in need of assistance than elsewhere - what sense is there in withdrawing a service from an area of greatest need? Furthermore, Cllr Fleming's attempts to hide behind the need for Councils to make an annual saving is very misleading indeed. The savings required following the Gershon Review are supposed to be generated through Councils improving efficiency of services and changing the way that they do things. Not just simply cutting funding from the easiest and weakest target. It is sad to see that Sedgfield Borough Council is taking the easy way out at the expense of the people who need the service the most. Yours faithfully,  
County Councillor  
Bill Blenkinsopp

## Letters to the Editor Why You Must Use Your Vote

Dear Sir,  
What Peter Dolan needs to understand when he urges you to vote Independent is that the 'Independents' we elected to the Borough two years ago walked straight into the Council offices and allied themselves to the Conservative. Amazingly, there are some left-wing extremists who are so bitter against New Labour that they would rather put a Tory government into power than see Tony Blair in Number 10 again. And that is where all this rot comes from about New Labour being 'right-wing' - this, mind you, about a government which has, since 1997, delivered devolution for Scotland, Wales and London; removed hereditary peers from law-making; passed the new Disability Rights Act; brought in the minimum wage; signed up to the Social Chapter; enacted the Freedom of Information Act; lifted 1.2 million children above the poverty line; halved the number of people sleeping rough in the streets; led the world in writing off the debts of the poorest countries; signed up to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the Kyoto Agreement and the International Criminal Court; unilaterally eschewed anti-personnel landmines; banned handguns; passed the Countryside and Rights of Way Act and abolished fox-hunting. That is BEFORE you start listing the expenditure on education and health etc. These are just some of the undeniable, absolute achievements of New Labour. Unlike Peter Dolan, some of us remember what a right-wing government was really like! I hear people nowadays saying things like: 'there's no point in voting - they're all the same'. That is just not true. The parties are NOT 'all the same'. You will have heard in the news about Howard Flight, the Conservative who intimated that the Tories planned many more cuts than they had told people about. What you may not know is that Danny Kruger, formerly the Tory candidate for this constituency of Sedgfield - the man they selected to oppose Tony Blair - was ALSO sacked because HE had called for a period of 'creative destruction in the public services'. The problem with the Tories is that - whatever Michael Howard may or may not believe - there are still thousands of them who would see power simply as a chance actively to destroy the welfare state. That is why it is SO important that, on 5 May, people should still vote Labour, both at local and national level. Otherwise, there is the fear that we will see the genuine advances of the last 8 years cancelled, and a return to the underfunding and hopelessness we suffered in the 1980s. Please do not let the modern cynicism with politicians cause you to neglect your vote, so that you let back a Tory Party just itching to take away from you what the Labour Party has spent 8 years giving you.  
John D Clare

## Market Traders President Meets Town Mayor



Town Mayor Maud Gray met Joe Harrison National President of the Market Traders Federation during his visit to the Town Centre Market this week.

## Heighington Over 50/60 Club News

We are holding a coffee morning Heighington Village Hall on Saturday 14th May from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. There will be a cake stall and also a raffle. Price at the door £1 which will include tea/coffee and scones. Proceeds to the above funds. The dates of our coach outings for the summer York: Thursday May 12th leaving the village at 10am. Morcambe: Thursday 16th June leaving at 9.30am Ryedale Folk Museum at Hutton-le-Hole and onto Whitby: Thursday 21st July leaving at 9.30am. Keswick/Grassmere: Thursday 25th August leaving at 9.30am. Price per seat, per person £10.00 - Telephone Mary on 01388 772278 or Joyce on 01325 318459 Joyce (Chairman)

## Newton Aycliffe YC Girls

There were 2 games for the under 13's this week. The first game was against Newfields and the girls hit top gear despite the Easter break. An early goal from Vicky Jackson set the team up for an impressive performance in a game they totally dominated. A second from Vicky, followed by Jasmine Allison(4) and one each for Alex Jackson and Robyn Molloy gave a final score of 8-1. The second game against Cleveland Hall gave a sterner test but 2 goals from Vicky Jackson set up an early lead but despite the opposition pulling one back it was left to Jasmine Allison to turn in a superb cross from Clare Weir to secure a 3-1 win. The girls remain undefeated and top their group. The under 12's continue to play some excellent football for little reward. However as they are playing older girls the experience is invaluable and they will use these games as preparation for next season. There are still places available in both age groups. If you are in school year 6, 7 or 8 and want to play competitive football Ring Berni 0780 395 3960

## Life Savers Special Meeting

An extraordinary meeting of the Newton Aycliffe Life Savers Group will be held at the Youth Centre on Wednesday 4th May at 7 p.m. This group was formed from the Rotary Club "VERA" appeal to provide heart defibrillators in the town. The purpose was to give emergency back-up to the Ambulance Service, training volunteers in the use of defibrillators to attend victims of heart attacks. The local volunteer would receive the emergency call at the same time as the Ambulance and attend the victim as soon as possible. Every minute saved past the first 8 minutes of a heart attack helps recovery. The group has not been very effective since it was set up and not all the officers of the organisation are in place. The meeting has been called to consider transferring the equipment and funds to the St. John Ambulance who operate a very good first aid service in the town. All interested parties are invited to attend this public meeting to decide on the dissolution of the organisation and transfer of responsibility for defibrillation to St. John Ambulance Brigade. The initial appeal provided another defibrillator in the Leisure Centre and that is still in use with trained staff available to attend heart attack victims in the town centre.

## Church Home Group Meeting

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## "BACK TO SCHOOL" DISCO

There is an Old School Disco to be held at the Southerne Club, with music from the 90's back to the 50's. Sunday 1st May (Bank Holiday weekend) from 7.00pm until midnight. Tickets available or pay at door. Admission is £3.00 served with pie and peas. Everyone welcome age 18 years and over. Fancy dress is the theme, back to yesterday or back to school.

### GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 20th April 2005

Full Council - 7.15pm

Wednesday 11th May 2005

Parish Meeting 7.14pm followed by AGM - 7.15pm

#### QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 30 minutes has been set aside for the public to ask questions of appropriate members of the Council at its Council Meeting. Questions should relate to the work of the Council or affect the Parish in some way and they should be given in writing to the Town Clerk at least five clear days prior to the date upon which they will be asked. The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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Disney on Ice	15-10-05	Coach & Ticket, Newcastle	£29.50



# Independent Wants Tony Blair's Seat

Dear Editor  
Whilst I was shopping in the Town this week I noticed a group of photographers and a crowd of people. I recognised the former TV reporter and MP, Martin Bell who it turned out was with a Mr Reg Keys an independent candidate in the General Election who hopes to beat Tony Blair.  
Mr Keys lost his son in the Iraq war and the leaflets he was giving out said he was standing to make Tony Blair accountable for lies told and lives lost. I too believe that Blair misled the country into what was an illegal, unnecessary war, indecision of the United Nations.

It was refreshing to hear Mr Keys speak. He appears to be a decent honest man who is not controlled by party politics - unlike Blair!  
As he was about to leave a woman walking by, who said she was from Crook, spoke quietly to him saying that she had also lost her son in Iraq. It was quite moving to see the two bereaved parents embrace each other. They lost their children thanks to Tony Blair and I have lost my trust in him.  
I shall now be voting for Mr Keys although I have voted Labour all my life. Thanks to Tony Blair Britain is less safe. He has to go.  
Yours a disillusioned Labour voter  
Middridge



On Wednesday Reg Keys delivered a letter of challenge to Tony Blair or his agent at Blair's constituency home at

Trimdon. The house and the footpath leading past it are protected by electronic security gates and armed police.

Keys is standing as an independent candidate against Blair in Sedgefield. He will be asking Blair to face him in a public debate on the legitimacy of the Iraq war. 'The Iraq issue will not go away' says Keys in his letter of challenge. 'Such a catastrophic political blunder cannot merely be put to one side. 85 British soldiers have returned home in coffins, hundreds are severely wounded and mentally traumatised, and all this was based on false information for which nobody has been made accountable including Blair.'

Martin Bell, former Independent MP for Tatten, who will be going to the Blair house, with Reg Keys, says: 'If Tom Keys had been killed by enemy action in a just and legitimate war, his father would have grieved, but he would have accepted it. But the weapons of mass destruction turned out not to exist and the war not to have been legitimate, and Reg Keys is seeking personal accountability from Blair.'

## Town Council Supports CAB

Dear Sir  
I refer to the issue of Newton News on the 1st April 2005 in which an article appeared regarding the cut of one day a week for the Citizens Advice Bureau.

The article referred to cuts in core funding from Sedgefield Borough Council and lack of funds from Great Aycliffe Town Council.

Great Aycliffe Town Council have given funds to the Citizens Advice Bureau by way of donations each year and listed below are details of the donations. As you will see a £500 donation has been awarded for the year 2005.

March 2005 £500  
March 2004 £300  
December 2003 £300  
Yours sincerely,  
M. Rice Town Clerk

## NEWTON AYCLIFFE COMMUNITY FAIR

The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe is extremely pleased with the response for stalls at the Community Fair on Saturday 7th May.

However there is still space for a few more stalls and in particular Hobbies/Interest type groups such as a Photography Club, Gardening Association, Drama or Opera Club, History Club, Walking/Rambling Group, Fishing Club or any other type of leisure organisation as long as it is not a commercial enterprise would be very welcome. Please contact Roger Curtis on 01325 314854 or 01325 380024 (weekdays) to arrange your space.

Applications from Craftworkers and Holistic Therapists would also be welcome. This is your opportunity to prove that Newton Aycliffe certainly is a "Great" place to live! There are already over forty organisations promoting different interests and activities that will be on display for visitors to see, and perhaps, join or become involved in, along with displays from many other activity groups including Bands, Dancing and Sports Clubs.

The Fair is to be hosted by Stewart McFarlane, the Radio Cleveland presenter

and there will be opportunities to win valuable prizes both for stall holders and visitors. Saturday 7th May is going to be a day to remember in Newton Aycliffe with a Continental Market and many other activities and entertainments taking place in the Town Centre - make sure that your Club or Organisation does not miss out!

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## PARK OPEN MORE HOURS

Following requests from the local Police to the Council it has been agreed to extend the mid week opening hours from 8pm till 9pm. Weekends will remain at 8pm. Winter hours will revert back to 8pm. Park Wardens will be on duty till closing time. Planning permission has been granted for the installation of a CCTV camera, which is hoped to be in place in the near future.

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## NEVILLE PARADE PROGRESS REPORT

A Neville Parade Regeneration Meeting was held on Tuesday 5th April at Neville Community Hall. 25 persons attended. Chaired by Peter Beaty, Presenter Bob Scougall S.B.C. Opening remarks by chairman was of disappointment of slow progress. Bob said this was due to a variety of reasons and some out of his control. He said that progress was being made behind the scenes. Bob gave a brief presentation on the priorities for regeneration which included footpath outside shops, signposts, under canopy lighting, homeless units, the clock, parking at rear of shops, resurfacing of rear car park, looking at security gates, gangs, under age drinking problems, intimidation, parking at the front now the responsibility of Durham County. Two reps from DCC were asked to liaise ASAP with SBC to look at ways of extending car parking by taking away part of the footpath. Bob Fleming leader SBC advised us that finance was now available for CCTV cameras on the shop roof covering all angles. He also offered SBC help with policing the area until CCTV are in situ. For this the chair thanked H.M. Councillor Blenkinsopp and reps from D.C.C were asked about reducing humps on Shafto way. We were advised that they complied with guidelines. Parking signs for the rear of shops had been placed in the wrong situation D.C.C reps to look into this. The upgrading of canopy pillars is on hold for finance to give them a stone effect. The Police were asked about policing the area at busy times to move on gangs - children on bikes intimidating people - under age drinking - vandals etc. With the help of SBC and CCTV cameras, progress will be made. P.C. Alan Thompson was highly commended by Councillors for the good work he carries out in the area. Councillor S. Iveson pointed out the high paving near the Co-op causing damage to cars. Councillor Wheeler said that top priority should be given to parking to include disabled and mother and child. Next open meeting Tuesday 10th May 5.45pm

## CROSS COUNTRY FESTIVAL

This wonderful event took place at Meadowfield on the 12th April 2005. Everyone did well in this fantastic challenge, which made children more confident with themselves. Year 3-4 took part in a 1000-meter race and year 5-6 took part in the 1500-meter race. It was so tiring for these fantastic children to run such an enormous length. Aimee Archbold (from Vane Road School) came 3rd in the year 5 girls race. Aimee's sister, Jemma Archbold also came 3rd in year 3 1000-meter race. These two children did extraordinarily well to come in the top three and conquer the other competitions. Hannah Pearson also took part in this tough event and finished 8th out of three hundred children. Ryan Farley, Craig Robertson and Ryan Coles also did extremely well to come in the top 40. Other children from the school also enjoyed the day and proudly represented the school. Hannah Pearson and Aimee Archbold of Vane Road School



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For further details please contact  
Lesley or Marina on 07749 844 774.

## Hip Hop Dancers at Youthy A.G.M.

Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre's AGM is to be held on Monday 9th May at 7.00pm. According to the constitution, the committee should consist of up to 20 members. The membership can be made up of representatives from affiliated or user groups who access the centre, local community groups as well as local councillors. Members should be willing to attend Management Committee meetings which are usually held on the second Monday of each month. Elections for the positions of Honorary Officers Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and committee members will take place at the AGM. You are invited to nominate a representative to be an Honorary Officer or committee member, but any nomination must be seconded and the nominee must agree. Nominations cannot be accepted without the signature of the person you wish to nominate. All nominations should be returned to Secretary by 3.00pm on Wednesday the 4th May 2005. If you have any queries please contact the youth centre. Everyone is invited to the AGM which in addition to the elections will receive the annual reports, and accounts. There will also be a Dance presentation by the "Hip Hop Honez" followed by a free Buffet.

## Beware of School Theft

Dear Sir  
My son attends Woodham CTC School and is sitting his year 10 exams. Whilst our children sit these exams they have to leave their belongings in a bag room, which is supposed to be locked. Unfortunately, for whatever reason, this does not appear to have been the case on Monday 11th April. My son had folded up his new jacket and put it in his bag, following procedure he put it in the "bag room" for safe keeping! On leaving his exam he collected his bag only to find it had been opened, rifled through and his jacket stolen! Obviously the thief knew what he wanted as he ignored his MPR3 player! So I say to the parents of the young man who has come home from school with a new cream Ben Sherman Harrington Jacket in size medium with whatever rotten story of how he came by it - shame on you for rearing a boy who would rather steal than work hard to buy his clothes as my son does. I am a single parent who has always worked very hard to bring my son up in the correct manner, I have taught my son right from wrong and the value of working hard to save up to buy nice things. What does it teach when whatever he saves up to buy (through hard work) gets stolen by one of his peers? I do not blame the school entirely, more the parents of this thief!

This has left a very bitter taste in both our mouths. So again I say to the parents of the person walking round in my sons £60 jacket - shame on you! Unfortunately my mind keeps racing to the conclusion that these parents may be the type to pat their children on the back and say "nice one son, can you get another?" What a sad indictment this is on our town's society.  
Yours  
Andrea Lewis

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## POLICE BEAT SURGERY

PC1452 Thompson will be holding a Beat Surgery at Aycliffe Village Hall on Saturday 23rd April 2005 from 10.00am until 12.00noon. Local Councillors will also be in attendance to discuss any community related issues.

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## FLOWER FESTIVAL

St Michael's Church Heighington is holding a Flower Festival to mark the completion of the Church Bells Restoration Programme. The exhibition entitled "Ringing in The Bells of May" has been designed by Cynthia Scott and depicts rural life around the Parish of Heighington. It starts with a Premier Evening on 28th April at 7.00pm and runs through to the 2nd May from 10.00am to 8pm. Admission is by programme £1 at the Church door. There will be Service of Dedication at 5pm on Sunday 1st May by the Rev Joll Dossol the Area Dean of Darlington. Tickets for the preview are £10 each to include wine and refreshments. Phone 01388 772360, 01325 312123, 01325 312134 Refreshments are available in the Village Hall during the Festival.

## FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

At our next meeting to be held at 7.30 pm on 27 April, Mrs J Brown from Morpeth will give a talk on 'The Northeast War Memorial Project'. The Society meets on the last Wednesday of each month at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Shafto Way. We are a friendly, independent group and are grateful to the Church for allowing us the use of their facilities for our meetings. Anyone interested in tracing their own family history generally is welcome to come along. Car parking and refreshments are free. For further information please contact Mr Eric Musgrave, Chairman, on 01325-315538.

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## Obituary

MARGARET HARTLEY tragically at home 11th April. Much loved wife of Richard, mother of Caroline and Laura and friends to Paul. Rest in Peace xx

## Birthday Remembrance

ELSDON BILL April 21st. A dearly loved Husband, Dad and Grandad. Sweet are the memories of birthday past. Just as our love for you they'll always last. Bessie, Pauline, Gillian, Geoff, Doug, Sarah-Jane, Alison, Gary and Ian xx  
JOHN CAMERON 19th April. On your birthday my love for you will always keep, it cannot fade it was too deep. The gates of memories never close, I miss you more than anyone knows. Always loved you your wife, Mary xx

## Memoriam

BROOKE DAWSON 16.03.80-14.04.01 Never forgotten. Anna, Caroline, Catherine and Charlotte xx  
ANN BATCHELOR Can't believe it has been 10 years. Thinking of you everyday. Love and miss you forever. Love, Geoff, Leslea, Mandy, Andrew, Joseph and Emma xx  
IN MEMORY OF my beloved Husband Joe who died 18th April 1994 and my darling Daughter Karen Galiden who died 9th April 2004. Together in Heaven. All my love, Wendy xx  
DOUTHWAITE JOHN To think we never said goodbye will always bring regrets. But the ones who loved you are the ones who won't forget. Betty and family xx

## Personal

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PROPERTY TO LET Aysgarth Close, Newton Aycliffe. 3 large bedrooms and study, large lounge and fitted kitchen. £90 per week £390 bond. References required, sorry no DSS Tel: 316328

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MAMAS & PAPAS Zebaby and Rbbarb baby changing unit. Contains bath £40 Tel Maxine: 307214  
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## Thank You

Christening of  
Luke William  
Henry



3rd April 2005

Thank you to everyone for your lovely cards and Christening gifts! Also a big thank you to Mam and Dad for all your help and to the North Briton Pub and Sue the caterer! Lots of love, Maxine and Luke xxxxxx

## Thanks

DEREK BELL Margaret, Graham and Debbie would like to thank friends, relatives and workmates for all their support and kindness shown over the last three difficult months. God Bless you all xx  
A BIG THANK YOU to all the gang- Laura, Dot, Louise, Julie, Ann, Laura, Lindsey and Sandra at Superdrug for the great night out and the lovely cards and presents (Dot!!) Hope to see you all as soon as the "bump" puts in an appearance. Love, Nicola xxx  
RACHEL ADDISON wishes to thank everyone for all the lovely cards and presents received at her 30th birthday party. Thanks to Isabel for a fantastic buffet. Special thanks to Mam, Dad and Gary. Love you all, Rachel xx  
I WOULD LIKE to say a big thank you to all my family and friends for the lovely flowers and cards I received during my accident. Thanks once again, Peggy Glendenning  
ISABEL MILNE (HAY) The family of the late Isabel would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for the cards, floral tributes, donations to charity and messages of sympathy received during their sad loss. A special thank you to nurse and friend Stephanie for her care, help and compassion while nursing and attending to Isabel throughout her illness. Also thanks to the Macmillan nurses and staff, the Butterwick Hospice nurses and staff, daytime nurses and carers, all of without whose care, help and support we could not have managed. A thank you to the Doctors and staff at Bewick Crescent Surgery and to Reverend Martin Anderson at St Clares Church for a comforting service and to the staff at Co-Operative Funeral Service for their help and assistance.

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## Congratulations

## Rachael Taylor

### Happy 18th Birthday

Happy birthday sweetheart, maybe we might get some peace and quiet now. Have a great 18th babes. Love, Kieran xxx

### Happy 18th Rachael

Love from Mam, Paul, Nana, Kelly and Cameron xxx

### Happy 18th Birthday

Perhaps we will get some peace now! Hope your birthday is everything you wish it to be. Love, Sarah-Jane, Craig, Madison and Mackenzie xxx

### Happy 18th Birthday

Only 1095 days till you are 21...! Have a great day, evening, weekend, month, year from all your workmates - "The Pressgang"

## Rosalind Summerbell



### Happy 40th Birthday

You are still a smasher. Love, Mum, Dad, Paul, Mark, Sue, John, all nieces and nephews  
To the Best Wife and Mum in the World  
Happy 40th birthday. Lots of love, Keith, Richard, Sarah and Lucy

## Rosalind Summerbell



### Happy 40th Elle 2 16th April 2005 (nee Hogan)

To a wonderful bezzzer... so sorry I'm away (in the sunshine) and will miss your special day. We will make up for it on my return - promise. Big hugs n kisses, Elle 1 xxx

## Valerie Elizabeth Rogers



### Happy 40th Elle 3 27th April 2005 (Super Cooper)

Another wonderful bezzzer... sorry, but just HAD to use this photo!! Hugs n kisses, Elle 1 xxx

## Charlie Armstrong



### Happy 13th Birthday 12th April 2005

All our love, Grandma, Granda, Katie and Rebecca

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## Births

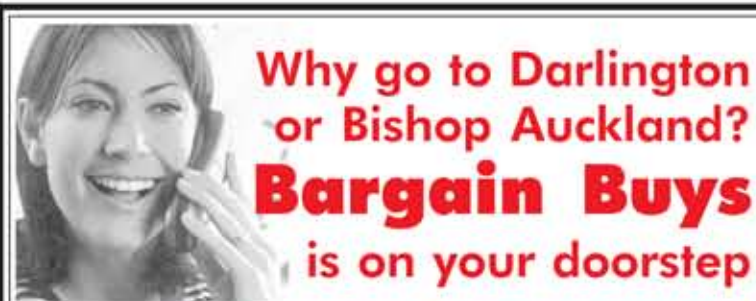
### Lambert

Paula and Brett  
Congratulations on the birth of a beautiful baby boy  
JACK SAMUEL  
Born 3rd April 2005, weighing 7lbs 8ozs, first grandchild for John and Mary Farmer. All our love, Mum, Dad and David xxx

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## Football Star at Sportsman's Dinner



Newton Aycliffe Branch of Sunderland AFC Supporters Association recently held their third annual Sportsman's Dinner at the Cumby Arms. Breaking with tradition the branch this

year invited a speaker whose only involvement with Sunderland was that he played against them in the 1973 FA Cup Final. However, Norman Hunter, along with comedian Barry Yorke, kept the audience well entertained throughout the evening and helped raise essential funds that allow the branch to maintain travel to games, within everybody's reach. During the evening the branch also raised funds for the Rotary Club Tsunami appeal and a cheque for £150 has been donated towards a water filtration pump that the Rotary Club are hoping to send to the effected region. The Branch would like to thank the following for their support both on the evening and throughout the current season. Bambridge Heating, CMDK, Athena Limousines, Elizabeth's Embroidery, The Cumby Arms and The Royal British Legion Club

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## COUNTY COUNCIL'S NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Former Civil Service 'fast tracker' Mark Lloyd, 37, is to be the new Chief Executive of the North East's largest local authority, Durham County Council. He will take up the post at the end of June when the current Chief Executive, Kingsley Smith, retires after 17 years in office.

A native of Shropshire, Mark Lloyd joined the County Council in July 2000 as Director of Economic Development and Planning, and Managing Director of the County Durham Development Company. He was made a Deputy Chief Executive in 2003 and as the chief officer with special responsibility for policy and strategy has been a leading figure in the management of the Council in recent years.

Although the main focus of Mr Lloyd's work has been economic regeneration and business support, he has also played a leading role in helping local communities to prosper, overseeing a wide-range of community development and regeneration activities. He led on the Council's approach to local government reorganisation and the regional assembly referendum and was instrumental in the Council's successful efforts to achieve its current "excellent" CPA rating. He lives in Sedgfield, and his interests include marathon running, skiing, travel and the theatre.

Current Chief Executive Kingsley Smith said: "Mark Lloyd has proved



raise a family, and his appointment will afford valuable continuity to the work of the County Council. I look forward to working closely with Mark over the next few months before I retire, and I am sure that he will prove to be an outstanding chief executive." Mr Lloyd's appointment as Chief Executive is subject to confirmation by the full County Council.

himself an outstanding chief officer for the County Council and was an equally outstanding candidate as my successor." He is absolutely committed to making County Durham the best place in which to live, work, invest and

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## AXE THE COUNCIL TAX

Speaking in Newton Aycliffe, Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate for Sedgfield, Robert Browne, warned that as soon as the Election is over Blair and Browne will start revaluing properties which will result in many residents paying even more Council tax.

"The bills for the Tory-introduced Council Tax have more than doubled since Labour came to power, and this revaluation will make things worse. The Tories will keep this tax, and support the revaluation, even though this causes real hardship to pensioners and people on fixed incomes and low wages.

"Liberal Democrats will scrap this unfair tax and introduce a local income tax to raise the same amount of money. Wealthier households will pay more, of course, but the average family in the Sedgfield constituency will pay £450 less. Many pensioners will pay no local taxes at all. Liberal Democrats understand that we need taxes, but these should be Fair Taxes. In Britain, the poorest 20% pay twice as much as a percentage of their incomes as the richest 20%."

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