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Rotary Community Fair, T.A. Parade & Continental Market in Town Centre

Arrangements for the Community Fair next weekend are virtually complete. There will be over SEVENTY different stalls offering every conceivable activity and interest.

The town's Rotary Club have organised this mammoth event with a children's play area run by the Inbetweenies, demonstrations of Roller-skating, Highland Dancing, Martial Arts, Modern & Disco dancing, Cheerleaders and also a Drama presentation by the Children of Stephenson Way Primary School. The demonstrations and presentations will commence immediately after the official opening

by the Mayors of Great Aycliffe Town Council and Sedgefield Borough Council at 10.00am. The hall will be open to the public from 9.00am and you have the opportunities to get involved in many activities including Rugby, Tennis, Sailing, Model Making, Flower Arranging, Painting, Dancing, Flying, Musical Opportunities, Investigate your Family Tree, Local History, Voluntary Groups, Health and Wellbeing Groups, Vehicle Restoration, there are craft stands and, in fact, you name it and the opportunity will be found at the Fair.

There are valuable prizes to be won on the "Lucky Programme" draw and the whole event in the Sports Hall at the Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Beveridge Way will be hosted by Radio Cleveland personality, Stewart McFarlane MBE. Make sure you come along on **Saturday 7th May** to visit the Fair and enjoy all the other activities including the Continental Market and outdoor static displays by the Army, Police and Fire Brigade and remember it is FREE for everyone!!! It is a special day for one of our local T.A. units the 102 Battalion of the R.E.M.E. who are mounting a spectacular Parade to mark their "Freedom of Newton Aycliffe". Led by a Military Band the soldiers will stage a March Past at 11 a.m. with bayonets fixed in a traditional Army Parade. It will be a very entertaining day for Newtonians and visitors to our town and should not be missed!

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PUBLIC NOTICE
"FREEDOM OF THE TOWN EVENT"
Car Park Closure
Saturday 7th May 2005
Notice is hereby given that the car park at Bewick Crescent opposite St. Clare's Church will be closed for the organisation of the above event from 8.00pm on Friday 6th May 2005 until approximately 12.15pm on Saturday 7th May 2005. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Married for 65 Years



Town Mayor Maud Gray and consort George attended the 65th Wedding Anniversary Party of Ces and Margaret Crawford of Church Close, held on Saturday 23rd April at the RAFA Club.

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FITTING MEMORIAL TO FOOTBALLER

THE Spennymoor Sunday League is holding a special cup final in the name of one of its former members who sadly passed away more than a year ago. The league named its Invitation Trophy after Aycliffe Sports Club legend Paul Stevens following his sudden death last year. And now the competition – in its inaugural year – has reached the semi-final stages, with the finalists set to do battle on Paul's former stomping ground, Aycliffe Moor Lane, in what will be an emotional

final. Members of Paul's family and many of his friends are expected to be present at the game, while the league is also inviting former team-mates and opponents of the popular big man to make an appearance.

"It was suggested to the league that we play the final on Moor Lane," said League Secretary Mike Hill. "As this was Stivvey's home ground for many years, we thought it was a great idea and arranged for the final to be played there."

"Paul was a long-standing, popular figure in our league and we would be delighted to see many of his former team-mates and ex-opponents at the game for this inaugural competition."

The league has already been boosted with a corporate donation to go towards charity for the game, while members of the Sports Club plan to hold a raffle in the clubhouse after the match. Horndale progressed to the semi-finals of the competition on Tuesday this week with a 4-0 win over Masons Arms progressed to the final of the competition with a 5-1 win over Masons United on Tuesday night this week, while Horndale set themselves up with a semi-final tie against Thorns after beating Old Shildon in the quarters on Tuesday night. That semi was due to be played on Thursday night this week (April 28). The final will be played at Moore Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on Friday 6th May, kick-off 6.30pm.

What Benefits Have Labour Brought?

Dear Sir,
We agree with Councillor Clare that Labour is virtually certain to retain control of Durham County Council at this election (as it has for the last 50+ years) however, to use Councillor Clare's analogy we have as our constituency MP the leader of the Labour Party and Prime Minister for the last eight years so why haven't we seen relocated central government jobs at Aycliffe; huge infrastructure projects to bring our standard of living in line with the South; assistance for industry etc. etc. It has not happened and it will not happen.

People understand that a good Councillor means one that works hard for his or her area and one that makes a difference to a constituent's life, party politics only rarely comes into it for example the road safety works on the A167 arose out of a tragic accident, strong local feeling and our efforts at the County Council supported by the highway officials. The proposed closure of Aycliffe Village Primary School wasn't a party political issue, but one of falling school roles and with the effort of all concerned we were successful in taking the school off the closure list. Raising the money to allow Ann Teesdale to get treatment in America was not a party political or a County Council issue, but we both felt strongly that Aycliffe as a community would want Ann to get the best possible treatment.

We can assure the people in Aycliffe that if we are successful in the forthcoming election we will continue to work as hard as possible on behalf of our constituents. Now as far as Wayne Rooney is concerned, neither of us know much about football, but we understand that he will not win a Premiership medal this season unless they give one for third place and Sunderland will be favourites to win the Premiership for next season! !

Yours sincerely
BILLY BLENKINSOPP & TERRY HOGAN

Goldfish as Prizes

Dear Sir,
I am urging readers to please write to Great Aycliffe Town Council about the giving of goldfish as prizes. This outdated practice must stop. The majority of councils in the country have banned it.

Taking care of a pet is a big responsibility and must not be undertaken lightly. Giving live animals as prizes is utterly thoughtless. Fish suffer from shock and stress, oxygen starvation and even changes in the temperature of the water. Most fish die before they get home or soon after.

We should be teaching children compassion and responsibility towards all living creatures (including mankind) not encouraging them to 'win' a living animal without prior thought of its wellbeing.

Come on Town Council move with the times and let's have a cruelty-free event this year.
Aycliffe Resident

Election Count Closes Leisure Centre

Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre will be closed on Wednesday 4 May from 5.00pm to prepare for the General Election count the following day. On Thursday 5 May, the Leisure Centre will be closed all day. However, the cash office, based within Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre will be open as normal from (9.00am – 5.00pm). The Housing Office will be open (9.00am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 2.30pm). The main sports hall will remain closed on Friday 6 May while it will be business as normal throughout the remainder of the Leisure Centre.

County Council Election Address Dorothy Bowman

People who know me will know about my work with the Junior Neighbourhood Watch youth club/disco, and they will know that I am not a politician who simply professes to care about youth, but a person who has proved her commitment by her actions. In the current atmosphere, where crime and fear of crime is such a major issue, it is vital that we work with young people and for young people to find ways to distract themselves from crime and unacceptable behaviour.

Please vote me onto the County Council so that, in addition to my practical work with local children, I may have a say at the point where youth policies are made. There I would hope to be a strong voice for the message that "Every Child Counts" in education, health, the home and the environment, to highlight particularly the problem of Bullying/Domestic Violence and to let families know that their needs will be dealt with promptly and efficiently.

Dorothy Bowman
Labour Candidate in the County Council Election for Shildon East Division

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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County Council Election Address -Keith Henderson

Dear Sir,
The National and County Council Elections are with us once again and you are being asked to decide who you will vote for. Until the recent defections all Aycliffe County Councillors were Labour and formed a team. We now hope to re-establish this team with the inclusion of two women for the first time, who will work together for the benefit of Aycliffe residents. This combined effort is far more effective than any individual can achieve.

So why vote for the Labour Candidates; because their record is second to none. In the last two years there has been agreement by all parties and independents on the budget, so presumably whichever party or group holds power there would be no change. Durham County Council is rated as an excellent authority. This has not been achieved without a great deal of hard work by officers and councillors. In four years I have not heard any serious suggestions made by any opposition party to change the policies of the council.

Can I add - that although I have visited some 1500 homes so far - with over 3000 houses in the Aycliffe North Division it may not be possible for me to meet everyone during the election period. However, I can always be contacted on 319542.

keith.henderson@durham.gov.uk
Councillor Keith Henderson

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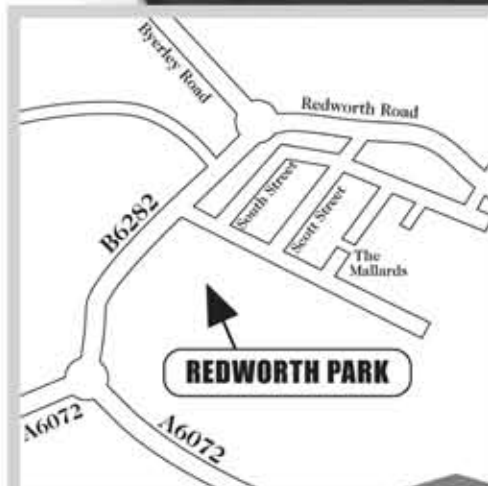
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CANDIDATES FACE STUDENTS

On Friday 29th April at 1.30pm, three of Darlington's Parliamentary candidates will address at Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Alan Milburn (Labour), Anthony Frize (Conservative) and Robert Adamson (Liberal Democrat) will take questions from the floor and will respond to comments from each other. The meeting will be chaired by Principal, David Heaton. He comments: 'This will be an invaluable opportunity for the candidates to meet young people and hear their views. Many of our students are first time voters and I expect that they will ask intelligent and searching questions.'

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KARAOKE COMPETITION

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Aycliffe Scout & Community Centre
Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe - 318901

A small entrance fee of £1.50 for spectators and singers. So if you feel a song coming on or are in the mood for a good night of entertainment, come on down. Doors open at 8.00pm. If you require any further information, you can give us a call on 318901 after 8pm any weekday evening.

N.A.S.S.A. Social Club presents

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Calling all World War veterans & Aycliffe Angels
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as advertised last week, VE Day as above

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Saturday 7th May - "The Force"
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VOTE LABOUR OR ELSE!

Dear Sir,
There we have it! A blatant and scarcely veiled threat "VOTE LABOUR OR ELSE". Not only do the New Labour Party have a lying, deceitful untrustworthy leader in Tony Blair, we have councillors at county and town council level telling us that no matter how beneficial a policy might be for the people, unless it is formulated by the controlling Labour Party it hasn't a ghost of a chance.

It was an interesting comparison Councillor Clare made between footballers and politicians. We all know the obscene inflated salaries Premiership players are paid to keep their supporters happy. We are also aware of the inflated salaries politicians are paid by the taxpayer to look after the health, education, safety and general welfare of the people who elect them. Football supporters get by far the best value for money.

It was unfortunate Councillor Clare used the regeneration issue to make his point. How long have Newtonians been waiting for the regeneration of our town centre? and how long have Labour at all levels allowed the landlords to get away with letting our once wonderful town to degenerate into a virtual slum? I wonder if once the Election is over the really go ahead.

I wonder what Councillors Blenkinsopp and Hogan did to be deselected. Perhaps they questioned the vast wastage that occurs on the council, or maybe they questioned the expenses and or the hospitality budgets. One thing is certain on Labour's present record we will never know the REAL TRUTH. Is it any wonder that life long Labour supporters are moving from the party that bears no resemblance to the party their parents and grandparents fought and struggled for.

It would be as well for New Labour to remember that their own movement started with the occasional win before it became the Great Party that New Labour seem hellbent on destroying. Behind the threats and rhetoric does one detect a note of panic in Councillor Clare's letter?

Not voting Labour this time around.

Yours Sincerely

Disillusioned

Name & address supplied.

THE COST OF WAR

Dear Sir,
So our Member of Parliament has "no regrets" about the decision to go to war with Iraq and would, apparently do it all again. Recently two bomb attacks in Iraq killed another 25 people and maimed many more, an average sort of day in that shattered country. It has been

estimated that up to 100,000 people, most of them innocent and many of them women and children, have died since the invasion. Their blood is, at least indirectly, on the hands of our MP. Yet he has no regrets.

Tony Blair divided his cabinet, divided his party, divided our nation, divided the EU and he divided the United Nations Security Council. As a weapon of mass destruction, surely he has no equal!

In my view, there can only be one issue in this election, particularly as all the main parties have broadly similar policies on all the domestic issues and can only argue about the detail.

The war has cost this country £3 or £4 billion already and is continuing to be a heavy drain on our nation's finances. As a taxpayer, I resent this. Think what this money might have done in the health service.

I have no political party affiliation and have never been a member of any political party. I believe that most people in this country are against war without just cause and anyone pondering where to cast their vote on election day, should surely consider this and cast their vote for one of the candidates who opposed the war and strike a blow for peace.

Going to war in Iraq has made the world a much more dangerous place for us all.

Tony Haworth
High Green, Woodham

Neville Community Centre

Newton Aycliffe and Brancepeth Brass Band Concert on Saturday 21st May at 3pm, tickets are £2 available by ringing 01325 313924.

Our next **Table Top Sale** is now re-scheduled for Saturday 11th June from 9am until 1pm. Tables available to hire at £5 by ringing Lin on 01325 313623 after 7pm.

Table Top Sale Saturday 25th June in the Town Centre 9am-4pm. Sites available for hire to sell your own gear by ringing 313924 or if you want to run your stall for our charity please ring Peter Beaty on 313924.

Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution to our sales, it is appreciated.

We always want Teddy Bears, Dolls, Toys (in good condition), Bottles (the stronger the better), Videos, Cassettes, LP's, CD's, Video Games, etc. Ring 313924 for collection.

Grand Auction Saturday 14th May 11am viewing - 1pm Auction We are looking for donations for this auction, please, can you assist? Ring Peter Beaty on 313924.

Meccano Exhibition (Working Models) Saturday 4th June 11am - 4pm £1 admission - children free.

Circus Berzerkus Thursday 9th June 5pm at Neville community Centre Tickets £3.00 - concessions £2 Seats very limited so book early on 313924 - ticket only event

Labour Heading for Relegation?

Dear Sir,
I'm certain I was not alone in taking great offence at Mr Clare's letter in this paper last week. In the space of a few lines, he managed to insult the intelligence of the people of Aycliffe, make a mockery of the democratic election process, expose the Labour Party's unsuitability for election and attack the hard work which councillors Hogan and Blenkinsopp have put in on our behalf over the last four years. If Mr Clare is trying to persuade us to vote Labour, he's doing a horrendously bad job of it! It may come naturally to Mr Clare, as a deputy head teacher at an Aycliffe school, to use childish and condescending analogies to explain his arguments, however one only has to consider his 'Rooney' analogy for a few seconds before demolishing it with the old adage 'a (Premiership) team is only as good as the players in it.'

The Labour Party 'team' is undoubtedly weaker now that councillors Hogan and Blenkinsopp aren't in it. Furthermore, if Mr Clare is a representative Labour 'team' member, then that 'team' should probably be heading for relegation. Mr Clare's football analogy is flawed in another key way; we do not vote for 'teams' (parties), but for 'players' (councillors). It is also fitting that Mr Clare's only argument to vote for Labour is that the party's victory is already assured.

County Council Election Address Enid Paylor

Dear Sir,
I do not intend to fill my letter with mud-slinging or character assassinations. I will leave that to those who are more accomplished at it. My family and I have lived in Newton Aycliffe for almost 30 years and for the last two years I have been an Independent Borough Councillor for the Western area. During this time I have received training in many aspects of Council work. I like to meet people and help anyone who contacts me. There are lots of changes I would like to see: less children excluded from School, safe and clean communities, money going where it is needed instead of being wasted, anti social behaviour and crime addressed, and of course action on our exorbitant Council Tax! It is time for a change, enough is enough and we need to put people before politics. I wish to thank Mr. Clare for his letters to your paper which although meant to publicise the Labour Party, have in fact been a huge asset to the campaign of the Independents.

Conc Enid Paylor, Independent

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Besides monumental arrogance, this smacks of Soviet Union style politics: "vote for us because we're going to win anyway." He says nothing about what a Labour councillor would actually do, or what their desirable personal qualities may be. Mr Clare is precipitously close to advocating voting for a monkey in a suit - as long as it's a Labour monkey. I say vote for Hogan and Blenkinsopp, who not only understand Aycliffe well and know what's best for it, but who will, from their positions as independents, be in a better position to monitor and criticise Mr Clare's arrogant Labour mafia at County Hall. Mr. Matthew Bowden

EMERGENCY TRAINING EXERCISE AT HYDRO

Hydro Polymers is staging an emergency exercise at its PVC production plant at Newton Aycliffe on the evening of Wednesday 4th May, 2005.

This exercise is part of the company's ongoing commitment to be fully prepared for any on-site emergency. As a member of the Chemical Industries Association, Hydro Polymers is committed to the guiding principles of the 'Responsible Care Programme'. This is reflected in the company's policy of continuous improvement, and the exercise on Wednesday night is part of this process. The practice exercise will involve County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Brigade. Emergency vehicles will be travelling to and from the site, but sirens will not be used.

Chris Welton, Hydro Polymers' sector PR and communications manager, said: "Hydro Polymers has an exemplary safety, health and environmental performance record. These exercises are part of the company's ongoing approach to safety on site. We have a highly developed safety culture - both in terms of our employees and the communities in which we operate. "Hydro Polymers would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience this training exercise may cause to residents".

Parking Near Roundabouts

Dear Sir,
People who park cars near mini roundabouts have no thought for the safety of other drivers. Are they too idle to walk an extra few yards? Their laziness has already caused accidents and I wonder why the Police allow this obvious obstruction. Traffic wardens are sharp to give tickets for parking so why not fine these people who park so close to a junction? I hope those thoughtless people read this and move their cars to a safer place in future. Concerned

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BEING REALISTIC ABOUT NEW LABOUR

Dear Sir,
I have little disagreement with the facts given by WJ Curtis - 'disillusioned with New Labour' - last week. All I would ask is: What did he expect? When we elected New Labour in 1997, did he REALLY think that, for the next eight years, the Labour government would stride only from success to infallible success, only doing things with which he agreed? If he expected that, there is no wonder he is disappointed! The job of the government is to do things, and it would be miraculous if in the last eight years it hadn't done some things with which every one of us could take issue.

So the question you need to ask yourself is not: 'Has the Labour government done anything I disagreed with in the past?' but: 'Does the Labour Party want those things I want to see happen in the future?' Labour has at its heart the interests of the ordinary person-in-the-street. It wants a strong economy, first-class education and a good National Health Service. It would be ridiculous if - in order to 'punish' Tony Blair or New Labour - we let in a different government, which would not feel itself obliged to continue those principles. Voting against Labour will not make anything better, it can only make things worse.

We have got used in the last eight years to a world where our MP was the PM, and where we had Labour Councillors on a Labour-controlled County Council. Aycliffe has demonstrably benefited from that situation, and we should think VERY

carefully before we change it. To allow ourselves to be swept along by a media circus which wants to embarrass the Prime Minister in his own constituency would not be 'democracy in action', it would be an act of political vandalism. I am put in mind of Esau in the Bible, who sold his birthright for a bowl of soup. In this materialistic world, it is easy to forget that 'the vote' is one of the most precious things we possess. Let's use it thoughtfully and gravely to support those principles in which we believe, and not cheapen it by yielding it to 'teach Labour a lesson'. Cllr. John D. Clare

Old 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 7pm until midnight. Tickets available or pay at the door. Admission is £3.00 served with pie and peas. Everyone welcome age 18 years and over. Fancy dress is the theme, back to yesteryear or back to school. Junior Neighbourhood Watch and Happy Times to raise money for the children to go on outings during the School Holidays.

M.P. WANTED

Dear Sir,
I fully endorse the campaign waged by Mr. Keys, the Independent candidate standing against Tony Blair in the forthcoming election, on the grounds of truth and accountability. I would also point out to your readers, that in the event of Blair being unseated, we would have the privilege open to the rest of the country, of being represented by an elected Member of Parliament in the constituency and not an unelected agent based in the smoke room of Trimdon Labour Club. Yours sincerely
Norman Smith

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CLC Preschool would like to say a big thank you to everyone who collected Tesco computers for schools vouchers on their behalf last year. The preschool used the vouchers to purchase a digital camera and software, which has been put to great use. This year they hope to collect over 10,000 vouchers to provide an additional PC for children's use. If you can help hit this target, please hand vouchers in at CLC Preschool, Village Close, Woodham.

Youth Led Service

A Service led by young people is to be held at 7pm at St. Mary's RC Church Newton Aycliffe, Friday 13th May. The young people of all the churches in Newton Aycliffe invite you to join them for a service of worship. The event is facilitated by Churches Together Youth Forum and everyone is welcome.

Loco Opening Times

There will be no changes to the timetable at Locomotion: the National Railway in Shildon on the day of the General Election. The Bishop Auckland Constituency count is being staged at the £12 million museum, which opened in September of last year and has already attracted over 120,000 visitors. On Thursday 5 May, Locomotion will close at 5.00pm and will re-open as normal on Friday 6 May at 10.00am. On 6 May, the final two judges for the Gulbenkian Prize, Sir Neil Chalmers and Sir Richard Sykes will be visiting Locomotion. Locomotion - the North East's only National Museum - is one of the four finalists for the Gulbenkian Prize, which carries a prize of £100,000 for the winner and the title of UK Museum of the Year.

GENERAL ELECTION ADDRESS Tony Blair

Dear Sir,
It has been an enormous privilege for me to represent Sedgefield as its M.P. No matter what I do or where I am, I never forget how much I owe the people of this constituency or my responsibility to work hard to improve life for families here. For the last two decades Sedgefield and its people have been a huge support and strength for me and I am determined to do all I can to repay it. I am proud of what we have achieved together: unemployment, for so long a problem here, has almost halved and youth unemployment is down by over 70%. Healthcare has improved with new hospitals at Bishop Auckland and Sedgefield and a number of local Health Centres. Extra money invested in schools has dramatically improved educational standards. Pensioners are better off and so are families. Mortgages are half the level under the Tories. I know life remains a struggle for many families so I am determined a Labour Government will do more and do it faster. We will increase paid maternity leave, improve and extend childcare and build on the £1,000 more a year we are spending in real terms on each pupil in this constituency. We will cut hospital delays further and we do want I.D. cards to tackle crime, asylum abuse and benefit fraud. The choice couldn't be clearer - A Labour Government which wants to keep moving forward and a Tory Party which wants to take this country back! Back to the days of 3 million out of work, cuts and charges, interest rates at 15% and thousands of North East families losing their homes. Back to a Party that pushed millions of pensioners and children into poverty. This is what is at stake on 5th May. That's the choice for this country. If you value the improvements made for families in this constituency you have to vote for it! Yours sincerely
Tony Blair

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Thanks to Civic Pride Team

Dear Sir,
Once again the Burnhill Residents Association would like to thank Mr. Allan King and the Civic Pride Team for the great job they have done in the Kestrel Court and the Thornton Close area. The Civic Pride Team are doing a tremendous amount of work to clean up this area and it is greatly appreciated.
M. Robson, Secretary

County Council Election Address Terry Hogan

Dear Editor,
May 1, through the Newton News, ask the people of Aycliffe North once again to elect me as their County Councillor. I have been immensely proud to serve my area on the County Council for the last eight years and, as residents will see from my election pamphlet, I am looking forward to continuing to make Aycliffe a better place to live and work.

In this election I am standing as an Independent and I can reiterate the comment set out in Bill Blenkinsopp's election address regarding the local Labour Party. This is not something that has just happened, as long ago as September last year I wrote to the Prime Minister's agent to say that "The crux of the problem is that the leading members of the Branch treat it as their personal fiefdom and if you are not part of the 'family and friends section' you are not able to play any part in the Branch activities. I am sure I am not the only committed Labour Party member to be disillusioned at Branch level." I believe that I have worked hard for all of my constituents throughout my term as County councillor and am prepared to be judged on my track record.
Terry Hogan

REG KEYS INDEPENDENT



My son, Tom, came back from Iraq in a coffin, riddled with 31 bullets. Tom and I had both believed what we were told by the Prime Minister about the threat posed by Iraq and we were proud that he was to do his duty for his country. Until then I was just an ordinary family man with no political axe to grind. But we now know that the Prime Minister misrepresented the facts. My son died for a lie together with 85 other British soldiers and over 100,000 Iraqis. Tony Blair misled Britain into an illegal and immoral war. Now he wants to put that to one side and move on. I owe it to my son not to allow him to escape without answering for his actions. That is why I am standing against him in this election. I know that this is a Labour place, but voters here are not choosing which party should be in Government. That will be decided in marginal

constituencies up and down the country. The Conservative Party stands no chance of winning here. But in this constituency, you alone have the power to defeat a Prime Minister, and change Labour for the better. I am delighted by the incredibly positive response I have had in Newton Aycliffe and throughout the constituency. People here are clearly as sick of lies and spin as British people are everywhere. You want politicians you can trust. But I am also struck by how much people want to have a real constituency MP - an MP not a PM! You can contact me on 01325 318390 or through my website: www.keysforsedgefield.org.uk

Reg Keys
Independent Candidate for Sedgefield

Residents Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Burnhill Residents Association on Tuesday 3rd May in the Burnhill Methodist Church at 7pm. Guest speakers will be there to answer questions on whether the housing transfer will be a registered charity or not. Other subjects i.e. Antisocial Behaviour, Neighbourhood Watch and a Police report will also be discussed, so come and join us and have your say. Refreshments and raffle will also be available.

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GIRLS FOOTBALL

There were only games for the under 12's this week and after the first 3 weeks the girls needed to convert good performances into results and they did exactly that.

Vs Catchgate: The bigger opposition stopped Aycliffe from playing their normal passing game in the first half and led 1-0 at the break. However in the second half, Charlotte Arrowsmith fed Chelsey Burns with a superb pass, who found Hayley Gill in the box, with a quick turn Hayley slotted the equalizer. Aycliffe grew in confidence and increased the pressure on Catchgate which finally paid off when Chelsey again found Hayley in the box who drilled the ball past the keeper to earn a splendid win 2-1.

Vs Langley Park: The girls took early control in this match with excellent midfield work from Alex Steel, Charlotte Arrowsmith and Chelsey Burns and it was left to Hayley Gill to score the only goal early in the game. However it still needed strong defending by Paige Pearson, Claire Temple and replacement Shelby Gill

and some superb saves from Danielle Mercer to keep the clean sheet. Final Score 1-0. 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

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COST OF HOUSING TRANSFER EXPLAINED

Dear Editor,
I write in response to last week's question about who pays for the cost of housing transfer. The first thing I would say is that the Council was required, as all Councils are, to undertake an options study which identifies the investment requirements of the Council's housing stock over the next 30 years. Having done that, the Council has to assess the best way of achieving this investment from a limited number of options - retention with additional funding from the Government was not one of the options. This study, which was undertaken independently, showed that the only way we could secure the investment of £400m was to transfer the stock to a Registered Social Landlord, i.e. a Housing Association. The Council is then required to advise its tenants of the facts surrounding the transfer, so that tenants have all the information they need when they come to vote on the transfer proposal. Contrary to the comment in last week's letter, this is not a 'Yes' campaign that the Council is mounting and, indeed, everything the Council says in its leaflets, etc., is closely monitored by independent bodies to ensure it gives a completely factual picture of what transfer will mean to tenants. So far as 'who pays the costs associated with the transfer' is concerned, it is categorically not the ratepayers (Council Taxpayers) of Sedgfield Borough. All Council housing costs have to be met solely from the housing service, through rents and other housing income. This is because it is Council tenants who will benefit from the transfer proposals. The Council has;

however, secured a guarantee from its preferred new landlord that all costs associated with transfer will be met by them should the ballot reject the transfer proposal. I hope this clears up the apparent misunderstanding of the Council's position regarding stock transfer.
Councillor Vince Crosby
Member of the Shadow Board
Sedgfield Housing Ltd.

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Births

CHRIS & LIZ would like to announce the safe arrival of "Lucie Elizabeth", 8lb 13½oz on 22nd April 2005. Thank you to everyone for the lovely cards and gifts

Personal

BUSINESS Opportunity - Enthusiastic person required to expand and merchandise established greetings card franchise in Durham and Teesside. For more information call Sue on 01325 312035

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WANTED Playstation2 faulty/not working Tel 07746 538 537
WANTED Ladies bicycle, good working order, Tel 301395

Thanks

STUART HOWARTH would like to thank all his family and friends for making his 40th birthday so memorable. A great night at Redworth Hall was had by all. Thanks to the new band DV8 and Paul Gittins Disco for providing great music and entertainment. Thank you to all the guests for making donations to the charity "Rotary's Africa Hope" instead of bringing gifts - over £250 was raised.
GAUNTLETT, Margaret. The family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for cards, tributes and sympathy. A special thank you to all involved in the care for Margaret, especially doctors, nurses and carers without whose help we couldn't have coped.
MRS GLADYS Harbottle and family wish to thank most sincerely all friends, neighbours and carers for their support, floral tributes and messages of condolence during our recent and sad loss. A special thank you to Rev. Linda Potter for a most beautiful Funeral Service.

Sits Vacant

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Public Notice

JEWELLERY repairs, fast, efficient, guaranteed service, watch batteries fitted, straps altered - plus cheques cashed on the spot. Taylors Top Value, Thames Centre - 320566
GOLF DEMO Evening. The Oak Leaf Golf Complex is holding a Golf Demo evening on Thursday 5th May from 4-8pm at the Golf Driving Range. Three major golf companies are attending including Lynx Golf, Cleveland Golf and Burrows Golf. The public are welcome to come along and try all the latest golf equipment.

Obituary

JEAN MITTON of Brafferton Close, Newton Aycliffe. Age 66. Loving wife to John, mother to Janet and John and mother in law to Nick, Grandmother to Matthew. Thanks to neighbours and friends for cards and sympathy shown. Cremation took place at Durham Crematorium. Thank you to Robin and Julie Ellis for all your help.
JACKIE DENHAM (nee Lancaster) daughter of Bill Lancaster, died in hospital after a long illness, 27th April 2005.
CYRIL PAYNE on 27th April (in Hospital) of Newton Aycliffe, aged 82 years, beloved husband of the late Pat, father of Chris and Lesley and father in law of Maureen and Simon and also a much loved Grandad of Michelle, Jonathon, Amy and Bradley. The Funeral Service will take place on Wednesday 4th May, 10.45am at Darlington Crematorium, friends welcome. Please meet at the Crematorium. Family flowers only by request, donations in Lieu if so desired may be made to Guide Dogs for the Blind (plate at the Crematorium)

For Sale

BARGAIN BUYS Bargains of the week. Beech drop leaf dining set £149. Terracotta carpet, 13x8ft £49. Toasters £9.99. Ceramic hob £180. Cylinder cleaner £65. This week only. Tel 321678
SILVER COOKER Stoves Elite G500, gas, 1 year old, cost £280, excellent condition, £160 OVNO Tel 07788 123 321
2x2 SEATERS light blue with 4 cushions, very modern, 2 years old from SCS £800, immaculate, £190 OVNO Tel 07788 123 321
HEAVY DUTY Honda petrol power washer, £800 new, only used once, £600 ONO Tel 07815 768 665
MODERN dark blue suite, very good condition, £175 Tel 317718
NEXT Berber rug in natural 120 x 170cm, ex cond, £40 Tel 324978
CABANON Bungalow tent, 6 berth only used twice, also Harford's trailer, size 142 with hard top and bicycle bars attached. Also electric extension, must be seen, price negotiable, sale due to health reasons. Tel 01388 661557
BUSH Silver TV combi VCR with silver stand and remote, 4 month old, £50 Tel 07788 877 665
CHILD'S swing includes swing and 2 person rigid swing, good condition, £30 ONO Tel 300745
HILLBILLY golf trolley, battery and charger bag, £150 Tel 312860
HOTPOINT Condenser tumble dryer, 7kg load, reverse action available in white, silver and cream with full manufacturers guarantee. Bargain Buys Tel 321678

Congratulations

Scott and Nicola Williamson



Congratulations on your 1st Wedding Anniversary
1st May 2005 - Lots of love from Mam, Dad, Roy and Alla xxx
Happy Anniversary Mam and Dad
Love from your "big boy", Liam xxx

Gary Hailes



Happy 18th birthday on 5th May with love from Mam x
PS: Drinks are on you! Have a brilliant 18th birthday Gary. Love always, Becca and Meg xx
Happy 18th birthday to my bestest mate Gary. Love, Zippy xx
PS: Ha ha, gotcha !!

Ryan Durr



Happy 13th Birthday
Love, Mam, Dad and Stephanie

Madison Jackman



Happy 9th Birthday 30th April
Our special daughter, hope you have a great birthday and enjoy your birthday present! All our love, Mum and Dad xxx

Shakira Chloe Palmer



Happy 3rd Birthday 30th April 2005
To a special little girl who brings so much happiness. Hope you have a great birthday and enjoy your party. All my love, hugs and kisses, Mummy and Daddy xxx
To a Beautiful Granddaughter on your 3rd birthday. Lots of love, Nana and Grandad xxx
To a Special Niece Happy birthday. Love Uncle Kev and Auntie Linz xxx

Natasha Emily Tchistoganoff



Happy 16th Birthday From a Aussie Babe to a English Rose, Love from Mam, Dad and Grandma

Birthday Remembrance

GEORGE WAYMAN 3rd May. Forever in my thoughts George. Your loving wife, Winne
JUDITH COLLEY 2nd May. Always in my thoughts Judy, Love, Mam
RIPPETH Joyce Beatrice, 1st May. Fondly remembered and sadly missed. Joe, Jackie, Yvonne and Malcolm

Accommodation

TO LET 1 bedroom bungalow, fully furnished, ultra modern, sauna, jacuzzi, steam bath, exercise bike, kitchen/dining/lounge, six months minimum contract, security bond deposit £500, plus £500 rent in advance, £120 gas and electric per month, Council tax, TV, satellite, security camera, all included in the price. School Aycliffe area, total privacy is maintained. 07976 015 584
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Cricket Team Off to Good Start

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club first team got the new season off to a great start with a 5 wicket home win over Medomsley in the first division of the North East Durham League. The visitors were asked to bat first and found the Aycliffe bowlers in good form as they were restricted to just 126 for their 45 overs.
Alan Mitche was the pick of the bowlers taking 3 for 21 from 11 overs and was well supported by captain John Williams (2-17) and Steve Davison (2-21). In reply Aycliffe got off to a poor start when opener Lee Weldon was unluckily dismissed for 4 runs. However, an excellent 30 from fellow opener Karl Wheeler soon put Aycliffe back on track. John Williams and 14 year old Matt Wheeler both batted well to score 21, but vice captain Chris Palmer smashed an unbeaten 26 to see Aycliffe to victory with 10 overs in hand.

County Council Election Address - Sarah Iveson

Dear Sir,
We are especially vulnerable at two key points in our lives - at the beginning and at the end - and I am passionately committed to trying to make sure that care is properly provided for both children and for the elderly.
Expanding home-based care and the 'extra care' homes for older people, and improved education, social and health care services for children, are key platforms of the Durham County Labour Party manifesto. If the Labour Party is returned to power in the County Council elections, these things will become part of the County Council policy. So I ask electors please to select me as their County Councillor, so that I can campaign at County Hall for the interests of our children, and of our elderly.
I believe in caring for people, education and the environment, engendering strong safe communities, encouraging partnership working across all councils, and working with all agencies to rid Great Aycliffe of anti-social behaviour. I am committed to a fair representation for all of the area and all of the people so that they can live, work and prosper without the fear of crime.
May I thank all those people who have been so very kind to me as I have been campaigning in the area. But a good reception on the doorstep does not win elections! Labour Party policies will only happen if people actually turn out and vote Labour. So please may I urge you to cast your vote for me and for Labour on 5th May.
Sarah Iveson
Labour Party Candidate in the County Council Election for Aycliffe East Division.

County Council Election Address

George C. Gray

Dear Sir,
I have been a Town Councillor for 18 years and a Sedgefield Borough Councillor for 10 years, which makes me one of the longest serving and most experienced Councillors in Newton Aycliffe.
In my capacity as a Councillor, I have always tried to do my best for anybody who has asked me for support and help. Please may I now ask you to support me and vote for me, so I can serve you as your County Councillor.
George Gray,
County Council Candidate for the Labour Party

County Council Election Address

Bill Blenkinsopp

Dear Sir,
May I, through the Newton News, ask the people of Aycliffe East once again to elect me as their County Councillor. I have been proud to serve my area on the County Council for the last four years and my dearest wish is to continue with that work.
It is well known that I was previously the Labour candidate and am standing this time as an Independent. The reason for this is purely down to the local branch of the Labour Party being run by and for the benefit of a small number of people. One only has to examine the councillorships and membership of outside bodies held by husbands/wives, relations to conclude that the Labour Party in Aycliffe is run for the benefit of the few not the many.
I believe that I have worked hard for all of my constituents throughout my term as County Councillor and am prepared to be judged on my track record. Please use your vote on 5th May.
Yours sincerely,
BILL BLENKINSOPP

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A&S Dorchester	RRP £189.00	NOW £139.00
A&S Majestic	RRP £249.00	NOW £199.00
Slumberland Blue Seal	RRP £299.00	NOW £249.00
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A&S Majestic	RRP £249.00	NOW £199.00
Slumberland Blue Seal	RRP £349.00	NOW £279.00
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A&S Dorchester	RRP £239.00	NOW £209.00
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Sunday 1st May

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General Election - 5th May 2005 VOTE AL LOCKWOOD

Conservative

"Trust is something I know about"

I have served in the military for over 30 years and trust is something we know we must have in our leaders if we are to follow their orders without question.

Trust is something we deserve as a nation in our leader, but Tony Blair has consistently broken our trust over the past 8 years. Not only did he send our forces to war in Iraq on evidence he knew at the time was flawed but he has lost our trust with his broken promises of no tax increases, better schools standards and discipline, cleanliness in hospitals, and his promises to tackle increasing violent crime and rising illegal immigration.

The time to hold Tony Blair to account is now! No more "just 5 more years", no more broken trust. As I canvass throughout the Constituency I hear even the most loyal of Labour supporters say they have lost trust in Tony Blair. There is only one alternative as your MP - vote for me, your **Conservative Candidate, Al Lockwood.**

If I succeed in winning I will give you back trust in your elected representative and work tirelessly for all the people of the Sedgefield Constituency.

