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Community Fair Day Lifts Aycliffe Town Centre



The Leisure Centre's main hall, the venue for the very successful Community Fair organised by the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe

Newton Aycliffe came alive last weekend with a Community Fair in the Leisure Centre a T.A. Military Parade with Band and a Continental Market in the Town Centre.

It all started with the Town's Rotary Club reviving the Fair it first introduced 7 years ago. 90 town organisations took part this year filling the main hall and attracting thousands of visitors throughout the day.

The Town and Borough Mayors both attended to open the Fair and popular local Radio Cleveland Broadcaster Stewart McFarlane acted as compere. His smooth friendly style helped create a tremendous atmosphere and everyone enjoyed the occasion.

The Borough Council gave the hall free and the Rotary Club arranged everything free of charge for all the exhibitors. The organisations took advantage of the day to show what activities are available in the town. Entertainment was provided throughout the

day by numerous groups including dancers and musicians.

Our Town Council, aware the Community Fair was on, arranged for the T.A. to hold a Parade and receive the Freedom of the Town.

The Town Centre Manager also took the opportunity to bring a Continental Market into the Town Centre. This grand co-operative effort gave Newton Aycliffe a very special day which everyone hopes will be repeated. Congratulations to the Rotary Club for their initiative.

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NASSA V.E. DAY

N.A.S.S.A. Social Club would like to thank all of you who came along for the 60th Anniversary of V.E. Day. Without your support over the weekend it would not have been a great success.

Thanks also to Councillor G. Gray for opening the event and to our own Vera Lynn (Babs) who along with Neil-Ray and Terry put on a great show. 'The Aycliffe Angels' and 'World War Veterans' and to the Classic Car Association, the T.A. 102 Battalion and the R.E.M.E. Pipe Band, the Royal British Legion - R.A.F.A. - R.E.M.E. Association for their standard display also the Northern Echo and the Newton News for covering this event.

Not forgetting our committee and members for all the hard work and dedication. Thank you all.
John Short

Market Returns in October

Dear Sir,
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those involved in Saturday's events on the Town Centre particularly the Mayors of Great Aycliffe and Sedgfield Borough for their attendance at the Freedom of Town Ceremony, the Rotary Club for its Community Fair, Sedgfield Borough CCTV, the Army and the Fire Department. I hope that everyone enjoyed the Continental Market & Entertainment on the Town over the weekend. The Continental Market will be returning in October.
Bryan Haldane, Town Centre Manager

Success for Local Hairdressers



A trio of hairdressers are a cut above the rest after completing Apprenticeships funded by the Learning and Skills Council County Durham. Vicky Hindmarsh, 19, and Louise Glasper and Rebecca Thompson, both 18, joined the Dimitri and Sylvia salon in Newton Aycliffe from school and have spent two years completing their Apprenticeships through job training. Trainers from Chester-le-Street College visited the girls at the Beveridge Way salon as they worked on customers and models. Now, having completed their training, they have become key members of Dimitri and Sylvia's 18-strong team, and the salon is putting further new staff through Apprenticeships with Bishop Auckland College. Lynne Hodgson, who owns the salon, said: "Vicky, Louise and Rebecca have done brilliantly to get their Apprenticeships and have developed their skills to a high level thanks to the course and the training they received. "Apprenticeships are an excellent way to train staff, which is why we are continuing to use them to develop our team in this way."

Tom Crompton, Executive Director of the Learning and Skills Council County Durham, said: "The Learning and Skills Council County Durham is focussed on improving the skills of the area's workforce, and that doesn't just mean training people in trades such as welding, joinery and engineering. Employers, such as Dimitri and Sylvia, who have such a proactive approach to workforce development should be able to call upon Apprenticeships programmes to improve not only their own firms' skills base, but also that of County Durham and the North East as a whole."

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Need something for the kids to do during the school half term; Oak Leaf Sports Complex could be the answer you have been looking for. We are holding a number of courses covering a wide range of activities for kids to learn new skills or improve their game. Junior squash coaching with Bill West on Wednesday 1st June from 11.00am - 3.30pm, or junior badminton coaching with Peter Walton on Thursday 2nd June from 12.30 - 4.30 pm. All courses are taken by fully qualified coaches at a price you can afford. Only £5.25 members and £5.75 non members. If you enjoy the outdoor life why not try Golf coaching. Beginners 11.00 - 12.00 noon and intermediates 12.00 - 1.00pm. Over 3 days Wednesday 1st, Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd. There is bound to be a course to suit your level. Only £7.95.

The ever-popular football course, run by Durham FA is from Tuesday 31st May through to Friday 3rd 2005, 2 hours of coaching from 10.00 - 12 noon every day. You never know, you might even make the World Cup one day. Bookings only available via Durham FA. If you would like any further information on any of the above courses contact reception on 01325-300600 but hurry as all courses have limited availability and are very popular.

Junior Football Contest at Ferryhill

Ferryhill Leisure Centre will host a junior 5-a-side competition on Saturday 21 May 2005. The competition is for both boys and girls and is split up into two categories - children in school year 6 and children in years 7 and 8. The competition starts at 9.30am and there will be trophies and medals for the winning teams, refreshments on site and parents are welcome. Teams that enter can also enter Ferryhill Leisure Centre's junior 5-a-side league starting on Saturday 28 May and run on a weekly basis. For more information contact Ferryhill Leisure Centre on (01740) 654121 while the closing date for entry forms is Wednesday 18 May.

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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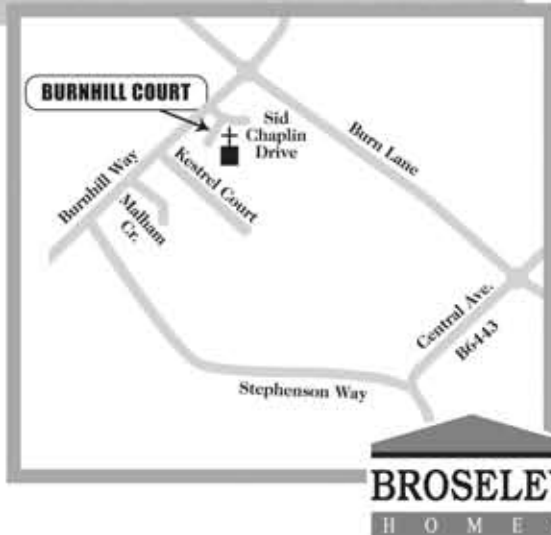
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Election Thanks

County Councillor Dorothy Bowman would like to thank all the people in the Shildon East Ward, which includes Middridge and the Greenfield Byerley Park, Hornedale, Bluebell, Silverdale, Langdale and Eskdale Place area of Newton Aycliffe who voted for me in the recent County Council elections.

I will endeavour to do my best to show my appreciation for the trust and confidence that you have put in me to fully represent you wherever your representation is needed.

I would like to thank all branch members for distributing my leaflets, Vince Crosby for being my campaign leader also Gloria Wills for her endless support over the last three weeks helping me to canvas around my ward and for being supportive at the count.

W.I. NEWS

The Newton Aycliffe Women's Institute met in the Cubby on Monday 9th May for their monthly meeting.

A member of Teesdale and Weardale Search and Rescue Team gave an interesting talk on an insight into the work that they do. They are a voluntary organisation that cover the area from the coast at Peterlee to Weardale and Teesdale and are on call 365 days of the year.

One of our members had won 1st prize in a competition for making a bonnet made from recyclable material.

The evening ended informally with coffee and biscuits and a chance to put any questions we had to the speaker about the Rescue Team.

The next W.I. meeting will be held the second Monday in June 13th in the Cubby 7.15pm start. If you are interested in joining the Women's institute please call in and meet us, you will be warmly welcomed. Alternately telephone 01325 314805

Letters to the Editor

Councillors will be Missed

Dear Sir

Thanks to Bill Blenkinsopp and Terry Hogan who have helped so many people on this Town.

Many of us who voted for you both in the local election are devastated that they are now no longer representing us as our Councillors. We will certainly miss their honest and straight talking approach, both in letters in the Newton News and the way they conducted themselves solving problems.

It's sad that the important projects they both were in the process of acquiring for Newton Aycliffe will now be left in mid-air, a loss to the people of Newton Aycliffe.

Thank you for all your hard work and sincerely hope you will return in the future to fight another day. How refreshing you both were.

Yours sincerely,
V. Peters, Osric Place

Good Things Can Happen

Dear Sir

Through the pages of Newton News may I thank whoever was responsible for bringing the Continental Market to Newton Aycliffe. Having attended these markets at Shildon and Darlington it was most refreshing to find these very professional traders visiting our town. I can honestly say that this was the best yet.

Surely those who are so fond of criticising must now appreciate that good things can happen in Newton Aycliffe.

However I hope that the incident I witnessed in the closing moments of the market will not deter their return. A couple of our "youth", having being stopped as they tried to steal from the stalls as the stallholders packed away their goods, began throwing DVD cases from the upper walkway onto the people below. (I presume these missiles had also been stolen)

They were thrown with such a force that they could have caused damage to property or person. I hope the Police managed to catch the youths in question as actions like

these only continue to give the town a bad reputation. Yours sincerely
Name and address supplied.

Disappointed but up-beat

Dear Sir

Can we through the Newton News thank the residents of Aycliffe Village and Newton Aycliffe for all the support shown and the votes cast for us in last Thursday's County Council elections. The results were to say the least disappointing but the people have spoken and we accept the decision and hope that with a full complement of Labour County Councillors Aycliffe Village and Newton Aycliffe will benefit substantially during the next four years.

We have worked hard during our time at the County Council for the benefit of our area and much appreciate all the personal messages from residents that we have had since the election result.

We will be watching with interest what happens over the coming months and, of course, Bill Blenkinsopp continues to serve as a Borough Councillor for the Neville Ward.

Yours sincerely
T. Hogan

Election Thanks

To the residents of Aycliffe East Ward.

I would like to thank everyone who helped support and vote for me during the County Council elections. If I can help with any issues please contact me on 319759 at any time. Cllr Mrs S J Iveson

Neville Community Centre

Thank you to everyone who kindly supported our stand at the community fair last Saturday. Congratulations to Rotary for organising the event.

Raffle winners: 241 - 126 - 171 - 376 - 346 and 266

Auction Saturday 14th May. Viewing from 11am, auction 1pm. An abundance of household items for sale. TV's, cycles, wall units, 3 piece suites, workbenches, electric organ, sideboards, bed, carpet, bottle of House of Commons Whiskey signed by Tony Blair, bowler hat and much more - come and see for yourself and bid for bargains.

Aycliffe/Brancepeth Brass Band Saturday 21st May at 3pm, only £2 admission £1 for concessions. Book on 313924. Support our local band please.

Circus Berzerkus Thursday 9th June at 5pm. Admission £3. concessions £2. We are part of a national tour for this event. For this event book on 313924, tickets are limited.

Meccano exhibition of working models Saturday 4th June, 11am-4pm.

Table Top Sale Saturday 11th June, 9am-1pm. Sites available to sell your own gear at £5 per table. Ring 313924.

Table Top Sale Town Centre Saturday 25th June, 8am-4pm. Bring your own table, sites £5. Ring 313924.

Wanted Teddy bears, dolls, children's toys, gifts etc. for our next tombola. Ring 313924 to collect.

ELECTION THANKS

Dear Sir,

May I through the Newton News thank all those friends who helped me to succeed in the County Council election in Aycliffe North. I particularly wish to thank everyone who turned out on the day and supported me and all the other Labour Candidates in Newton Aycliffe. In the County as a whole it is interesting to note that only one Labour candidate was narrowly beaten in Durham Gilesgate but the two new seats were both won by Labour who now have 53 of the 63 seats in County Hall.

Keith Henderson, Aycliffe North County Councillor

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Please Note that with effect from Monday 9th May 2005 we will be carrying out substantial works on the Multi-Storey Car Park here in the Town Centre. This will require the closure of various areas within the car park to facilitate these works over a period of approximately 20 weeks.

Also St Cuthberts Way/Stephenson Way Car Park will be closed to the public from Monday 16th May 2005 for approximately one week to allow resurfacing work to commence.

In conjunction with the above we will also be repairing and renewing paving on Beveridge Way over the next 4 - 6 weeks.

Whilst we will do our best to minimize any disruption and keep you informed these works are essential and will necessitate some minor disruption.

Should you have any concerns or questions please contact me at the Management Suite 3 Beveridge Walkway or telephone on 01325 300 605.

Bryan Haldane
Centre Manager

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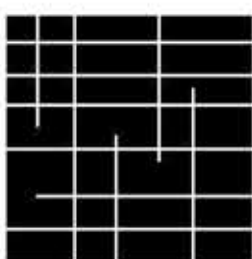


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IS TONY LISTENING?

I wonder if Tony Blair would have bothered to come to Newton Aycliffe on Election Night if he hadn't needed to hear the result and make a victory speech?

Our M.P. did not make one visit to the largest town in his constituency throughout the campaign yet he still polled more votes than at the last Election. He obviously had no fear of the opposition and was confident of his support. The Leisure Centre and all roads near were crawling with Police all day and everyone entering the building had to undertake Airport-type scrutiny and security.

Tony sat at home with his family waiting for the call to tell him when the count would be finished so he could time his arrival from Trimdon. His Police escorted convoy then raced to Newton Aycliffe, and he eventually came out into the hall five minutes before the declaration was made. He left immediately afterwards for a celebration drink at Trimdon Labour Club.

All day long the media prepared for his appearance as part of the build up to the final results and the announcement that Labour would govern this country for another term.

Many cannot believe how he did so well as there was much discontent with his apparent disregard for Newton Aycliffe voters. We believe they deserve more respect than that and Tony's attitude is unacceptable. The opposition seized on his general unpopularity in the country, hoping to unseat him, but despite strong campaigns, none came anywhere near Tony's total. We can now understand his concern for Labour support in the rest of the country after his Party lost 100 seats. He was needed elsewhere to help boost votes in marginal seats, but surely he could have spent an hour in our town centre - just to show willing. It would have also been nice had he taken the trouble to explain his absence, but to leave us waiting and wanting was unforgivable.

We hear Tony has been told by local Labour Councillors he should pay more attention to Newton Aycliffe, but we have been saying that for years, but he has not listened! Most of us like Tony, he is a nice man and he was heard to say after the Election that he was going to listen in future. It remains to be seen whether he does!

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Local Swimmers Play for Great Britain



Chris Gilbertson and Scott Carpenter of Sedgfield 75 Water Polo squad both played for Great Britain Juniors in a 6-team tournament in Poland. This was Chris's International debut and Scott was winning 5 more caps to add to his 36 appearances he already has. Great Britain defeated Belarus 11.4 Sweden 5.4 to the hosts Poland to finish 2nd in the tournament. Chris performed very well in his defensive role and scored 2 goals. Scott was voted the best player in the whole tournament and scored 13 goals despite being Great Britain's youngest player. It was a great achievement by Sedgfield to have 2 players out of the 13-man team considering the competition from the Big City Clubs of Manchester, Sheffield, London etc.

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HYDRO HOST 'AYCLIFFE ANGELS' CELEBRATION

A special open day event was held at the weekend, the 60th anniversary of VE Day, to commemorate the important work of female workers at one of the region's largest wartime munitions factories.

Newton Aycliffe-based plastics company, Hydro Polymers, joined forces with the Home Front Recall Fund and Greenfield Arts and Community Centre to commemorate the memory of the 'Aycliffe Angels' with an open day for former 'angels'. Hydro Polymers is located on the site of the former Aycliffe Royal Ordnance Factory in Newton Aycliffe - where the Angel's worked during the war. A specially designed sculpture commemorating the 'angels' was unveiled and visitors took a step back in time to re-visit their past.

Around 17,000 men and women worked at the Aycliffe factory between 1941 and 1945. It was a filling and assembly plant, where they put powder into shells and assembled detonators and fuses.

Winston Churchill himself visited the plant in May, 1942. The project includes a schools education pack and drama project, an indoor exhibition and the commemorative sculpture at Hydro Polymers. Over 100 former Angels, and their family and friends, attended the open day this weekend.

Chris Welton, communications manager of Hydro Polymers said: "We hope we have helped to create an enduring awareness amongst all ages of the local community about the huge munitions factory that existed in the area, the important part it played in the country's war effort and, particularly, the highly dangerous work carried out in the factory - work that resulted in a number of injuries and fatalities."



LIB DEM THANKS AYCLIFFE VOTERS

Sedgfield Liberal Democrat Candidate Robert Browne has thanked the voters of Newton Aycliffe for their support in last week's General Election. "The Liberal Democrats were the only Party to increase their vote in the Sedgfield constituency - Labour and the Tories both lost ground - despite the intervention of the Independent Reg Keys with his highly misleading literature suggesting he was neck and neck with Tony Blair. His fourth place indicated that he was perhaps not as addicted to the truth as he claimed. It was clear at the Count that most of our support came from Newton Aycliffe, and I am grateful to all of those who welcomed us so enthusiastically on the doorstep and in the Town Centre. The Liberal Democrats pledge to increase our activity here at all levels so that local people can have proper representation. May 2005 is our springboard for greater service throughout the North".

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION AYCLIFFE RESULTS

The results of the Durham County Council elections for the 11 Sedgfield Borough seats, following today's count at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, is as follows:

Shildon East	
Alan Booth (C)	356
Dorothy Bowman (L)	1,968
Simon Joseph Brown (I)	595
Gareth Michael Robinson Howe (LD)	791

Percentage Turnout: 55.3%

Aycliffe West	
George Coulson Gray (L)	1,815
Enid Marion Paylor (I)	956
Patricia Margaret Waller (C)	412

Percentage Turnout: 58.1%

Aycliffe North	
Keith Henderson (L)	1,859
Terence Hogan (I)	991
Joyce Mary Raine (C)	636

Percentage Turnout: 60.1%

Aycliffe East	
William Maurice Blenkinsopp (I)	890
Geoffrey Nicholas Crass (C)	356
Sarah Jane Iveson (L)	1,836

Percentage Turnout: 62.9%

Conservative (C), Independent (I), Labour (L), Liberal Democrat (LD)

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MORE PICTURE FROM AYCLIFFE'S SPECIAL WEEKEND



Teddy's Birthday

Newton Aycliffe Inner Wheel President, Olwyn Knapton, thanks those at the Community Fair who supported their fundraising effort for the North Air Ambulance. The person who guessed the correct birthday of the Teddy Bear was Tony Dinsley (20th December) who kindly returned his prize to be used again.

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Community Fair Results

The Sports Hall at the Leisure Centre was thronged with hundreds of people all day last Saturday enjoying the feast of stands and entertainment for all.

The official opening at 10am signalled the start of the day which followed on with wonderful and entertaining displays including dancing by Jacques Hargreaves School of Dancing; Sarah Scott Scottish Dancing Club; the Aycliffe & Brancepeth Brass Band; the Newton Aycliffe Pipes & Drums; Martial Art display by the Chung Do Kwan Taekwondo Club; a demonstration of indoor flying from the Shildon Model Flying Club and playlets from the children of Stephenson Way School and the Junior Neighbourhood Watch Group - inbetween these events, rousing displays from the Tees & Wear Valley Cheerleaders Group; a childrens play area ran by the Inbetweenies with there own Bouncy Castle.

Most of the Church Organisations were represented along with many self help and voluntary groups. With over 70 organisations it would be impossible to mention every single one but the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe would like to thank everyone who was represented and the hundreds of people who visited for making it a resounding success.

Particular thanks go to Stewart MacFarlane MBE (Radio Cleveland) who donated his time to so ably to host the day free of charge, to the staff of the Leisure Centre who after a frantic two days of election vote counting were able to prepare the hall in time. Thanks also to the Great Aycliffe Town Council and Sedgefield Borough Council who both waived any charges for the use of the building and their facilities.

Not all the "Lucky Programme" prizes were claimed, including the First prize donated by Hays Travel of a Two day weekend break in York. The prizes and numbers are as follows:

Weekend Break in York - 237
Brandy - 305
Toiletries - 146
Wine - 199
Teddy Bear - 219
Please contact Newton Press with your programme and we will arrange the presentation of the prizes.

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Woodham Racing Driver Only Lady in Championships



Local racing driver Amanda Whitaker from Woodham is racing in the 'Historic European F2 Championship' - a great series that visits some classic historical and also current Formula One venues including Spa-Francorchamps, Nurburgring and Le Mans.

Motorsport is one of only a couple of sports when women can compete on equal terms with men - in fact Amanda is the only female in this championship. She was educated at Sunnydale Comprehensive and worked for a print company in Aycliffe for a while after school before becoming a motor racing instructor in 1994 which is now her full time profession.

Amanda became interested in the sport through her father who used to race in the 1970's in Formula Ford and then in Formula Atlantic the same cars she is racing now. She had no brothers so was encouraged to do boy type things and so racing was a natural thing for me to follow in my father's footsteps.

Amanda lives in Woodham with her partner Anthony who is also a motor racing instructor she met at Silverstone. Her main hobby is collecting model Formula One cars and she also breeds birds.



MAY BALL

Aycliffe Village Primary School PTA will be holding a May Ball at Walworth Castle Hotel on Friday 20th May, in aid of school funds. Ticket price includes Carvery, Disco and Dancing. Arrive 7:30 for 8:00 pm. Tickets only £20 each - available from the school or by calling 01325-300227 (daytime). Tickets can also be purchased from PTA members or by calling Andrew on 01325-308971 (evenings). All party-goers welcome: dinner jackets and ball gowns optional!



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Jan Hooper - 01388 722152

The House of Eden Children's Nursery opened April 1999 in Rushyford. It started with 3 staff and 2 children and a social services licence for a total capacity of 45 children. Over the last 6 years the nursery has expanded both the building and the occupancy and now provides childcare for 144 children and employs 33 staff.

The House of Eden has recently opened a second nursery and out of school club based in Aycliffe Village Primary School, Aycliffe Village, providing the same high level of childcare service, knowledge and experience.

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HIDDEN AGENDA?

Dear Sir,
Today, the 10th May 2005, the post brought further information about Sedgefield Borough Council's continuing efforts to carry out New Labour's privatisation of council housing within the Borough.
Page 15, section 3, at the bottom is a schematic of the management structure for any future transfer and it will be noted that SBC's preferred company, Sunderland Housing Company Limited, is in turn owned by a private property management company, Emperor Property Management Limited, and we have all seen what happened when a property management company took possession of the town centre, most of the shops closed due to the rents asked when leases ran out and charity shops and services took over.
This is the first time that I have seen that Sunderland Housing Company Limited is owned by a parent company and why has SBC not mentioned this fact before when trying to push through this privatisation of council housing.
Having read through the Formal Consultation handbook I find no other reference to Emperor Property Management being the end landlord and wonder why SBC have not brought this to the attention of council tenants before.
This latest information about a 'Property Management' company being given all the councils housing is a definite turn off for me and merits a 'NO' vote in the coming ballot.
Peter Dolan

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In Memoriam

MICHAEL STEVENS 13.5.04 Sad are the hearts that love you, silent tears still fall. Living our lives without you Son is the hardest part of all. Loved always, Mam & Dad x
MICHAEL STEVENS 13th May 2004. This last year has been hard without you. Missing you more everyday. Love you Dad, Paul, Sarah, Louvain and your Grandson Alex xxx
JAMIE DERMOTT 19th May 2004. A year has gone since you passed away. Remembering you today and everyday. Miss your cheeky little smile at our window, God Bless. Love, Jill, David, Jonny and Matty xx
MITCHIE DAVID A very special Grandson and Brother taken from us on 14th May 1998 (age 9) There's a face that is always with us, there's a voice that we long to hear. There's a smile we always remember of the one we loved so dear. Nan, Gramps Mitchie and Sister Claire xx
WILLIAM TURNBULL 12th May 1990. Mam is with you now William, may you both rest in peace. God Bless you both. All our love always your loving family, Dad, Rita, Barrie, Elizabeth, Peter, Anne, Mick, Tony and Julie xx
WILLIAM TURNBULL 12th May 1990. Dear Uncle William, Gran is with you now to look after you. We are sad to lose her but we know you will be happy to see her. Love and miss you always. Love, Richard, Michael, Adam, Toni, Bryce, Abbi and Lillie xx
NIGEL DONALDSON 11/5/94 Precious memories of our lovely Son, woven in gold this is a picture we tenderly hold, to love, to cherish, and never forget. Always in our thoughts. Love, Mam, Dad, Marilyn, Alan and Boys xx
MENA COLLINGSON Treasured memories of a dear Aunt. Loved and remembered always. God Bless, your Niece Mena xx
TURN WILLIAM 12.5.05 In loving memory of a dear friend. Gone but not forgotten. Keith, Anna and girls xx
WILLIAM TURNBULL 12.5.90 Treasured memories of a much loved Husband, Dad and Grandad. Always remembered. Yvonne, Nicola, Anthony, Lauren and Katie xx

Birthday Remembrance

RON KIRTLEY 17th May. No cards or presents, just our love to send. Forever in our thoughts. Your loving Wife and family xx
PARKER STEVE Birthday memories May 16th of a dear friend. From, Hazel and Ralph xx

Obituary

NORMAN CARR on May 9th. Norman aged 78 years. Beloved Husband of Peggy, loving Dad of Anne and a much loved Grandad of Joel. The Funeral Service will take place on Tuesday 17th May 10.15am at Darlington Crematorium. Friends welcome please meet at the Crematorium. Floral tributes may be sent to John Meynell Funeral Service, Stephenson Way.
HOWES May 9th (in Hospital) now at peace after a long illness (of Newton Aycliffe). John Arthur aged 70 years. Much loved Dad and Grandad. Funeral will take place on Tuesday 17th May. Would friends please meet for Service 1.15pm at Darlington Crematorium. Floral tributes if so desired may be sent to Co-operatives Chapel of Rest, Oakliffe Cottage, Macmillan Road, Newton Aycliffe.

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
ST FRANCIS CHURCH FAYRE Saturday 14th May 11am-1pm at St. Francis Burnhope. Raffle prize £50. Tombola, refreshments, games and many more stalls.
HAVING TOUBLE assembling your flat packs? We can help. Tel: Flatpack Solutions 07944 344 211
FOR ALL THOSE who feel this is something to have a good gossip about, here's a message to you all....from Sharon Scott. For those of you who are interested, Sharon's out on the town tonight! So there's no need for all that texting, she's letting you all know- yes that's right!! She'll have a few drinks, probably talk to a lad, and maybe have a boogie, well is that so bad? So all you nosy people out there, no need to have a fit! She's telling you all to stop tittle-tattle, and from chomping at the bit!! Have a great weekend you all- I intend to!!
BROWNIES We meet on Friday night at St Clare's Church Hall 6pm-7.30pm. If you would like to try new activities, go to camp, make new friends and have fun, come along and visit us. For more information please ring 317097.
DIABETES UK RAFFLE Green ticket no 375 unclaimed. 342, 330 and 345 all claimed. Ring 312765 Joyce Short

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Thanks

ALLIHSON SARAH (SALLY) would like to thank my family and friends for all the lovely flowers and presents received on my 80th birthday. My sister and nieces, members of the RBL Women's section and the surprise party by niece Maureen and my friend Jenny xx
MARGARET HARTLEY Richard, Caroline, Laura and Paul wish to thank all who sent such beautiful cards and floral tributes following Margaret's death. She would have been delighted to know that so many people held her in such high regard.
PAYNE The family of the late Cyril wish to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for the cards of condolence, sympathy shown and donations received for Guide Dogs for the blind, during their recent sad bereavement.
BEVERLEY AND Olivia Kokes would like to thank family and friends for attending Olivia's Christening and for all the lovely cards and gifts received. A special thank you to Gran and Grandad for making the day so special and for all your hard work.
OLIVIA KOKES Thank you Aunt Ruth, Uncle Chris and Aunt Amy for making my day so special. Love always, Olivia xx
I WOULD LIKE to thank everyone who came to my leaving party. Thanks for all cards and presents, especially Turkish lira, which will soon be spent. I will miss everyone. See you in Altyinkum. Love, Bev, Twins, Andrew and Dannielle xx

Congratulations

Joe Howarth



TWO TODAY!
12th May 2005

Happy birthday to our very special big boy. Lots of big hugs and kisses from Mammy and Daddy xxx
Happy birthday little bro. Lots of huggles from big bro Jack xx
To our special grandson on your 2nd birthday. Big hugs and kisses, from Nan, Grandad, Uncle Lee, Shellie, Morgan and 2 great Nans xxxx

Bradley Claughton



Happy 6th Birthday
Lots of love, Mammy and Tyler xxx

HAPPY 1st Wedding Anniversary Julie. My 1st year married to you darling has been Heaven. I love you with all my heart. Love, your darling Husband Tony xx
TONY DURHAM All my love to a wonderful Husband on our first Wedding Anniversary. Lots of love always, Julie xx
ALISON WEBB Happy birthday Auntie Alison. (16.5.05) With lots of love and kisses, Matthew and Jamie xx
EDMONDSON, Alex Michael. To a precious little boy who has brought us great joy. Happy first birthday 17th May. Love from, Great Grandma and Great Grandad Stevens xx
OLIVIA HORNER Happy birthday, one today. Love, Auntie Jo and John xx
HAPPY 1st birthday Olivia. All our love and kisses, Nanna and Grandad xx
LAURIE GUTHRIE 14.5.05 Happy 13th birthday. From, Mam, Dad & Daniel x
MARC ADDY Happy birthday babe. Love you loads, Cat xx
MARC ADDY Happy birthday to the best Dad in the world. Lots of love, James and Brandon xx
DENISE & NODDY Congratulations on your Wedding Day 12.5.05. Good luck for the future. Love, Mam, DD and Shannon xx
CHARLOTTE ALLEN 18.5.05 Happy 9th birthday Charlotte, our special girl. Lots of love, Grandma and Grandad xx
MARC ADDY Happy birthday Stretch. Lots of love, Jim, Teresa and Gaz xx
FENWICK DARREN & TRACY Congratulations Mam and Dad on your 2nd Wedding Anniversary. Enjoy your night, we love you lots. Love, Mark and Leah-Grace
PHIL & DENISE Congratulations on your Wedding Day 12th May 2005. Lots of love, Mam, Natalie and Andrew xx
SPENSLEY PAIGE Happy 3rd birthday. Hope you have the best day. All my love and big hugs, Mammy and Anth xx
SPENSLEY PAIGE Happy 3rd birthday. Hope you have a great day. Loads of love and big hugs from, Steph, Fiona and Shell xx
IAN CHURCH Happy 40th birthday. Hope you have a great party.
IAN CHURCH Happy 40th birthday. Loads of love from, Claire and Del xx
IAN CHURCH Happy 40th birthday Dad. Love you loads, Sam xx

Julie and Tony Durham



"GOTCHA"

Sunday 15th May 2005

Bet you thought the photos had been put away, have a lovely 1st Wedding Anniversary on 15th May back at the George Hotel, Piercebridge. All our love from both families xxx
Happy 1st Wedding Anniversary Mam and Tony, you know you both mean the world to us! So we'd just like to say congratulations on your 1st Anniversary. Have a lovely day. Natalie and David

"Jonny" Waddingham



Happy 18th Birthday
14th May 2005
Congratulations Jonathan on your 18th birthday. Love, Mam Dad, Stephen and Laura. Now you are legal, drinks are on you!

Steven Cockburn



Happy 40th Birthday
14th May 2005
Love from all the family

Kelly Marie



Happy 19th Birthday
Friday 13th May
From Uncle David

Laurie Guthrie



Happy 13th Birthday
14th May 2005
Love from Grandma and Grandad xxx

Olivia-Grace Horner



Happy 1st Birthday
Friday 13th May
Lots of love from Mammy, Daddy, Lewis, Josh and India xxx

Katy Hutchfield



Happy 13th Birthday
12th May 2005
You are now a teenager! Lots of love and kisses from Mam, Stuart and Adam xxx
Happy 13th Birthday
Love from Jeanette and Marshall
To our wonderful teenage grand daughter, happy thirteenth. Lots of love, Nanna and Grandad xx

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Alex Edmondson



Happy 1st Birthday
Tuesday 17th May
Love from Mammy and Daddy xx
Happy 1st Birthday
to my little angel. Love you lots, Nannie, Uncle Paul and Great Grandad

Nikki Jeeves (nee Hancock)



Happy 30th Birthday
10th May 2005
All our love, Mam, Dad and all the family xxxxxxxxx

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AYCLIFFE SQUASH CHAMPS



Aycliffe squash club under 11's have had a fantastic clean sweep in the Durham and Cleveland junior squash leagues this season. The team played home and away throughout the two counties and never lost a match, making them the 2004/05 Durham and Cleveland County under

11 Champions. The Aycliffe team only entered last year for the first time and ended up as surprise runners-up but this year the young side have had a fantastic run of success. The competition from other sides had been intense but always friendly and many

of the players have made a lot of new friends from other squash clubs in the area. The squad of Sarah and Helen Dowson, Toni Jones, Chris Armstrong, Alex McFarlane, Alex Vallis and Alex Devlin all started as beginners at the Aycliffe squash club. The club hold weekly junior coaching on Tuesday nights, for absolute beginners up to County standard, with one of the England's top squash coaches, Bill West. This season the Dowson twins together with Toni Jones have joined fellow Aycliffe junior girls Karennia Dixon and Jennifer MacKay to represent Durham and Cleveland at full County level and follow in a long line of junior squash excellence that has blossomed at the Aycliffe club.

The excellent facilities and support given by Great Aycliffe town council has been supplemented this year by magnificent sponsorship from Ford Main Dealers, Holliday's, based at Aycliffe Industrial Estate. This partnership has provided great fun for all the children who play at the Aycliffe club giving a sporting activity that is safe, friendly and very healthy.

Cumby Rovers - League Champions



The Cumby Rovers U12's are in their first season playing 11 a side football and they finished the season as League Champions in Teesside Junior Football Alliance. After finishing last season as league 'runners up' at 7 a side they went one better this season, they even surpassed last year's record when they were unbeaten at home (one match was drawn) going one better finishing this season with a 100% winning home record.

The lads have thoroughly deserved the success their hard work has achieved and have always played their matches in the true spirit of sport, and it is nice to see the good guys coming out on top. Cumby Rovers are based in Heighington and cater for most age groups. Any players interested in joining the club are most welcome further details can be obtained from the Club chairman Mark Robinson on Aycliffe 301252

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Christian Aid Week May 15th-21st. This Christian Aid Week, collectors have been asked to do three specific things.

- 1) Collect money to fight poverty. Five members of Churches together in Great Aycliffe will be joining 300,000 other people in the UK walking the streets asking from house to house for donations to assist countless lives in poor communities around the world.
- 2) Encourage people who are tax payers to complete and sign the back of the envelope in order that GIFT AID, as it is called, will enable Christian Aid to raise £1 million more for the poorest communities approximately 28p for every pound donated by tax payers.
- 3) Ask people to complete a voting card and to send it freepost to Christian Aid. The reason for this, one off action this year is that Christian Aid, together with many other organisations is joining the international campaign to make poverty history.

For more information there is a website www.christianaid.org.uk - Terry Anderson, Christian Aid organiser- Churches together in Great Aycliffe Church of England, Methodist, Roman Catholic Churches.

Better the Devil You Know?

Very soon Council House tenants will vote whether they want their homes transferred from Sedgefield Borough Council to Sunderland Housing Group. The incentive for this multi million pound transfer is the promise of full and instant modernisation of properties which the Council say they cannot complete as quick.

The housing group are allowed to borrow money to make these improvements while the Council cannot, which is baffling, but true, under current Government regulations and guidelines.

In order to give tenants the best deal the Council could only recommend transfer as the best option, yet they are forbidden to comment on the suitability of the group wanting to acquire the housing stock.

Sunderland Housing Group have received a lot of bad press recently, pouring doubt on the quality of service and their role as Landlords. Councillors have visited other towns where transfers have taken place and I fear they are not entirely satisfied. It is ludicrous, that having the knowledge, they are not then allowed to comment or advise the tenants.

A Councillor is there to represent the best interests of the people who voted them into office and they have a duty to speak out. If things go wrong the voters will remember and blame Councillors for not giving their advice and allowing the transfer to take place.

People are asking why we need to get rid of Council Houses in Newton Aycliffe where, generally speaking, the housing stock is in good condition and needs little modernisation. The Council have made improvements to properties as an ongoing programme and they are the envy of other towns where perhaps it is necessary to spend money on bringing homes up-to-date.

Our advice to tenants is to think very carefully before voting for a change. Do you need to change and do you want more time to make a decision?

Are there any other options, do you feel you are being railroaded and are you happy with the transfer policy?

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GIRLS' SOCCER NEWS

Newton Aycliffe YC Girls
Under 13's

In the first game Trimdon did not turn up therefore the girls were awarded the 3 points

Vs Low Fell: This was a top of the table clash and the early minutes found the girls lacking in many departments as the opponents quickly established a 3-1 lead with the goal for Aycliffe from Vicky Jackson. However with 5 minutes till half time a flowing move found Vicky in the box to slot past the advancing keeper for her second goal. Just before half time Vicky drove to the line and drilled a low cross for Yasmin Allison to back heel past a bemused keeper for the equaliser. After half time it was all Aycliffe in the second half but despite some fine football they could not find a winner. Final Score 3-3.

Under 12's

Vs Ferryhill: once again the girls showed what an excellent passing side they are but fell behind to 2 goals from the opposition. Despite this the spirit showed through with goals from Hayley Gill and Charlotte Arrowsmith drawing the sides level. However Ferryhill advanced in the dying seconds of the game to snatch the victory 3-2.

Vs Willington: Willington proved too strong for the girls and despite some superb approach play and an excellent second half performance by the whole team their only reward was a goal from Charlotte Arrowsmith. Preparations are starting for next season and we are looking for current school years 5,6,7,8 who want to play competitive football. Ring Berni 0780 395 3960.

Election Candidate Leaves a Mess

Dear Editor

I enjoyed the recent election and the run up to it, which I thought was fought on some excellent issues by sincere and often colourful candidates.

The worldwide publicity that the Prime Minister brought to his constituency in general and Newton Aycliffe in particular should also be recognised, as TV transmission of the campaign, count and result were beamed around the globe.

Now that we all have chance to settle down to life after the polls it all seems an anti-climax, except for us at J&C Coaches that is, who are left to tidy up after one of the more prominent Independent hopefuls, dumped all his old election placards over our railings.

Thanks Reg!

Neville Jones, J&C Coaches



That's the Spirit!

On Sunday 15th May at 10.15am there will be a Family Service suitable for all ages (0-90+) at Burnhill Way Methodist Church (near the Turbina) to celebrate Pentecost and also the beginning of Christian Aid Week.

The theme of the service will be based around the coming of the Holy Spirit and the gifts and skills we are given to help others, using the Christian Aid Week theme of "That's the Spirit!"

As always, the Brownies and Rainbows will be taking part in the Service which will be followed by refreshments and friendship. Everyone is welcome to come and share in this event.

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