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# NEWTON NEWS

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## Residents Consulted on New Homes Old Garages to be Demolished

Landlord 'livin', is to hold a community consultation event to discuss plans to build a number of new homes in Newton Aycliffe.

Proposals to demolish the current garage site at Pease Way and replace it with a mixture of two and three bedroom properties will be presented at the event on Tuesday 28th February at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre between 2pm and 6pm.

Residents are invited to view the plans and give their feedback on the proposals as well as comment on the design and layout of the homes.

Ian Brown, head of development and allocations for livin said: "The majority of garages on the site at Pease Way are empty and have been for some time. We

are consulting with all the garage occupiers on a one-to-one basis and will provide them with alternative garages where possible."

Subject to the outcome of the consultation livin plans to invest up to £0.6million to build a total of six homes on the site which will be let through the County Durham choice based letting scheme. Mr Brown added: "We are committed to improving communities and to ensuring we provide the right homes to the right people. The site at Pease Way will go some way to providing much needed family homes in Newton Aycliffe."

"We will work closely with communities to ensure the homes we build meet their needs, including giving choice on the design and layout of the properties."

## Pathwork at Neville Parade

Work has started on refurbishing the footpath outside Neville Parade shops and constructing a new layby to provide additional car parking outside the Community Centre.

It is anticipated the work will take 5 weeks to complete and the contractor appeals for co-operation and goodwill during this time of inconvenience to the public. Any problems please contact Gareth Reed on 07786 277314.

## Town's First Internet Café Opens

The first Internet Café in Newton Aycliffe is opening at Silverdale Community House, Silverdale Place off Williamfield Way, Opening Tuesday 21st February 10.00am until 1.30pm and then Monday to Thursday 9.30am until 1.30pm.

Come along and Surf the net, look for jobs on line etc. Have a cup of Tea/Coffee. Meet new friends. Breakfast served until 11.00am also bacon sandwiches, and hot food served until 1.30pm.

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**Saturday 18th February - "KIMERA"**  
GIG PIT REVIEW: 'We were informed that a band was actually on, and they were called Kimera. I had never seen them before, but I would certainly recommend them to anybody now after Saturday night. The band are a young 4-piece (guitar, bass, thumper and vox) but showed a degree of professionalism lacking in some bands that have been going far longer. The guitarist, James, is an extremely talented young lad and the singer delivers a cracking vocal. The bassist and thumper made up a very tight rhythm section as well. Highlights for me were Evanescence - Bring Me Back to Life (first time I had heard anyone attempt this), Cranberries - Zombie, AC/DC - Sin City, Queen - Tie Your Mother Down and Fleetwood Mac - The Chain... everything was done well though. They are an excellent band and I would thoroughly recommend any pub to book them. The crowd in the Shoe were very appreciative and I really hope they come back again soon.'

**Saturday 25th February - "1 0 1"**  
We are pleased to welcome back one of the Tabs favourite bands, who play a great mix of modern and classic rock. Tracks covered by: LED ZEPPELIN, KILLERS, AC/DC, KINGS OF LEON, LYNRYD SKYNYRD, KIESER CHIEFS, NIRVANA, RAZORLIGHT, PINK FLOYD and GREEN DAY.  
Davy's Rock Page Review - 'All in all, a great night with a great atmosphere and a lot of people dancing, so if you want to hear newer covers with a good mix of older rock, "101" deliver.'

**Saturday 3rd March - "UNCLE GILBERT"**  
RIFTS ONLINE REVIEW: 'An excellent night with some classic rock covers done by mainstay of our rock fraternity both Bill and Gary gave the thumbs up to the performance - as did all the other punters in the venue tonight. For a band to stay together for that long you just know they're doing something right - this band have just earned themselves a promotion into the premiere league'.  
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## Could You Share Your Life? *Do You Want a Rewarding Career?*

Take a tip from Karen Ingram, who loved her job so much she decided to take her work home with her - and has never looked back.

Karen is one of about 50 people who provide a vital source of help and support to adults with learning disabilities through Durham County Council's Shared Lives scheme.

The initiative, which is desperately in need of new recruits, sees residents around the county providing short-term, long-term and emergency care within their own homes for adults who need extra support for a range of reasons.

For the past five and a half years, Karen and her husband Stephen, have provided a home-from-home for a number of adults who have either needed a place to stay at a time of difficulty or a helping hand to gain their independence.

The 49-year-old from Consett has worked as a carer since leaving school, in residential homes for the elderly and in day units for severely disabled adults



Karen and Jeffrey

and those with learning disabilities.

"I used to know lot of people who were carers through Shared Lives and thought that maybe I could do it as well. It seemed like an opportunity to make people happy in their day-to-day lives and support them in becoming independent," Karen said.

"I'm pleased to say that I do absolutely love it. It's so much better than working at a day centre or care home because you get to spend time working one-on-one with people and helping them build their skills.

"It can be hard work at times but it's so rewarding and worthwhile. I love to see the pleasure on someone's face when you've helped them to achieve even the simplest of tasks - even if it's just washing their face themselves."

As well as having a respite bed available for short-term stays, Karen currently provides a home-from-home for two people with very different needs - a young woman who has just turned 18 and needs help building on her skills so that she can eventually live on her own and Jeffery (47) who has been staying with Karen for one or two weeks a month over the past year for respite care.

"The 18-year-old has very high abilities so I'm helping her build on her skills so she can become more independent and eventually, in a few years, live on her own," Karen said. "Jeffery, meanwhile, has been spending time with us on-and-off for a while now and we're actually looking

at him coming to live here permanently."

Karen's role is wide-ranging. She ensures those she supports are able to attend appointments, go to day centre sessions and visit friends. She helps them make their own meals but also cooks for them and supplies packed lunches when needed. She takes them on day trips to the pictures, bowling and to parties but also spends time baking, making crafts and playing games with them.

Although Stephen has a full-time job in mental health care he also lends a hand, taking Jeffery and others to the local club.

Phil Emberson, Durham County Council's adult services operations manager, said: "Our Shared Live providers make an invaluable contribution to the lives of the people they support, whether it's stepping in to provide a temporary home for someone at a time of crisis or providing respite care while loved ones take a much needed break.

"Prospective carers don't need any formal qualifications, just patience, understanding, a caring nature and the willingness to open your home to an adult who needs extra support." People from all backgrounds are welcome as Shared Lives providers. All receive on-going training and support as well as an allowance.

For more information about joining the scheme call 0191 370 6255 or email [sharedlives@durham.gov.uk](mailto:sharedlives@durham.gov.uk)

## A NIGHT AT THE MUSIC HALL

Aycliffe Musical Theatre will present a "Night at the Music Hall" at St. Clare's Church Hall, Newton Aycliffe on Saturday 24th March and Sunday 25th March starting at 7pm. Come and sing along to all the old favourites and enjoy a laugh with Bert Draycott, the World Spoons Champion. Tickets £6 adult £3 children under 14 years obtainable from 01325 318968 or e-mail: [aycliffemt@live.co.uk](mailto:aycliffemt@live.co.uk)

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## Parking at the PCP

Dear Sir,  
Concerning the lack of parking space at the PCP - We are lucky to have this excellent facility in the town and it is of the utmost importance that users are able to park.

The Centre has been enlarged so the demand for parking has increased and it can only get worse if more land is not made available.

There is land adjoining that could be used and it would be wrong to build houses on it when there are plenty of other sites elsewhere.

Concerned Resident  
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## Coffee Morning & Table Top Sale

There will be a Table Top Sale and Coffee Morning in aid of St. Michael's Church funds at Heighington Village Hall on Saturday 3rd March from 10am - 12 noon. The price for a table is £7 and bookings can be made through Anne Dobson on 01388 772360 or Val Curry on 01325 312124. Stalls may be set up at 9am. Admission is 50p.

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## VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS FOR TWO AYCLIFFE COUPLES

Two married couples from Aycliffe Care Home, who have celebrated 122 Valentine's Days between them, have been reminiscing about the day they got married.

Ron and Joyce Buckley have been married for 62 years and have been together for 64 years. Joyce came to live at Aycliffe Care Home in May 2010, followed by Ron a week later.

Brian and Eva McMains have been married for 57 years and have been together for 58 years. Eva became a resident at Aycliffe Care Home in



October 2010. Her husband, Brian, would visit her three times a week and stay to have lunch with her. In January 2012 Brian came to live with Eva at the home. Residents and staff have been making Valentine's Day decorations and have put together a collage of their wedding photos to see how traditions have changed throughout the decades.

Aycliffe Care Home, part of Boncare, aims to maintain lifestyles as similar as possible

to those enjoyed at home, with a range of activities which individuals can enjoy and benefit from.

Julie Bialek Activities Co-ordinator at Aycliffe Care Home said: "Both couples are a fantastic example of long-lasting love. Valentine's Day may be the most romantic day of the year but it's obvious to see that both Joyce and Ron and Eva and Brian care deeply for each other every single day."

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# Water, Water, Everywhere!



Year 5 children at Sugar Hill Primary have this week been writing scripts for a play based on the popular childrens' book, "The Wind in the Willows". This is part of the 'Water, Water, Everywhere' topic they are currently studying and the children were able to act out their scripts in the school hall all dressed as various characters from the book. All the children had a really great time!

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## New Name for Park

Dear Sir,  
As a resident of Newton Aycliffe, for four years, the one positive thing the community has in abundance is its excellent public spaces including the Town Centre Park.

I recently read in the Newton News, (the only useful source of what's happening or not in the case of the Town Centre) a letter from one of the Councillors regarding the naming of the town park.

I agree fully with the development of the Jubilee Wood but also support the designation of a suitable name for the Town Park to ensure it is not called Tesco Park.

I'm supportive of the name Jubilee Park, or alternatively The Queen Elizabeth II Park. However there will undoubtedly be other ideas so I'm suggesting that there is a competition, perhaps via the Newton News, with the name receiving the most support taking the honours. Sincerely  
Gerald McGill

## Family History Society AGM

The next meeting of the Newton Aycliffe Family History Society will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 29th February 2012. The meeting will take the form of the Annual General Meeting."

## Agnew Centre NEWS

The Annual General Meeting is called for Wednesday 21st March 2012 at 7.00 pm sharp. It will be open to all but only 2012 members, on or before the 26th February will be able to vote for items on the agenda.

Nominations for officers, committee members [forms from the secretary or from the centre], proposals or any other business must be with the secretary on or before February 26th 2012.

All members will receive a copy of the agenda & minutes of the previous meeting on arrival at the meeting or if you want a copy up to 2 week prior to the meeting then please contact the secretary. A copy of the agenda will be posted on the main notice board & our web site at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Anyone requiring any additional and relevant information please contact the secretary on numbers below.

**R.G. MITCHIE**  
01325-301033 home  
or 01325-321504 office  
or Email [agnewcommunitycentre@btconnect.com](mailto:agnewcommunitycentre@btconnect.com)

# STUDENTS COFFEE MORNING FUNDRAISER FOR CHARITY



Sixth Form Students from Aycliffe are holding a Coffee Morning & Table Top Sale at Neville Parade community Centre on Saturday 25th February from 10am - 1pm. All proceeds go towards the cost of funding a trip to Romania in July where the students have volunteered to build homes for the poor. Please give them your support. Each student had to raise £950, the majority of which will be going towards the materials for the project. They started fundraising with a very cold New Years Day North Sea Dip. At the Table Top Sale they will have a cake sale and tombola (hopefully with some good

prizes from local businesses that they have approached). It would be great if Newtonians supported their efforts. A spokesperson said: "We are proud to be taking part in this expedition and want Newtonians to see that young people do good work. Whilst in Romania they will be living amongst the local community, learning about the Romanian way of life. It is hoped that the expedition will be rounded off with a trek into the Carpathian

Mountains, where it is said they may see wolves and bears!"

Nancy Wall teacher at Queen Elizabeth said "this is a fantastic opportunity for our students to see another part of the world, and realise how privileged they are to live in the United Kingdom. From the fundraising to the building project, the students will develop skills, and undertake tasks I'm sure they will remember long into the future."

## Planning for New Build

Dear Sir,  
I read with interest that the Aldi Supermarket is about to begin, after the long and protracted delay by our so called services, ie gas and electricity suppliers. Could the preferred builder contractor please ask the companies currently building the large extension to Tallent, the houses on Baliol Road and the houses on the site of Shafto House how to get things started? These people seem to know how to get a project moving without delays, unlike the people who are supposed to have planned the building of Aldi. T. Spellman

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# Aycliffe Product Featured on New TV Series

NEWTON Aycliffe based Shower Manufacturer, Roman, had their luxury Embrace Wetroom Panel with Designer Motif and space efficient Orbital Bi-fold Door filmed for a brand new Channel 4 series, Home of the Future, which started February 12th, 7.00pm on Channel 4.

What happens if you ask a normal family to boldly go where no-one has gone before - to live in the future? This five-part Channel 4 series, co-funded by one of the UK's leading energy companies E.ON, and produced by



mind-controlled games, domestic power stations that slash their bills, robots they can control from the other side of the world, waterless

washing machines, cars, lawnmowers and vacuums that drive themselves and the joys of growing your own fish supper.

# New Toilets at Community Centre

Toilets at Neville Parade Community Centre have been refurbished from funds provided by Councillors Sarah Iveson and John Moran from their Community Allowance. The work was completed to a very high standard by local firm "Man About the House". We also thank Andy White of GAMP who gave tremendous support with the project.

## Harvest Christian Centre

at the BETHANY CENTRE  
Woodham Way, Woodham  
SUNDAYS 10.30am  
[www.harvestchristiancentre.org.uk](http://www.harvestchristiancentre.org.uk)  
Telephone 01325 308284  
"Touching Hearts - Changing Lives"

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FOR ALL YOUR MOBILITY NEEDS  
New and Used Scooters  
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Scooters used from £249; new from £595  
Rise/Recliner Chairs used from £249; new from £549

Freephone 08000 375 980  
Dave/Steve, 16 West Auckland Rd, Darlington  
Local Dealer and Aycliffe resident for 35 years

## R.A. TAYLOR

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1 Norman Terrace, Chilton DL17 0EP - 01388 721284

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First Interview FREE and advice given on "NO WIN, NO FEE"

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Telephone: (01325) 316170

TwoFour, transforms the lives of a family, filling their home from top-to-bottom with futuristic technology and gadgets.

As well as having cutting-edge technology and gadgets to play with, the Perera family in Sheffield will be challenged by scenarios likely to come in the next twenty to fifty years.

Overseen by expert Chris Sanderson, the Pereras will discover how we may work, rest and play - as well as eat, travel, stay healthy and power our homes.

The series looks at the effects of working from home and living in multi-generational households and asks: what will we eat when cheap food is gone and mass-produced meat is unsustainable? And the family face being shamed by their bin if they don't recycle enough and being temporarily banned from short car journeys (electric and hydrogen-powered, naturally).

But the future is not all bad news as the Pereras discover

## Yoga Classes at the PCP

Anyone wishing to improve their body, mind and spirit should come along to the Yoga classes at the Pioneering Care Centre held on Fridays from 10am - 11.30am.

Yoga is a holistic approach to body, mind and spirit which can provide us with the tools to cope with the challenges of daily life.

The yoga class is designed to completely stretch to maximize physical and mental energy, increase flexibility, improve body shape and enhance relaxation.

Costing £5 per session the classes are accessible to all and are particularly suitable for those with long-term health conditions.

The Pioneering Care Centre runs a variety of lifestyle and exercise classes to encourage people to live a healthier lifestyle. Classes are open to anyone of any age and ability.

For further information from the Pioneering Care Centre, Carers' Way, Newton Aycliffe tel: 01325 321234 email:enquiries@pcp.uk.net www.pcp.uk.net

# BENGAL LOUNGE

## FIVE COURSE SUNDAY SPECIAL TO DINE IN OUR FIVE STAR INDIAN RESTAURANT

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- 2 - CHOICE OF ANY STARTER\*
- 3 - CHOICE OF ANY MAIN COURSE\*
- 4 - CHOICE OF ANY SIDE DISH
- 5 - RICE, NAAN OR CHIPS

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\* Conditions apply

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Newton Aycliffe DL5 4UE

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TEL: 301066 or 313326



peaseway  
clinic

## Open Evening

Tuesday 21st February  
Doors open at 6.30pm

Come along, bring a friend and discover the SKIN, LASER and BEAUTY TREATMENTS on offer.

The live demonstrations will include our **NEW TATTOO REMOVAL LASER.**

Enjoy refreshments, enter our free prize draw and don't miss the special discount available only on the night.

Visit [www.peaseway.com](http://www.peaseway.com) for full details.

**Limited spaces, please call 01325 320 216 to book your place**

Please use the entrance off Stephenson Way.

2 Pease Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham DL5 5NH

[www.peaseway.com](http://www.peaseway.com) Tel: 01325 320 216 Fax: 01325 304 396



# PRIMARY SCHOOLS' BASKETBALL COMPETITION

*By Katie Hansom (Year 5) Aycliffe Village School*



Last week children from different primary schools in Newton Aycliffe took part in a basketball tournament held in the main hall of Aycliffe Leisure Centre.

Aycliffe Village Primary School entered two teams: Team A: Katie H, Millie F, Mathew D, Aiden O, Anya T.

Team B: Jack B, Georgia A, Mia C, Danielle O, James K, Charlie W.

On arrival we first warmed up by jogging, taking up defence and scoring positions. We then played matches against teams from other schools. Aycliffe Team A won three of their matches.

and Team B won five.

Afterwards we had a shooting competition and one of our team was in the final against a student from Vane Road. Matthew from Aycliffe Village Primary School was declared the winner.

Finally all the schools went into the middle of the hall to find out who had won the tournament and who had showed the greatest determination.

The teams in the final were Vane Road A and Vane Road B. Aycliffe Village Team A was 5th and Team B took 3rd place.

It was a great morning for all who took part, and all the

schools would like to say a big thank you to the Durham Wildcats who helped organise the event.

# ART CLASS

**A NEW ART CLASS AT THE AGNEW CENTRE**  
Will run this Tuesday and every Tuesday from 1pm to 3pm. The Tutor is Andy Taylor and should you wish to contact him for further details ring 0191-3732485. Andy will welcome you all if you want to turn up any Tuesday.

# YOGA IN AYCLIFFE VILLAGE

Whether you have practiced yoga in the past, or it's something you have an interest in but don't know much about, why don't you come along to join the class at Aycliffe Village.

This is held on Tuesday evenings in term time in the Village Hall. The class runs from 8.00-9.30, and all are welcome. Yoga is suitable for men and women of all ages. The class is taught by Helen Tait who is an experienced British Wheel of Yoga teacher.

The practice of yoga produces a number of benefits to the mind and body. The physical exercises, called asanas stretch and strengthen the body, lubricating the joints, toning the nervous system, improving circulation, releasing tension and increasing flexibility.

Yogic breathing or pranayama teaches you how to recharge your body and control your mental state. Yoga practice helps you to become more in touch with your body, able to recognize tension and relaxation and thus to bring them under your conscious control. Each class ends with a few minutes of deep relaxation.

If you are interested in joining us please get in touch with Helen Tait 01325 466478 email [skiddaw@ntlworld.com](mailto:skiddaw@ntlworld.com) The cost is £6 per class if you pay weekly, or £5 per class if you pay for a half term block in advance.

**Agnew Community Centre**  
Morrison Close, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4QZ

in partnership with

**Anderson Sports Development**

**FREE NEW DISABILITY  
SPORTS CLUB**  
*Funded by GAMP's Area Budget Fund*

The Agnew Community Centre would like to invite  
Parents/Carers and Children along to the club

**Commencing Tuesday 21st February**  
**5.30pm to 7.30pm**

The club is for children aged 6 to 16 years of age and will  
offer various sports, fundamentals and supporting activities  
delivered by Anderson Sports Development Experienced Staff  
and using the club's wide range of new sportability equipment.

**For more information please contact:**  
**RON MITCHIE 01325 321504 or 301033**  
[agnewcommunitycentre@btconnect.com](mailto:agnewcommunitycentre@btconnect.com)

**DARREN OR DALE**  
[andersonsportsdevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:andersonsportsdevelopment@gmail.com)



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**Silver Road**  
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**£22,500**



2 bed semi-detached house, close to primary school, modern kitchen, living, dining, 2 bedrooms, large garden, 2 garage. Call today, local family home.

**Down Road**  
**Newton Aycliffe**  
**£20,000**



Two bedrooms semi detached property, offering 20, contemporary modernisation. Internal study, double garage.

**Harfield Road**  
**Newton Aycliffe**  
**£112,500**



3 bedrooms with 2nd floor property. Close to local amenities. Central Heating, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, UPVC Double Glazing with enclosed garden. Immediate possession.

**Kestrel Court**  
**Newton Aycliffe**  
**£129,500**



Three bedrooms detached property. Large, dining room, kitchen, contemporary garden and garage. (GCH, GCH)

**Bawick Crescent**  
**Newton Aycliffe**  
**£97,500**



Two bedrooms semi detached house, fitted kitchen/dining, modern bathroom/W.C. Well equipped house.

**Guthrie Place**  
**Newton Aycliffe**  
**£93,000**



3 bedrooms and 2nd floor in a modern development in Newton Aycliffe. Fitted kitchen, GCH, GCH and rear garden. Must be seen!

**Delfield**  
**Newton Aycliffe**  
**£100,000**



3 bedrooms house property. Lounge, modern Good Kitchen/dining, garage, GCH, very modern house.

**Emerson Way**  
**Newton Aycliffe**  
**£92,000 ono**



3 bedrooms house, double front, GCH, enclosed garden to rear, upgrade W.C. Fully refurbished.

**IDA PLACE**  
 3 bed and terrace - £74,950  
**BEECHFIELD**  
 3 bed and link - £78,000  
**HONISTER PLACE**  
 3 bed and terrace - £85,000  
**LINGARD WALK**  
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**CHILLINGHAM GROVE**  
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**FINCHALE ROAD**  
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**£191,900**



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**Mallaby Crescent**  
**Newton Aycliffe**  
**£122,000**



Three bedroom 3rd floor modern and modern home. Fitted kitchen, double glazing, modern bathroom, garden, fully fitted.

**Chapman Close**  
**Newton Aycliffe**  
**£99,000**



Two bedrooms and terrace, some of a popular well-built area. Lounge, fitted kitchen, dining room, utility, bathroom, GCH, GCH.

**Beechfield**  
**Newton Aycliffe**  
**£97,000**



Four bedrooms, modern home, modern W.C., kitchen, dining room, lounge, garage, driveway with 2 off road parking spaces, GCH and GCH for sale.

**Kestrel Close**  
**Woodham Village**  
**£258,000**



Detached 3 bedrooms detached, 1st floor, large master, fitted kitchen, contemporary ground floor.



## COUNCIL PROPOSALS TO EQUALISE PAY AND CONDITIONS

Proposals designed to implement a new pay and grading structure for some 9,000 Durham County Council employees will go before Full Council next week. (22 February 2012). Since its launch as a Unitary authority in April 2009, in which eight councils became one, a wide scale project of information gathering and job assessment has been undertaken. The aim of the work, which is being carried out in partnership with the local trade unions, aims to introduce a simplified and fair pay system for staff. With this research complete, members agreed in October

2011 to move forward with trade union discussions – an approach which has led to a package of proposed changes that will now go before Full Council for consideration. In addition, local trade unions will seek views from their national offices, prior to gauging employee's opinions on the suggested changes. Cllr Alan Napier, Cabinet member for resources, said: "This is a complex issue which affects the vast majority of our non school based staff and as such it is important to highlight the valuable contribution local trade unions have made in supporting such a wide

ranging review.

"The proposals would see no change to the salaries of over half of our employees, whilst for around 20 per cent of employees the proposals will result in a reduction in salary. However the proposals will potentially see their current levels protected for two years and there will be enhanced holiday allowances for many. "The over-arching aim of this extensive piece of work is to deliver a fair, equitable and affordable system which reflects the Unitary council as it exists today."

Other areas which have been reviewed and which form part of the current proposals include the suggestion to end the current essential car user allowance given to some staff and replace it with one mileage rate applicable to all employees who are required to use their own cars for business reasons.

The financial implication of the proposals have been incorporated into the council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

The next steps are that, should Full Council agree the proposals, work with trade unions will continue, supporting the discussions at national level, and dates will be agreed as to when employees would learn their personal outcome from the exercise.

## Councillors £50k Could be Spent Better

Dear Sir  
Regarding the proposal from GAMP to fund exercise machines in West Park where money would come from County Councillor's allowances of West Ward Councillors Dixon & Paylor. The allowance of £25,000 per Councillor could be better spent on safety measures in their Ward to reduce danger to pedestrians who have to weave their way through parked vehicles by providing parking bays and/or a footpath around Sid Chaplin Drive. The Councillors allowance could make a welcome start to such measures if used wisely. The County Council may like to make additional money available to this project.  
Counc. Bill Curtis,  
Great Aycliffe Independents



The Shafto/St Mary's PACT meeting will take place at Newton Aycliffe Library, Central Avenue on Tuesday 28th February at 6pm. Due to unforeseen circumstances January's meeting had to be cancelled. All residents from the area are welcome to attend  
PCSO 7044 Scott Hodgson  
Newton Aycliffe Beat Team

## Independents Claim Labour Take the Credit

Dear Editor

I would like to reply to Councillor Bob Fleming's letter in last week's issue. Does he think everyone in Newton Aycliffe is a fool? With his comments under the title "efficiency savings keeps council tax down" he seems not to practice the concept we have at home of saving money on household bills.

Council finances are more important than Councillor Fleming's household bills - it is Public Money! The people of Great Aycliffe do not want high council tax increases on the Town Council or the

County Council.

Once again Labour is crowing about their achievements in saving money. It is a shame that they did not practice this when in Government.

Councillor Fleming says the Council have accepted the five Medium Term Financial Plans. That is not true as opposition Councillors were against the proposal for the budget/precept for 2008/09 that set a council tax increase of 3%. We said it was too high.

In a named vote, there were For the proposal -16 votes. Against the proposal -13 votes. Abstentions - 0 votes

Following that, the Labour Group in the press cried wolf. Is the Labour Group in Newton Aycliffe always in the right? No, and they just cannot take any input or comments from others. It is new variations of old ideas. What worked 20 years ago works NOW - that is Labour's view.

An example of this is the Eco Centre. The idea came from an Independent Councillor B. Haigh, but the Labour councillors took all the credit.

P. Ducker  
Leader of Great Aycliffe Independents



## A.G.M. & PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday 8th March  
St. Mary's Church  
Central Avenue at 7 pm

Everyone invited to attend this meeting, included in the agenda is a discussion on the proposed Neighbourhood Plan for Great Aycliffe.

Learn how you can effect important decisions on schools, housing, shopping, services, and the environment.

MAKE THINGS RIGHT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

## IMPORTANT PUBLIC MEETING ON FUTURE OF GREAT AYCLIFFE

The Great Aycliffe Residents' Association hold their Annual General Meeting followed by a Public Meeting on Thursday 8th March at St. Mary's Church, Central Avenue 7pm. It is an open public meeting and everyone is invited to attend. Cllr John D. Clare Deputy Leader on Great Aycliffe Town Council will give a presentation on the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Great Aycliffe, a vital part of the County Plan and Localism and important to every resident.

The Town Council are taking the lead on this and hope to engage the whole community into developing over the next year or two a detailed strategy that will encompass the hopes and aspirations of all the residents of Great Aycliffe. Newton News cannot emphasise strongly enough the importance of public participation in developing this Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr John Clare is a clear and effective communicator and will hopefully get you thinking and perhaps more importantly, get you involved. If ever there was a time to stand up and be counted this is surely it, and the Town Council is to be commended for giving a bold and decisive lead on this issue.

We owe it to ourselves and future generations to get this right. If we do then the Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the County Plan for developing Great Aycliffe for decades.



The Great Aycliffe Residents Association will be electing its Management Committee. Currently its 12 Members are:

Chairman: Syd Howarth  
Vice Chairman: Fr. Michael Campion  
Treasurer: Barry Hutchinson  
Secretary: Arun Chandran  
Assistant Secretary: Anne Molyneux,  
Committee: Derek Atkinson, Kathy Brockless, Cllr Bob Fleming, Don Fraser, Cllr Bill Curtis, Cllr Paul Ducker, Chris Wheeler,

All are standing for re election and it is hoped the meeting will see fit to re elect existing members of the Committee en masse.

Also serving from affiliated bodies: Ken Robson representing the Acorn Residents' Association. Any Organisations, Associations, Charities, Interest Groups are cordially invited to apply to GARA through the Secretary to be an affiliate and be represented on the Committee.

Nominations must be received by the Secretary no later than 23rd February - Arun Chandran, 88 Honister Place, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7DN. Email: arunmchandran@aol.com

## DROP-IN BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS

Have you lost someone you love? If so, come and join us at one of our bereavement support groups at Butterwick Hospice, Bishop Auckland. The groups are held on the 1st & 3rd Thursday morning of every month from 10.00am-12.00 midday, or the 2nd & 4th Wednesday evening of each month from 5.30pm or every Monday afternoon 1.00pm-3.00pm. The support group is open to everyone, and not limited to those who already access Butterwick Hospice's services. For further information on these groups or to find out about any other services we offer, please contact Juliet Wilson on 01388 603003 or email julietwilson@butterwick.org.uk

## GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 29th February 2012

## POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

from 7.15pm

### QUESTION TIME

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

With the exception of the Annual and Extra-ordinary Council Meetings, members of the public can submit a written question for the Council Agenda as long as it is submitted 7 clear days before a meeting.

If members of the public have any questions it would be appreciated if they could make them known prior to the start of the meeting.

Agendas/Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. ([www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk))

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend. "The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".

## Great Aycliffe Town Council



## NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY

Local Government Act 1972 - Sections 87 and 232

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a vacancy exists in the Shafto / St. Mary's Ward of the above Council by reason of the death of Councillor Terry Hogan, 23 Hartley Road, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham. DL5 4NR.

In accordance with Rule 5 of the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2006, the said vacancy shall be filled by election if, within 14 days (computed in accordance with Rule 2 of the elections rules in Schedule 2) after publication of this notice, (8th March 2012) ten electors for the electoral area give notice in writing of their request for such an election to the Returning Officer, Durham County Council, Electoral Services, Room 1/110, County Hall Durham. DH1 5UL.

For this purpose blank forms of notice may be obtained from the Town Clerk of Great Aycliffe Town Council or from Electoral Services, Durham County Council.

Where a casual vacancy occurs within six months before the day on which the Councillor whose office is vacant would regularly have retired, an election shall not be held.

In the event of this casual vacancy being filled by election, the election will be held on a day appointed by Electoral Services within sixty days (so computed) beginning with the date of this notice. If an election is called it will take place no later than the 14th May 2012.

In the event of this vacancy not being filled by election in accordance with Rule 5, the said vacancy shall be filled by the Town Council as soon as practicable after the expiry of the period of fourteen days referred to above.

Dated: 17th February 2012.

ANDREW BAILEY  
Town Clerk.

Council Offices,  
School Aycliffe Lane,  
Newton Aycliffe,  
Co. Durham DL5 6QF



## GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

## Planning Sub-Committee Meeting

Notice is hereby given that:-

A meeting of the Planning Sub-Committee of the Town Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on:

WEDNESDAY, 29th FEBRUARY 2012  
at 4.00p.m.

### QUESTION TIME

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

If members of the public have any questions it would be appreciated if they could make them known prior to the start of the meeting.

Agendas / Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. ([www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk))

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend. "The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".



## WHAT'S ON AT BOWES

Thursday 1st March at 10.30am

Madame Paquin

Foremost French Couturier 1869-1936

A lecture by Rosemary Harden from the Fashion Museum in Bath about the remarkable designer Jeanne Paquin who was the first woman to open her own Fashion House. Friends £9, Guests £10, including coffee and biscuits before the lecture. Phone 01833 690606 ext 233 (voicemail) or email friends@thebowesmuseum.org.uk

Tuesday 13th March at 2.15pm.

Historic Lace in Contemporary Design.

A lecture by Beth Walsh. 'Lace is not of the past: it can be an exhilarating part of the present'. This talk will explore the use of historical designs in new ways and contexts. Friends £9, Guests £10, including coffee and scones after the lecture. Phone 01833 690606 ext 233 (voicemail) or email friends@thebowesmuseum.org.uk

## ANOTHER ACTIVITY OPENS AT AYCLIFFE'S "PLANET LEISURE"



An exciting new addition to the activities at Planet Leisure on the Business Park opened this week.

It is the first indoor Aerial Trekking Course in the North East and is using the latest continuous belay system providing the safest possible experience. Each person is secured and there is no need to clip and unclip from the course.

Darren and Andrea Peckitt opened Planet Leisure last year as an extension of their successful Ruff 'n' Tumble operation catering for young children.

Planet Leisure appeals to all ages offering a bowling alley, skating rink, good food and drink in well laid out, comfortable premises.

The trekking course consists of 16 elements suspended 5.5m over the ice rink. Visitors will need to negotiate tyre swings, balance beams, cargo nets and seesaws over the 80m course.

This is the latest attraction to be added to Planet Leisure with work scheduled to start in March on the Laser Arena.

Counc Billy Blenkinsopp who gave the owners assistance with the planning application was invited to the opening. He told Newton News how the Peckitts had invested all they had into starting the new business and hoped Newtonians would support the venture.

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Saturday 8.30am-2pm

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**Fed Up with Paying Main Dealer Prices?**  
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**PIRELLI SPECIALS**  
205x55W16 - £67.95  
All Fully Fitted

**SNOW TYRES FROM £54.95 inc**

**NEWTON NEWS**

NEWTON NEWS is published and printed by Newton News, which was established in 1988 and is registered with the Press Complaints Commission. It is a free newspaper and is available to all residents of the Newton area. It is published weekly except on public holidays. It is published by Newton News, which was established in 1988 and is registered with the Press Complaints Commission. It is a free newspaper and is available to all residents of the Newton area. It is published weekly except on public holidays.

## Sign up for Durham's Sport Relief 2012

People are being urged to get active, raise cash for good causes and change lives by taking part in one of Durham County Council's Sport Relief events.

The Council is supporting Sport Relief by hosting Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile events at Leisure Centres on Sunday, March 25th.

Victoria Lee, adult healthy lifestyle co-ordinator and one of the hosts for Teesdale's event, said: "This is the second year we've hosted the Sport Relief Mile in Teesdale and we'd like to get as many people signed up as possible. From teeny-tots with their parents, to super sprinters up against the clock, there's something for everyone with a choice of one, three or six miles.

"Please register at www.sportrelief.com and help us to raise money for Comic Relief causes."

The Sport Relief Miles are being held at Meadowfield Leisure Centre, Durham, Shildon-Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Shildon, and

Teesdale Leisure Centre, Barnard Castle at the following times:

Meadowfield Leisure Centre: start - 11am for all mile events.

Shildon-Sunnydale Leisure Centre: start - 10.30am for six mile event, 11am for three mile event and 11.30am for one mile event.

Teesdale Academy School: start - 10am for six mile event and 10.30am for one and three mile events.

A further event organised by Chester-le-Street and District Athletics Club is being held at Durham County Council's Riverside Sports Pavilion: Start - 9.30am for six mile event, 9.45am for three mile event and 10am for one mile event.

Participants need to sign up at www.sportrelief.com before the event and are encouraged to attend in fancy dress. You can also find your closest Sport Relief Mile, including other local venues, by visiting the website.

Registration costs: £6 adult, £3 child, £15 family (2 adults and 2 children)

**Cut and Blow Dry ONLY £20.00**

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# British Legion - 50 Years and Still Going Strong



The British Legion, one of the most popular and successful clubs in the Town, celebrates its 50th Anniversary this weekend and members are being treated to free entertainment with beer and spirit prices at a reduced price from 19th - 25th February. Members and their families are having a "Fun Day" with free entertainment on Saturday 18th February. Local entertainers have been booked and it promises to be a memorable occasion. We have even heard the committee are to be dressed in 60's style!

The new club actually opened for business at Christmas in 1961, but the official opening by the Duke of Northumberland the Area President of the British Legion, was in February 1962.

Vaux Brewery provided a loan to build the club and it was just 3 years later, after the original membership of 400 increased, that the committee decided to extend the premises to provide an upstairs facility offering comfortable lounges and a kitchen and restaurant area, open to the general public.

In addition the spacious premises offer a large bar area, concert room and office /committee space. The "Legion" is hired for parties, funeral and social functions and is focal point for the community. The Committee help local charities raise cash by arranging Cabaret Nights whereby local artists give their services free. The Rotary Club Jubilee Draw and Social Night will be held there on 5th June.

Tal Jones had the original idea to open a British Legion Club in Newton Aycliffe. A Steering Group was formed in 1960 to negotiate terms with the Brewery and draw up the plans.

The committee wanted to build on a site now taken by the Fire Station but this was turned down and they accepted their present location which was then an open field.

Eddie Graham is the only one left of the Founding Committee and he remembers having his first pint in the new club costing just 5p. Eddie has served on the committee for 50 years and had the honour of being President and is currently the Chairman.

The "Legion" is an important part of the community in Newton Aycliffe and we congratulate them on achieving their fiftieth birthday. The club is weathering the difficult times hitting social clubs and the hard work of the officers and committee to keep things running smoothly is commendable.



The Women's Section was formed to safeguard the interests of H.M. past and serving men and women, war widows, dependants and their families.

Newton Aycliffe Branch was formed in the early 60's with 60 members. They raise money for welfare schemes and the annual Poppy Appeal. The section meets fortnightly and would welcome new members. Please ring 312876 and ask to be put in touch with the chairman Pauline Barkley.



**Eddie Graham**  
Chairman



**Paul Land**  
Vice Chairman



**Ray Henderson**  
Secretary



**Keith Sams**  
Treasurer



**Sue Land**  
Entertainment Secretary



The Founding Committee members with Tal Jones seated fourth from left with a much younger looking Eddie Graham second from right, back row.





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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**FEBRUARY 2012**

**Sunday 19th February - Wedding Open Day**  
Come and take this opportunity to view the Coleman Suite and John Burdon Suite set up for Wedding Receptions and a Civil Ceremony. No appointment necessary just come along anytime between 11.00am and 4.00pm

**Friday 24th February - The 80's Experience**  
The best disco party ever. Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, two course buffet - £10.95 per person

**Saturday 25th February - Closest to Elvis**  
The Elvis Legacy featuring the top selling International Elvis Tribute Act Mark Summers. A new and fresh show, officially produced by Elvis Presley Productions UK. Recently described as the 'Closest to Elvis' in his performances. Evening includes a three course dinner and disco. Arrive 7.00pm dinner served 7.45pm - £19.95 per person

**Saturday 25th February - Night Fever at the 70's Disco**  
Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, two course buffet - £10.95 per person

**Sunday 26th February - Winter Wedding Exhibition**  
Over 40 exhibitor stalls showcasing everything from dresses, cakes, flowers to photographers, chair covers and stationery  
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# INVITATION TO JOIN U3A AT SEDGEFIELD

Are you retired or no longer in full-time work? Do you enjoy learning, cultural and leisure activities? Would you like to get together with others to share interests and knowledge in informal surroundings? If you answer yes to these questions, this is definitely for you, and there is no minimum age to participate.

A new society was established recently in Sedgefield, known as the Sedgefield and District branch of the

University of The Third Age (U3A), but unlike traditional universities there are no formal courses, examinations or huge annual fees! The U3A is a vibrant, thriving organisation at local, regional and national level. Each local group is autonomous and decides on its own programme of activities and its own modest fees.

The core of our programme is a series of monthly meetings, free to members, usually with speakers on a

range of fascinating topics. We now have speakers booked for every meeting up to July 2012. These include: Sadberge, Dogs trust; The Great North Air Ambulance; Magistrates in the Community and more.

We have decided to call ourselves Sedgefield & District U3A as we wanted to encourage residents of surrounding towns and villages to join us. At the moment we have about fifty members but would love to have more.

We currently meet on the third Friday of the month at Ceddesfield Hall, Rectory row, Sedgefield at 2.00pm. And members will be encouraged to start up smaller "Interest Groups", covering topics of mutual interest, which will meet periodically. So please come along, and become a member of a unique, friendly self-help movement.

For more information, contact the secretary on: sedgesec@yahoo.co.uk

# DURHAMGATE PROJECT BACK ON TRACK

The first phase of a major development to bring new jobs, housing and business to a Spennymoor is expected to be completed by the summer. Durham County Council is reassuring residents after unforeseen problems caused delays affecting roadworks in the A167/A688 Thinford roundabout area.

The £8.5m roadworks improvement scheme is being carried out as part of the wider DurhamGate

project, which will see a new housing, retail, leisure and business development on a 55-acre former industrial site on the outskirts of Spennymoor.

The roadworks, which are not only essential to the DurhamGate development but will also reduce traffic congestion and bring improved access to the nearby Green Lane Industrial Estate and Spennymoor town centre, were originally planned to be completed at the end of 2011.

But unforeseen problems regarding the diversion of underground services and, installing new drainage combined with having to keep traffic flowing in one of the county's congestion hotspots have resulted in delays. In addition through a coordinated approach, other organisations have also taken the opportunity to undertake essential infrastructure works, which would have been necessary regardless of the creation of DurhamGate. This means that the roadworks are now expected to run on until the summer.

Cllr Neil Foster, Cabinet member for regeneration and economic development at Durham County Council, said: "These roadworks are

part of a major development that will bring significant benefits to Spennymoor and the surrounding area.

"Unfortunately there have been some issues which were not anticipated and which have caused some delays to the work.

"However, we would like to reassure people that we have largely resolved these issues and we hope to complete the roadworks by the summer.

"We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and we would ask motorists for their continued patience while these important roadworks are carried out."

Work on the Thinford roundabout is expected to be completed by the summer while work on the York Hill Road and the new roundabout by the Coach and Horses pub are due to be finished in the spring.

The wider DurhamGate project is expected to bring nearly 3,000 new jobs when it is fully completed as well as creating construction jobs and training opportunities during the work.

Along with new retail and leisure developments, including shops, a restaurant, a pub and an 80-bed hotel, there will also be 376 new homes built as part of the scheme.

## PUBLIC VIEWS SOUGHT FOR POLICE COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Durham Police Authority is keen to seek ideas from the public to help determine how local people want to communicate and engage with their new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) from 15 November 2012.

The Government is set to abolish Police Authorities later this year and replace them with directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners. The Government expects that current Police Authorities will oversee the effective transition to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Durham Police Authority has set up a multi-agency Local Transition Board to help it to deliver its Transition Programme. Views from the public about how they would like a new Police and Crime Commissioner to communicate and engage with them on policing matters will help to inform the strategy currently being developed by the Board's Communications and Engagement Transition Project.

The short survey is available online at the Authority's website: [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk) or Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/durhampoliceauthority](http://www.facebook.com/durhampoliceauthority). A survey can also be sent to your home address by calling 0191 3835511 or by

email: [durham.pa@durham.gov.uk](mailto:durham.pa@durham.gov.uk). The closing date for responses is Wednesday 29 February 2012.

Lesley Davies, Chief Executive of Durham Police Authority said: "It is important to give members of the public the opportunity to tell us how they want the new Police and Crime Commissioner to communicate and engage with them in the future. I strongly encourage people from all areas to participate in the survey as public opinion is fundamental to the development of an effective approach for the new Police and Crime Commissioner".

## Draw Prizes Unclaimed

Following the recent Aycliffe's Got Talent competition at the Youth Centre, there were four raffle prizes unclaimed. The numbers were on the grey tickets: 443 and 432 on the buff colour: 42 and on the blue ticket: 922.

If you are the lucky winner of these prizes please contact the Youth Centre on 01325 307522 before the end of March with the corresponding tickets.

If the prizes are not claimed they will be used for another event.

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## Danger of Icy Paths

Dear Sir,  
I write to have a little moan, about ice on our pavements. A lot of people will say our footpaths are a danger and I have lost count of how many times I have slipped.

I also know of people who have broken their ankles and surely this can be avoided. If people get out and clear the footpaths outside their houses it would help, and the Council could supply salt and grit to ALL areas!

I hope the weather picks up soon to rid our streets of this danger so that everyone can walk safely again.

Observer  
Name & address supplied

**Editor:**  
the following is an extract from a statement by "Living Streets" an organisation tackling this problem:

"Last winter around 20,000 people in the UK were admitted to hospital as a result of slipping on snow and ice. We can't just sit back and let this happen again - write to your councillors now.

While main roads are gritted in winter, most side streets and pavements are neglected, turning them into dangerous ice rinks. If you're older, disabled or have a pushchair, these dangerous conditions can make it almost impossible to venture outdoors.

Living Streets is calling on councils to agree a winter contract with communities, committing to:

•Clearing snow and ice from pavements, especially the

busiest - helping people walk safely to places like schools, doctors' surgeries, shops and bus stops

•Sending contractors who can't carry out their normal job in bad weather to clear pavements

•Providing grit to residents and organising teams of volunteer 'snow wardens'.

Write to your councillors now calling for action."

## AYCLIFFE VILLAGE EVENTS

### JUNIOR DISCO.

It's disco time for children aged five to 12 years at Aycliffe Village hall on Friday, February 24, from 6.30-8pm. Hot dogs and a range of snacks and drinks will be available. Children can also have a glitter tattoo for £1. Entry is £1.

### WI MEETING.

The next meeting of Aycliffe WI is on Wednesday, February 29, in the village hall at 7.30pm when the speakers will be Barbara Galloway and Eileen Mason on Game Show Experiences. The competition will be to decorate a card/envelope which illustrates a proposal of marriage, to celebrate this being a leap year. For details, call the President Kathy Round on 01325-315732.

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## Three Job Vacancies to Support the Delivery of New Projects Within our Business

### NVQ Assessor/Trainer

Job Ref. Code: CTA/01/2012

Hours: 37.5 hours per week (full time position) Vary to meet needs of our client  
Coverage: North East - Salary: £18k to £20k

**The Individual:** - It is essential that you:

- Have the A1 Award (or D units);
- Have NVQ assessed in the last 6 months;
- Can demonstrate proven track record and excellent experience of work in any of the following vocational areas - Customer Service, Business Administration, Advice and Guidance, Management L2-L4;
- Have experience of working in an adult learning environment;
- Hold a current driving license and own transport;
- Have excellent IT skills to include Emailing, Word, Excel and Power Point;
- Have Cert Ed/PTLLS/CTLLS or equivalent;
- Hold current CRB or willing to obtain/

### Project and Placement Officer

Job Ref. Code: CTA/02/2012

Hours: 37.5 hours per week (full time position) Vary to meet needs of our client  
Coverage: North East  
Salary: £16k to £18k depending on experience and qualification

**The Individual:** - It is essential that you:

- Have experience:
  - of placing individuals in work placements;
  - in a training and development environment;
  - of the current labour market;
  - working with employers to support staff development programmes.
- Management qualification or proven track record in Project Management;
- IT skills to ECDL or ITQ standard;
- Sales, Marketing and promotional skills;
- Exceptional Communication Skills;
- Hold a current driving license and own transport;
- Current CRB or willing to obtain.

### Personal Assistant / HR Co-Ordinator

Job Ref. Code: CTA/03/2012

Hours: 37.5 hours per week (full time position) Vary to meet needs of our client  
Coverage: Main base in Newton Aycliffe  
Salary: £15k to £18k depending on experience and qualification

**The Individual:** - It is essential that you:

- Management /HR qualification;
- Business Administration/Customer Service qualification;
- Current (within last 9 months) relevant experience working in HR / PA role;
- IT skills to ECDL or ITQ standard;
- Exceptional Literacy and Numeracy skills;
- Be able to communicate at all levels and work as part of a team;
- Hold a current driving license and own transport.

## HOW TO APPLY

For a job specification for either position (use job ref code) contact:

**Julie Clements on Tel: 01325 308840**

Communicators Training is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. We promote equality and diversity and expect all staff to share this commitment.

**Closing Date: Monday, 5th March, 2012**

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The successful candidate will hold NVQ land 2 in a relevant discipline and be required to develop menus, undertake stock checks, place orders, manage kitchen staff and produce meals in accordance with current and future legislative requirements. Further details, a full job description/person specification and an application form are available from the Catering Manager, Mrs Linda Vipond.

Woodham is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The post is subject to enhanced disclosure, the successful applicant will be subject to relevant vetting checks before an offer of appointment is made

The College is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We want to develop a more diverse workforce and we positively welcome applications from all sections of the community. Applicants with disabilities will be invited for interview if the essential job criteria are met.

Closing Date for Applications:  
Close of business, Friday 24th February 2012

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## Planning Objections a Waste of Time

Dear Sir,  
Counc. Henderson is to be thanked for his revelation on the County Council's Planning Committee considerations on the application to build houses on Woodham Golf Course.

It makes an absolute mockery of Public Meetings, Consultations and Planning Guidelines for those making legitimate objections. It also highlights the fact that at no time during the protracted process did anyone in the Planning Department or any of our County Councillors advise residents of any "Departure Conditions" which neutralise the planning guidelines.

Given the power of "Presumption in favour of Developments" and the weight given to "Socio-economic Benefits" the prospects of winning an appeal against a County Council refusal, must be sky high!

Also given the possible cost to the Council of losing any such appeal, does that mean local residents have no influence on planning?

More importantly will developers now ride rough-shod over Great Aycliffe's green and pleasant landscape?

Don Fraser, Woodham



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# Winning Story for St. Mary's Pupil



Year 6 children at St. Mary's entered the Sid Chaplin short story completion before the summer holidays. The children enjoyed taking part in the competition, not expecting to have a winning prize entry in our school! Kieran Barron, a Y6 pupil at St. Mary's won in the junior section. His story, "Ghastly or Gas" told the exciting

story of an endangered bat. He was awarded a book which contained the winning entries and a cheque for £50. The awards ceremony took place last Thursday evening, 9th February at Shildon Civic Hall. His family and some of his teachers were present to celebrate his success. Kieran was thrilled at his achievement and is continuing to enjoy his story writing. - We have a potential author in our midst!

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## Lost & Found

**LOST** Red photo album in the style of "This is Your Life". Lost in the Greathead Crescent area on Friday 10th February. Very high sentimental value. If found please hand in to Newton Press offices who will return to the owner.

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Between 1984 and 1996 he won 85 caps for England and six Lions caps, and he remains the most capped England back in history. Tickets: £40 (£35 for Friends of the Bowes Museum), obtained from Lesley Taylor,

phone 01833 650789 or email [lttoplars@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lttoplars@tiscali.co.uk). NOTE: For queries (not tickets) please call 01833 650 899 or email [gerald@gblake7.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:gerald@gblake7.wanadoo.co.uk) Dress Code: lounge suits or club blazers.

# 8mm Cine Film Found



Do you recognise anyone in this 1970's wedding photo? While transferring cine film onto DVD Sue Merrick discovered the wedding shots mixed with her family's film. As the projector was secondhand she believes the reel belonged to the previous owner and she would like to return it if still wanted. Sue can be contacted on 300923 or 0797 6875167.

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# NEWTONIAN BATTLES IN ARMY SKIING EXERCISE

A Newton Aycliffe soldier has been honing her military skills in the freezing environment of the snow capped French Alps. Private Jessica Burn, 20 of Germany based 8 Regiment Royal Logistics Corps was one of 300 soldiers to compete in the Army skiing contest Exercise Pipedown, organised by 1 (UK) Armoured Division in tLes Contamines de Montjoie near Mont Blanc.

Former Greenfield School student Jessica took part in the Alpine (downhill) event after only learning how to ski in November as part of an Army skiing course.

Jessica, a military communications specialist, said: "I volunteered for the skiing course because I wanted to try something new. Exercise Pipedown was my first competition; I just went straight into it. Standing at the top of my first run was a frightening experience, but I just tried to focus and remember my training."

This year's ski was one of the most eventful - providing a variety of twists and turns during both the Alpine events and the Nordic (cross country). Alpine skiing is one of the most popular disciplines for military people, and is widely regarded as one of the fastest and physically demanding sports.

Jessica was happy with the progress she has made and the experience of the event which she hopes will help her to be more competitive in future competitions. She added: "I really enjoyed the event, I love the adrenalin - it's very intense and I hope to continue skiing in the future." During the exercise soldiers' physical and mental strength is tested to the limit in a variety of individual and team events including a 10km Biathlon sprint, a 4 X 10km relay, slaloms, downhill skiing a 1km floodlit challenge and a 20km military patrol race an event designed to test soldiers in all the essential military skills expected of them on operations including marksmanship, map reading and physical endurance.

Major General James Bashall, (UK) Armoured Division, who presented prizes to all the winners, said organising training opportunities such as Exercise Pipedown is part of the Army fulfilling its military covenant with soldiers.

He explained: "In these days of intense operational commitments - exercises like this give our people a change - which is important for the process of coming down after an operational tour."

"It is incredibly valuable and important - a chance to put their hearts and souls into a



different activity - a world away from Afghanistan, maintaining their health and well-being.

"This is a valid military activity which develops all the traits we expect soldiers to have on operations such as good marksmanship, fitness, coordination, teamwork, leadership and organisation, courage, boldness and cooperation - but Pipedown is also a chance for soldiers to enjoy themselves. The Army promises a life of adventure and opportunity. This is one of those opportunities."

## BAD WEATHER HELPS INJURED-STRUCK AYCLIFFE FC TEAM

### FIXTURES

Saturday 18th February: Conssett (A), 3pm

Saturday 25th February: Marske Utd (H), 3pm

Saturday 10th March: Dunston UTS (H), 3pm

Saturday 17th March: Penrith (A), 3pm

Saturday 31st March: Whitley Bay (A), 3pm

www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk

Newton Aycliffe FC have been given an unexpected but timely winter break as the cold snap put paid to two consecutive games for the Newtonians.

Aycliffe's trip to South Shields a fortnight ago fell foul of the freezing temperatures, as did their big derby at home to Shildon last Saturday.

Boss Allan Oliver says the lay-off hasn't come at a bad time, considering injuries to key players, although he's hoping it won't put an end to their current eight-match unbeaten run. The Newtonians hope to get their season back up and running at Conssett this Saturday.

Oliver said: "The break has been welcome in terms of the injuries we've got, but on the other hand we were on a roll. We're eight games unbeaten at present and when you get a run going like that in this league, you don't want the games to stop."

Aycliffe are currently sixth in the Northern League first division in their debut top-flight campaign, with 11 games to go. Oliver added: "We can't complain but we need to keep going right to

the end of the season. We've had a few injuries and we've got players slowly coming back so it's just a case of keeping them ticking over."

"We've been training indoors to keep the players fit because you can't afford to let your fitness levels slip at this level, or you'll quickly get found out."

Defender Mark Peck is out long-term after undergoing a serious leg injury, while striker Warren Byrne is still sidelined as he recovers from a broken bone in his foot, but forward Ben Wood (foot) is on the mend.

Aycliffe's next home game is against Marske United next Saturday (February 25), 3pm kick-off at Moore Lane Park, followed by Dunston at home the week after.

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The children's team at St. Clare's Church will once again host their popular Pancake Party for families on Shrove Tuesday (21st Feb)

4:30-5:30pm. Entry is £1 per person and children will be able too get messy making their own pancakes! Decorate them with a variety of toppings and eat them! There will also be THE GREAT BIG OUTDOOR PANCAKE RACE. Adults can also have a hot drink and a pancake for £1, so come along and enjoy the fun.

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