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WOODHAM GOLF CLUB PLANS TO BE DECIDED AT LAST!

Councillors will meet next month to decide on the planning application to re-develop Woodham Golf and Country Club.

The meeting of the Planning Committee will be on Tuesday 6th March, when councillors will be asked to vote on whether or not the plans to improve the course should be approved.

The application proposes a £32.1m investment to re-develop Woodham Golf & Country club and its surrounding area. The plans include improvements to the golf course, construction of 50 executive family homes, a 75 bed, four-star hotel with conference and spa facilities, as well as extensive landscaping and the introduction of traffic calming measures.

The original application was submitted in December 2010 and the date for the final decision has been

welcomed by the property company, and developers behind the proposal. Managing Director of Washington Developments, Jamie Murphy expressed his excitement for the approaching decision, "We've been working closely with the council for a long time to develop plans that provide maximum social and economic benefits to Woodham and its surrounding area."

Jamie continued, "We're looking forward to meeting with the planning committee and eagerly anticipate a good result. A lot of hard work has gone into producing the plans for Woodham and throughout our consultations with DCC, so we're keen to get the ball rolling on the project."

Initial construction work would commence towards the end of 2012, should the application be approved next month.

More Leek Growers Needed

Each year, as part of the Great Aycliffe Show, the Horticultural Exhibition sponsored by Gregg Little Testing Centre, hosts a class for "Two pot leeks 6" Tight Button".

The Town Council can't compete with the prize money paid out to Leek Club Members but they do offer £30 cash prize plus a portable TV or alternative prize.

They would like to encourage you to enter a leek into this competition and are keen to know, what would persuade you to participate? Would it be higher prize money, a competition held in September instead of the end of August, or perhaps the publicity and kudos of winning?

Please let them have your comments either on the website www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk (see news item on the home page) by writing to the Council Offices, or telephone us on 01325 300700.

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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, KISSER CHIEFS, NIRVANA, RAZORLIGHT, PINK FLOYD and GREEN DAY.
Dave'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".
Covering tracks by: Bad Company, Billy Idol, Ben Jovi, Cult, Deep Purple, Gary Moore, Hendrix, Santana, Pink Floyd, Rory Gallagher, Santana, UFO, ZZ Top and much more - www.unclegilbert.co.uk
Saturday 10th March - "1977"
ROCKERMOUTH REVIEW FROM "STORMIN THE CASTLE" - "For me probably, the band I was looking forward to seeing the most at Stormin'. Simply because I knew that the punk covers that they play would be such a great alternative musical taste, and that the typical assembled Stormin' audience would absolutely lap this lot up. Sure enough 1977 did the job splendidly! Lots of classic late 70's punk anthems from the Sex Pistols, Clash, Jam, SLF, D'mind, plus many more. Again it was just a brief one-hour slot in which to deliver a show, but with some of their songs clocking in at 2 minutes or less then they managed to bang in a multitude of tunes with plenty of variety. This crowd just grew and grew as the group continued to belt out anthems after anthems, and obviously the audience were becoming a lot more animated and lairy too, ha-ha! I was just as happy watching the crowd having a great time as I was watching the band play. There was a fantastic atmosphere building up in the main tent, and 1977 were milking it to the max. The sound mix for them was even better than the previous band, and now I could say that the quality of the rig was easily as good as any prior years of this rally. Bill's bass guitar sound was huge, Cass' drum kit had never sounded bigger nor bolder, and Jakka's guitar tore out through the mix like a broadsword. This was big step forward from their typical pub gigs using their own small vocal P.A. system. Stadium rock had finally arrived for 1977 after 15 years of slopping their backside off around the north east, and boy didn't they suit it so well! This 3-piece band came alive on this bigger stage, and the crowd absolutely loved them."
For more information on bands go to
www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034
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Local Politics Brought into Schools?

Independent Loses Governorship

Dear Editor
I would like to inform parents of Stephenson Way School who are asking why I came off the Governing Board after 22 Years. I held the position as Local Education Authority Governor and my four year term was up in November 2011, but I was prepared to be re-elected. The two County Councillors Mike Dixon and Enid Paylor have to sign for the L.E.A. appointments on the board and in their wisdom decided to leave me off and replace me with a Labour member with no experience of governing boards, Barry Dobson the Head Teacher retired in December 2011 and a new Head Teacher was appointed to start in January 2012. You need a good established

Governing body for support, but in this case another two Governors have resigned, which does not help. I did inform the Governors that this would happen and the Governing Board would have a political bias. Mike Dixon and Enid Paylor did the same at Woodham Burn Infants School where again they would not sign the L.E.A. form there for me to stay on the Governing board. I am very concerned that County Councillors who do not live in the West Ward can do this and get away with it and I deplore Politics brought into our schools. I have complained to the Leader of Durham County Council Mr S Henig, and wait for developments. Alderman George Gray, Councillor West Ward.

RESPONSE BY CLLRs DIXON & PAYLOR

"Local Authority Governors are appointed to support and represent the Local Authority on Governing Bodies of State Schools - this has always been the case. At this time when both Education and Local Authorities are undergoing severe pressure from Central Government it is crucial that Local Authority appointees to School Governors are fully in accord with and supportive of the Local Authority, in this case Durham (Labour). The school is free to appoint Governors under other categories, such as Community and Parent Governor; schools usually struggle to find Governors and there is always opportunities for those keen to act as School Governors to do so".

Hit Back at Argentina Who are Squeezing Falkland Islanders

Dear Sir,
As many readers will be aware, 2012 marks the 30th Anniversary of the liberation of the Falkland Islands, from the invading forces of Argentina. 255 British Servicemen lost their lives, as did 3 islanders, all women. This was the only time in my life where the boots of a hostile foreign army have

been placed on British soil. Today the Government of Argentina is again in full-on rabble-rousing mode and are squeezing the islanders. Fresh produce prices are going up and even something as simple as the supply of the humble egg, is constrained due to ports being blockaded. In short the early stages of an economic blockade are in place.

Nobody I know wants another war in the islands, least of all the islanders themselves. The islanders I have spoken to are concerned, but resolute. They are British and wish to remain so.

So my call to Tesco is this: For the period of 2nd April - 14th June (the 74 days in 1982 the war was fought) remove all Argentinian products from your shelves. Do not sell a single Argentinian product via your store or website.

The product choice in Tesco is sufficient for this not to affect sales over the period and with the vast corporate profits made by Tesco, it will not threaten jobs or business viability.

My second request is for our local manager to pass up the management chain, that being seen as a company that puts money into the economy of a nation, hostile to the rights of British Citizens is not a good marketing strategy. Tesco should provide a public commitment to de-list the products of any country whose government displays such hostility.

The first major supermarket to do this will achieve a huge coup in the marketplace, which will please the shareholders. The armed forces, their families, friends, relatives and supporters are a powerful economic force.

You need only look at the success of the charity Help For Heroes to realise that they are a demographic that cannot be ignored. So what will it be Tesco? It's time to pick a side, to take a stand, to do what's right.
A Carter

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R.A.F.A. A.G.M.
The A.G.M. of the Newton Aycliffe Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association will be held in the Canopus Club, Barrington Road on **WEDNESDAY, 3rd MARCH, 2012.**
Doors close at 8.00pm prompt.
All members are cordially invited to attend.

Paula Delaney as
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Saturday 10th March
Newton Aycliffe Sports Club
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Tickets are available from the bar at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club priced at £5.00 or you can pay on the night (£7.00). Tickets sold on a first come first served basis.
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Awards Ceremony at Aycliffe TA

On the 24th January the Lord Lieutenant of County Durham, Sir Paul Nicholson, carried out his award ceremony at the TA Centre on Northfield Way, Newton Aycliffe home to 102 Battalion REME and they hosted the event on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant.



The awards are given to those nominated individuals of whatever rank who have given over seven years outstanding service in the part-time Reserve or Cadet

Mothers Day at the Oak Leaf

Sunday 18th March is Mother's Day, so why not treat yours to a delicious two course Sunday Lunch in the Function Room at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex. Booking is essential as places are limited.

At only £8.95 for adults and £6.50 for children, it's great value for money, and every Mother will be served a FREE glass of wine. For bookings and further information please contact Reception on 01325 300600.



Forces. Civilian Staff working for the Reserve Forces can also be recognised by the award of a Lord Lieutenant Certificate. Recipients: Mrs Anne Shaw, Mr Barry Standing, Warrant Officer Class 2 Hattle.

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Mayor's Charity Dinner Raised £3,141

The Annual Mayor's Charity Civic Dinner was hosted by the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mary Dalton, on Friday, 17th February 2012 at the Hall Garth Hotel and Country Club. Entertainment was by 'Samantha Taylor' and Dancing to music by 'John Melvin'.

The fund raising at the event was in aid of the Mayor's nominated Charities during her Year in Office and this year the Mayor has chosen the 'Army Benevolent Fund (North East)' and 'Town Organisations'.

The evening was well attended and a special thanks must go to Barclays Bank who match funded the evening. A total amount of £3,141 was raised from the Fund Raising and Match Funding by Barclays Bank. The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe also made a donation



of £500 towards the Mayor's Charities and this was presented to Councillor Mrs. Dalton by their President, Mr. Alan Crawshaw. Mr. Syd Howarth, Editor of the Newton News, gave an excellent response to the Mayor on behalf of the

guests. Councillor Mrs. Dalton would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported the evening

by supplying prizes or, indeed, attending the event. Special thanks to friends and fellow Councillors for their generous help with the fund raising and also to the following companies who give their support on numerous occasions: Barclays Bank PLC, The Village Pharmacy, Husqvarna UK Ltd., Innovations - Hair Salon, Nordic Pioneer Ltd. Mr. P. Wilson, M.P., Sardis Restaurant - Darlington, Neville Parade Chemist, Hall Garth Hotel and Country Club, Sainsbury's - Cobblers Hall, Aston Hotel - Darlington, Julie's Pets, Sue's Florist, Stevens Newsagents, Cooperative Store - Neville Parade, Occasions Card and Gifts.

Teaching World of Business to Schools

A branch manager from one of the North East's leading recruitment agencies is offering school children some very different lessons to help them engage with the world of business.

After becoming a Young Enterprise volunteer, Emma Crocher, interim branch manager at TEMP-TEAM Newton Aycliffe, will be addressing the absence of business in the curriculum by delivering five sessions to pupils aged between five and 12 years old at Saint Joseph's Primary School, Newton Aycliffe.

The sessions, which Emma will be commencing this month, include such topics as why businesses choose a specific location, the importance of supply chain, people and recruitment, the responsibilities of certain roles within organisations and the various means by which companies communicate with target audiences.

In order to inspire and motivate the children to engage more with these topics, Emma will be starting each of her sessions with an educational game to help boost their understanding of that day's topic.

It is her hope that the mixture of work and play will help them to get as much out of the sessions as possible and take valuable information



away with them at the end. Emma said: "I'm really excited about becoming a Young Enterprise volunteer and encouraging children to become more interested in the world of business."

"The school curriculum doesn't include a lot about business, so I'm hoping that I will not only inspire them into becoming entrepreneurs, but also teach them about the world beyond the school gates."

"As a company, TEMP-TEAM prides itself on its support for the local community, and we at Newton Aycliffe have provided volunteers to Young Enterprise in the past to help run similar sessions in schools. It will now be great to be one of those people who are helping to get children excited about the major aspects of business."

For more information on TEMP-TEAM, please visit: www.temp-team.co.uk

Race Night at North Brit

A Race Night is to be held at the North Briton pub at Aycliffe Village on 25th February at 7.30pm.

Proceeds will support St. Andrew's ancient local churchyard which is in need of repair

This is your chance to win all kinds of prizes and have a fun night for a worthwhile cause. Tickets from Bill on 01325 788893.



IMPORTANT PUBLIC MEETING

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
ALL RESIDENTS INVITED & WELCOME

AGENDA

1. Constitution
2. Elections
3. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The meeting will receive a presentation by Cllr John D Clare Deputy Leader Great Aycliffe Town Council on their task to create a Neighbourhood Plan for GREAT AYCLIFFE to be incorporated in the County Plan

It is important for the future of our area to hear what it's about, have your say and get involved.

The Great Aycliffe Residents' Association aim is to ensure that Residents within the Parish of Great Aycliffe have a voice in their community and their aspirations are represented and acted upon. We exist to work with Councils and others to achieve these objectives.

Wrong Date for Cheap Beer

Newton News made a mistake in the report on the Royal British Legion's 50th Anniversary. We stated the reduced drinks week ran from the 18th - 25th February. In fact it is from a period commencing the 25th when the reduction is made. We regret any inconvenience caused to those turning up for cheaper drinks and hope they make up it for it the following week.

Situations VACANT

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Only applications submitted on the school's application forms and completed in full by the specified date will be considered.

Greenfield Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of sex, race, marital status or disability

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All appointments are subject to medical clearance and CRB Enhancement Checks.

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Ineos Competition for Schools & Students

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So if we can do all of this in 2012 what could we do by 2050?

The Chemicals Industry Association (CIA) and INEOS are sponsoring a competition for schools on

this subject and it consists of a picture competition for Primary/Middle schools and a writing competition for Secondary schools.

More information and the winners of last years competition can be seen on the CIA web site in the "Future Forum" section (www.cia.org.uk) or schools can contact Barry Wilkinson at INEOS Newton Aycliffe Ltd on 01325 303683.

The prizes are: School Prizes: £1000 first prize, £500 second prize, £250 third prize.

Student prizes £300 First prize, £150 second prize, £75 third prize.

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SPORTS COURSE FUN AT OAK LEAF

“INDEPENDENTS’ PROPOSALS WOULD HAVE BANKRUPTED THE COUNCIL” says Leader



Great fun was had by all who attended the Oak Leaf Sports Complex February half term holiday courses. All were well attended and those on the Crafty Kids course, and the little ones on the Mini Activity session all had a great time painting and sticking and had something to take home. Watch out for our Easter holiday courses, when the WIN A BIKE draw returns and YOU may be the lucky winner!



Dear Editor

I would like to reply to Councillor Paul Ducker’s letter of last week. On reading the letter, I was at first annoyed then astonished, and later filled with apprehension. I was annoyed by the statement that I thought the people of Newton Aycliffe were fools. Over the past twenty five years I have always been open and transparent in my activities and always treated the people of Newton Aycliffe with the utmost respect.

The statements I made regarding the Council’s finances are true and open to scrutiny. The savings we have made are due in no small amount to the work carried out by our staff. By his untrue and misleading statement he also maligns those staff and shows that he does not appreciate the work they have done to achieve those savings. The savings we carry in our balances are true balances held in bank accounts. Not only are Great Aycliffe Town Council transparent in our financial dealings, but we have insisted and volunteered to have the highest level of audit of our accounts, unlike most other Town Councils in England.

I was astonished that a Councillor, after almost five years as a Councillor and the leader of the Aycliffe Independents could be so ignorant of the basic and fundamental workings of the Council. Councillor Ducker, in

his letter, showed that he does not know the difference between the Council’s Medium Term Financial Plan, its budget or the precept.

First, the Independents in 2008 did not approve the Medium Term Financial Plan. This is a plan which looks to the next four to five years. The Plan attempts to decide future Council services and how we will fund those services.

The Medium Term Plan is reviewed annually. In June 2007, when I presented the 2007 Plan to the Council, the Independents requested time to prepare their own plan; this was agreed. It is now February 2012 and we still await the Independents’ plan. The Independents did not vote against the budget in 2008. The budget is the document that we have to produce each year. The budget shows the income and expenditure we will need to provide Council services to the people of the town. The proposed budget goes through the Environment Committee, the Recreation Committee, the Policy and Resources Committee and finally full Council. At not one of these meetings in 2008 did the Independents vote against or amend the proposals contained in the budget. At a much later meeting they decided to vote against the precept, that is how we would raise the money to provide the services. At that meeting, Mr Bailey, the Town

Clerk and Mr Dan Austin, the Finance Officer, warned the Independent Councillors that they were in danger of making the Council BANKRUPT if they won the vote. Fortunately they lost the vote.

No wonder I was filled with apprehension for the future. If this is the level of understanding of the Town Council finances, by the Leader of the Independents, who in the future could be the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee and be responsible for a £2,800,000 budget. The balances we have built to provide for the future of our town would disappear in an instant.

Finally, I notice he did not make any comment about his and his followers’ promise to cut the Council Tax by 50% or the poor attendance of some Independent Councillors.

Councillor Bob Fleming
Leader of the Council

Save a Life - Give Blood

There will be a Blood Donor Session at Woodham Community Centre on Monday 5th March from 10am till 12 noon and 1.30 - 4pm.

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Three bedrooms detached fully house. Fitted kitchen, lounge, oil, central heating, new garden, oil, central heating, new garden.

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Employers can help put the brakes on poor driving by signing their staff up for a free training course. The one-day session is aimed at companies in the Bishop Auckland, Newton Aycliffe and Shildon areas whose staff drive light commercial vehicles or private or company cars for work activities. Run by Durham County Council and paid for through the government's Local Sustainable Transport Fund, the course aims to improve driving habits and leave drivers feeling less stressed when behind the wheel. As well as learning important techniques such as how to make better use of their gears

and the importance of keeping the correct distance in order to reduce braking, trainees will also develop more environmentally-friendly ways of driving, which will help reduce fuel consumption. Alan Kennedy, Durham County Council's road safety section manager, said: "We have already delivered safe and fuel efficient driver training courses to a number of companies in Newton Aycliffe, all of which say they have since seen a significant increase in fuel efficiency. "The funding for these courses will continue until March 2015 so there is plenty of opportunity for companies to take part and make the most of the financial benefits of having safer drivers who also drive in a more environmentally-friendly way. The fully-accredited course is delivered by a team of instructors who are ADI Level 5 or 6, fleet qualified and who are fully-qualified in fuel efficient driver training. Courses can be arranged to suit the needs of individual companies and are based on one instructor for every two trainees. For more information contact the Road Safety Team on 0191 383 3769 or 0191 383 4728.

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Rotary Fighting Polio

Final Push to Eradicate Devastating Disease



This week the BBC featured the battle on eradicating Polio in the world. The virus causes crippling disability and sometimes death within hours and polio became a greatly feared infection. In the late 1920s the iron lung was first used to help patients paralysed with polio to enable breathing. Poliomyelitis is a highly infectious disease which affects the central nervous system. It is passed from person to person via contaminated faeces. Most cases cause no symptoms but in around one in 200 infections leads to irreversible paralysis, usually in the legs. A minority of serious cases are fatal when the chest muscles become paralysed and the patient is unable to breathe. There is no cure for

polio but it can be prevented. A second, oral polio vaccine was created in 1961 by Dr Albert Sabin using a live strain of virus. It has been this vaccine, given in drops, which has been the main tool of polio eradication. Mass immunisation campaigns have led to a dramatic drop in polio cases. Rotary International created the PolioPlus programme in 1985 aimed at eradicating the disease. Rotarians throughout the world have raised \$1bn (£630m) to support polio immunisation. Thousands of Rotarians have volunteered to distribute the vaccine. Syd Howarth, Editor of Newton News, his son Paul, Daughter in law Bev and Graddaughter Carrie travelled to West Africa to be part of a National Immunisation Day when

over one million children received the vaccine. In 1988 the World Health Assembly set a target of eradicating polio. That year an estimated 350,000 people were paralysed or killed by polio and the virus was endemic in 125 countries. Since then the number of cases has been reduced by more than 99%, but it is the final 1% which may prove the toughest to deal with in four countries only. Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club has been a steadfast supporter of the battle against polio and have raised £1000's to fund the programme since 1985. The club thanks all those who supported their efforts. It is estimated over 6 million children have been saved from this disease.

HEIGHINGTON AGM TO ELECT NEW SECRETARY AND COMMITTEE

Dear Sir
Heighington Village Hall Association are holding their AGM at the Village Hall on Tuesday 13 March from 7.00pm for 7.30pm and are keen to welcome villagers who would like to hear about what has been done to improve the hall over the past year and about the activities of our regular users. Drinks and light refreshments will be served at 7.00pm prior to the commencement of the AGM at 7.30pm. There will also be elections of Officers and Members of the Management Committee. This year both the Treasurer and Secretary are stepping

down - fortunately a replacement has been found for the Treasurer's post but the Committee are still looking for someone to take over the role of Honorary Secretary and of course new Committee members are also most welcome. The Village Hall is the hub of the Heighington community and a lot of hard work is put into the day to day running of the building so it can be there for ALL villagers to enjoy - without the hard work of the Committee, who are all volunteers, the village hall would not be open - so every bit of support they can get is greatly appreciated. Pauline Moses
Hon Secretary

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Police Finances Come in Under-Budget

Members of Durham Police Authority report over £1.25m of savings have been achieved between 1 April 2011 and 31 December 2011, compared to the original profiled budget. Policing areas contributing to the underspend were Supplies & Services, Employees, Agencies & Contracted Expenses, Income and Police Authority Support Costs. Chair of Durham Police Authority, Mr Peter Thompson said: "Whilst there have been dramatic funding cuts from central government grants, I am delighted that Durham Police Authority and its Constabulary have achieved these savings. "This underspend highlights the importance of ensuring the people of County Durham and Darlington get value for money for their policing

services. Through efficient and effective planning we will continue to address the financial challenges head on as we move into the next financial year". It is forecasted that by the end of the 2011/12 financial year in March 2012, the savings will increase further, from £1.264m to £1.378m.

Book Your Soup-a-Lunch

The popular Soup-a-Lunch will be on Wednesday 7th March in St. Elizabeth's Church Hall. There will be a choice of two soups and two sweets plus a cup of tea or coffee. The charge is £3.00. Please phone Angela on 319067 if you wish to attend.

for money for their policing

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL
 Dates and Times of Statutory Meetings
 of the Town Council and its Committees

Wednesday 7th March 2012

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

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Film Review of Kidz Flicks at St. Clare's

Ellie Selby is a 7 year old Sugar Hill Primary School pupil, who never misses Kidz Flicks, Brownies, Community Choir, or Messy Church. She brings along Mum and little sister Maisie, and is definitely a big part of Kids@Clare's.

Recently, she attended Kidz Flicks, along with 52 other children to watch 'Mr. Popper's Penguins' and the following is a review of this very funny film.

What was the film about?

Mr Popper is a cruel business man, his dad is an explorer and he sends Mr. Popper seven gorgeous penguins each with its own different personality.



They turn his nice tidy flat into a spectacular winter wonderland. In the end when Mr. Popper has to take the penguins back to their home in the North Pole he is really sad to see them go as they had helped him turn into a better person thinking about others and not just himself.

What part did you like best?

When all the penguins lay their eggs in the garden, there was 1 egg that didn't hatch and it made everyone sad, but at the end of the film it did hatch into a cute, but lazy penguin.

Was there anything you didn't like about the film?

Nothing I didn't like, it was great! I would recommend this film to anyone.

Thank you Ellie for this great review.

Free drink and sweets for you at the next film, which is THE SMURFS. This movie will be shown on Saturday 3rd March at 2pm. Any children (or indeed adults) who make the effort to come to this film looking like a smurf (a blue face is enough!!) will receive a free drink and sweets. So come along, it will be fun!

"THE BAY HORSE" BUSINESS AS USUAL



Heighington's popular pub The Bay Horse has reopened under the new management of Chris and Sue Flint. They moved from their family home in Sheffield to re-open the pub and restaurant after it closed rather suddenly a few months ago.

They originally came from Hartlepool and have two children and four

Grandchildren. They lived in Sheffield for 27 years. The couple decided to move to Heighington when it was recommended to them by a relative. Sue is a Catering Lecturer and Chris worked in the family business. They were up for the challenge and are working very hard redecorating the pub and refurbishing the kitchen to re-establish the pub's reputation in the village.

Chris and Sue knew they had made the right choice on the first day of opening when they received a very warm welcome from the locals. "It was so nice and everyone was so friendly" said Sue. "We are really looking forward to getting the pub fully open with a first class team" she added. A new Head Chef, Jonathan Taylor from Newton Aycliffe, has been appointed along with a Pastry Chef. Together they will provide sumptuous new dishes along with old favourites, and real hand cut chips. There will be a Daily Specials Board for quick snacks including Home-made Steak Pies, and the Bay Horse Burger.

Johnathan, a former Woodham student, trained at Darlington Catering

College and spent 8 years as Chef at The Bay Horse, Middridge.

It is business as usual at the Bay Horse with Sue and Chris eager to welcome old and new customers to their new look pub where they are guaranteed great service.

INDEPENDENTS ON TOWN COUNCIL BETTER ORGANISED

Dear Sir,
Following the death of my close friend Councillor Terry Hogan whom I still mourn, I did not respond straightaway to the letter from Counc Bob Fleming. As secretary for the GAI Party I have to take issue with some his comments.

In 2007, a large group of independent councillors were elected onto the Town Council and for many it was a totally new experience. One of the first meetings they had to attend was on the issue of Council Tax precept for years 07-08; 08-09; 09-10.

The comment 'sagely nodding heads and passing without question everything put in front of them' is something we could not hope to match the Labour Group on, let alone begin to do it!

If I remember correctly, Cllr Billy Blenkinsopp, who was the deputy leader for the group of independents at the time, had a letter in the Newton News in 2007 which reported on this issue where he said "The newly elected Independent Councillors proposed a freeze to retain Council Tax at £3% for 2008/09.

At the same meeting of the

Town Council Policy and Resources Committee, the Labour members put forward an addendum to our motion to increase the precept by 3%, making a total of 6%. Councillors Clare and Crosby proposed this.

A vote was taken and Labour won by a narrow margin. (This highlights the need for more Independent Councillors).

As we are all not in the flush of youth and may be a little forgetful of all the facts, let me remind Cllr Fleming and the Town that this shows the Independents are not saying and doing nothing!

Whilst our opposition is smaller in size now, it is far more organised, at least for those members in the GAI party who are actively seeking people concerned about issues like high council tax precepts, to join us.

Annual Membership fees are £5 for adults and £2 for senior citizens. If you would like details please write to our Membership Officer: Cllr Alan Warburton, 21 Butler Road, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham DL5 5LU.

Kenneth Stubbs
Secretary GAI party

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WOODHAM ANNUAL MEETING

The Woodham Village Community Centre Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday 21st March 2012 at 6-30pm. Open to all, but only members at 26th Feb 2012 will be eligible to vote for items on the Agenda. Nominations for Officers, Committee members, proposals or any other business must be with the Secretary on or before 26th Feb 2012. Forms available from the Secretary or the Centre. Copies of the Agenda and minutes of the previous meeting will be available on the night, posted on outdoor notice board, Woodham News, or by request from the Secretary from 7th March 2012. David Sutton-LLoyd 01325 316144 Home 01325 300258 Centre 0750 752 3690 Secretary

Independents Need to be More Proactive

Dear Editor, Councillor Ducker should hang his head in shame if, as in his report to the Newton News of 17 February, he can only quote one occasion that he has taken a stand since taking office five years ago. How many Great Aycliffe residents are still waiting for the Independents to reduce the Council Tax precept by 50%? This was the great claim that helped the Independents win so many seats in the 2007 elections. I applaud the introduction of the Eco Centre, no matter who's idea it was, but at the same time I also have to decry the pitiful number of suggestions emanating from the Independents at Town Council meetings. Councillor Ducker cannot claim on the one hand that the controlling Labour group do not accept suggestions then advise the readership that the Eco Centre was the brain child of an Independent Councillor. Having attended a considerable number of Council meetings I'm amazed at how few debates take place on any topic at all. There are so many nodding

dogs it reminiscent of an advert for a well known insurance company. The article by Councillor Fleming on 10th February reported achievements of the Council, not the Labour Party (a subtle point missed by Councillor Ducker). However, there was a justified closing comment on the shortcomings of the Independents who sit on the Council. As an aside I would point out to Councillor Ducker that the Labour Councillors on the Town Council have no influence on the actions of the Government. It is simply ludicrous to link any saving achieved in the efficient running of the affairs of the Town with the national deficit, if indeed you can link the two. It does however ably demonstrate how prudently the Council manages its finances. If the Independents are so

concerned about decisions taken by the Council, where is their voice? Why do they vote in favour of the medium term financial plan for the running of the town if they are not in agreement with it? Why don't they put counter proposals to the floor? Do they know what the word opposition means? So long as they remain inert, they won't achieve anything. Instead of bleating to the Newton News, perhaps they should do what they were elected to do and set about proactively challenging or adding to the decision making process. I would remind them that, as elected representatives of the residents of Great Aycliffe, they are empowered to do this in the Council chamber through proposition and counter proposition, negotiation and debate. Jed Hillary, Ross Walk

Old Photos of Aycliffe Wanted

Newton News appeals to readers who have old photos we can borrow to copy and place on our website to create a permanent record of life in Newton Aycliffe since its birth in 1948. We will take great care of the photographs and return them immediately. If you bring them in to our office we can scan them while you wait. If you can't get to us please ring 300212 and we will collect from you. Thank you in anticipation of your kind co-operation.

SUPERSONIC SYD AT SHILDON

Syd Little of Little and Large fame will be heading the bill at Shildon Civic Hall on Friday 2nd March at 7.30 pm Showcase International is staging this event. repeating Syd's success here last year. During the show Syd will reminisce about his time with Eddie Large. He is now a very successful solo artist in his own right with his own style of comedy and music. Little and Large were one of Britain's most successful comedy duos in the 1980s & 90's and had their own highly popular television show. The show features the Showcase Dancers; who have recently returned from the summer season in Blackpool starring alongside Joe Longthorne; with fabulous routines choreographed by Paul Morgan. The show will also feature Stagecoach of Bishop Auckland and will be non stop singing, dancing, music & comedy, suitable for all ages. Tickets are £12.00 each available from Showcase on 01325 316224

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Grand Opening of Refurbished Toilets



It is rare we feature the opening of refurbished toilets, but Peter Beaty was so excited with the excellence of the completed work at Neville Parade he wanted to show them off and thank all those who had contributed. With much amusement all gathered for the ribbon cutting ceremony and Councillor Sarah Iveson carried out the duty saying it could come under the Council's "quality and diversity" role. The contractor "Man about the House" Barry was on hand to earn the praise of a grateful customer and also the GAMP representative Adam White for his valuable assistance. Peter made special mention of County Councillors Iveson and Moran who designated cash from their community allowance fund towards the

project. The interior fittings were admired by all and the men stood at the urinals to check they were in the right position. The photographers were discreet and there was much laughter in the toilets as they were officially opened.



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Landlords Review Sheltered Housing

TENANTS CONSULTED

Homes and communities organisation, "livin", has begun a six week consultation period with all tenants across its 13 sheltered housing schemes about future proposals for each scheme.

The consultation follows research which has found an increasing lack of demand in the area for traditional sheltered housing schemes with tenants preferring to stay in family homes, with additional support, to continue to live independently.

The review comes as part of the organisation's commitment to deliver and adapt to tenants' needs by providing affordable, accessible homes that meet the demands and expectations of tenants and secure the future sustainability of homes for older people in the area.

Alan Boddy, Executive Director, People & Communities for livin, said: "On average, 30 per cent of our sheltered housing schemes are empty, however, some are currently over 50 per cent unoccupied.

"We expect this figure to increase over the coming years as we have experienced a dramatic decrease in the demand for sheltered housing. Despite a number of units being advertised for up to 121 weeks consecutively, we have had no enquiries from the general public."

A number of options have been considered for each scheme, including carrying out

improvements; remodelling; and demolishing and redeveloping the sites for new affordable homes.

All tenants in the affected schemes have been written to and appointments made to discuss these proposals. Members of staff from livin's communities team will be visiting the schemes to meet tenants and their families on a one-to-one basis to explain the background of the review, the proposal for each scheme, the reasons for these proposals and the timescales for consultation. Each tenant will receive information setting out the detail and how they can register their views. They will be given the opportunity to have their say and their feedback will be presented to the livin Board for consideration. A final decision on the future of each scheme is expected to be announced at the end of May 2012.

Mr Boddy, added: "We fully appreciate the sensitivities when discussing the future of someone's home and understand proposals may not be welcomed by all tenants. Rest assured, our team will be listening very carefully to tenants' views and no decision will be made about the proposals until the consultation period has closed and all tenants will be given every opportunity to have their say on the proposals."

The consultation period will close at 12 noon on Friday, April 20, 2012.

Adult Learning Opportunities

Help is at hand for people wanting to boost their job prospects or learn a new skill. Durham County Council's Adult Learning and Skills Service offers a range of courses in subjects including customer services, retail skills, business and administration, team leading, first line management, IT, teaching and health and social care.

The service also runs employability courses, giving people the chance to explore their career options. Adult Learning and Skills Service staff can also offer advice and guidance on choosing a course.

For more information email als@durham.gov.uk or contact the service's local office on the following number: 03000 263 868

"Eco Centre Was My Idea!" says Councillor Clare

Dear Sir,

Last week, Councillor Ducker claimed that the idea for an Eco Centre came from Independent Councillor B Haigh. This is not true. The idea for an eco centre was conceived by myself, in the late 1990s, standing in the marsh which is now known as 'The Moors'.

Having the Idea

At that time I was a new Councillor. Sedgefield Borough Council, who had promised to give Great Aycliffe Town Council land for a play area, changed their mind and offered us instead 'the Moors' marshland, next to the Woodham Crescent roundabout.

Many Town Councillors

objected, but when I visited the site I was struck by the environmental potential of the area – by chance, the Moors had preserved the fen environment which existed in Aycliffe 12,000 years ago when the glaciers retreated, and the flooded cart track beside it had developed a separate unique ecology. Together with the other areas of woodland adjoining the Woodham Crescent roundabout – New Wood and North and South Agnew Plantations – the area contained an excitingly wide variety of habitats. I asked the Leader of the Council, Bob Fleming, to bring his wellies and visit the site with me

Should not GATC's Environment Committee, I enthused to the Leader, enhance and promote Aycliffe's environment? And thus it was there that, not only the concept of an educational eco centre, but the Town Council's environmental focus altogether, was conceived.

Implementing the Policy

Consequent upon that meeting, the Town Council Labour Group voted to employ an Environmental Officer, and adopted the environment as one of our flagship policies. I know Aycliffe people rage at the Town Centre (which the Town Council can do nothing about), but one thing they do acknowledge is that the Town Council has indeed made the rest of Aycliffe a 'green and pleasant' town.

As for the eco centre, I initially suggested that we might use the block of flats which stood opposite the Moors bog. These flats belonged to SBC but the idea failed because they were scheduled for demolition. Over the next few years, other options were investigated (including rooms in the Oak Leaf centre and a new-build unit) but were rejected as unsuitable or too expensive ... until

World Day of Prayer

On Friday 2nd March over 3 million people worldwide will be praying and worshipping together during an Annual Day of Prayer, using a form of Service prepared by Christian women in Malaysia.

This is always an exciting day as a great wave of prayer sweeps the world, beginning when the first Service is held in the Queen Salote Girls School in Tonga and continuing around the world until the final Service takes place, some 35 hours later, in neighbouring Western Samoa.

By then the day will have been celebrated in over 170 countries and more than 6,000 Services will have been held in the British Isles alone. This year's Service will be held at 11am on 2nd March at Neville Parade Methodist Church where a warm welcome awaits you.

Unite for Aycliffe!

Dear Editor

I read your article in January's issue headed Citizens Unite with great interest. I have lived in Aycliffe for 40 years over which time I have seen some great improvements but also a decline particularly with the town centre.

There are a significant amount of citizens and non-residents who support Great Aycliffe volunteering their

time to run or help with the numerous clubs and groups, to provide essential social and sporting needs for all ages of our community.

To assist these groups with business and financial support we have various organisations including CAVOS, AAP, Councils, Rotary Club, and many more. Although our town centre has declined there are some businesses that have remained to serve their town. With these people and others alike between them all they are making a positive difference.

If as many of these people could unite it would be make a tremendous difference in helping to shape our community, to identify the various needs of Great Aycliffe, that are going to benefit as many citizens as possible and to make these needs happen.

I agree with the Editor strength is in numbers, the more clubs, organisations and individuals that can unite will help to make Great Aycliffe a better place.

J Costello, Resident

GREAT PROGRESS AT WOODHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Woodham Community Centre is one of the most successful in the County and has just completed a range of improvements to the premises including a new heating system and the installation of solar panels to reduce energy costs.

A Management Committee under the Chairmanship of Joan Gray run the premises efficiently offering facilities to various town organisations to enjoy badminton, dancing, taekwondo and educational courses, etc.

There are some slots available for other activities in this well-kept building and room hire is very reasonably priced as the committee are anxious to help local community groups. Further details from Treasurer David Sutton-Lloyd on 316144.

The Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday 21st March and everyone is invited to attend at 6.30pm. These are usually very short meetings to hear reports and elect a new committee. Afterwards there is an opportunity to meet fellow residents over refreshments which are provided free.

Hard Working Community Leader Nominated for Award

The GAMP Board Executive met recently to review all the nominations to receive the Durham County Council Chairman's Award and were pleased to announce David Sutton-Lloyd of Woodham Community Centre has been selected to represent the Aycliffe's AAP at the main Awards Ceremony on 9th March 2012.

The decision was very tough given the exceptionally high standard of all the nominations put forward, and GAMP would like to wish David the very best of luck! David is the Treasurer at Woodham Community Centre, but is also at the heart of all that happens. He is a very hard worker and is passionate about improving life in the community. He



is involved in teaching the terrified how to use computers and recently oversaw the installation of solar panels and the refurbishment of the Centre, applying for grants and achieving a very successful result. The Centre heating is now ultra efficient and the solar panel electric rebate will help the finances.

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
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

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL
Customer Panel Meeting
The next meeting of the Customer Panel will be held on:
TUESDAY 6th MARCH 2012
The next meeting of the Customer Panel will be held on **TUESDAY, 6th MARCH, 2012** commencing at 6.00pm. The Panel meet in the Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe.
'At this meeting Mrs. Judith Thexton the Oak Leaf Sports Complex Manager will be in attendance. There will also be a brief update on Neighbourhood Planning'
We are always looking for new members. If you would like to know a little more about us and our work this would be a great meeting to attend. The group are informal and quite often have lively debates about a wide range of Town Council matters.
Why not come along and join us at this meeting – we look forward to seeing and meeting new members.
Further information can be obtained from Christine Walton on 01325 300700 e-mail: Christine.Walton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk
The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting.

NEW INTERNET CAFE WITH BACON BUTTIES! CRAFT & GIFT FAYRE



County Councillor Dorothy Bowman invited the Town's Mayor Mary Dalton to officially open Newton Aycliffe's first Internet Cafe this week.

The idea to have this facility at Silverdale Community House next to the kitchen where husband Counc Ray Bowman serves beverages and snacks, is a great idea and Dorothy hopes residents will use the computers to order goods, look for jobs or just entertain themselves perusing websites.

The Cafe is open Monday to Thursday 9.30am until 1.30pm. Have a cup of Tea/Coffee and meet new friends. Breakfast is served until 11.00am with bacon sandwiches, and hot food

served until 1.30pm. Dorothy would like to thank Mayor Mary Dalton for attending the opening. "We had no help, support or funding

from anyone to set up the Internet Café and I would like to thank volunteers Samantha, Sharon Stacey and Raymond for their hard work.



Organisations Keep 75% of Ticket Sales in Town Jubilee Draw

Last year the Rotary Club held the biggest charity fundraiser ever attempted in Newton Aycliffe, involving the whole town and benefitting many of its clubs and organisations. The club organised a raffle of high quality prizes with the sale of tickets delegated to as many of the town's schools groups and organisations who wished to be involved. It was very successful and over £8,000 was raised.

This year they are repeating the exercise around the Queen's Jubilee raffling 60 prizes and allowing the sellers to retain 75% of the ticket sales money. The Rotary Club, as the promoters, would be responsible for gathering prizes, registering and organising the draw, printing the tickets and covering all expenses from the proceeds. The Draw will be held at the Royal British Legion on Tuesday 5th June, 2012.

The Rotary Club will receive the full co-operation of "Newton News" in publicising this major fundraiser, printing the names of all donors and their prizes as they are received.

This is an invitation to all organisations in Newton Aycliffe to get involved and raise money for themselves or a charity of their choice. There will be no charges and participants only need to sell tickets. These will be available in March and the valuable sixty prizes will ensure their easy sale.

The Rotary Club hope businesses in the area will want to be part of this exciting venture and invite them to donate a prize or offer a voucher for the service they offer. In return Newton News will publicise their generous support.

President of the club Alan Crawshaw said: "This is the Rotary Club's effort to help the funds of town organisations, schools and charities - we hope they see the value of participating in the draw."

Please contact Syd Howarth on 300212 if you wish to take part. syd@newtonpress.net - Tickets will be ready for sale in early March

On Saturday 3rd March a Spring Craft & Gifts Fayre will be held at Neville Parade Methodist Church. There will be over 25 stalls attending hoping to attract you with their various displays of crafts & gifts.

Items on sale will include cards, embroidery, jewellery, woodturning, photography, needlework, toiletries, craft materials, cakes, paintings, door plaques, knitting, wedding stationery etc..

Some of the stallholders will be demonstrating their crafts. You can also try your hand at crafting by taking part in workshops being held throughout the day.

And don't forget to sample our bacon butties & great value Methodist lunches & refreshments. We look forward to seeing you from 10am - 2pm. A warm welcome awaits you.



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

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MARCH 2012

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Saturday 3rd March - Disco through the Decades

Come and enjoy a night of music from the 60's all the way through to the 90's Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, two course buffet - £11.95 per person

Friday 9th March - The 80's Experience

The best disco party ever

Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, two course buffet - £11.95 per person

Sunday 10th March

Afternoon tea with a floral demonstration and shopping Galore
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Saturday 10th March - Summer Nights

A Tribute to one of the most famous Movies of all time. This exceptional show features two guys and two girls complete with choreographed Routines, Live Vocals and Glamorous Routines performing all the greatest hits from Greased Lighting to Summer Nights. Evening includes a Three Course Dinner and Disco. Arrival 7.00pm, dinner served 7.30pm - £19.95 per person.

Sunday Lunch is served in the Boyne Suite accompanied by music from our resident pianist. 4 courses including coffee £18.95 per person

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ACORN Residents Association

Acorn Residents Association will hold their next meeting on Wednesday 7th March at Newton Leisure Centre, 6pm. This is a change to the previous agreed date of Thursday 8th March, as we don't want to clash with the GARA meeting being held at St Mary's Church at 7pm. Refreshments will be provided and it is hoped that we will be visited by 111 Urgent Care; Gillian from Caves and Elmfield Group to deliver presentations. It is anticipated the speakers will give Acorn residents the opportunity to hear about a "Chit Chat" type service, a snow clearing patrol for elderly and disabled friends and our Community seating project plus plans for the Diamond Jubilee. At our April meeting, (Thursday 12th April) we have invited our local MP Phil Wilson and there will be a presentation by 102 Battalion REME TA.

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Notice is hereby given that the Creditors of the above named Company, are required, on or before 20 May 2012 to send in their names and addresses with particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of the Solicitors (if any) to the undersigned G S Goldie and A D Kelly of Tait Walker Advisory Services LLP, Bulman House, Regent Centre, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3LS, the Joint Liquidators of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing by the said Joint Liquidators, or by their solicitors or personally to come in and prove their said Debts or Claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
This notice is purely formal and all known Creditors have been, or will be, paid in full.
Further details contact: Gordon Smythe Goldie and Allan David Kelly, Email: recovery@taitwalker.co.uk Tel: 0191 285 0321
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9pm Monday – Thursday and 10am-4pm on a Friday. Greenfield Community & Arts Centre, Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham, DL5 7LF. We look forward to seeing you soon. New Exhibition in the Greenfield Gallery WEA Art Group & Silver Street Photography Thursday 9th February – Wednesday 29th February This fantastic new exhibition by the WEA Art Group features photographs of Durham City taken in collaboration with Silver Street Photography, as well as colourful Papier Mache creations, painted artworks. As part of the exhibition three members from the group are creating an artwork on the gallery walls - a landscape countryside scene that will develop more each week - come and see how it changes!

GAMP HELP CLUB PROMOTE SQUASH

Aycliffe Squash Club has been fortunate enough to secure funding from the Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership last month to enable them to encourage youngsters in our local community to try their hand at Squash at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex. The main aim of the project was to promote a healthy lifestyle by introducing squash to school children in the Aycliffe area that may not have had the opportunity to try the sport before, or had perhaps never even heard of squash. The club ran coaching sessions for 4 local schools: Aycliffe Village, St Francis, St Joseph's and Stephenson Way. Josh Harris, an England level 3 coach, was at the forefront of the project liaising with the schools and running these coaching sessions supported by club members. The project concluded with an enjoyable and competitive inter schools tournament on Wednesday 7th December with Aycliffe Village winning overall.

The after school coaching proved very popular and some of the youngsters have continued with this and are looking to now join the club, this is great news for Aycliffe as the club will now have the opportunity to develop some of the existing juniors into becoming coaches themselves. Aycliffe Squash Club are hoping to apply for the funding again, to deliver this project to a further 4 schools in spring/summer 2012 and hope that as well as promoting the sport, and a healthy lifestyle, they may be able to enter a team back into the Durham & Cleveland Squash League which will be great for the kids and for the club. Aycliffe Squash Club would like to thank GAMP for providing a valuable opportunity to our local community and to all of the youngsters that took part and look forward to the prospect of welcoming any youngsters to come along and join the Club at the Oak Leaf Complex.

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PAUL GIBSON Sending birthday wishes to Heaven for you. Love you millions Bro. Mandy and family xxx

JOHN LAMBERT 25-2-2012. A lifetime of memories and love, sail away sailor, enjoy the wind in your sails. Miss you, love you, Duchess xx

JIMMY CUNNINGHAM Put your arms around him Lord, don't leave him on his own. For today it's my Brothers birthday, his first away from home. Always in my heart Susan xxxx

JIMMY CUNNINGHAM No cards to write, no words to say, I love and miss you more each day. My wonderful Son. Mam xxx

BOBBY MORRELL 29-2-32. Happy 80th birthday. Another birthday, another year with precious memories of one so dear. Thoughts today of our life together hold a love that will live forever. Your loving Wife, Agnes xxx

BOBBY MORRELL 29-2-32. Tears instead of wishes, flowers instead of cards. You left us precious memories that will stay within our hearts. Lots of love, David, Jenny and Brogan xxx

BOBBY MORRELL 29-2-32. Another birthday has come around and there is nothing I can do. But sit for a while and picture your smile, just like I always do. Lots of love, Julie and Les

BOBBY MORRELL 29-2-32. Granda, it doesn't take your birthday to bring you to our minds, for a day without a thought of you is very hard to find. Lindsay, Neil, Jamie, Chantelle and Great Grandkids

BOBBY MORRELL 29-2-32. Treasured birthday memories of a dearly loved Dad. Those special years we can't bring back, when we were all together, but in our thoughts and in our hearts you will walk with us forever. Happy 80th birthday Dad. Lots of love, Roberta and Reggie

BOBBY MORRELL 29-2-32. A loving Great Granda. We've missed the sound of your footsteps and your voice since you have gone and though we no longer see you, in our minds you still live on. Lots of love, Katilyn, Jodie, Jack, Rhys, William and Ava xxx

BOBBY MORRELL 29-2-32. Another birthday we cannot share, but in our hearts you are always there. Lots of love, Stephen and Shaun

BOBBY MORRELL 29-2-32. Treasured birthday memories of a very dear Dad. It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone, for part of us went with you, the day God called you home. Lots of love, Thomas, Julie, Andrea and David

BOBBY MORRELL 29-2-32. Happy birthday Granda, to us you were so special, what more is there to say, we only wish with all our hearts that you were here on this special day. Love, Robert, Hayley, Anne-Marie, Andrew, Adele and Orin

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John Robert Farmer

26th February

No special day is needed for me to think of you. For you are always with me, in everything I do. Your smile is in the sunshine, your laughter is in the breeze, your love is all around me, it's in the air I breathe. Behind my smile there lies a tear. For the Husband I lost and loved so dear. I hold you close within my heart and there you will remain, to walk throughout my life until we meet again. Happy birthday John. Love and miss you, your loving Wife, Mary xxxxx

We thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new, we thought about you yesterday and days before that too. We think of you in silence, we often speak your name. All we have are memories and a picture in a frame. Your memory is our keepsake with which we'll never part. God has you in his keeping, we have you in our heart. Happy birthday Dad. All our love, Paula, Brett, David and Christine xxxxx

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In Memoriam

Mary Gallagher



25th February 2011

There is a link death cannot sever. Love and Remembrance last forever. Love Always Vince, Clare and Paul

MARY GALLAGHER

25th February 2011

There is a sad but sweet remembrance, there is a memory fond and true. There is a token of affection, Grandma, and heartache still for you. Love Amanda, Victoria and Flynn

MARY J. GALLAGHER.

25.2.011. We think of you quite often, As old friends always do, But especially on Saturdays, Life's not the same without you. Thelma & Trevor.

MARY GALLAGHER 25th February 2011. A dear friend, remembered always. Iris

ELLEN ATHERTON 25th February 2009. Silent memories true and tender, just to show we still remember. Thinking of you. Julie, Mark, Kayleigh, Mark, Agnew and Georgie xx

WILLIAM HALL 25th February 2010. We cannot bring the old days back, when we were all together, but memories keep you close to us and memories last forever. Miss you. Julie, Mark, Kayleigh, Jean, Hughie, Darren and Natasha xxx

EDDIE HUBERY 17/6/1938 to 25/2/2011. Love and missed. Always in the thoughts of his Wife Gwyn and all his family

EDDIE HUBERY In loving memory of a wonderful Brother and Brother-in-Law. Very much missed by all. John, Madge and family

MAUREEN LEE 21-2-2006. I think of the first time I saw you, and the day God made you mine, we remember the last time we saw you and will till the end of time. Murvyn and loving Sons, Stephen, Clifford and Brian

BOB KENNEDY 23rd February 2009. Rest in Peace. Love always, Win and family xxx

JOHN ARRAN HUGHES 1971-1992. You are thought about with pride Son, with each mention of your name. Death cannot change a single thing, the love will still remain. Keeping you deep within our hearts forever. Mam, Dad, Garry, Paul and Vicky xxxxx

JOHN ARRAN HUGHES 1971-1992. My Dad. Loving and remembering you always. Maxine xxxxx

JAMES MOONEY (Jimmy), 25th February 2005. Nothing ever takes away the pain of losing you. But all the lovely memories will last a lifetime through. Love always, your loving Wife, Audrey xxx

JAMES MOONEY 25-2-2005. In loving memory of a much loved Uncle, never to be forgotten. Love, Paul, Viv, Emma, Paul, Steven, Tracy, Jade and Kyle xxx

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Thank You

SHEILA HOGAN and family would like to sincerely thank friends, neighbours and colleagues for their support and respect during Terry's illness. Our thanks go to Dr Clark, Dr Walker and staff at Pease Way Medical Centre; nursing staff at Sedgfield Community Hospital for their loving care and Macmillan Nurses for their kindness to Terry. Special thanks to David of the Co-op Funeral Services and to Reverend Linda Potter for a beautiful Service

SLOAN. Kathleen and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many cards of condolence, thoughtful words and charitable donations received on their sad loss of Bill. A very dear and sadly missed Husband, Father and Step Father. A special thank you to the Revd. Linda Potter for her comforting Service and to all at Gordon Fletcher & Sons, Family Funeral Directors for their help and guidance at this difficult time.

WALTER DUFF The family of the late Walter Duff would like to thank family and friends for their cards and flowers. Also the nurses from Macmillan and Marie Curie, Bewick Crescent Surgery to the Doctors and staff, Rev Geoffrey Spencer and friends of Neville Parade Methodist Church and to the Co-operative Funeral Directors. Thank you to everyone who attended the Service and who had a part in his life.

A CAR accident for any 19 year old is traumatic enough, without the man in the other car to then leave the scene, only to return with his wife a few minutes later. The wife then launched into a vicious, totally unprovoked attack on my 19 year old daughter. This all occurred on Finchale Road on Valentines evening. I would therefore like to thank the three people who stopped to help my daughter receiving further injury and protected her until the police arrived.

JEAN GREAVES To all the lovely people of Newton Aycliffe and surrounding area, who have helped to raise the fabulous sum of £1362, in memory of the late Jean Greaves. All money raised is to be donated to the RNLI. Jean's family can't thank you enough. Special thanks to Brenda and Bryan from Lee Green Dance Centre for the use of the school, and to Newon Press for promoting the event. Our Mam is sorely missed, but she would have been delighted with the amount raised for her favourite charity, the RNLI. Thank you once again, from Jean's Family.

THE FAMILY of the late George Twissell would like to express their thanks to family and friends who sent condolences and gave support at this sad time. Thanks to Bewick Crescent Doctors and St Theresa's Hospice. Also to David Scott of Co-operative Funeral Directors and Derek Cottell for a special Service.

MAURICE AND CHERYL would to really, really thank the staff and customers for their loyal support over the past years. We survived the post office closure even though we all fought hard, and we, through your continued custom not only had a busy shop but were also the "hub of the community". To all of the people/friends who took time out to write cards and send lovely presents a special thank-you to you all. Best wishes Cheryl and Maurice Clark

Mackenzie Jackman



Happy 14th Birthday

24th February, 2011

Hope you have a great 14th birthday Son. Enjoy your day and weekend! Lots of love, Mum, Dad and Madison xxx xxx

Beth Gibson



Happy 18th Birthday

24th February, 1994

Happy birthday to our special girl. Hope you have fun on your girlie holiday in Magaluf.

Lots of love from Mam and Roy, Dad and Fiona, Sam, Sophie, Grace, Thomas, Nanna Bug, Nanna Norma and John and all of your Aunties, Uncles, Cousins and all of your family and friends.

Also well done on passing your driving test xxx

MACKENZIE JACKMAN

Happy 14th birthday. Love from Grandie, Grandad and Rose, Grandad and Lesley, Nan and Davy, Uncle Simon, Auntie Mireille, Bryn and Aron, Uncle Donny and Chloe, Great Grandad, Bev, Dougie and all your family and friends xx

ADAM 'ADAMSKI' STOTT. 28th February. Happy birthday mate. Love, S-J, Craig, Madison and Macca x

ALISON BURN Happy birthday on 28th February. Lots of love, hugs and kisses from your Husband Trevor, Beth, Lauren, Adele, Jessica and Katie

Obituary

JESSIE GIBSON, aged 102 years of Newton Aycliffe, widow of George and Mother of Granville and Martin, died in hospital on February 20th. Funeral at Darlington Crematorium on Tuesday 28th February at 11.45am. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu for 'Water Aid' c/o Seaton Leng & Son Ltd, 59a Bondgate, Darlington DL3 7JR. Loved dearly by her Sons and Daughters-in-law, her Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.

Congratulations

Val and Tony Armstrong



Congratulations

Mam and Dad on your 50th Wedding Anniversary. Also, happy birthday to Mam. Have a great day. Love, Karen xxxxx

Armstrong (nee Grazier)

Congratulations

Val and Tony on your Golden Wedding Anniversary, love and best wishes to you both from Derek, Dek, Amanda, Brian, Natalie and Alex. Marg will be with you both xxxxx

David Miller



1st March 2012

Happy 50th birthday David. Love always and more. Christine xx

50 today Dad. Love and best wishes, James and Helen and loads of kisses from Layla to Granda xxx

Happy 50th birthday Dad. Hope you have a lovely holiday. All the best wishes. Lots of love, Sarah and Will xxx

Happy 50th birthday Dad. You don't look a day over 49! Have a brilliant holiday! All the best. Love always, Louise and Andy xxx

Happy 50th Son. Love and best wishes always, Mam xxx

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Owen Kempsell



Happy 13th Birthday

A teenager at last! Enjoy your party. Love, Mam, Ste, Brandon and Oilly

Happy 13th Birthday

Love from Nanny and Grandad xxx

Joe



Happy 18th Birthday

Congratulations Joe on your 18th birthday on 24th February. Love and best wishes from Nanna, Dad, Diane and all the family

Sharon Todd



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

BIG 50

Love, Mike and Michael

Anniversary Remembrance

MAUREEN MAWSON
Married 27th February 1965
Specially Remembered

There is still so much heartache, at this special time of year. You are still loved so much, although no longer here. My rose I dearly love, all your petals open wide. Watered by all my tears, secretly that I have cried. Your fragrance fills my life each day, locked away inside my heart. Where it will always stay. You are always in my thoughts, as always every year through. For there is no one else as warm and wonderful as you. All my many happy memories, help to ease my pain. My anniversaries without you, will never be the same. To be always loved, loving Husband, Derrick

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AUSSIE PASTOR AT XCEL CHURCH

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OLIVER EYES WIN OVER MARSKE

Aycliffe boss Allan Oliver is hoping his side can record their first win in five weeks when they entertain Marske United this weekend. The Newtonians stretched their impressive unbeaten run to nine games with a 2-2 draw at Consett last Saturday, when they threw away a two-goal lead to get just a point. But due to postponed games and two consecutive draws, it means their last win was five weeks ago, a 5-0 thumping at Billingham Town. And Oliver knows they need to get back to winning ways with their first home game in almost a month. "We have to be winning more games if we want to maintain our top six position," admitted Oliver. "Too many points are no good to us, and the players are aware of that. It'll be good to get back to Moore Lane Park for the first time in four weeks but it's imperative we win. You can't afford to be as sloppy as we were after taking a two-goal lead last week. But on the positive side we're unbeaten in nine, which is no mean feat at this level. We just have to build on that by beating Marske on Saturday." Marske lost their fourth consecutive game on Tuesday night – going down 2-0 at home to Sunderland RCA – and slipped to 14th in the Northern League first division. Aycliffe hit the self-destruct button at Belle Vue Park last Saturday, when they looked like they were cruising to victory with just 34 minutes left against Consett. Ben Wood's second-half sending off arguably aided the Steelmen's comeback, who managed their equaliser while Aycliffe defender John Close was off the field for treatment to an injury. Prior to the chain of events, Aycliffe had mastered the tricky conditions to lead 2-0 on a ground where they were hammered 5-1 just over three years ago. Wood's first-half cross was turned in, and Paul Broom doubled Aycliffe's lead not long after half-time, before Consett's unexpected revival. Team: Pocklington, Gibson, Owen, Tarling, Close, Craddock, Wilson, Knox, Mellanby, B Wood, Broom. Subs used: McMullen, Jardine, J Gray. Unused: Campbell, Oliver. Star Man: Wilson. Newton Aycliffe's fixture calendar took on another look this week when the league brought forward the club's final game, due to have been played at title-chasing Sunderland RCA on the April 28. The game at Meadow Park will now take place next Saturday (March 3), meaning Aycliffe's final game of the season is now due to be against Spennymoor at home on April 21.

FIXTURES

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

Saturday 3rd March: Sunderland RCA (A), 3pm

Tuesday 6th March: South Shields (A), 7.30pm

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

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

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

Saturday 7th April: Guisborough Town (H), 3pm

Saturday 14th April: Tow Law (A), 3pm

Saturday 21st April: Spennymoor Town (H), 3pm

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