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# NEWTON NEWS

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## MEETING ON COMMUNITY RADIO FOR NEWTON AYCLIFFE

Local community groups have been thinking of ways to connect with the surrounding community in Newton Aycliffe and promote their activities and services using various forms of media such as community radio.

To take this idea further a meeting has been organised by CAVOS, Community

Matters and local community centre's. Any members of community groups in Newton Aycliffe who are interested in being involved are invited to attend the meeting.

To help explore the possibilities several related organisations have been invited along: Bishop FM, Capture Films, Greenfield Arts & Community Centre, Community Media Association, Community Radio Association NE, Peoples Voice Media

If you would like to be involved it is very important you attend to have your say and ensure that the issues and topics that matter most to you are given a voice. The more groups involved the better!

**11:30am - 1pm, Monday 31st January at Agnew Community Centre, Morrison Close.**

If you will be attending the

meeting please ensure you book a place by contacting CAVOS via [enquiries@cavos.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cavos.org.uk) or by phoning 01388 811115. We look forward to seeing you.

## CIVIC DINNER

Tickets are now on sale for the Mayor's Charity Civic Dinner held at The Hall Garth Hotel, Coatham Mundeville on Friday, 18th February 2011.

Tickets at £27.50 each from Great Aycliffe Town Council, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Tel. 300700 or Email: [Christine.Ryder@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:Christine.Ryder@great-aycliffe.gov.uk).

Entertainment by Singing Artiste Chyrelle Addams and Dance Music by 'John Melvin'.

The Mayor's chosen charities are: Chyrelle Addams Breast Cancer Trust and Wear Valley Women's Aid (Bishop Auckland).

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## FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENT BY GREENFIELD ROWERS

Thirteen students from Greenfield qualified to represent Sedgfield in the County Durham Rowing Final... Well done.

Paige (Year 9), Sam (Year 9), Alice (Year 11), Adam (Year 9), Harry (Year 9), Max (Year 8), Lewis (Year 7), Justine (Year 7), Emily (Year 8), Johnathan (Year 8). Congratulations to Alice Henderson who has qualified to represent County Durham in the North East Regional rowing final in March. She is one of three girls from the Sedgfield area to qualify to represent the County. Others include India Bellchamber (Jo's daughter) - Sunnysdale, and Chloe Fellows - Ferryhill. Good luck to all involved, a special good luck to Alice and India. Well done to the following who took first place in the Inter Area Relay Rowing event.

Year 9 Adam (Greenfield) Zoe (Woodham) Harry (Greenfield) - 1st Place  
Year 7 Justine (Greenfield) and Lewis Crowe (Greenfield) - 1st Place  
Year 8 Team included Emily and Max - they came 2nd.



## Valentine Disco for Under 11's

This will be on Sunday 13th February in the Scout Centre at Bluebell Way Newton Aycliffe from 4pm until 8pm. Admission is just £2 for everyone.

The event is organised by the Junior Neighbourhood Watch and their 12th Annual Valentine Disco. Parents are welcome to join in and enjoy the dancing and fun.

K.D.O. disco will be playing the music and entertaining with dancing and games adding fun to the occasion. Tuck Shop provided. Ring 308094 for further details

## THE ULTIMATE ABBA NIGHT AT THE CIVIC



Showcase International Ltd who have brought some of the greatest names in showbusiness to the north of England proudly present a very rare evening with **THE ULTIMATE ABBA NIGHT**.

This show is at Shildon Civic Hall on Friday, 4th February at 7pm offering a fabulous opportunity to see an exciting, captivating and authentic tribute to one of the greatest bands of all time with excellent sound and superb lighting.

They will transport you back to the heady days of the 70's with an immaculately presented, high energy show that will fill the Dance Floor from the first strains of "Waterloo" all the way through to the rousing finale of "Thank You For The Music"...

ULTIMATE ABBA were established in 2005 and feature stunning live vocals, and

fabulous costumes. Since their formation they have entertained audiences across Europe and list Hilton Hotels, Haven Holidays and HM Armed Forces amongst their satisfied customers.

Their set list includes the Abba standards: Waterloo, Honey Honey, Ring Ring, SOS, Fernando, Mamma Mia, Money Money Money, Take A Chance On Me, Supertrouper, Does Your Mother Know, Gimme Gimme Gimme, Lay All Your Love On Me, Voulez Vous, Dancing Queen and Thank You For The Music.

Forget the recession and come to **Shildon Civic Hall on Friday, 4th February** at 7pm for a fabulous night of entertainment with **ULTIMATE ABBA** and dance the night away. Tickets £10, telephone 316224 to book your seat or contact Shildon Civic Hall on 01388 772902.

## Cash Up for Grabs!

The small grants fund (up to £5,000 per organisation) established by Great Aycliffe and Middridge Area Action Partnership is under-spent by £22,000 for 2010 - 2011. This money is available for bids by 'not for profit' type groups that deliver services in the Greater Aycliffe area.

This is a chance for you to submit a bid quickly. Please contact Brian Riley, (AAP) Coordinator Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership (GAMP) Pioneering Care Centre, Cobblers Hall, Carers Way Newton Aycliffe DL5 4SF

telephone: 01325 327441  
email: [brian.riley@durham.gov.uk](mailto:brian.riley@durham.gov.uk)  
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## Football Coaching Success



Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre AFC, one of only 20 FA Charter Standard Community Clubs in County Durham, is pleased to announce that Michael Hay has successfully passed the Football Association Coaching Certificate – Level 2.

This is a significant level of football coaching and involved a lot of commitment, time and effort from Michael. He explained that after a week long course with the Durham FA to learn the principles of Football Coaching, Rules of the game, Emergency First Aid and Child Protection, the theory had to be put into practice.

Many sessions were prepared, logged and analysed covering 16 hours

of coaching adults and children. A final assessment was taken in Durham where all aspects of Coaching were assessed by experienced FA Coaches, before finally achieving the standard required.

Michael manages and coaches the current under 10 age group but has now also strengthened the coaching team with the under 8 age group along with the manager and coach Ray Meek.

If you have a boy or girl currently in Year 3 and interested in football, why not bring them along to Woodham Community College Sports Hall on Wednesday nights 5.30–6.30pm or contact Berni on 07939 045 242 and also visit our website [www.naycafc.co.uk](http://www.naycafc.co.uk)

## PLANNING APPLICATION FOR £32m WOODHAM DEVELOPMENT

Working on behalf of developers, Washington Developments, Newcastle-based planning consultants Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners have applied for planning permission for a £32.1m housing and leisure development at Woodham Golf and Country Club, on the north western edge of Newton Aycliffe.

The redevelopment and improvement of the Club follows a lengthy public consultation which began last October and proposes a mixed-use development which would include improvements to the golf course, the construction of 50 executive family homes, a 75 bed, four star hotel with conference and spa facilities and extensive landscaping amongst which would be the re-establishment of Woodham Bridleway and new community footpaths.

The proposals, which have been developed in conjunction with Ryder Architects and Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners planning consultants, would create up to 300 initial construction jobs, secure the golf club's future and its 30 existing jobs with a further 90 permanent jobs at the hotel. Additionally, it is estimated that the new residents would spend some £736,000 per year in the local economy whilst the increase in visitor numbers could generate an additional £1.6m of tourism revenue per year.

The landscaping improvements which include the re-establishment of Woodham bridleway, the development of a new 2km pathway, the opening up of Agnew Plantation and the provision of new public open space and play areas will benefit the whole community. Members of the golf club will obviously enjoy the new clubhouse and improvements to the course which include new sustainable drainage measures that should prevent the frequent closures of the course which have occurred in the past.

Additional economic benefits to the local community would



include the generation of almost £1m additional Council Tax contributions from the new homes under the coalition Government's proposed New Homes Bonus scheme and a financial contribution to the Council for the provision of social housing.

Jamie Murphy, Group Director at Washington Developments, commented: "Woodham is an excellent golf course in a superb location but would benefit from investment both to the clubhouse and the grounds. Our proposal seeks to create a top class leisure facility which will be a part of the local community. There is no reason why an improved course here shouldn't attract high profile tournaments in the future without losing its community base. The new housing and hotel complex will not only secure the course's future viability but also generate additional income for the local

economy."

"The improved leisure facilities, together with the new housing, are an important catalyst towards the regeneration of the wider area and the feedback we have received so far from our consultation with both the local community and businesses has been very positive."

"Variations of the development scheme have been in the pipeline since 2007 and we have taken on board everything the Council officers told us and have spent the intervening period working closely with our planners and architects to come up with a scheme that, hopefully, answers those initial concerns to produce a superb development."

The scheme is expected to go before the South and West Durham Planning Committee in April with initial construction work commencing towards the end of the year should the application be successful.

## ROTARY HONOUR FOR PAST PRESIDENT



Jean Thompson, Past President of the town's Rotary Club, was stunned by the surprise award of a Paul Harris Fellowship at a meeting recently. The members wished to recognise Jean's contribution to Rotary ideals and her work in the community. Jean who is an Assistant Governor for Rotary North East received the high honour from Club President Barry Hutchinson and for the first time in her life was speechless!

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### GIFTS PUT TO GOOD USE

The Pioneering Care Partnership in Newton Aycliffe offers thanks to local businesses Wilkinson's, Boyes, Sainsbury's and Morrisons for their kind support in supplying gifts for the Christmas Fair which was to be held on 4th December.

It was hoped to give all children attending a free gift from Santa Claus. Unfortunately due to the weather the event had to be cancelled.

It had been proposed to hold the Fair at a later date, but as Darlington Memorial Hospital were urgently seeking small gifts to give to children over the Christmas period and these were already wrapped, the decision was taken to donate them to the hospital to meet a very worthy cause.

Once again a thank you for the support from the local businesses.

## What's on at Woodham Golf Club

### Sunday Lunch

12noon - 2.00pm

One Course Carvery - £6.95

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## Sick Journalism Offends Councillor

Counc Billy Blenkinsopp was in the news recently over his suspension from the Council for one month for swearing at a fellow councillor.

As a result of this a Daily Mail columnist thought he was being smart by pointing out Billy's wig with a headline reading "Golden Syrup" (Cockney rhyme Syrup of Figs - Wig). "It's one of the most hilarious syrups I have seen and a man who is prepared to leave the house in such an absurd toupee has no sense of the ridiculous" he writes.

He obviously doesn't know that Billy survived a serious road accident when 64% of his body was burnt. One side of his face and ear, along with fingers and toes were burnt away!

Billy wears the hair peace to hide horrific injury.



Billy lives in constant pain, and suffered injuries from which most people would not have survived. Naturally he is upset by the remarks of this journalist and Newton News has put him in touch with the Press Complaints Commission.

## Editorial Fuelling Discontent

With BP pushing up petrol prices toward £1.40p per litre people are calling for real action by the government.

There is also a suggestion, gathering support, that we boycott BP Petrol Stations suggesting they would then have to reduce their ridiculous prices.

If everybody did this they would soon get the message and the motorist would then have control, not the greedy fuel barons who are clearly making huge profits. People tend to forget that only a few years ago you could fill your tank for around £20 - it is now over £60! We accept global demand is pushing prices up and the main cost to us is in fuel tax and the government need to address this, but it is BP making huge profits.

## REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 19th JANUARY

Last Wednesday's meeting was very important and interesting.

We gave a grant to an Aycliffe Thai Boxer who has been invited to represent his country in the Amateur World Championships in Thailand. Do readers realise that they can apply for a small grant to help local clubs or individuals? We were very pleased to be able to help him on his way.

We had to make a difficult and sensitive decision about burial charges. The Town Council's burial fees are heavily subsidised for Aycliffe residents, but we charge the full cost to people living outside the town (i.e. those who do not pay Council Tax to the Council). A couple of cases recently, however, have highlighted that this can be unfair in the case of a second interment where an elderly resident has had to go

into residential care outside the parish. Members agreed to charge reduced burial fees where the deceased owned a grave and was a resident when the purchase was made, which will go some way to correct this. They also asked officers to investigate further ways to make sure the charging system is fair.

An important report outlined ways to update the Parish Plan. The Council is already a leader in 'community engagement', through its successful Customer Panels and Youth Council. However, we agreed that this year the Parish Planning process will also include a town-wide questionnaire, a stall at the Community Fair, focus groups, visits to a large number of local community groups and mini-consultations in each electoral ward. The Council genuinely wants to involve the public, so we hope these initiatives produce useful responses.

As part of this desire to engage with the public, the next thing we considered was a new Council website. We all agreed that the existing website is no longer adequate to the task and, after discussion, members voted to accept a proposal by a firm called 'Urban River'. This carries a cost of £16,300, so members of the public may have something to say about it. Indeed, one Councillor argued very persuasively for a cheaper option, but Urban River is a top-quality firm (it runs the Tyne Tunnel website), and members decided that they wanted a top-quality website for Aycliffe.

Finally, members approved the Revenue and Capital Budgets for next year, 2011-12. The Council has been able to keep its promise to freeze Council Tax (indeed, there has been

a very small reduction). This is a matter for congratulation. However, one of the factors keeping down expenses had been the officer pay freeze, and it struck us as obscene that the government has imposed a wages freeze on public sector workers, where bankers apparently need huge bonuses to motivate them.

John D Clare

## BT HELD TO TASK

A reader's complaint published in last weeks Newton News over sloppy work by workmen installing new Fibre Optic Boxes for BT has been addressed and remedial work completed to restore the groundwork.

In one instance tarmac was used to cover up holes they dug on the grass verge. The workmen are now aware people are inspecting their work and hopefully are taking greater care.

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## Greenfield at Sedgefield Gymnastics Festival



Greenfield students gave an outstanding performance at the Sedgefield Gymnastics Festival. The girls worked during their lunchtimes to make up and practice the routine and choreographed the whole sequence themselves.

The organisers described their performance as awesome. Well done Raven, Rebekah, Emily, Rebecca & Megan. Yr 7 & 8 pupils had the opportunity to see the girls perform on Wednesday 19th, January after the Big Dance.

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## Table Top Sale

A Grand Table Top Sale will be held in Heighington Village Hall on Saturday 26th February from 10am - 12 noon.

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# Caroline Race – Successful Dancer & Dance Teacher

At the age of 17 Caroline qualified with honours as a Dance Teacher, after a rigorous three year training, with The North of England College of Dance. This included Ballet, Modern Tap and Freestyle, registered with The International Dance Teachers' Association, one of the world's largest examination boards. Caroline went on to become a qualified aerobics and gym instructor with the London Central YMCA. She became a professional dancer and performed in many countries including Dubai, Germany, Greece and Belgium. In England

she performed in many top theatres and tribute Shows with the AIR Agency, touring with artistes throughout the UK. Approximately 10 years ago Caroline started teaching Freestyle Dance at the Lee Green Dance Centre and has enjoyed great success with the children and young adults over the following years helping them to attain nationally recognised qualifications and even helping some to become dance teachers themselves. In recent years Caroline has included Street, Lyrical, Tap, Ballet and Acro, leading led great success at both local and nationwide competitions



winning individual and team trophies. Children perform in shows choreographed by Caroline designed to give confidence in their ability.

Caroline is passionate about dance and fitness. Using the latest Salsa and Zumba forms she is introducing new classes as a great way to get fit for the summer. An Adult (Sexy) Salsa Class is on Mondays from 6.to 7pm at Greenfield Community Arts Centre. Aerobics is a fantastic way to lose weight with guaranteed results, Caroline runs this class from 7-8pm on Monday and 6.15 – 7.15pm on Thursdays at Greenfield. Times are subject to change as new classes are added. New classes for Street Dance i.e. Urban Street Kids is to be held on Monday 5.00-6.00pm. at Greenfield Community Arts Centre, and is open to members ages 8-15 years. Adult Street Dance classes will follow on Thursday 17th February 7.30 – 8.30pm. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment. Street dance is the ultimate way to experience dance in a modern style. The robotic and breakdance moves are funky, trendy and slick. You can let yourself go and dance with attitude to the urban beat. The perfect way to tone up and get

fit and gain confidence. The newest way to keep fit and have a great time. Zumba Fitness® was created in Colombia. Inspired by the traditional cumbia, salsa, samba and merengue music with pulsating Latin rhythms and red-hot international dance steps. Shake it, dance it and let yourself go, guaranteed visible results for the perfect body and physique that you have always dreamt of. Perfect for both men and women, come along and join in with Caroline for the ultimate experience. Caroline is a registered and qualified Zumba instructor with the full backup and support of Zumba UK so you can be confident in the knowledge that the whole experience is correctly orchestrated to provide the maximum benefit. This class will start on the 17th February at 5.30-6.30 Zumba Kids ages 8-15 and Adult Zumba from 6.30 to 7.30 all at Greenfield Community Arts Centre. For further information contact Caroline Race on 01325 312573 or Mobile 0794 9911642

# Drop In For a Free Cuppa at Silverdale



A new Break Time "Drop In" has opened at Silverdale House, Silverdale Place off Williamfield Way. Volunteers Dorothy and Ray Bowman and Kerry Wooton invite everyone to use this new venture and all money raised will fund the local Junior Neighbourhood Watch. It is hoped from 9am until 2pm people will come and enjoy a chat over a cup of tea/coffee. Bacon sandwiches etc are also served. There is a very friendly welcoming

atmosphere and everyone in the community is welcome. This is ideal for parents calling in on the way back from taking the children to school. While taking the photo Newton News Editor Syd enjoyed a bacon sandwich which was great value for money. All food is sourced from local suppliers. As an introductory offer cut out this news story, hand it in and receive a free cuppa on Monday 31st January from 9.30-11.30am.

**ZUMBA<sup>®</sup> With Caroline**  
(qualified & registered Zumba instructor)

**FROM THURSDAY 17TH FEB**

**@ GREENFIELD COMMUNITY AND ARTS COLLEGE**

**5.30 – 6.30PM ZUMBA KIDS (8-15 YEARS)**

**6.30 – 7.30PM ZUMBA ADULT**

**£3.50 PER CLASS**

**THE PERFECT WAY TO BURN CALORIES, LOSE WEIGHT, SHAKE IT, DANCE IT AND LET YOURSELF GO TO THE LATIN BEAT.**

**GUARANTEED VISIBLE RESULTS**

For more info phone  
01325 312573  
or 07949 911642  
and ask for Caroline

## PACT Meeting Police & Community Together

The Greenfield PACT Meeting is to be held on Wednesday 2nd February at the Evangelical Church, Ladybower, 6.30pm. This will give residents the opportunity to come along and speak with local beat officers and discuss any problems you may be having in your community, and together look at a way of tackling those issues. Local councillors will also be in attendance. We look forward to seeing you there PCSO 6859 Mike Welch Tel: 0345 60 60 365

## Sessions at the Youthy

**MONDAY**  
Health Drop in 4 - 5pm.  
8 - 11 yrs 4.15 - 5.45pm  
Girls Group - 6 - 8 pm.  
**WEDNESDAY**  
Project Session - Babysitting Course 4 - 5.30pm  
Arts Award: 6 - 8pm  
**THURSDAY**  
Inters: 4.30 - 6.30pm  
Boys Group 7 - 9pm  
**FRIDAY**  
Seniors Drop-in 6.30 - 8.30pm  
**SUNDAY**  
Duke of Edinburgh Award 6.30 - 8.30pm.  
**ALL SESSIONS 50p**  
We do all kinds of activities and projects: Sports, Arts, Dancing, D.J. work, Film Nights, Trips, Residential Outings, Health Projects, Outdoor Courses, Volunteering, Environmental Activities, C-Card, Accreditation and just chilling out!  
Call in for more details.

**FROM THURSDAY 17TH FEB**

**@ Greenfield Community and Arts College**

**7.30 - 8.30PM**

**£3.50 PER CLASS**

Street dance is the ultimate way to experience dance in a modern style. The robotic moves are funky, trendy, slick. You can let yourself go and dance with attitude to the urban beat.

**Limited spaces available**

For more info phone  
01325 312573  
or 07949 911642  
and ask for Caroline

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**Find out at our Open Evening on Tuesday 1st February**  
**Doors open at 6.30pm**

Join our knowledgeable Doctors and Skin & Laser team for advice on our range of treatments.

We will be showing live demonstrations of **Botox®, Dermal Fillers, Laser treatments and Microdermabrasion.**

Enjoy wine and nibbles, sample our Aestheticare product range and take advantage of a selection of discounts throughout the evening and enter our **Free Prize Draw.**

**Places are limited, please call us on 01325 320 216 to book your place**

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

**www.peaseway.com Tel: 01325 320 216 Fax: 01325 304 396**



## MUM'S THE WORD IN AYCLIFFE

Parents, carers and mums-to-be living in the Newton Aycliffe area can now tap into a wealth of health services for them and their babies. County Durham and Darlington Community Health Services' health visiting team in Newton Aycliffe provide

a range of services that will benefit all new mums and those about to give birth. They include:

Three events at **NEWTON AYCLIFFE YOUTH CENTRE**, Burn Lane, which are:  
**Drop in baby clinic**, every

Tuesday between 9.30am-11.30am starting 11 January 2011

**Bumps and Beyond**, every Wednesday between 10.00am - 11.30am starting 12 January 2011

**Breast feeding support group**, every Thursday between 1.30pm-3.00pm

**NEWTON AYCLIFFE CHILDREN'S CENTRE**, Stephenson Way, on Monday's between 1.30pm - 3.00pm, local Mums can enjoy being 'Fit Mamas'

Fit Mamas is a free of charge workout session, suitable for all levels of fitness to help mums get back into shape after having a baby. Each session combines brisk walking and toning exercises for the tummy, waist, bottom, thighs and arms.

No childcare is needed as you can bring your baby along in their pushchair/pram. Make the most of this fun, free session and your chance to mix with other mums.

For further information on any of the above sessions, please contact your health visitor or call the health visiting service on 01325 328970.

## U3A Meeting

As usual our meeting is organised for the first Tuesday of the month. The U3A/Third Age Trust is an international organisation for people over 50. This month's presentation is on Tuesday morning at 10am on 1st February 2011 at St. Clares Church in Newton Aycliffe.

The talk this month is given by Tony Hillman about 'Films Made in the North East'.

## Roman Donate Prize for Community Draw



Shelley McCormack, Roman's Marketing Manager, with the raffle prize in the Roman at Home showroom.

Local shower manufacturer, Roman, is getting involved with the Rotary Club's bumper draw by donating a raffle prize.

Roman, based on Aycliffe Business Park is a leading designer, manufacturer and supplier of showering products. Roman's extensive range comprehensively covers high quality shower enclosures, everything you need to create a stunningly contemporary wetroom, ingenious bath screens, low-level shower trays, state-of-the-art water delivery systems which incorporate integrated water delivery, designer shower walling and an exclusive range of appealing accessories.

In 2009 Roman expanded with the opening of Roman at Home which offers an inspired collection of bathroom

accessories and everyday luxuries. The Roman at Home website offers a range of luxuriously eclectic products to transform the home, which can all be purchased online or over the telephone.

Roman have donated a Luxury Egyptian Towel Bale from the Roman at Home range as a raffle prize for the bumper draw. The towel bale offers a velvety fluffy feeling and includes a bath sheet, bath towel and hand towel, each with a thick and thirsty pile. This retails for £46.50 on the Roman at Home website. [www.romanathome.com](http://www.romanathome.com)

Contact Tel: 0845 050 4032  
E-mail: [brochures@roman-showers.com](mailto:brochures@roman-showers.com)  
Web: [www.roman-showers.com](http://www.roman-showers.com)

## Junior Courses at Oak Leaf

At the Oak Leaf Sports Complex we hold weekly Junior Coaching Session for young people aged 8 - 15yrs in the following Sports.

**Squash Coaching every Tuesday Evening**

4.15 - 5.15pm Beginners

5.15 - 6.15pm Intermediate

**Football Fun every Monday evening**

4.00 - 4.45pm

**Dance Mat Fun every Monday evening**

5.00 - 5.45pm

**PASS every Saturday**

(a fun session in many different sports)

9.30 - 11.00am for ages 8 - 13yrs only.

For further details or to book your place contact Oak Leaf Sports Complex on 01325 300600

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The North-East's Premier venue for Weddings  
Today I will Marry my best friend, The one I laugh with, Live for, Dream with, Love  
For more details or to request a brochure call 01325 387000 or email [commercial@darlingtonfc.net](mailto:commercial@darlingtonfc.net)

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE AFTER-LIFE?

In the final quarter of 2010, Newton Aycliffe Spiritualist Church closed its doors, however, the churches regular members agreed that the church was something too valuable to be lost. A new committee was formed comprising of developing mediums, who have been working within the old church for many years, and a new group 'Aycliffe Spiritualists' was founded. Meeting every Monday from 7pm - 9pm at Morrison Close Community Centre, in Newton Aycliffe, the group offers a warm, friendly atmosphere, where you can hear philosophy, learn about the spiritualist religion, and on occasion receive communication from loved ones past.

Although still in its infancy, the group are proud of what they have already achieved, and look forward to many years of service, with an ever increasing number of attendees. They have a full calendar of visiting mediums, including Coral Ryder, who specialises in Psychic Art, Monty Havelock, a well known and respected nationwide medium, as well

as regular visiting mediums Harry and Lillian O'Dell, who can be counted upon to deliver a good night. If you are interested in the after-life, or even receiving communication from your departed loved ones (although this can not be guaranteed), the group urges you to come and support them.

Aycliffe Spiritualists wished to pass on their sincere wishes to Ann Marshall who dedicated a lot of her time to the development of our mediums, when she was running the previous church.

## CHILDREN'S CINEMA REOPENS

The date of the children's Cinema Club for 12 to 15 year olds is to commence on Saturday 5th of February, at 5.30 pm in St Elizabeth's Church Hall. We hope to see the boys and girls then. The younger children's matinee is still on as usual at 3pm. For more information contact Brian on 01325 319067.

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## COMMUNITY FAIR 2011 APPLICATION FORM

We wish to apply for a stand ☐

We want to perform/give a demonstration ☐

Group/Organisation Name: .....

Contact (s) Name: .....

Address .....

Telephone Number: .....

e-mail address: .....

Brief Description of activity: .....

Cut this out and return to Newton Press, St. Cuthberts Way or hand in to our agents: Newsforce, Town Centre or Walkers Butchers, Simpashiregate.



# Tenants Choose Their Own New Fittings

New tenants of local landlord sbh are being offered more choice and better quality homes. After a successful pilot scheme sbh is giving new tenants the opportunity to be involved in choosing new kitchen fittings, bathrooms and new doors so work can be carried out before they move in.

Tracey Jackson, head of homes for sbh, said: "This will be a real improvement for new tenants, giving them a chance to make their new home their own."

"Not every new tenant will have all the new fittings but we have decided to look at whatever improvements were planned for that home in the next three years and bring them forward so they are completed before the tenant moves in."

"This makes sense for the tenant because it minimises disruption, it is easier for the contractors to work in an empty property and it gives

people a degree of choice that helps them personalise their home.

"We have been running this as a pilot scheme in Spennymoor and the reaction of new tenants has been brilliant. Our customer satisfaction levels have improved significantly so we have decided to adopt it for all new tenants."

"Coupled with the choice-based lettings process it means that people now choose their home and then choose much about the way it looks. When someone successfully bids for a property they will be told what improvements that property was in line for and be guided through the whole process by the same team, right up to the day they move in."

Waiting times to move into new properties have not increased with the extra work.

More information is available from sbh, please telephone 0845 505 5500

## READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS

This is the pick of this week's reader's photographs and we thank Steve Jones for his photo of a sculpture on Great Aycliffe Way and Brian Geddes for his spectacular shot of a bird in flight.

If you have some interesting digital photos of the town please e-mail them to [syd@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:syd@newtonnews.co.uk)



Christopher Davies took this photograph on a warm January afternoon. "It captures the natural silhouette that the sculpture gives. Newton Aycliffe can be an interesting place, if you know where to look" said Christopher.

# NEW PRODUCTION OF CARMEN AT REGIONAL THEATRE



Carmen is a tale of love, freedom and imprisonment, addiction and relationships with some of the most recognised and loved music. Bold and daring American director Daniel Kramer brings his vision to this story of a fiery young woman and those who surround her with acclaimed singer Heather Shipp in the title role with Don José played by Peter Auty. This popular Bizet work is performed by Opera North at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle on 15th, 17th and 19th February at 7pm. Ring Box Office: 08448 11 2121 or online: [www.theatreroyal.co.uk](http://www.theatreroyal.co.uk) Ticket Prices: £15 - £56. Carmen is part of Opera North's Winter Season 2011, which also includes Weinberg's The Portrait and Lehár's The Merry Widow.

## Veteran's Badge Presentation

Neville Parade Community Centre are to host another Veterans Badge Presentation during the summer. Any person who has served in Her Majesty's Forces for any period of time, including National Service is eligible to receive the badge. A high ranking officer will present the badges on a special afternoon to be arranged. If you want an application form please ring Peter Beaty on 313924.

# ADVICE SESSIONS FOR ARTS GRANT APPLICANTS

Community art projects could qualify for a cash boost of up to £500 in the latest phase of a successful grant programme.

Durham County Council's Arts Development Small Grants Scheme supports events and activities that benefit people living in the county.

The scheme is open to community and voluntary organisations, social enterprises, art organisations, parish and town councils as well as professional artists working on community-based projects.

A series of advice sessions, where applicants can pick up tips on how to complete their application form, will take place between 4pm and 6.30pm on the following days:

**Monday 31st January at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre**

Telephone appointments are also available on request. Applicants must be based in County Durham and the project should be for the direct benefit of people living in the county.

The deadline for applications for the latest round of funding is noon on **Monday, 28th February**.

To book a place at any of the sessions call 0191 370 8803 or email [artsgrants@durham.gov.uk](mailto:artsgrants@durham.gov.uk)

For more information and to download an application form visit [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk)

## J&C COACHES

### Forthcoming Attractions

**JUSTIN BIEBER**  
Saturday 12th March 2011 - Newcastle Arena - £47.50

**CALENDAR GIRLS**  
Saturday 26th March 2011 - Sunderland Empire - £34.50

**TORVILL & DEAN**  
Tuesday 12th April 2011 - Newcastle Arena - £55.00

**JOHN BISHOP**  
Tuesday 10th May 2011 - Newcastle Arena - £36.50

**JOURNEY, STYX & FOREIGNER**  
Tuesday 7th June 2011 - Newcastle Arena - £52.50

**THE HERE & NOW TOUR**  
Wednesday 29th June 2011 - Newcastle Arena - £47.50

**RHIANNA**  
Sunday 16th October 2011 - Newcastle Arena - £67.50

**KATY PERRY**  
Thursday 27th October 2011 - Newcastle Arena - £42.50

**SISTER ACT**  
Saturday 9th November 2011 - Sunderland Empire - £53.50

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- Retouch Colour from £22.00
- Full Head Colour from £30.00
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- Half Head Foils from £28.00
- Full Head Foils from £35.00
- Perms from £26.00

**ALL COLOUR AND PERM PRICES INCLUDE CUT AND FINISH**

*Longer and Thicker Hair will incur additional charges*



Three Apprenticeships Available at Hydram

No Council Tax Increase But Big Cuts Elsewhere

Following the success of last year's recruitment Hydram Sheet Metalwork is offering the opportunity for 3 more apprentices to train with the business from Spring 2011. The apprentices will work full-time at Hydram while attending college on day release. The business is committed to developing the skill base of local youngsters to help secure the skills and knowledge needed to keep Hydram as one of the countries leading sub contract sheet metal work suppliers. One of Hydram's key initiatives is to have at least 10% of its workforce made up of apprentices. The current crop of apprentices have worked throughout the factory from operating state of the art laser cutting machines to the quality department in their 6 months at Hydram, alongside their studies at New College Durham. Operations Manager Stephen Beacham has championed the recruitment of apprentices, "Hydram currently have 3 first year apprentices working in the factory and attending college on a day release basis, with two former apprentices now working in key roles within the Quality team and Primary Operations team," he said. Aaron Carruthers, from Newton Aycliffe, joined Hydram last year. He is



enjoying the experience of being an apprentice. "I like the fact that there is not one fixed role straight away, moving through the factory allows me to find where I'm best suited. Hydram is a good place to undertake my training as the business is expanding and there are always new challenges. Learning on the job alongside college is much more suited to me than full time education", Aaron said. Anyone interested in further details about Hydram's Apprentice training scheme or wishing to apply for a position should contact Hydram's Operations Manager, Stephen Beacham. Applications are being invited from school leavers up to the age of 21. Tel: 01388 720222

This week the County Council's Cabinet made final recommendations on the budget for 2011/12 to go forward to full council in February. The recommendations include proposals that there will be no increase in council tax next year and explain how the authority has taken on board the views of the public to minimise the impact of the reduction in Government grants on frontline services. Durham faces unprecedented levels of reductions in Government support over the four year period covered by the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). On December 13th last year the council received confirmation of its Provisional Finance Settlement for the next two years which confirmed both the scale of future grant reductions and their heavy front loading. In total, the council is forecasting the loss of £92.5m of Government grant over the MTFP period with £60.3m of that in 2011/12 - 2014/15. After taking into account increased demand on services, for example from the ageing population, the council is required to achieve £67.1m of savings in 2011/12 and £125m of savings over the whole of the MTFP. This is the

equivalent of almost a third of the 2010/11 Net Revenue Expenditure Budget with a reduction of nearly 15 per cent required immediately. During the MTFP process extensive consultation has been carried out. In total, more than 8,000 people either participated or responded to the consultation process via: *Area Action Partnerships (AAP) forums* *On-line and media surveys* *The residents survey* *Trade Union meetings* *Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meetings.* Council Leader Cllr Simon Henig said: "Inevitably Government cutbacks will impact on the services we provide however, we have

done our best to respond to residents' top priorities. "As a result we plan to maintain our existing spend on winter maintenance and our existing capital spend on highway maintenance and repairs. We will also plan to invest in child protection and do our best to protect a number of areas of adult social care. "This will of course mean hitting other areas but again, we have listened, and a range of support services, including management and communications, will therefore face larger reductions. "I would like to thank everyone who has helped

us shape this vital report by taking part in our consultation exercises. "We are committed to a measured response to the challenges we face and as such there will be many opportunities for the public to have their say. In depth reviews of many service areas will take place over coming months and years and I very much hope

residents and businesses will continue to support the consultation processes. "Despite these revenue reductions, we continue to have a very strong capital programme of almost £300m over the next two years. This demonstrates the council's continued commitment to invest in regeneration and improve job creation across the county."

Councillor Allowances 2009/10

Newton News has obtained details of allowances claimed by Newton Aycliffe Councillors  
**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
Cllr D Bowman £19,406  
Cllr E M Dixon £18,949  
Cllr P Gittins £16,211  
Cllr J Gray £15,852  
Cllr Iveson £16,347  
Cllr J Moran £17,629  
Cllr E Paylor £14,386  
**GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL**  
All Town Councillors claim £1,059 a year, it is taxable, and they can choose not to receive it, but all do.

PROMOTING SUCCESS AT GREENFIELD

Two teachers at Greenfield have started the New Year with new responsibilities as the school builds on its success and plans for the rest of the year.



Mrs J. Ward has taken over the leadership of Design & Technology following the promotion of Mr N. McGrath to another school. "Mr McGrath had made a huge contribution to Greenfield in his six years at the school and Mrs Ward is the right person to take that work forward" said Mr Priestley, headteacher.



Mrs K. Thompson has been appointed to post of Curriculum Leader for Science until September 2011. Working with subject leader Miss B. Tait, Mrs Thompson will be working to consolidate and build on the rapid improvements achieved in science over the last 3 years. "We are delighted to have the quality of staff to fill these roles and help lead the school forward" said Mr P. Bergg, Chair of Governors.

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Place your VALENTINES DAY Greetings in Aycliffe's local community newspaper the "NEWTON NEWS"

JOHN JANE  
To "squidgy widgy"  
on Valentines Day  
love from your little  
bunny  
X

WIN  
A BOTTLE  
OF WINE

NEWTON PRESS  
St. Cathberts Way  
TAYLORS NEWSFORCE  
Town Centre or  
WALKERS BUTCHERS  
Simpasturegate

Above example:  
£9.00 (inclusive)  
(maximum 15 words)

JOHN DOUGH To my "squidgy widgy" on Valentines Day, love from your little bunny X

JANE DOUGH To my honey bunny, all my love on Valentines Day, love from "squidgy widgy"

Above example:  
15p per word

JOHN DOUGH To my "squidgy widgy" on Valentines Day, love from your little bunny X

JANE DOUGH To my honey bunny, all my love on Valentines Day, love from "squidgy widgy"

Above example:  
25p per word

Valentine greetings can be viewed on our website - Valentine advertisers will also be entered into a FREE draw to win a bottle of wine!

Write out your copy in the box below, add up the words, put the total cost and hand in to:

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No of words ..... @ ..... p = £

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with  
Darlington FC

Saturday  
12th February

A Romantic Valentine's Ball with a three-course meal, a bottle of wine (per couple), a Soul Singer and gift for the ladies. Only £60 per couple (£5 discount for Season Ticket holders)

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or email  
m.sousa@darlington-fc.net



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**Cheltenham Way  
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Delightful 3 bedroom detached bungalow, conservatory, d/garage, d/glazed, south facing gardens

**Sharp Road  
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£97,500**

3 bedroom mid terrace, modern fitted kitchen d/glazed, GCH, garden, well placed for amenities

**Clover Court  
Woodham Village  
£161,950**

A much improved 3 bedroom detached house, conservatory, DG, Modern bathroom/WC, private enclosed gardens

**Wycliffe Close  
Newton Aycliffe  
£109,950**

3 bedroom detached, d/glazed, GCH, garage, no chain, priced to sell

**Pemberton Road  
Woodham Village  
£105,000**

3 bedroom semi detached, conservatory, d/glazed, GCH, off road parking, no chain

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## Dancercise for Over 50's



Dancercise classes promote exercise for older groups, with classes in the Pioneering Care Centre on Tuesdays at 12.15pm and in the Youth Centre on Fridays at 10am.

Dancercise is an excellent activity for strengthening and toning, posture and weight control but more importantly its really good fun. The tutor Dianne White moves all from ducklings to swans very quickly and would like more people to come along.

More details from June Kneafsey, Development Worker, T: 01388 720064

## DO YOU HAVE A HOUSING PROBLEM?

Contact Sedgefield & District Citizens Advice Bureau or come along to one of our housing days. The Bureau is pleased to announce that we now provide independent, confidential, specialist advice in all areas of Housing Law.

Do you have problems with any of the following? If so make sure you come along to one of our housing days to obtain specialist housing advice and assistance.

### RENT ARREARS

Do you have rent arrears or are you concerned that you can no longer afford your payments? Are you being threatened with eviction because of your arrears? Have you received any court papers?

### RENTED ACCOMMODATION RE-POSSESSION

Are you being asked to leave your rented property for another reason?

**MORTGAGE ARREARS**  
Do you have mortgage arrears or concerns that you can no longer afford your payments? Have you been served with court papers?

Contact us for assistance with negotiating and defending proceedings for possession.

Landlord Mortgage Arrears  
Are you a tenant in a privately rented property? Has your landlord fallen behind with the mortgage payments?

Contact us to discover your rights and action to take.

### HOMELESSNESS

Are you homeless or being threatened with homelessness?

Contact us for assistance with accommodation options, homeless applications and reviews.

### ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Are you suffering from anti social behaviour? Are you being accused of anti social behaviour? Contact us for assistance about what action you can take against those causing the behaviour and how to defend proceedings against you.

### DISREPAIR

Is your property in a bad state of repair?

Contact us for assistance about what your rights are and what action can be taken to have the works carried out in your property.

### DEPOSITS

Are you having problems regarding the return of your deposit?

Contact us for assistance with making a claim for the return of your deposit.

### TENANCY AGREEMENTS

Do you have any other problems with your tenancy? Do you have questions about terms and conditions? Do you want to know what rights you have in your property.

Contact us with a copy of

your agreement and we will be happy to assist you with any questions or concerns.

### UNLAWFUL EVICTION

Has your landlord threatened to evict you from a property without following the correct procedures? Are you being harassed by your landlord?

If you have answered yes to any of the above questions, it is likely we will be able to assist you. Come along to our housing day or contact us direct to make an appointment.

If you have not answered yes to any of the above questions but still have a question about a housing related issue, come along or call direct for an appointment and we will be more than happy to discuss this with you.

We are holding a housing open day drop in session at Newton Aycliffe – Thursday 6th January 2011 – 10am to 1pm in the The Leisure Centre, Beveridge Arcade.

If you are not able to attend the drop in housing session above please contact us directly to arrange an appointment:

**Leanne Potts**  
01388 825 414

Please bring all relevant documents to the sessions including tenancy agreement if relevant.

Please also bring proof of income.

## FORMER MAYOR SLAMS BAD CONDUCT AT TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Dear Sir,  
Swearing at a woman councillor is unacceptable behaviour by Counc Blenkinsopp and would not have been tolerated when I was on the Council. He would have been removed from the meeting, by the police if necessary and barred from speaking at future meetings, as facilitated in Council Standing Orders 10 a, b & c, unless he apologised.

This reflects badly on the Lib Dems who seem so desperate for members they have yet to take any action against him. They seem to have different standards which obviously don't include decency or manners especially to female councillors.

Durham County Council's Standards Committee, had ruled on Cllr Blenkinsopp's behaviour, on May 18, 2010. "The panel felt Cllr Blenkinsopp had shown a blatant disregard to the Standards Committee following his agreement to apologise during the original hearing.

Cllr Blenkinsopp said that the issue would end up costing taxpayers more than £50,000. He said a three-month ban for failing to say sorry was disproportionate and that he would have accepted a warning.

The tribunal upheld the Standards Committee's ruling that Coun Blenkinsopp had breached Great Aycliffe Town Council's code of conduct by using foul language. It found that a three month ban for failing to apologise, was disproportionate and reduced it to one month.

When asked by the tribunal why he had failed to apologise, Cllr Blenkinsopp said he had received advice from senior

councillors that he should not. (and if senior councillors told him to take a running jump would he?)

The costs are nowhere near £50,000 that Cllr Blenkinsopp claims; the County Council confirmed "Both the Investigation and the two subsequent Standards Committee Hearings conducted in relation to the complaint brought against Cllr Blenkinsopp (LA76) were carried out in-house by officers of the authority as part of their daily workloads and in line with their job descriptions. The Council did not outsource for any element of this work."

I was at the Tribunal Hearing and Cllr Blenkinsopp's whole defence lay on trying to discredit witnesses but in fact an Independent Councillor gave first hand testimony of his tirade of abuse, and his efforts to discredit others was ruled out by the Tribunal as irrelevant to the issue.

Cllr Blenkinsopp was an Independent, then Labour, then Independent, now currently a Lib Dem Councillor. At the time of the incident, he claimed he was Deputy Leader but wasn't, so another lie, and trying to stop someone sitting in your friend's seat when she wasn't even present at the meeting... really!

The Independents don't want him, Labour won't have him, only the Lib Dems find him acceptable, but he should keep his word, having been found

guilty and should resign. If the Lib Dems have any standards at all they would expel him!

Arun M Chandran

**LETTER**

### GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

#### Customer Panel Meeting

The next meeting of the Customer Panel will be held on:

**TUESDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2011**

The next meeting of the Customer Panel will be held on Tuesday, 8th February 2011 commencing at 6.00pm. The Panel meet in the Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

At this meeting we will be reviewing the work of the Town Council over the last year and starting to review what the priorities should be for the year ahead.

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](mailto: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.

## SBH On Call To Help

Major County Durham landlord sbh has set up an out-of-hours Call Centre to deal with customer queries.

Housing association sbh decided to offer extended hours at its new in-house call centre because tenants said they wanted to be able to phone outside office hours.

But despite asking for the service it is not being used. Call centre team leader Sara Taylor said: "Customers told us they wanted us to open earlier and that has been a great success, but they also asked us to stay open later in the evening and we receive very few calls then."

"We just want to remind people that they can contact us directly from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. Outside those times the service is provided by our partner Mears."

The call centre can be contacted on 0845 505 5500 or 0300 111 2344.

**"Saturday Night Live"**

## THE TURBINIA

### \* Saturday Night Live \*

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#### Saturday 29th January - "Sticky Fingers"

"I've just returned from the gig at the Doll. I have been involved in live music for 25 years, having seen all the top hard rock bands and been in a few decent local bands and played some good gigs in my time. All I can say that is after tonight I am so glad I am in a tribute band and not a mixed cover band, because, and I can't put it any simpler than this... to all the cover bands out there (and I include my own), you'll never match what has happened tonight at the Doll. What happened tonight, firmly hammered home that 'Sticky Fingers' are the best cover band in the area and the party they provided tonight will never be beaten. I have never seen anything like it... band on top form. Opened with 'We Will Rock You', 'Tie Your Mother Down', 'Only You Can Rock Me' then went on to numbers by Priest, Motley Crew, Van Halen (including Phil climbing on tables). Nothing that they ain't done but at their very, very best I have ever seen them. The whole gig was the best gig I have ever been to and I include all the top acts I have seen."

#### Saturday 5th February - "2-80s"

Great local band that's starting to attract a large following, constantly playing to full gigs. A Fantastic mix of modern and classic rock. Playing tracks by Foo Fighters, Thin Lizzy, Killers, Bad Company, Black Crows, Snow Patrol, Kaiser Chiefs, Rolling Stones, Feeder, Kings of Leon, Stereophonics, Primal Scream and much much more.

#### Saturday 12th February - "Insanity"

For more information on bands go to [www.turbiniapub.co.uk](http://www.turbiniapub.co.uk) or 313034  
Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke



# Newtonian Elected NHS Foundation Governor

Dear Sir,

I was recently elected as a Governor, on the Governing Council of the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust which is a non-paid position.

May I through the Newton News, thank all of those, within the Sedgefield Constituency electorate, who voted for me. I will do my best to represent the interests of the people of Newton Aycliffe, with respect to facets of health-care provision.

It is my belief that the NHS - gifted to the war-weary people of our nation - by the reforming Labour government in 1948, to counter 'want, disease, ignorance, squalor and idleness', has never been under such threat, as it will be over the next four years.

This threat comes from creeping privatisation, under the current Conservative Party led coalition. The years 1979 - 1997, witnessed the privatisation of many valued and valuable public assets, including the public utilities, a dogma both against the will and the best interests of the people of this country.

I very much suspect and fear that the current government, under the guise of modernisation, aims to wrestle the NHS away from the public sector and accountability; with vague promises about improved services under privatisation, to the control of its 'fat-cat' friends.

Whilst it is true to say that efficiencies can always be made, even within the NHS, it should be remembered that this same Tory Party, now in power, refuses to bring in effective legislation against the Banks, whose wreckless

gambling, put us all in the financial mess that we are in now.

The Banks continue to dish out billions in bonuses, for failure, whilst our NHS may be starved of continued investment. In conclusion, we must all play our part in letting the current government know how we feel about OUR NHS. It is a battle worth fighting; a battle that must be won, for us now and for future generations.

Derek G Atkinson  
Sedgefield Area Governor,  
6 Denham Place,  
Newton Aycliffe  
Co Durham DL5 5QT

## Golf Course Development

Dear Sir,

I see that once again plans have been submitted to build houses at Woodham Golf Course.

The Middridge road is already too dangerous to have more traffic generated, as previously pointed out in letters to the Newton News.

Even with rose tinted spectacles Newton Aycliffe will never be a tourist resort and another hotel is just not needed.

I see in the application £1 million has been allowed for alterations to the course and drainage, but this would not scratch the surface as the course is built on clay soil and will always be wet.

I hope the planners see sense and turn this application down.

John Forster

# LETTERS to the EDITOR COUNCIL ALLOWANCES

Dear Sir,

I thank 'PC' for his letter and am delighted to comment on Great Aycliffe Town Council allowances.

Town Councillors do not get an attendance or subsistence allowance for meetings - occasionally, where a meeting runs over tea-time, officers buy in a plate of sandwiches.

GATC Councillors do not get expenses for functions within the parish boundaries. For meetings outside Aycliffe, they can claim petrol @ 40p a mile, and a living subsistence of up to £30 per day. But many Councillors forgo this - for instance, I have never claimed expenses for any Council activity I have attended. Last year, the total of all such expenses amounted to £155.17.

What Town Councillors do get, is an allowance of £1059 a year. The actual amount is reviewed from time to time by an independent body.

This allowance was introduced only in 2005, so I have to say that, for most of my time as a Town Councillor, we all did the job voluntarily. The allowance was a national initiative hoping to increase the number of people standing for local councils, and

to be fair it is certainly true that a large number of Independents stood for election in 2007. I am not suggesting that the only reason they stood was for the money. But the Council prior to that had been 100% Labour, and I am one of those proud to say that, before the allowance, we served the town for the town's sake, without financial gain.

As for reducing this allowance, I do not agree in any circumstances with Councillors setting their own remuneration, either up or down. Reducing it would make marginal difference to the Council finances (it represents less than 2% of the net budget).

My beef with the allowance system is not its size, but its inequity. Most Councillors attend frequently, and work hard for the community beyond that, for an hourly rate at which a paper boy would turn up his nose. The task of Leader, particularly, is onerous. But it is possible for an inactive Councillor to attend Full Council meetings only, for a maximum of eight meetings a year, and yet draw the same allowance, at a rate per meeting which is indefensible.

John D. Clare

# Councillor Reconsiders Resigning His Seat

Dear Readers,

May I comment on the decision, to suspend me for 1 month from Council Meetings.

It means I will miss a total of 2 meetings, but I am attending as a member of the public. The original decision was to impose a 3 month suspension, but the tribunal thought it too severe and reduced it to one month.

I did try to introduce new evidence to discredit the Councillor who made the complaint and I found the evidence of both councillors Bowman and Hewittson quite alarming who remembered everything about the case, but forgot I was Deputy Leader of the council for 12 months and one of them even voted me into that position.

After stating I would resign from the council, I have received many calls asking me to reconsider and I will. I was disappointed to note that Clare Burrows, Durham County Council solicitor, named me twice in another case involving Barnard Castle Town Council.

An apology was supposed to be forthcoming, and this has not materialised so I am requesting Durham County Council print a full apology in all the local and national newspapers.

People in high positions, can make mistakes and get off lightly, whilst Councillors face disciplinary action for minor incidents.

Bill Blenkinsopp

# Referendum on AV not PR

Dear Sir,

In last week's paper Mr Ballantyne spoke about the forthcoming referendum on PR and suggested that Labour MP's "are not telling the truth".

Can I inform your readers that the referendum is about AV, a voting system where some votes are counted twice and some only once, hardly a fair system, which is why it is only used in three Countries, Fiji, Australia and Papua New Guinea.

I welcome a debate about our voting system but please let's get the basic facts right first.

Paul Trippett

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# Good Service Deserves Good Support

Dear Sir,

Can I express my appreciation for the great work force and service from Aycliffe Autosafe Centre Ltd at Leaside.

I had the misfortune to become one of the many who have fallen foul of the numerous potholes we have on our roads in the region, having broken a drop link on my van, and damage to my exhaust.

This was a disaster as many people may know as I run my own pest control business in Newton Aycliffe and my van is vital.

Autosafe Centre Ltd came to my rescue once again and fixed it in record time. Everyone at Autosafe Centre Ltd are a great credit to the business and to Newton Aycliffe and their service must be appreciated by others as they are having to move to bigger premises.

Well done Autosafe Centre Ltd. Credit where credit is due.

Brian Sowerby

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## Obituary

**JEAN BOYES** Passed away on 18th January 2011 in hospital aged 78 years after a long illness borne with great courage. Loving Mam of Jackie, Allan and Pauline; Mother-in-Law of Ken and Tommy; Nanna to Darren, Donna, Ronnie, Gemma, Dan, Danielle and Richard; Great Gran to Dean, Liam, Jai, Caitlyn and Kieran. Funeral to be held on Monday 31st January 2011 at St Clare's Church at 12.30pm. Followed by interment at the West Cemetery  
**ROUND** 21st January, peacefully at Aycliffe Care Home in Woodham Village. Joan, aged 81 years (nee Potts). Beloved Wife to Dennis; Dearly loved Mother to Yvonne; Much loved Grandmother to Caroline and Alistair. Funeral on Monday 31st January. Will friends please meet at 3.15pm for Service and Cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to Alzheimers Society. A donation plate will be provided at the Crematorium

## Photography

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<http://greenfieldschool.net>



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Greenfield wishes to appoint one Breaktime / Lunchtime Supervisor. The successful candidate will work as part of a team to supervise students in all areas of the school at breaktime and lunchtime. Additional duties may include cashier cover and contributing to the supervision of recreational and sports activities.

Please contact Mrs Susan Mouyiassi on 01325 300979 or email [susan.mouyiassi@greenfieldschool.net](mailto:susan.mouyiassi@greenfieldschool.net) for further information and an application pack.

The school is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and require all staff to share this commitment.

All posts are subject to satisfactory CRB clearance.

Closing Date: 12 noon 11th February 2011

Your place of work will be Greenfield School Community & Arts College.

The school is part of the Aycliffe and Shildon Schools Education Trust (ASSET) and you may be required to work in any of the school sites within the Trust.



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## In Memoriam

**VAL MALONE** 31st January 2007. Forever in our hearts. Lots of love, Graham, Kay, Jill and Sammi xxx

**JOAN HURT** 31st January 2007. Deep in our hearts your memory is kept, to love and cherish and never forget. Love always, Tom, Sean, Pat and family

**LESLIE DALE** 3rd February 2010. Much loved, sadly missed Father and Grandad. Always in our thoughts. Brian, Janette and families

**JOHN CLASPER** Died 1st February 2009. Loved and missed every day by your loving Wife, Doreen xxx

**JOHN CLASPER** Died 1st February 2009. Two years have gone Dad since you were taken from us. We love and miss you every day. Love always, Viv, Jessica and Chris xxx

**JOHN CLASPER** 1st February 2009. As we hold you close Dad in memory, even though we are apart Dad, your spirit will live on, there within our hearts. Remembering you Dad is easy we do it every day. It's the heartache of losing you that will never go away. Your loving Daughter Sharron, Son-in-Law Colin; your loving Grandchildren, Cheryl, Natalie and Sean; Great Grandchildren, Maisie, Tyler and Thomas

## Thank You

**MRS PAULINE BARKLEY** and family of the late David Barkley wish to sincerely thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind support, cards of condolence and flowers during their recent sad bereavement. Special thanks to the paramedic who responded so quickly to my 999 call. A big thank you to Jessica of John Meynell's and Mr Ian Snowden for the lovely Service. To Walkers Butchers for the refreshments and friends Ellie and Andrew for their help. Also a thank you to all who donated to the British Heart Foundation

## Congratulations

### Congratulations it's your 21st Birthday



And if I may be so bold to say, another year has come and gone, my God your gettig old, but hold it, if that is true then it must be true for me, I think I will start again, I can't let it be ...

### Congratulations it's your 21st Birthday

Another birthday time, what a superb age you are, at the pinnacle, in your prime. So for you the birthday girl, here's what I have to say, welcome to the magnificent 21 club and have a really super day xxx

Have a fantastic night at your party Hun. love ya lots, Becci and Samantha xxxxxx

### Josh Lee Cane



**Happy 18th Birthday**  
3rd February 2011  
Love you lots, Mam, Dad, Lewis and Macy xxxx  
All our love, Nana and Grandad xxxxx

## Get Well

**GET WELL** soon Poppy Pie. Love you lots, Mum and Bud xxxxxxxxx

## Birthday Remembrance

**FLETCHER** Earle Raymond (Ray). Birthday memories of a special Husband, Dad and Grandad. With tears in our eyes we whisper low, happy birthday we love you so. Asleep in Gods garden with our beautiful Daughter Anthea. "I'll see you in me dreams". Loving Wife, Bea and family xxx

### Paula Dockerty



**THE BIG FIVE - O**  
28th January 2011  
Lots of love from Doc, Elliott, Clarke and Taylor

### Danielle Connelly



**Happy 18th Birthday**  
31st January 2011  
Lots of love Danielle from Mum and Mia

xxxxx  
Love and kisses Danni, from Dad, Zoe, James and Alex

xxxxx  
Love and best wishes Danielle from Grandma and Grandad

xxxxx

### Callum Scott



**Happy 16th Birthday**  
So proud of you.  
Love from Mam & Glen  
**Happy 16th Birthday**  
Lots of love,  
Dad and Joanne  
**Happy 16th Birthday**  
Best wishes, Nanne Eunice and Nanna Maggie  
**Happy 16th Birthday**  
Lots of love from  
Nanna and Grandad

**GEMMA KINSELLA** Happy 18th birthday. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, John and Charlene xxxxxxx

### Kayleigh Wilson



**Happy 18th Birthday**  
From a Cutie to a Beauty. All our love Mam and Dad xxxxx

### Dave Moore



**Happy 60th Birthday**  
Lots of love Brenda, Fay, Aaron, Stef, Michael and Sophie xxxx

### Patricia Cogan BSc



Well done on achieving your Bachelor of Science Honours Degree. A successful end to five years of study. Love, Dave

### Adam Laing



**Happy 18th Birthday**  
29th January 2011  
From Mam, Dad, Chris and Ashley, Marc, Nana and Grandad, Gran and all the family.

### Zoe Anderson



**Happy 21st Birthday**  
1st February 2011  
To Zoe on your 21st birthday. Lots of love and happiness from all the family xoxoxoxox

**SHARON DUFF** Happy birthday, it is indiscreet to reveal a ladies age! So let's just say in life's book you have turned a special page. Have a good one. Love, Pamela xxx

**JAY BLAKEY** "My Bestest Boy No 3". Happy birthday, so now you are 11 years old, sometimes a bit of a handful it truth be told. But more precious to me than any silver or gold, a very special place in my heart you will always hold. Hope you enjoy your Paintballing Party. Love you billions, Grandma xxx

**TYLER J BAMBRIDGE** To my special little Angel, happy 1st birthday. Love you always, Mammy xx

**TYLER J BAMBRIDGE** To a special Angel, happy 1st birthday. Love you always, Grandm a and Granda xxx

**TYLER J BAMBRIDGE** Happy 1st birthday to a special Angel. Love, Uncle Lee and Uncle Ross xxx

**LUKE LANGDALE** 26th January. Happy 21st birthday, all our love, Mam and Laura xx

**ADAM LAING** Wishing my youngest Grandson a very happy 18th birthday on 29th January. Hope you have a good one. Love, Gran xxx PS: *Newcastle Strip in the Post, hope you like it!!*

### John Grieve Williamson



Look what age and hard work have done to you!



**Happy 65th Birthday**  
26th January 2011  
All our love to an OLD MAN from Yvonne, Scott, Roy, Nic, Alla, Liam and Alisa xxxxxxxxxxxx

### Jamie Everson



**30 Today!** Here's to an extra special birthday and weekend of good times. All my love always, Karen x  
**Happy 30th Birthday** Daddy. I love you BIG! Love from Gracie Cheeky Monkey x

**Happy 30th Birthday** Son. Love Dad and Lyn x

**Happy Birthday** Jamie. Love from Grandma and Grandad x

**Hip Hip Hooray** 30 Today! Love Grandma x

**Happy BIG 3-0 Bro!** Love Lee, Jodie, Yasmin and Sophie x

**Happy 30th Birthday** Jamie. Have a great day, you deserve it. Lots of love, Denise, Vince, Andrew, Daniel and Louisa x

**Happy BIG 30** Jamie, catching up to me now! Lots of Love Jules, Paul, Louis and Ollie x

## Let them know you are thinking about them

### with a PhotoAd in the Newton News

Photoads and all other personal advertising can be placed at one of our agents:

**TAYLORS NEWSFORCE** (Town Centre)

**DON WALKERS** (Simpasturegate)

or our office at: **NEWTON PRESS** (Aycliffe Business Park)

Adverts can also be placed online at [www.newtonnewsads.co.uk](http://www.newtonnewsads.co.uk)

or via email directly to [paul@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:paul@newtonnews.co.uk)

**SMALL PHOTOAD £15.00** (Photo and up to 20 words)

**LARGE PHOTOAD £25.00** (Photo and up to 30 words)

Extras words are charged at 15p per word. Photographs can be collected from Newton Press offices after publication and are held on file for six months. Please ensure all copy is written clearly.

Remember, we only charge 15p per word for Personal Lineage advertisements and 20p per word for Business Ads (boxes are extra)

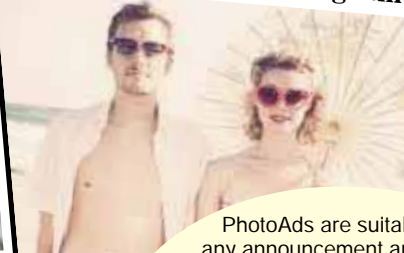
### Alice Springs



**Happy 21st Birthday**  
10-10-10

to our beautiful Daughter on your 21st birthday. Lots of love from Mam & Dad xxx

### Bonny and Clyde Cunningham



**Golden**

on 1st Jan

PhotoAds are suitable for any announcement and are preserved forever on our website [www.newtonnews.co.uk](http://www.newtonnews.co.uk)  
We are currently working on an archive site which will bring you ALL the past issues of the Newton News as far back as 1948!



# NEWS FROM AGNEW

Starting on Sunday 13th February from 9.30am to 12.30pm and to run for 10 weeks, is CIC, providing lessons in a variety of the

Performing Arts Disciplines and is FREE to young people aged 4-18 years. This is due to our local Durham County Councillors

Joan Gray and Paul Gittins finding the funding for this project and we thank them once again for their continuing support.

It will include tuition in Drums, Electric Guitar, Singing, Drama and Keyboard. To book your place please call Andrea on 01740 655437.

Our ever popular Elevate Youth Club, run by volunteers from Xcel Church and led by James Ross, had 25 young people last Saturday which is the highest figure yet, so why not come and join in each Saturday at 10.30am to 12noon for the 5 to 12 year of age group.

We are still looking for some people to look after our Parent and Toddler group on a Thursday 1pm to 3pm. We have plenty of room in our modern Centre to accommodate plenty of families so come and join us at a cost of only £1 per family, drinks and biscuits provided. Ring Secretary on 01325-301033 or 321504 for any information required. Line Dancing is held each Tuesday at 1pm to 2pm and has room for MORE people to join us at our friendly centre were a warm welcome is assured to all. For a full look at what our regular activities are and other details of the Centre then log in to Communicate Agnew Community Centre

## ATHLETICS CLUB NEWS

### NEW YEAR NEW NAME



A new year brings a new name for Aycliffe Running Club. It will bring more focus on what we are, which is a small friendly club that caters for runners of all abilities.

The New Year also saw a return to racing for a number of runners after the bad weather throughout December with a number of races being either cancelled or postponed. The much awaited North East Cross Country Championships took place on 8 January 2011 at Temple Park in South Shields. The boys under 13 race got things started and proved to be a tense affair. Henry Johnson from Newton Aycliffe (running for Chester le Street) finished second in an excellent time of 11.52, narrowly missing out by one second over the 3k course. Henry finished the race strongly and put his silver medal down to the hard work training with Aycliffe Running club over the snowy period. Henry will now represent the North East in the inter counties at Birmingham in March. In the Under 20 Men's race, two Aycliffe runners took part. James Askew was first back for the club in fifth place in a time of 28.06. Dan Inglis finished in 18th place in a time of 32.58. Six runners took part in the senior men's race. First home for the club was George Reid in a time of 53.11. Next back was Richard Campbell in a time of 55.51. Kevin Greenall (58.50), Martin Knox (61.05), Colin Gibson (61.20) and Craig Robinson (77.08) also completed the course. In the senior women's race, Penny Johnson returned from injury to finish in a time of 45.30. On the same day, Julie Nisbet took part in the Old Monks 6 multi terrain race. Due to the icy conditions the race was cut down to 5 mile. Despite the muddy conditions Julie managed to finish this very tough race in a time of 53.54. Interested in seeing what the running club is all about? There is a very popular indoor gym session every Tuesday at the Oak Leaf Sports Centre from 6pm until 7pm. This is followed by an outdoor running session from 7pm until 8pm. Some do one session, some do both. We also meet at Sunnydale Stadium in Shildon on a Thursday from 6.15pm until 7.15pm. Interested in Joining? Just come along to one of the sessions and introduce yourself. More information about us can be found on our new website: <http://www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk>

# FINLEY STRUCTURES SAVE THE DAY FOR AYCLIFFE FC!

Aycliffe firm Finley Structures have stepped in to back the town's football club by supplying thousands of pounds worth of steel free of charge.

The family-run company have agreed to supply the fabricated steel frame for a new stand to make Aycliffe eligible for promotion to the Northern League first division this season.

Aycliffe have now scrapped plans to "raffle" the naming rights of the stand at Moore Lane Park and agreed to name it in memory of William Finley, the father of Finley Structures managing director John, who is pictured with Aycliffe FC media manager Martin Walker.

John said: "We knew about Aycliffe's promising league position and the situation with the new stand and we were approached by a good friend of mine, Charlie Fielding, who's a trustee of the Sports Club."

"Charlie and I go back a lot of years and I know he's keen to see the Sports Club promote its sections' activities. He's calling on professional friendships from various old contacts of his to get this stand up and we wanted to do our bit."

"We're absolutely delighted the club have agreed to name the stand in memory of my father, who passed away in 1995. As a footballer himself, he'd be very proud." William Finley played for various clubs at Northern League level in the 1940's and 50's, including Black Hall, Lanchester, Bishop, Ushaw Moor, Brandon and Esh Winning Albion, winning 19 trophies.

Martin Walker said: "Getting the stand up before the March 31 deadline will help to relieve a major burden for the football club and will enable us to focus on trying to make sure we finish in the top three of the second division."

Aycliffe are also indebted to Tony Pepper, of Pepper Draughting, who is supplying the structural drawings for the stand free of charge.

The Newtonians, currently top of the second division, must have the second stand in place by the end of March to



### FIXTURES

Saturday 29th January: Washington (H), 3pm  
Saturday 5th February: Hebburn Town (A), 3pm  
Tuesday 8th February: Spennymoor (A), 7.30pm, League  
Saturday 12th February: Horden CW (H), 3pm  
Wednesday 16th February: Crook (H), 7.30pm, Div 2 Cup  
Saturday 19th February: Whitehaven (A), 3pm  
[www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk](http://www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk)

be eligible for promotion, due to strict FA ground grading regulations.

This good news comes off the back of the club's programme deal with Newton News publishers, Newton Press. Martin added: "The support of the Newton News has been fundamental in all of this. Newton News highlighted the situation with the FA ground grading and our need for another stand which has resulted in where we are now."

"Everyone has pulled together and it's been a fantastic team effort up to now. There will be lots of other ground developments we will need to do this summer as well, but the new stand is by far the biggest single obstacle, so it's a tremendous weight off our shoulders."

Finley Structures provides structural steelwork to the construction industry and a wide range of structural solutions, specialising in the

production of portals, trusses, beams and columns.

The company invested more than £1m in its production facility in 2008, with a second saw and drill line and robotic coping line as well as an SA2.5 shot blast facility.

John added: "I'd like to thank all our staff who have worked tremendously hard over the last couple of years during a difficult climate, which has enabled the company to not just survive the recession but continue to thrive, and we're grateful to them for their dedication." More details about the company can be found at [www.finleystructures.co.uk](http://www.finleystructures.co.uk)

Aycliffe maintained their lead at the top of the Northern League second division with a big win at home to Marske United last Saturday. Goals by Stuart Owen and Elliot Gardner edged a 2-1 win over one of Aycliffe's nearest promotion rivals.

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