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WOODHAM DEVELOPMENT TO INCLUDE NEW ROUNDABOUT

WASHINGTON Developments' £32m development plan for Woodham Golf & Country Club will incorporate the provision of a new roundabout at Middridge Road and Burnhill Way. At present, local residents have frequently complained about traffic speeds along the road which links the area to the Rushyford roundabout on the main A167 route, but the £32m development would include a new £300,000 roundabout which would incorporate the new entrance to both the golf club and proposed new hotel. Washington Developments and its specialist Transport Planning Consultants have worked closely with Durham County Council



Highways Officers in the preparation of the proposals.

It was recommended that the existing roundabout should be upgraded and re-aligned; resulting in a safer junction, network improvements and better operational efficiency / capacity. Jamie Murphy, Group Director at Washington Developments, commented. "At present, I've personally seen the speed traffic goes along Middridge Road with the boy racers just ignoring the present small roundabout on occasions. It's been a point that came over very clearly to us during the consultation period with local residents and was also raised at our recent presentation to Aycliffe Town Council, so is very much a matter of public concern." "The new roundabout will not only curtail the use of Middridge Road as a 'rat run' into Aycliffe, but also produce a safe entrance into the development for both residents, local golfers . . .

continued on Page 2

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Last year the CABx in County Durham:

Handled over £43million of debt;

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Advised over 31,000 clients on over 115,000 issues;

Achieved a 97% satisfaction rating;

At a time when the country is suffering from the effects of recession and increased prices etc people need to be aware of their rights and responsibilities more than ever. CABx across County Durham are facing significant funding cuts which could devastate the services we provide. Some of these cuts have been decided with little thought of the impact it will have on

the lives of everyday citizens who are already facing a troubled time.

Durham County Council have announced that all outside agencies who receive funding will be cut by the same percentage, irrespective of the services they deliver. DCC fund our general advice sessions and have proposed a 23% cut to us over the next 3 years, with a cut of 14.8% this year.

I would be most grateful if you would take the time to sign the e-petition at the link below. You will need to register to do so, but it takes less than a minute of your time.

<http://democracy.durham.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=14&RPID=59377&HPID=59377>

If the reduction in funding goes ahead, there will be dramatic cuts to service provision right across the County for our clients. Please forward to anyone you know and of course sign it yourself. Thank you very much for taking the time to read this.

Council's Smart Contact System Download a Free App

Contacting the council? There's a free app for that! Residents in County Durham will be able to report potholes, renew a library book or find a fitness class with greater ease from now on, thanks to a new app.

The 'Looking Local' app allows residents to enquire about a range of council services and is available to anyone who has an iPhone, iPad or iPod touch.

Director of neighbourhoods, Terry Collins, says the app is a quick and easy way to contact the council: "We hear so much about smartphones and what they can do, so why shouldn't we use them to improve the services we offer residents?"

Now, you can report an abandoned vehicle, fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and even renew your library book or find out about events happening near you, at the touch of a pocket-sized screen."

The Cabinet member whose portfolio includes customer services is Cllr Brian Stephens: "This app is brilliant. After



a trial period we are now delighted to be able to offer it to everyone and it's extremely simple to use.

"If for example you want to report some graffiti, all you do is touch the app on your screen. The app then finds your location and connects you to your local council automatically. You then select 'report it' and can submit your enquiry or concern at the touch of a button."

The app is live now and is available free from your iPhone app store to download. A mobile version of 'Looking Local' is also available to use on any internet enabled phone by visiting www.lookinglocal.gov.uk

GAMP'S PRIORITIES FOR COMING YEAR

The Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) has set priorities for the year ahead.

The forum meeting scheduled to take place last November had to be cancelled due to snow so forum members were asked to vote by post and this week the board met to formally adopt the suggestions.

Activities for young people, supporting the community and the voluntary sector and employment, job prospects and enterprise were chosen as the most worthy areas for funding.

Two projects were approved which fit the priorities, a grass roots football project to be delivered in local schools and the installation of picnic benches in the Aycliffe area. Brian Riley, GAMP coordinator said: "The Great

Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership is working with local people, elected councillors and community organisations to set priorities for local regeneration and community development.

"These priorities, voted for by our forum members, inform how we will fund and develop a number of projects around the area." The board is made up of local councillors, statutory bodies, businesses and members of the public and has the responsibility of ensuring these projects meet local needs and deliver positive change.

Anyone living or working in Aycliffe who would like to have a say on local issues should email gampaap@durham.gov.uk or call 01325 327 441 for more information on joining the GAMP forum.

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Woodham Development

continued from front page

and visitors to the hotel and leisure complex."

The planning application for the £32.1m housing and leisure development will go before South and West Durham Planning Committee in April. Washington Development's proposal includes 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. The proposal could also 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 would generate an additional £1.6m of tourism revenue per year.

Additional economic benefits to the local community would include the generation of almost £1m additional Council Tax contributions from the new homes and a financial contribution to the Council for the provision of social housing.

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Woodham is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be subject to disclosure procedure via the National Criminal Records Bureau prior to appointment.

Woodham is part of Aycliffe and Shildon Schools' Trust. If appointed, you may be required to work at Greenfield or Sunnydale schools.

Application forms are available from the main College office or to download from our website www.woodham.org.uk - Previous applicants need not apply but will be automatically re-considered.

Closing Date for Applications:
First post on
Wednesday 16th February 2011



Editorial

Fingers Crossed for Hitachi

A decision on whether Hitachi moves into Aycliffe to build railway rolling stock is rumoured to be announced today.

There has been some hesitation from the new Government over what seems a "no brainer". It is widely accepted we need the investment in railways now that passenger usage is increasing to the highest level ever. Too many people are standing for the whole journey after paying for a seat and there is growing unrest and an increasing numbers of complaints.

It would certainly be a massive boost for Newton Aycliffe if trains were built here and it would inevitably bring a new focus, off the back of Hitachi and also greater investment into our area as a result of their presence.

We await the decision with bated breath and fingers crossed.

AUTOSAFE MOVE TO BIGGER GARAGE TO COPE WITH DEMAND



After only a very short time in business Autosafe on Aycliffe Business Park have moved to bigger premises to cope with the increasing demand for their services.

Directors Andy Priestman and Stephen Finlay are now settled in their new garage at Leaside, opposite the first premises they took nearly 2 years ago.

The garage has installed new commercial vehicle lifts offering more car space, and comfortable



reception areas. "We wish to thank all

our existing customers for their support and co-operation during the move and look forward to being of service to them and any new clients who wish to give us a trial. We pride ourselves on the quality and prices we offer" said Andy.

"We are also grateful for the brilliant service and response we get from Newton News. Advertising with this local paper has certainly helped our growth" added Andy.

FREE PARTY FOR YOUTH

"DIVERSION Youth" is having it's premier party at Jubilee Fields on Saturday 12th February, 7-9pm. Free admission for 11-18 year olds featuring a LIVE BAND, free munchies, games, hang out, party and entertainment! Andre & Diane Prinsloo Oaks Church, Jubilee Fields, Shildon More details from Diane: 07854 741733.

Little Shop of Horrors at Woodham

Woodham CTC students are working hard to prepare for the school's production of 'Little Shop of Horrors', which is due to be performed over three nights, from 9th-11th March 2011 at 7pm. Rehearsals are now well under way for the performances, which involve approximately 40 students from Years 7 - 11. Claudia Denham in Year 11 is playing the lead role of Seymour.

"Little Shop is one of my favourite musicals. I am really enjoying playing the part of Seymour as he is a fun character. This is my fourth and final production at Woodham. It has given me the ambition to have a career in the performance arts, which I am going to go and study at College in September". (Claudia Denham)

Tickets will be available from Woodham CTC from 14th February, priced at £5 for adults and £3 for concessions.

Tiny Chip Tackles Stray Dog Problem

County Durham residents may not be able to get their money for nothing but they can certainly get their chips for free, thanks to a new council campaign.

In fact it's a doggone deal not to be missed. As part of the council's continuing initiatives to reduce the number of stray dogs and to ensure pets and owners are safely reunited quickly, a number of free micro-chipping events are on offer this month.

Dogs over the age of 12 weeks can be taken along to any of the sessions taking place in the Chilton, Bishop Auckland and Newton Aycliffe areas.

The council is working in partnership with the animal charities Deerness Kennels and Stray Aid, as part of a wider programme of events.

Saturday 19th February from 10.00am to 2.00pm at Newton Aycliffe Youth

Centre, Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4HT

Andy Denholm, Envirocrime coordinator (South Durham) said: "Animals that have been micro-chipped have their own unique code number. This number and the owner's details are then added to a national database.

"This means that if a dog that is lost or stolen is found, it is easier to return it to its owner.

"Although the law states

that all dogs should wear a collar and tag showing their owner's name or address, these can fall off or get lost. Micro-chips are a permanent but harmless way of identifying your pet."

For more information about free micro-chipping call Andy Denholm, Envirocrime coordinator (South Durham) on 01388 816166 ext. 8842 or visit <http://www.deernesskennels.co.uk> or www.strayaid.co.uk

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Thursday 17th February

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Tuesday 15th Menu

Cottage Pie, Peas, Sweetcorn & Gravy - £2

Sweets £1

Thursday 17th Menu

Chicken Mushroom Crust - £2

Sweets £1

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£215,000



Extended 3 bedroom detached home, spacious lounge area, fitted kitchen, modern bathroom, open aspect to rear

**Richardson Walk
Newton Aycliffe**
£95,000



Much improved 3 bedroom end terrace home, fitted kitchen, d/ glazed, modern bathroom, gardens, well placed

**Sharp Road
Newton Aycliffe**
£97,500



A much improved 3 bed mid terrace. Well placed for all local amenities. Attractive modern fitted kitchen, d/ glazed. No chain

**Heatherburn Court
Woodham Village**
£89,500



3 bedroom end link property, fitted kitchen, d/ glazed, conservatory, GCH, well maintained home

**Pemberton Road
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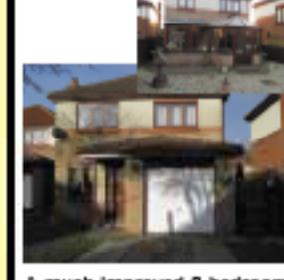
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Town Organisations Must Not Miss out on Free Stall

The Town's Rotary Club are organising a Community Fair on Saturday 28th June 10am-4pm. They are offering FREE table space to all local organisations to promote their activities and increase membership. Over 100 stalls packed the Leisure Centre last time and those interested should fill in the application form below to avoid disappointment. There are also opportunities for dancing, performing and other groups to give displays.

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, Simpustergate.

TOWN COUNCIL SUPPORT WOODHAM DEVELOPMENT



New Hotel for Aycliffe



Golf Clubhouse



Housing

A meeting of Aycliffe Town Council has given almost unanimous support to a £32m development plan for nearby Woodham Golf & Country Club. Owners, Washington Developments Ltd, applied for planning permission for a £32.1m housing and leisure 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. The application, which will go before South and West Durham Planning Committee in April, is the result of an extensive consultation period with local residents and businesses and has been developed in conjunction with Newcastle-based planning consultants, Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners and Ryder Architects. The proposals could 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 would generate an additional £1.6m of tourism revenue per year. At last Wednesday night's meeting, following a presentation by Washington Developments and their Planning Consultants, 17 of the 18 councillors eligible to vote supported the proposal with only one vote against. Jamie Murphy, Group Director at Washington Developments, commented, "We were pleased to have the opportunity to present the plans to the Town Council and answer the councillors' various questions as part of our ongoing community engagement work. The feedback received through this process has already helped to shape the proposals and the support of the Town Council will be a very positive step forward for the planning application." "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." Additional economic benefits to the local community would include the generation of almost £1m additional Council Tax contributions from the new homes and an agreed commuted sum of £350,000 payable to the Council for the provision of social housing.

MINING EXHIBITION AND £1.00 BOOK SALE

Durham's Hidden Depths looks at Durham's mining heritage, with particular reference to the union records of the Durham Miners' Association in a display in the Town Library community room. There is currently a book sale at the Library, running until 1st March. All books are adult non-fiction and cost £1 each.

CRIME WRITER VISITS AYCLIFFE LIBRARY

A North East crime writer will share some of the secrets of his storytelling success when he calls into a County Durham library next month. John Dean, who is also a freelance journalist and creative writing tutor and mentor, will visit Newton Aycliffe Library on Thursday, 17 February. The author of novels including The Vengeance Man, Strange Little Girl and To Die Alone, will talk about his work and the writing process during a one-hour session, which starts at 6pm. John, from Darlington, is also the author of children's comedy fantasy Haghir the Dragon Finder and frequently works with schoolchildren on creative writing projects. There is a £1 charge for the talk. For more information contact Newton Aycliffe Library on 01325 312 856.

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It's great to get new ideas for interacting with the little ones, and coffee and chat time is brilliant!" said Lisa - Mum to Rhia, 11 months old. The following parent and child classes currently have availability: Monday 10.30am for Children 6 months to 2 years Tuesday 1.30pm for Children 2 to 4 years Woodham Community Centre Come along for a FREE TRIAL to experience our unique classes first hand. There is bubble fun and meet the puppet as well as drinks for parents and the Magical Debutots Story Basket for the children to explore after class. Paul and Tara also offer classes to nurseries, schools and mother and toddler groups, and Debutots birthday parties for children aged 1-7! Call Paul or Tara on 317380 or email paulandtara@debutots.co.uk for further details - www.debutots.co.uk

AYCLIFFE SUB AQUA IN FOR GOLDEN CLUB AWARD

Aycliffe Sub Aqua Club is quickly becoming one of the most prevalent and active SCUBA Clubs in the region. Established over 20 years ago the club has operated out of Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre and thanks, in part to locally sourced funding, the club managed to make 2010 one of its most successful years yet. Run on a purely voluntary basis the club managed to secure financial support from GAMP (Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership), Local County Councillors and from various self organised fund raising events.

This money allowed the purchase of new training equipment which, in turn, helped to facilitate the training of 14 new club members. In addition, the club also managed to develop a large number of existing members with key successes being:- 5 Newly Qualified Basic Boat Handlers, 2 Chart Work & Navigation Passes, 4 Diver First Aid Qualifications, 1 Diver Coxswain Qualification, 6 Nitrox / Mixed Gas Diver Qualifications, 3 New Dive Leader Qualifications AND 3 New Dive Supervisor Qualifications, a certification recognised as one of the top in the country! Two of the club instructors have also been involved in running regional courses, which have supported both club members and other divers from other parts of the country. Readers may have seen the Club exhibits at both our local 'Caravan & Outdoor Centre' and at 'The Great Aycliffe Show' where, thanks to help from Newton Aycliffe Fire Brigade

(in filling the Demo Pool) the club gave a demonstration of SCUBA diving. All this would mean very little without a good years diving and this was also achieved with various trips to the Farne Islands, Eyemouth, The Lake District & West Coast, use of the club RIB off the Tyne plus several Group Trips to Egypt and the Red Sea. All this activity has not gone unnoticed and has resulted in the club being nominated for receipt of the SAAs (Sub Aqua Associations) Golden Club Award.

This National Award is given to the club which has demonstrated the highest level of commitment to developing both the skills and knowledge of its existing membership as well as promoting the sport of SCUBA diving generally. Whilst the results of this award are eagerly awaited the club is already planning to make 2011 even more successful. In an attempt to attract more new members and introduce more people to the wonders of the under water world the club is running a limited number of FREE - TRY A DIVE sessions throughout the months of February and March.

These sessions will be held in the pool at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on a Thursday Evening between 9 and 10pm. The aim of these sessions is to encourage anyone aged 17 to 70 with an interest in SCUBA Diving the opportunity to try out the sport in the safety of the local pool. Every encouragement will then be given to them joining the club and becoming a fully qualified SCUBA diver. Certain constraints may apply

and anyone interested in booking a session should contact either Steve on 07837 096791 or Paul on 07968 217425. Further details and photos of the clubs diving trips over the past few years can be found on the clubs website www.aycliffesubaclub.co.uk

Cash Up for Grabs!

The small grants fund (up to £2,000 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 t: 01325 327441 e: brian.riley@durham.gov.uk w: www.durham.gov.uk/gampaap



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New Walks for Health

The new Beginners' Health Walk introduced in November at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe has proved popular and now that the weather is improving why not make a New Year's Resolution to come along for a little gentle exercise and fresh air. Meeting at the Pioneering Centre the walk leaves every Tuesday at 10.30am - 11.30am and is free. People are encouraged to join the walk to explore the Newton Aycliffe Nature Trails whilst at the same time meet people with similar interests and make new friends. Although it

is aimed at beginners anyone is welcome. If you feel really enthusiastic then there is another free walk from the Centre every Thursday also commencing at 10.30am which lasts an hour taking in the local walks around Newton Aycliffe. After the walks take the opportunity to join the walkers and have a welcoming cup of tea or coffee with a freshly baked scone in the PCP Coffee Shop in the Mall. For more information contact the Pioneering Care Centre on 01325 321234 or email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net



TEACHERS FROM SRI LANKA VISIT TOWN



A special assembly was held at Aycliffe Village Primary School to welcome visiting teachers from Sri Lanka. Mayor Dorothy Bowman along with School Governors attended the event and watched the children play musical instruments sing and perform a gymnastics display. The visit follows the announcement by the Sri Lankan Olympic team that they will base their pre-Olympic training camp in Durham. The news is being welcomed by many schools with exciting opportunities

now available for pupils keen to build further links with Sri Lanka as part of a project called Connecting Classrooms. The project, which is being coordinated in the area by Durham County Council and is managed by the British Council, aims to link schools in the UK with others around the world and will see ten County Durham schools receive visits from Sri Lankan teachers this week. It's hoped the tour will provide the schools with the opportunity to work

collaboratively with others to develop trust and understanding between young people in different societies. Cllr Claire Vasey, Cabinet member for children and young people's services, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to learn about different cultures that they may not have otherwise been able to get so close to. "The pupils are particularly excited about learning how young people in Sri Lanka view both the Olympic and Paralympic Games and how important values like sportsmanship are developed. Some schools are even staging special performances for their guests". Greenfield School Arts College staged a performance from school musicians,



followed by a tour and visits to different classes, a netball game and then a presentation of gifts made by creative and media pupils. Olga Stanojlovic, head of schools in education at the British Council, said: "It is more important than ever that we ensure our young people develop the skills and

understanding they need to thrive in our global society. Working together through Connecting Classrooms will open young people's eyes to what life is really like in other countries, and show them that young people share many of the same hopes and aims the world over."

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Agnew NEWS

PERFORMING ARTS for FREE

Starting Sunday 13th February 9.30am to 12.30pm and run for 10 weeks at the Agnew Community Centre. It will cover tuition in Drums, Electric Guitar, Singing, Drama and Keyboard and is open to 4 to 18 year olds, so come on down. To book call Andrea on 01740-655437

Valentine's Ball

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)

Call 01325 387000
 or email m.sousa@darlington-fc.net

STAGE STARS SOUGHT

Budding young stage stars aged 11 - 16 years are being invited to show off their talents by joining a popular youth theatre group. The Tearaways Youth Theatre Group is hoping to attract new members to take the stage in their next production "Charlie and The Chocolate Factory (The Musical)"

A spokesperson for the group said "We are looking for young people in the area who want to dance, sing or act, or just want to improve on their present skills.

We teach the young people new skills, which helps build their confidence and creativity. It is free to join and there are no monthly, or annual fees to pay. All we ask is that the young people come along with enthusiasm and a smile. We do the rest."

In the 13 years the group has been going, they have performed many popular musical productions, Grease, Mamma Mia, Hairspray, Disney Show and many more, along with an annual Pantomime too.

For more information (01325) 313363 / (01388) 774838
www.tearaways-shildon.co.uk

AVOID SCAMS AND HIGH CHARGES FOR SOFTWARE

AYCLIFFE FIRM OFFERS FREE ADVICE

The proprietor of Aycliffe Computers has drawn our attention to scams and high prices for Computer Software which can be avoided.

1. Microsoft Scam <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jul/18/phone-scam-india-call-centres>. The fee is now £79.99 not £185 as stated on website.

They connect using a program called TeamViewer and once you allow them access into your PC, it's in a complete stranger's hands from the other side of the world!

Basically what they offer is just a standard maintenance like defragmentation and updating your virus protection which I do for less than half the price!

Customers are giving Credit Card details over the phone to someone they have never met in their lives and this is just too dangerous! Obviously if anyone is worried about the protection on their PC, don't hesitate to contact me on 01325 310737

SOFTWARE FOR STUDENTS

I am aware that most of my clients with children at school are bringing homework back where they not only have to use a Computer but also programs like Microsoft Word (part of the Microsoft Office Suite) which in a lot of cases the parents do not have the Software.

Quite a number of my clients are also School Teachers who are not aware of the savings parents can make by buying Legitimate Microsoft Office software at very inexpensive prices.

Tesco sells Microsoft Office Home & Student Edition 2010 for £89.99 in DVD Format which gives you the following programs: Word 2010 Excel 2010, PowerPoint 2010 & OneNote 2010. These programs are given as a limited trial when you buy a new computer, which is no good for anyone.

BUT - The website <http://www.software4students.co.uk> sells the much larger package of Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010 for only £38.95 for download version and £40.45 for the DVD version - delivered to your door which gives you

the following programs:

- Microsoft Word 2010
- Microsoft Outlook 2010
- Microsoft PowerPoint 2010
- Microsoft Excel 2010
- Microsoft Access 2010
- Microsoft InfoPath 2010
- Microsoft Communicator
- Microsoft Publisher 2010
- Microsoft OneNote 2010
- Microsoft SharePoint Workspace 2010
- Microsoft Office Web Apps

+ Integrated solution capabilities like OfficeLive.com The Retail price of this software in an everyday computer shop is £429.99

It's astonishing that some schools and colleges are not passing this information on or are not even aware that students and parents can save money. When you buy a new PC from a store they do their best to sell these products as an 'add-on' at a price more than you need to pay. Obviously you must meet the criteria in order to buy these products at such a low price.

TO QUALIFY FOR REDUCED PRICE:

Primary and Secondary students: All currently registered students of primary and second level schools in the UK.

University and College students: All currently registered students of universities and colleges in the UK

Parents, grandparents and guardians: If you are a parent or guardian or have a grandson or granddaughter for whom you would like to license the software, then you can purchase the software. The main requirement to purchase is that the end user licensee must be a student or be a faculty member in one of our listed educational institutions.

Teachers: Teachers employed by an accredited primary or secondary school, or a public or private university or college

Please pass this information on so that everyone who is eligible can save some money in these hard times we are all going through.

Rob Howarth (Aycliffe Computers)

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RHIANNA
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SISTER ACT
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EMA - ANOTHER BROKEN PROMISE BY TORIES

by Phil Wilson MP

Recently, Parliament debated the Conservative-led Government's plans

to abolish Education Maintenance Allowance, or EMA. The allowance is paid to young people staying on into further education. If a family earns less than £20,800 the child attending college will receive £30 a week. Over 80% of learners receiving the allowance are from families on low income. The payment reduces to £10 if the household income is around £30,000. As a result attendance rates and the number achieving qualifications have improved with increase retention rates amongst students.

This means we have a young workforce better qualified, with the potential to enter higher paid jobs. For this reason EMA programme pays for itself. The Conservative led Government do not see it that way. Even though they said before the election they would not scrap EMAs that is exactly what they are doing now.

Another broken promise, on the back of tuition fees rising to £9,000. I do not want to see young people dropping out of college because they cannot afford to stay on. The money, in a lot of cases is used to get to and from college. In a rural area like Durham that is exactly what

most young people need, to travel to get to college. Mr Cameron likes to say "we are all in this together", but from the actions of this Conservative-led government, which no one voted for, the reverse seems to be the truth.

If you would like to contact me about this issue or any other, please ring my office on 01325 321603 or email wilsonphil@parliament.uk

Exhibition by Local Artists

I am a recently graduated, local artist living in Newton Aycliffe and I have just established a travelling 'Tiny Gallery' to promote and advertise other artists in the area. Our first exhibition will be held in Newton Aycliffe Library from the 1st to the 28th of February featuring textiles and surface design pieces by 3 local artists. As a promotional tool we are giving away a selection of our work to one lucky blog follower: <http://the-tiny-gallery.blogspot.com/2011/01/tiny-gallery.html>



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REDWORTH HEALTH CLUB SUPPORTS COMMUNITY DRAW

Redworth Hall Health Club have donated nearly £150 worth of prize vouchers to the Rotary Community Draw. This includes a Back, Neck and Shoulder Massage, Cut and Blow Dry in the Hairdressing Department and a 5 day Membership of the Health Club worth £75.

Vikki Bramley is the Beauty Salon Manager and offers various pampering sessions in the luxury setting of Redworth Hall.

Vikki who was appointed Manager five years ago is an ex Newtonian living in Shildon. She attended Woodham Comprehensive School and has fond memories of Newton Aycliffe.

Tickets are on sale now from charity shops in the Town Centre and various organisations. It is not too late for other town groups to get involved earning half the money from sales of tickets for their own funds.

You can't lose as everything else is organised by the Rotary Club who have not only obtained the magnificent prizes but provided the tickets, registered the draw and the general administration. They have also arranged for the British Legion to host the draw itself on Thursday 7th April at 7.30pm with entertainment and supper.



Rotarian Anne Gamblin with Vikki Bramley

Car Parking for Pease Way Medical's New Extension



Dear Sir,
The new build at Pease Way Medical Centre will be a great asset to Newton Aycliffe, however what do they propose to do about the car parking facilities at this busy site? Already the car park is over-spilling into the main road causing problems for traffic and pedestrians.

Bowes Road is full of cars that can't get into the car park and the residents there are

complaining. What will happen when the new private Care Centre is opened and more people need to park there?

No doubt the extra staff will want their own car space too which will take more spaces away from the people who need them most - the old and infirm people who shouldn't have to walk to the doctors across a busy main road.
Paul Dent

"PLANNERS WANT TO ENCOURAGE WALKING" says Surgery Manager

Car parking at Pease Way Medical Centre has always been a favoured topic of conversation. But it has never been an area of contention with Planners.

The reason for this is we live in an environment where the use of private cars is not to be encouraged. We are all supposed to use public transport (service right outside our doors is excellent), walk or use a bicycle if we can. We have had to increase the number of cycle racks - but not the car parking.

This could also be because there are no parking restrictions on the streets around Pease Way - and of course there is quite a large amount of free parking just across the road in the public car park. Parking on the streets - if done correctly and sensibly - should cause no more traffic problems than the existing traffic calming and street parking does throughout the town already.

It may be important to remember that some GP surgeries have no private parking at all.

We are aware of the need for disabled parking spaces - for the elderly and infirm - and these have been maintained in future plans.

The plans do include an additional 9 car parking spaces - an increase of 25% - and of course the car

park is restricted in size at the present time by builders cabins and compound.

The GP Partners and myself carefully considered the matter of car parking right from the time we first decided to expand the building. However space is limited and the choice was either more space within the surgery or a reduction in the amount of additional space in favour of more car parking. The decision was not difficult when land in the centre of Newton Aycliffe is both expensive and scarce.

We did monitor the use of the existing car park over a 3 month period. Yes there are "peak periods" and certain days (patients seem to like to park on a Tuesday and then visit the town market without moving their car) - but for a lot of the time there are vacant car parking spaces. One last thing to mention - the new build is taking place to provide better facilities for patients and existing employees. We have no plans to increase our workforce.

The new build is progressing well after delays (5 weeks lost) due to the bad weather before Christmas. We're almost ready to add the roof and then the windows and doors to make the building waterproof, secure and safe.

We hope to be completed in June as long as it doesn't snow again over the next couple of weeks!
Regards

Mike Spence,
Practice Manager

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- Pack of 12 AA Batteries - £4.50
- A4 2011 Diary - £3.00 A5 2011 Diary - £2.00

Newton Press
St. Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe
Telephone: 01325 300212

Closure of Shafto House

Dear Sir,
It is with great sadness I write in the knowledge that I will no longer be able to visit Shafto House. Visiting there was the highlight of my week and provided a welcome break from my solitary existence where I had a chance to meet friends and socialise. The atmosphere there was that of a second home and the wonderful staff made me and everyone else feel so special and I looked forward to my visits with great anticipation. My thanks go to all the staff at Shafto House: Sharon, Julie, Lynne, Karen and Bev for just being there, Tony and Sue for fantastic meals and Pam and Malcolm of Humbles Coaches. You all made every visit a special treat and me feel part of a close knit family. I wish you all every success in the future and thank you for your care and attention.
Michael Johnson.
Ed: There is just one client left at Shafto House and it closes this month.

BULLIED BY PRESS

Dear Sir,
After reading your article on Billy Blekinsopp I feel compelled to send my support to him. I only ever met him, when he used to run the village shop in Aycliffe Village a few years ago, but have read about his work on the town and feel he does a far better job than my Councillor who I have never met or voted for! The twit that wrote the article is a complete bully and in today's society it should not be tolerated. He bullied someone who hasn't hidden away and lived off the state though I think giving his disability he would have been allowed to, instead he has worked for his community. I don't know the full facts on the swearing, but would suggest it demonstrates Mr Blekinsopp's passion, as someone who cares about what they do, by tending to blow their top from time to time. Please pass on my support to him.
Mrs Hughes
PS. I've never ever written before about anything but his treatment has really annoyed me.

Despicable Mail Reporter

Dear Sir,
I have known Billy Blenkinsopp since he came out of hospital after that horrific crash. It is so despicable that national newspapers have nothing better to do than make game of someone who is willing to do what he does for the community of Great Aycliffe. Why did the Mail journalist stoop so low?
Disgusted
Mr. W. Milling.

Cold Weather Kills Nature Pond Fish

Dear Sir,
Rumours are circulating in the town that the Nature Park Pond has been polluted as many regular users of the site have seen a high number of dead fish and amphibians floating in the water over the past few weeks. While this has been an alarming and an unpleasant sight it is thought they have not been polluted but have died naturally because of the recent cold weather. As the pond was heavily frozen for several weeks natural toxins build up as they cannot escape through the ice and much needed oxygen levels were depleted due to the number of fish which were living in the pond. This has resulted in the death of many fish and amphibians which were living and hibernating in the mud at the bottom of the water. The Environment Agency have been consulted on this matter and confirm this has been a particularly common problem in many ponds

throughout the country. An oily film may naturally develop on the water surface over the coming weeks as the remaining casualties decompose at the bottom of the pond - this is a natural process and nothing to get alarmed about. However, if residents are concerned that newly dead fish are being discovered they are advised to contact Great Aycliffe Town Council's Environment Officer on 01325 300700 or contact the Environment Agency on 08708 506 506. Operatives from Great Aycliffe Town Council have been monitoring the pond on a regular basis and removing any dead animals as they have floated to the surface. I hope this has reassured concerned residents about the safety of the water at the Nature Park.
Steve Cooper
Environment Officer
Great Aycliffe
Town Council
01325 300700
0777 9090 842

"AV" IS USED ALL OVER THE WORLD

Dear Sir,
I wish to take issue with Mr Paul Trippett's comments about AV (Letters, 27 January 2011). In the 2010 general election, two out of three MPs were elected with less than 50% the vote. Some with as little as 26%. To win under AV it is necessary to receive at least 50% of the votes. If no-one gets 50%, the lowest scoring candidate is eliminated and a new round is held. Everyone gets one vote in every round. It is therefore a gross distortion of the truth to say that some votes count more than others. As for the claim that AV is only used in three countries; AV is widely used all over the world, not just in Australia (where it has been used

since 1918) but India and the USA. It is used to elect the London Mayor, the Speaker of the House of Commons, to select the leaders of major political parties, and by millions of people in unions and in professional bodies representing teachers, doctors, nurses, engineers and architects. If Mr Trippett or any of your readers wish to find out more about the facts of AV, may I direct them to the Electoral Reform Society who have produced several excellent booklets on the subject.
Steve Baines,
Fairer Votes, Oxfordshire

FEBRUARY EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

CHILDREN: Half-term at the library - Children's Craft - Make a Mini Beast, Tuesday 22nd February at 2pm, 50p charge, all ages. Zoolab Mini Beast Roadshow, come to the library to see and learn all about live tropical animals, Thursday 24th February at 1.30pm, 50p fee, ages 4+ Adults
AUTHOR VISIT - North East Crime writer and journalist John Dean is visiting the library to talk about his work and the writing process. Thursday 17th February at 6pm, £1 fee. Places are limited at all events. Please book your place on 01325 312856.



BORING LETTERS

Dear Editor,
I don't usually write to you but I did feel compelled to send you an email regarding the councillors who have nothing better to do than send boring letters to your paper each and every week trying to put other councillors down and just making them look like a bunch of 4 year olds in a playground squabbling in a "he said, she said" type of way. I find it appalling that my tax money goes to pay the "wages" or "expenses" or whatever else they get paid for doing not very much and I would like to say that this does nothing to inspire me to vote for any of them, maybe if they spent more time doing what they were voted there to do instead of writing silly letters they would gain more respect. Most of the letters are so boring and maybe the councillors could pick up the phone or email one another or even better start their own newspaper so that people could pick up from the council office or read online. I wonder how many readers there would be (how many councillors are there? This would give us an idea how many copies they would need to print)! Please as a newspaper stop printing this rubbish, as it's clear that these people have nothing better to do than to continue writing them.
Miss Samantha Mitchell
Ed: In last weeks issue there were no letters from Councillors but there was one from an ex-Councillor

Councillors Should Justify Their Expenses

Dear Sir,
Last week Town Councillor Clare told us he claimed expenses of £155.17 plus an allowance of £1059. On another page, seven County Councillors allowances totalled £118,780.00. In these times of austerity can we afford such sums and is it not time to cut the number of councillors? Woodham has nine and could

easily manage with half that number. I believe there should be some accountability so we knew exactly what these Councillors did in their wards to assess whether they qualify for the allowance. An allowance of £19,406.00 is equivalent to a living wage for many people so councillors are well paid.

The reference to Counc Blenkinsopp in the Daily Mail was initially about the expense of the Tribunal to sort out his behaviour to another councillor over who sits in which chair. Whilst it was distressing for him to have his wig mentioned this was secondary to his unacceptable behaviour in the Council Chamber. Name & address supplied.

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Thank You

JEAN BOYES The family of the late Jean wish to express sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown to them during their recent bereavement. Also for the cards, letters of condolence and floral tributes received and for donations to Great North Air Ambulance Service. Thanks to Dr Jones of Bewick Crescent Surgery, Doctors and Staff of Ward 52, Darlington Memorial Hospital; Special thanks to Clive (mini coaches, Hubery Hire), Irene and Isabel for catering at the Sports Club. Thanks to Reverend L Potter for a comforting Service and to Jill and staff from the Co-operative Funeralcare for their assistance and professional caring manner throughout this sad time.

KEN & JACKIE SHAW would like to give a big thank you to Darren, Donna, Dean, Liam and Jai. Your Nanna would have been very proud of you all. Love you all, Dad and Mam

Greenfield Sporting Success Continues Into 2011



Greenfield almost swept the board in the Sedgefield Badminton Championships. The event held at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre was a great success, Greenfield, Ferryhill, Spennymoor and Sunnydale played some very close matches in the four

competitions, Year 8/9 Boys, Year 8/9 Girls, Year 10/11 Boys and Year 10/11 Girls events.

Results
Year 10 & 11 Girls - Winners Greenfield, 2nd Place Sunnydale
Year 10 & 11 Boys - Winners Greenfield, 2nd Place Spennymoor
Year 8 & 9 Girls - Winners Greenfield, 2nd Place Ferryhill
Year 8 & 9 Boys - Winners Ferryhill, 2nd Place Sunnydale
Greenfield Teams through to the County Final
Year 10 & 11 Boys - Ryan Dunn, Jordan Hodgson, Daniel Shaw, Conner Lowe
Year 10 & 11 Girls - Emma Colbourne, Racheal Layfield-Carrol, Holly Carpenter, Francis Wade
Year 8 & 9 Girls - Georgia Ireson, Jessica Roberts, Bryony Dobinson, Kara Ward
Well done, and good luck to Greenfield and Ferryhill Year 8 & 9 Boys in the County Finals.

Personal

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Public Notice

WATCH BATTERIES now available at Taylors Newsforce **DONATIONS** needed of Brica-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring Honest John on 316 630
RSPCA Durham and District cats and kittens for adoption, fee applies to cover 1st and 2nd vaccination, also neutering and id chip. Please Tel 311 215

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Holiday

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GREENFIELD SPORTING SUCCESS GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

In January alone, Greenfield had (in addition to school representation in girls cricket, girls & boys badminton, girls and boys football, netball, mixed swimming, aquability, girls & boys basketball and gymnastics):-
13 students from Yr 7 to 11 represent Sedgefield in the County Rowing event, with Alice Henderson through to the Inter County Championships in March.
Nicole Ward & Harry Laverty through to represent South West Durham in the County Cross country.
Greenfield's Year 7 Boys athletics team and Year 8 Girls athletics team represented Sedgefield in the County Indoor athletics final at the Louisa Centre.
Greenfield's Community Netball U16 teams move into 1st and 4th place in the Darlington Dolphin Centre league, after an excellent performance on Sunday, where they beat the top

two teams in the league in one night.
In addition to this three of Greenfield's badminton teams and the U14 Boys Basketball teams have qualified to represent Sedgefield in the County finals. The U14 Girls basketball players are competing on Tuesday of this week, good luck. The U13 Girls cricket players just missed out on a place in the County cricket finals by 60 runs to 63.
It has been a fantastic start to 2011 for Greenfield School Sport. Well done to all who have taken part.
For information about the many Community Sporting opportunities offered at Greenfield including Adult, Junior and Primary Netball, Badminton, Football, Jujitsu, Cheerleading, Dance, Zumba, Cricket, Tennis & Mini Tennis contact the sports facility manager Michael Rippon on 07879 117 224 or 01325 379041 after 4.30pm.

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

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

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

Above example: 15p per word

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

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

Above example: 25p per word

Deadline: 5pm Wednesday, 9th February

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In Memoriam

JOHN GLASPER Died 1st February 2009. Loved and missed every day by your loving Wife, Doreen xxx
JOHN GLASPER 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 GLASPER 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
ALLAN SHELTON "Yorkie". 6/2/1943 to 7/6/2010. Always loved and missed. Never forgotten. Wife Maureen, family and friends

MORGAN, Donald Ernest. 7th February 2010. The family chain is broken Dad and nothing seems the same. But as God takes us one by one. That chain will link again. Loved and remembered always. Don, Marie and family xxx

DON MORGAN (Taffy), 7th February 2010. Time passes quickly. The pain of losing you still remains, there is a sadness in our hearts. You left a place no one can fill, one year without you, but we will always wonder why, the hardest part of losing you was, we never said goodbye. Forever in our hearts, love always, Anne and Phil

DON MORGAN 7th February 2010. Fond memories of a loving Grandad. Always in my heart, lots of love, Rebecca

DONALD ERNEST MORGAN 7th February 2010. In our hearts you will always stay, loved and missed every day. Glynis and Les

ABBIE WALLS (7th February 2002). Sadly missed and forever in my thoughts Dad. Love, Sue xxx

WILLIAM WILSON REID 6th February 2000. We often sit and talk of you and think of how you died. To know we could not say goodbye before you closed your eyes. Such a sudden parting leaves a lifetime of regret. And we who loved you dearly are the ones who won't forget. Your loving Mam, Brothers and Sisters

NANCY WATSON 3-2-02. You never asked for much in life, your heart was true and tender. You simply lived for those you loved, and those you loved remember. Always in our thoughts, Joe, John, Lorraine, Karen and families xxx

BILLY HAILES Deep in our hearts your memories are kept, to love and to treasure and never forget. Thinking of you today and always. Your loving Wife Doreen and your ever loving family xxx

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Birthday Remembrance

JENNYSALKELD (Sheperd). Dear Lord above, give my Sister Jenny a birthday hug. I miss her more every day. God bless her. Love, Sister Mena xxx

RAY COOK Second birthday away from home. A loving nature, a heart of gold. The very best the world could hold. Never selfish, always kind. These are just a few of the memories you left behind. Thank you Ray: Dad and Grandad for the years we shared, the love you gave and the way you cared. Wish you were here on your seventieth birthday. You were, are and always will be one in a million. Love and miss you and always will. Your loving Wife, Ann, Garry, Graham, Mandy and Grandchildren xxxxx

PETER HOPPS Happy 70th birthday Peter. No card to send but we will always love and remember you. Heather, Angie, Jacky, Tara, Grandchildren and Sons-in-Law

Obituary

WILBERT EWIN (Wilbur)
ON 28th January, peacefully in Darlington Memorial Hospital of Newton Aycliffe, aged 74. A dearly loved Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad who will be sadly missed by Helen, Kevin, David, Tracey, Chantelle and Jordan.
Funeral Service to be held at St Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe on Wednesday 9th February at 9.45am, followed at Wear Valley Crematorium. Floral tributes to John Meynells (Newton Aycliffe).

MICHAEL PARAMOS "Uncle Mick", died 29th January 2011. Loving Uncle and Brother. Will family and friends please meet at Coundon Crematorium at 11am on Wednesday 9th February 2011. No flowers please, refreshments afterwards.

SHEILA MARY TWOHIG on 29th January, suddenly at home. Sheila, aged 69 years. A beloved Wife of Mike, Mother of Susan, Kevin and Carol and also a much loved Sister, Gran and Great Gran. Funeral Service to take place at Darlington Crematorium on Tuesday 8th February at 1.45pm. Friends please meet at the Crematorium. "God bless"

Congratulations

Cayden Lee Dawson



Happy 1st Birthday 2-2-2011

To our gorgeous little boy on your first birthday. Lots of love, Mammy and Daddy xxx

Clive and Grace Cooper



Congratulations on your Pearl Wedding Anniversary 7th February 2011
Lots of love from Mam and Dad xxxxx

Libbie Mai Anderson



Happy 11th Birthday 5th February 2011

Happy 11th Birthday to our special Angel, have a fantastic day, lots of love, hugs and kisses. Mammy and Stephen. Xxxx
To the best big sister in the whole wide world, Happy Birthday, Love you more than anything big hugs and kisses, Flynn xx
To our very special Granddaughter Happy 11th Birthday, lots of love and kisses always. Gran and Grandad. Xx

Paula is 40



THE BIG 4-0 5th February 2011
Happy 40th birthday Paula. Lots of love from Mam, Dad and all the family. "Life Begins Now!"

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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
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!

LOCAL POLO SWIMMER TOP SCORER FOR NORTH EAST

Mathew Calvert, 16, from Sedgefield Water Polo Club and a Great Britain Youth International, captained the North East District at Walsall against the other Districts in the National Under 18 Championships. Mathew led by example and showed why he is so highly rated by the Sedgefield coaches and GB with an exhilarating performance. The North East team defeated generally the strongest area of the Country the North West narrowly and then comfortably defeated Scotland, The Midlands and London to clinch the National title for the North East for the first time in over 10 years. Mathew was the top scorer for the North East with 24 goals. Mathew is looking forward to playing for GB later in the year in the European Junior qualifiers and hopes at some time in the future to follow his illustrious team mate Scott Carpenter into the GB Senior team

Aycliffe FC Overwhelmed by Community Support

FIXTURES

Saturday 5th February: Hebburn Town (A), 3pm
 Tuesday 8th February: Spennymoor (A), 7.30pm, League Cup
 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



Newton Aycliffe FC say they've been overwhelmed by support to help fund their new stand - including increased sales for their popular matchday programme! The Newton News revealed last week how Finley Structures have donated thousands of pounds worth of steel to fund the bulk of the new construction Aycliffe need to be eligible for promotion to the Northern League first division this season. Aycliffe have now received a number of generous donations which will all go into the club's pot for ground improvements over the next few months. Their award-winning match programme, printed free by Newton Press, has now generated more than £200 towards the fund in just three home games. The club's media manager Martin Walker said: "Everyone has commented on the much-improved print quality of what was already an award-winning publication,

with sales increasing game-by-game. Newton Press have generously agreed to increase the print run as the programmes were selling out, so it will hopefully continue to generate more much-needed funds for us. The Royal British Legion have donated £750 and John Moran, Durham County Councillor for Aycliffe, has donated £500 from his Neighbourhood Budget pot. The club were also humbled by a letter from local pensioners Peter and Andrea Bergg, who wrote: "We have followed your progress over the last few seasons in the Newton News and we wish you well for a much deserved promotion. We cannot afford a large contribution but hope the enclosed £20 will buy a few bolts for the new stand! As one organisation says, every little helps." With the club's Christmas Comedy Night raising £500 and £300 donated by the Aycliffe Supporters Club, it now means Aycliffe's ground development fund currently stands at £2,270. Chairman Gary Farley said: "We've been truly overwhelmed by the support of fans and local organisations, and the letter from Mr and Mrs Bergg in particular was very touching.

DEFEATING THE SOARING ENERGY COSTS

Whether you are a homeowner, landlord, business owner, office manager or industrial company, we all have the same common issue. We ALL look to keep our costs down.

This can firstly be achieved by looking at our usage and identifying where the most expensive costs are, and then evaluating various alternatives and looking at what they would cost to buy and install, plus how much they would save each year. This is time consuming, especially when there are so many solutions to choose from. Plus there is a minefield of good and bad products available to choose from (expanding daily), along with other confusions such as ensuring that the selected product still complies with various building and wiring regulations, etc. Low energy lighting is one way to go, but this is just a start, there are much better, much cheaper, much longer lasting solutions available.

Secondly looking at the price that we pay for this energy. This is also an ordeal, as many people are tied into contracts, which then rise in cost without them being able to escape the contract. With dual rates (applying at different times) these costs are misleading too. Even worse, commercial and industrial customers have a minimal time period in which to apply to escape a contract (generally mid-term) before they are tied in for a further, much more expensive period. And of course we are all tired of door to door sales, but yet do not trust what we see on comparison sites, or know what all the small print terms and conditions are, etc.

If saving money is something that is attractive to you or your business, but you do not have the time to evaluate this, or simply don't want the added stress, then FREE expert advice is at hand from your local caring electrician, S Barker Electrical Ltd. With a vast ranging 21 years experience in electrical and electronics solutions for Industrial, Commercial and Domestic sectors, you can be sure that the advice given is already well researched from past experience and links with many trades, services and associations, plus the commitment to keeping ahead with the latest technologies. Testimonials, accreditations and job photos are all available online or by request. In addition, all staff are CRB police checked and go through a rigorous induction program ranging from Health and Safety to representing the company professionally at all times.

We absolutely will NOT come out and pester you (this is both illegal and unprofessional), but you can call us at a time convenient to yourself on 01325 313330 or 07866 266657 to seek advice. You can also go to our website at www.sbarkelectrical.co.uk and click the 'become a fan' button to be kept up to date with the latest information on facebook (twitter link coming soon!). Or communicate purely by email to enquiries@sbarkelectrical.co.uk - Good advice costs nothing, but will save you a LOT of money and frustration.

Simon Barker BSc (Hons); N Dip M
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Heighington U14 Football

As we had a break in the fixtures Heighington U14 Football Team spent Sunday morning (30.01.10) at Paintball Mania. Most of the squad and some of their parents took part and had a fantastic time at the site which is located between Heighington and Newton Aycliffe (www.pbmania.co.uk).

It was a great experience and helped with tactics, teambuilding, fitness and motivation. Thanks to Stuart from Paintball Mania, who can be contacted on 0800 0279011 for hosting the event, all the parents for their fundraising efforts and one of our sponsors Northern Rail who helped make the day a big success. The U14s train on a Saturday at 10am at Heighington Playing Fields behind the Cumby and we currently have some places in the squad available.

There are still at least 8 fixtures to play this season so if any Year 9's are interested in playing football regularly then why not come along or contact the Manager Mark Penny on 07725 792657 for more details.

With the Finley Structures deal announced last week it certainly puts us in a strong position to carry out all the ground improvements that we'd like to do over the next few months."

Aycliffe have recently spent almost £3,000 on a new changing facility for match officials at their Moore Lane Park ground, and after getting the new stand up they hope to install a new portacabin for visiting guests and officials. Aycliffe's scoring spree continued with a thumping win at home to mid-table Washington last Saturday, stretching their unbeaten league run to an incredible 17 games.

A brace apiece from top scorer Warren Byrne and Elliot Gardner ensured Allan Oliver's side maintained their lead at the top of the Northern League second division.

And although Guisborough, North Shields and Whickham gained some ground on Aycliffe by all winning on Tuesday night, they still hold a comfortable eight-point lead, with 13 games to go, going into this Saturday's trip to eighth-placed Hebburn Town.

Team: Pocklington, Close (Oliver), Campbell, Tarling, Beckett, Peck, Broom (McMullen), Gardner, Byrne, Mellanby, Owen (Woodhouse).

After their trip to Hebburn this Saturday, Aycliffe go to first division neighbours Spennymoor Town next Tuesday night for a League Cup third round tie at Brewery Field, followed by a home league game against Horden next Saturday.

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