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AYCLIFFE ON EDGE WAITING FOR DECISION ON HITACHI COMPANY READY TO BUILD ON RECEIPT OF CONTRACT

We regret raising false hopes over the possibility of an announcement on Hitachi. It just turned out to be part of Labour's Party publicity campaign to put pressure on the Government to come to a decision.

A meeting hosted by the Developer and our MP Phil Wilson was called last Friday at the Xcel Centre on Aycliffe Business Park where the Shadow Transport Secretary, Maria Eagle, was present to urge the Government to end the suspense. The event included a visit to the proposed train building site.

Maria Eagle pointed out that the scheme was started under the previous Government and urged the present Government to make the right decision for the North East by giving the



Shadow Secretary Maria Eagle with our MP Phil Wilson and invited guests listening to the presentation by Merchant Place Developments.

train making factory the go ahead. Phil Wilson MP said, "I'm pleased Maria Eagle was able to come to Newton Aycliffe and see for herself the benefit the Hitachi plant would have for the town. Everyone is waiting on the Government to allow . . .

continued on Page 2

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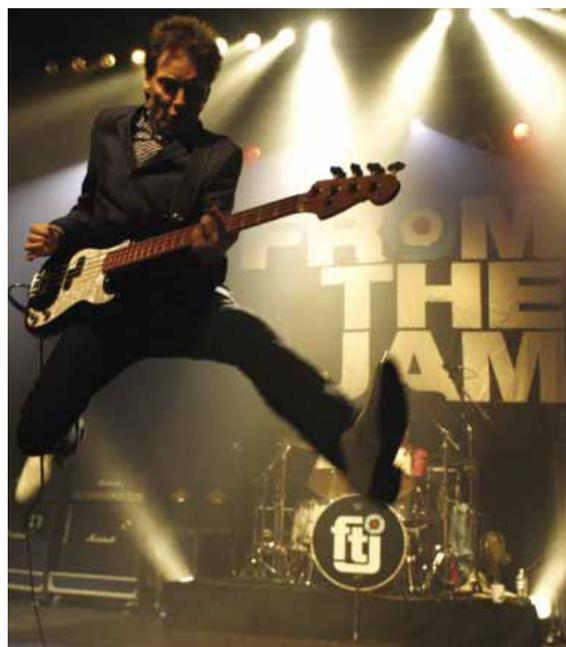
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Jam at Shildon Civic



"FROM THE JAM" featuring original JAM member Bruce Foxtan will play at Shildon Civic Hall on Thursday 31st March. Bruce played on all the JAMS no 1 singles including "Town Called Malice", "Going Underground" etc. The concert runs in conjunction with Macmillan Cancer Foundation and features the drummer from Big Country and locally support bands, tickets on sale from the Civic Hall, Tel 07836 350507 or visit www.fromthejam.co.uk

HITACHI CONTRACT

continued from Front Page

the contract to go ahead. It means so much to Newton Aycliffe. I can understand people's frustration with the wait for an announcement, but I will continue to press the Government until the decision has been made." The press was invited to cover the arrival of a top opposition figure in the area to keep Labour's campaign alive, but it is clear the Government will take its own time and keep us all waiting on the proverbial knife edge until they are ready. It was revealed that Hitachi are ready to move to Aycliffe NOW! They have signed an agreement and are prepared to spend £80 million building and equipping a factory along with a new rail link to the main line. All they are waiting for is the Government to award the contract for Hitachi to build the trains at Aycliffe. Once they get the go-ahead they are ready to move in quickly and be in production in 3/4 years creating 800 jobs and countless others in the supply chain.

Aycliffe should be grateful to Merchant Place Developments for their initiative in bringing Hitachi to Aycliffe. They did all the groundwork by first contacting Hitachi and preparing plans for the factory on their site. Aycliffe is Hitachi's preferred site as a superb location with excellent access and transport links. The area has historic connections with the rail industry and a ready-made skill base. They also have co-operation and support from people in important positions in the area including our MP Phil Wilson. Further good news from the developers and landowners in announcing they had another client wanting the land adjacent to Hitachi to build a new factory bringing 400 jobs. If we get Hitachi it will be a bigger development than Nissan. If things go the right way Aycliffe will get the biggest boost ever and be THE place to be in the future.



COUNCILLOR CLAIMED NO EXPENSES

Last week a correspondent stated that Town Councillor John Clare claimed expenses of £155.17, and this was incorrect, in fact he has never claimed expenses for any Council activity he has attended. Newton News apologises for any distress caused to Councillor Clare. It is unfortunate the correspondent had not understood Councillor Clare's letter fully and that we had not spotted the error ourselves.

MOTORWAY CLOSURE FOR RESURFACING

The Highways Agency is advising drivers that the northbound A1(M) between Junction 58 and 59 near Coatham Mundeville will be closed overnight from 14th to 20th February to resurface sections of the carriageway. The closures will take place between 8pm and 6am and there will be a 50mph speed limit on the approach to the closure. During the closures traffic will be diverted off the A1(M) at Junction 58 and directed along the A68 to the A68/A6072 roundabout. Drivers will travel along the A6072, B6444 and then the A167, returning to the A1(M) at Junction 59.

Murder in the Library!

March is Crime Month at Newton Aycliffe Library with visits from Graham Pears, Crime Author of the Newcastle-set "Jet" detective novels and Roz Southey, who will be conducting a Murder Mystery Afternoon - discover the culprit and win prizes. Roz Southey, Murder Mystery - Thursday 3rd March 2:30pm Graham Pears, afternoon chat - Thursday 24th March 2:30pm All events are charged at £1 per person. Please contact the library to book a place. 01325 312856

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THE CUBBY

Chef Tony Tomlinson invites you to lunch on **Tuesday 15th February** and **Thursday 17th February**
Served between 12noon and 2pm

Tuesday 15th Menu
Cottage Pie, Peas, Sweetcorn & Gravy - £2
Sweets £1

Thursday 17th Menu
Chicken Mushroom Crust - £2
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BUSINESS AS USUAL AS POLICE MOVE TO BUSINESS PARK

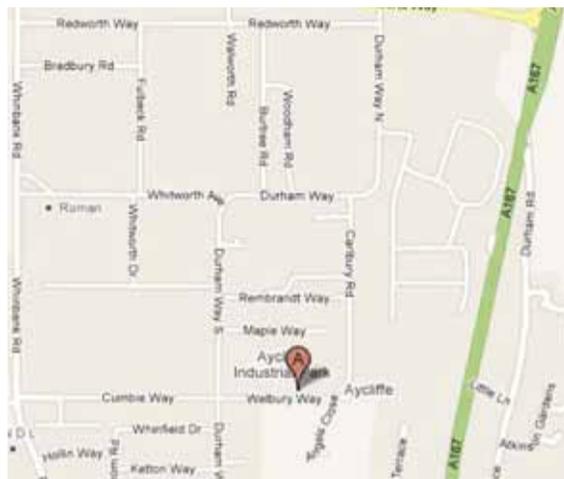
Police Station to be Demolished in April

Police officers and staff based at Newton Aycliffe Police Station are on the move to a temporary new home. From Monday, February 28, they will leave their current accommodation in Central Avenue to offices half a mile away at Parsons Court at the junction of Carlbury Road and Welbury Way on the Business Park. The move is to allow for the demolition of the existing station and the rebuilding of a replacement on the same site. It is anticipated that this will be completed by late 2012.

Chief Inspector Vicki Martin said local people could be assured that police response will be maintained throughout the move, but the transfer of the front counter to the temporary station will mean this function will be disrupted for a short while.

There will be no public access to the front office from February 16 to allow time for the counter to be removed and reassembled at Parsons Court by February 28. Contact with the local police at the old station will still be possible during this time: There will be a contact intercom and an officer will be made available to deal with enquiries.

Following the move, the opening hours of the temporary



police station will be 10am - 5pm Monday to Friday. The station will continue to provide 24 hour policing

She added: "During the move members of the public will still be able to contact us on both the non-emergency phone number 0345 6060 365 and 999 if an emergency arises."

"We are committed to maintaining a strong policing presence in Newton Aycliffe and, although we will be operating from another base, it will be business as usual and local people should not experience any difference in

the level of service they receive. The close proximity of Parsons Court to the old station means that people needing to visit the new location will experience little if any inconvenience."

Surveys have identified a number of problems with the Central Avenue Police Station, completed in 1972, which make keeping it open no longer a viable option. In March of last year Durham Police Authority agreed that demolishing the station and rebuilding on the same site would be the best value for money. The old building is expected to be demolished this April.

NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

A Coffee Morning and Sale of Second Hand Goods will be held every Wednesday from 10.00am - 12 noon commencing 9th March.

We are appealing for items to sell and if you can help with any unwanted goods or donations of wine etc. please get in touch.

A Veterans Badge Presentation will be sponsored by the Centre on Saturday 4th June at

2pm. Anyone who has served in the Armed Forces is entitled to receive the badge which will be presented by Colonel James Ramsbotham D.L. Application forms are now available from Peter Beaty on 313924.

Don't forget we have a superb hall and added facilities to hire for your special occasion. A small Meeting room is also available for up to 20 people.

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Two House Specials - £12.00

7 St. Elizabeths Close
Woodham Village
01325 320000 or 300900

Open from 5.00pm to 11.00pm

PACT Meeting Police & Community Together

PACT meetings conducted by PC 1452 Alan Thompson on the following dates:
Simpasture Court Coffee Lounge on Tuesday 15th February from 6-30pm to 7-30pm.

Aycliffe Village Hall on Saturday 19th February, 11am to 12noon and this meeting will incorporate a Neighbourhood Watch Meeting run by Neil Langthorne Community Liaison Officer.

Councillors and Representatives from Great Aycliffe Town Council and Durham County Council have been invited.

Agnew Centre NEWS

The Agnew Community Centre Association at Morrison Close, hold their 30th Annual General meeting on Wednesday 16th March 2011 at 7.00pm.

It will be open to all, but only 2011 members will be able to vote for items on the agenda.

Nominations for officers, committee members [forms from the Secretary or from the centre] and or proposals must be with the Secretary on or before the February 28th 2011.

(Would the Lady who rang me about Zumba Dance Classes, Please give me a ring.)
Secretary RG Mitchie 07749 236853, 301033 or 321504

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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 14th May, 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, Simpstoregate.

Sri Lanka Teachers Enjoy Visit



On Tuesday 1st February Greenfield School hosted a small group of Sri Lankan guests as part of our Connecting Classrooms project. The day was a great success and gave our guests a superb insight into day to day life here at Greenfield. They were extremely impressed and specifically commented on the great hospitality they received; the friendliness of the staff and the effort made by our pupils. (The cold North Eastern weather was also a major talking point of course!). Our guests, Mrs D. Kalappuwaduge, Mrs T. Nawasivayam and Mrs M. Nanayakara witnessed a superb performance by Mr J Tobin and our school choir, a dance performance choreographed by Miss Wingfield, and a series of lessons showing the exciting learning that is taking place here. They found it very exciting to see contrasting learning environments in action. The tour also included an engaging conversation with Mr Priestley, the Headteacher and his leadership team and Mr Butterworth from the PE Department, on the similarities



and differences between the UK and their home country, Sri Lanka. Gifts were prepared for the Sri Lankan guests by Mrs S. Robson and her Diploma group, who made some beautiful glass jewellery and a presentation by Mrs N. Best and her ICAN team. They were presented with a series of excellent photographs of the afternoon (kindly taken by G. Lowe) and copies of school productions from recent years. They will be making visits to local primary schools in our area over the next couple of days, as well as meeting with representatives from

the cluster group in Durham to finalise project plans for forthcoming years. It is intended that we, as a school, will work on collaborative projects with our partners in Sri Lanka on several pieces of work including Dance, Competitive Sport, Art, Creative Writing and ICT. We plan to share our experiences with our partner schools in many exciting ways including video conferencing, letter writing, Email and face to face meetings. We hope to allow our pupils to have a greater understanding of the world and global issues by participating in this programme.

Valentines Disco for Under 11's

This will be held on Sunday 13th February in the Scout Centre on Bluebell Way from 4pm until 8pm. Admission £2 for everyone and parents are warmly invited to attend and join in the fun. The special 12th annual Disco is organised by the Junior Neighbourhood Watch and is always a great event. K.D.O. Disco will be playing the music and along with dancing there is lots of fun and games a Tuck shop is also provided. Ring 308094 for further details.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

Notice is hereby given that:-

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

WEDNESDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY 2011
at 6.00pm

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

"The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".

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

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 23rd Feb., 2011
Environment Committee - 7.15pm
followed by the
Recreation Committee

QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 20 minutes has been set aside for an elector to ask questions, give evidence or make representation on any item of business included on the agenda.

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

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

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

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Are You Getting Married?

If you or your partner live or lived in Newton Aycliffe or the surrounding villages and are planning to get married, Newton News would like to record this special day, using your photos; to let our readers know about your happy occasion and recording the event in print and on our website. Contact Paul or Syd on 01325 300212 to find out how



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COMMUNICATING WITH AYCLIFFE COMMUNITY GROUPS



On Monday, about 25 people from community groups, centres and different voluntary organisations came together to look at new ways to get their message out to their communities. The meeting was organised by CAVOS, Community Matters and local community centres. There was some lively discussion including the possible revival of a community radio station in Newton Aycliffe which had been in place about 30 years ago. The meeting learned that due to current government licensing restrictions, this is not a possibility. However it may be possible to create audio 'programmes' to play via computers in public spaces or over the internet, to reach people in their homes. A small group of people have

agreed to take ideas from the meeting forward and create a new project. The project will focus on sourcing audio and digital equipment and improving and developing volunteers' media skills and knowledge such as radio presenting and interviewing. This will enable groups and volunteers to 'sell' their stories and experiences and advertise their events and activities. The project will look at the best ways to share this information with the wider community. So far the project group includes; local community centres, CAVOS, Community Matters, Bishop FM, Capture Films, and GAMP. If you are interested, you can still get involved by contacting CAVOS via enquiries@cavos.org.uk or by phoning 01388 811115.

Volunteer Drivers & Sitters Wanted

At Sedgefield Locality Carers we are constantly looking for volunteers to join our group of Volunteer Sitters and Drivers. We work with carers who provide care for friends or relatives who are unable to manage alone due to age, disability or illness. Many of our carers care seven days a week, day and night, and get very little or no respite. Our Volunteer Sitters provide 2-4 hours a week sitting with the cared for people while their carer goes out for some well earned respite. Whether it's to attend appointments, pick up some shopping or just go for a walk. Sitters are not expected to provide any personal care, they simply befriend the carer, have a chat, watch TV, read a magazine or play games with them. Sometimes when getting out and about is difficult the volunteer is the only other person that they see and both carer and cared for are always extremely grateful for the service. Our Volunteer Drivers help out when carers cannot use public transport and need to get to medical appointments. Transport requests are usually made within a weeks' notice of the appointment giving the volunteer plenty of time to plan. Mileage is paid at 40p per mile to volunteers and journeys are mainly within the Sedgefield and County Durham area. All volunteers are subject to

reference requests and CRB checks before volunteering can begin and drivers must have a full clean licence, current MOT and insurance. For more information contact Sedgefield Locality Carers Centre on 01325 313123 and speak to Jo our Volunteer Co Ordinator.

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL AYCLIFFE COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES 2009/2010

	BASIC ALLOWANCE	SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE	TRAVELLING SUBSISTENCE EXPENSES	TOTAL
CLLR D Bowman	£13,300	£2,660	£2,810	£19,406
CLLR E M Dixon	£13,300	£3,325	£2,131	£18,949
CLLR P Gittins	£13,300	£0	£2,911	£16,211
CLLR J Gray	£13,300	£1,330	£1,222	£15,852
CLLR S Iveson	£13,300	£1,330	£1,717	£16,347
CLLR J Moran	£13,300	£2,660	£1,481	£17,629
CLLR E Paylor	£13,300	£0	£1,086	£14,386

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL 2009/2010
All Town Councillors claim £1,059 a year, which is taxable, they can choose not to receive it but all do.

MICHELLE MONE VISITS EXPORT SEMINAR

The South Durham Business Export event held at Darlington Football Club brought in large numbers possibly attracted by the Guest Speaker Michelle Mone - the rags to riches Glaswegian young woman who rose to fame and an OBE with her ladies underwear empire. Michelle is a down to earth inspirational speaker whose style warmed the hearts of the audience eager to hear her life story. She comes from Glasgow's

East end, when only 30 years ago the family lived in a one up one down house with no bathroom. Even at 11 years old she was showing ambition as she organised paper rounds for youngsters older than herself. Family circumstances forced her to leave school at 15 with no qualifications, but whatever job she held Michelle rose to the top until after a redundancy she decided to use the cash settlement to invent a new bra for women.

From then on despite some ups and downs she rose to fame and is now a multi millionaire at 38, recognised worldwide as a legend of enterprise, mixing with Royalty and "A" list celebrities. Her life and success is an example to all in business demonstrating that only hard work and determination breeds success. Her three point principles are work hard, play hard and give something back and you will have a rewarding life.



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<p>Annand Way Cobblers Hall £165,000</p> <p>Competitively priced 3 bedroom detached house. Ensuite shower room. Integral Garage. Fitted Kitchen. Double Glazing. Chain Free!</p>	<p>Wycliffe Close Newton Aycliffe £109,950</p> <p>3 bedroom detached, double glazed, GCH, Garage, No chain. Priced to sell</p>	<p>Cheltenham Way Woodham Village £205,000</p> <p>A delightful three bedroom detached bungalow. Lounge/Dining Room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, double detached garage. Private south facing gardens to the rear aspect.</p>	<p>Dent Walk Newton Aycliffe P.O.A.</p> <p>3 bed mid terrace, double glazed, GCH, chain free, Immediate vacant possession.</p>
<p>Church Close Newton Aycliffe £170,000</p> <p>Impressive 3 bedroom detached house. Superb fitted kitchen. Excellent Order. Garage and Gardens. Desirable Location. Must be viewed.</p>	<p>Clover Court Woodham Village £161,950</p> <p>A much improved 3 bedroom detached house, conservatory, DG, Modern bathroom/WC, private enclosed gardens</p>	<p>Pemberton Road Woodham Village £105,000</p> <p>3 bedroom semi detached, conservatory, d/glazed, GCH, off road parking, no chain</p>	<p>Cheltenham Way Woodham Village O.I.R.O. £210,000</p> <p>4 bed detached. Lounge, Dining Room, fitted oak kitchen, utility, conservatory, En-suite shower room. Superb landscaped gardens. Garage. A delightful property. Internal inspection recommended.</p>

Newton Press Buildings, St. Cuthberts Way, DL5 6DX - 311737

SATURDAY 5TH MARCH 2011

ALI CARTER EXHIBITION

#7 IN THE WORLD

at Newton Aycliffe WMC

Doors 7pm (6pm for VIP's) - last orders 11:30pm



An exhibition night with the current World No.7 Ali "The Captain" Carter, winner of the 2009 Welsh Open and the 2010 Shanghai Masters. One of only 6 people to ever have a 147 at the Crucible which he achieved in the 2008 World Championships. A great night is planned for anyone interested in snooker or pool, for all ages. Six local talented players will be competing against him. Also a representative from the Paul Hunter Foundation will be on hand showing trick shots for audience members to try. We will be having a raffle with prizes ranging from chances to play Ali Carter... signed cues and cases... meals for two... and much more... Also there's an auction to give people another chance to play the Captain himself,

remember any profits will go to the Paul Hunter Charity. We'll also have www.greenbaize.com there for anyone looking to buy a nice cue or case, they have some great items for any enthusiasts. Tickets will be priced at £20 for Adults and £10 for children, we also have VIP tickets (limited available) priced at £25 in which you'll get a signed poster and access to the players area where you can meet the World no.7 with a buffet included. Tickets are available at Newton Aycliffe Working Mens Club or Please Telephone: **Stephen Bennett 07972 384 618** or **Martin Rogers 07884 174 204**

Dance Academy Comes to Greenfield



Youngsters in Aycliffe finally get the chance to be stars as a theatre company brings new sessions to the town. Following the huge success of their Darlington based groups Darlington Arts Academy CIC will launch new sessions in Aycliffe during February half term.

The award winning company offers weekly performing arts sessions to young people aged 8 - 16. The Academy will launch their new Aycliffe group on Monday 21st February, 10.30 - 5pm at Greenfield Community & Arts Centre with a day of performing arts workshops inspired by the hit American TV Series Glee. Weekly sessions will start on Saturday afternoons in March. Don't Stop Believin' workshops will teach skills in dance, singing and drama in fun, upbeat sessions using favourite songs from Glee. Whether a complete beginner or seasoned performer, young people will learn tricks of the trade to perform confidently in a short showcase at the end of the day.

Free tasters are available at the new weekly sessions starting Saturday 5th March, 1.30 - 4pm at Greenfield Community & Arts Centre, Newton Aycliffe. Don't Stop Believin' workshops run on Monday 21st February 10.30am - 5.30pm with a 5pm showcase at Greenfield Community & Arts Centre, Newton Aycliffe and Wednesday 23rd February 9.30 - 4.30pm with a 4pm showcase at Hummersknott School, Darlington. The holiday workshop costs £15 and must be booked in advance. For information or to book a place visit www.darlingtonartsacademy.co.uk or call 01325 734160.

FLIPPING GOOD FUN

St. Clare's Childrens Team will be hosting an (early) Pancake Party on Tuesday 22nd February, 2-4pm in St. Clares Hall. All children, and their parents/carers are most welcome to join in this popular annual event. We will be teaching the children how to make pancakes, enabling them to be creative designing pancake 'funny faces' and of course, there will be our outside pancake race! (weather permitting!) Entrance is £1 per person and there will be a drink and pancake for all to enjoy! Hope to see you all there. Contact for this event is Helen McCormick on 319002.

Vane Road Celebrate Year of the Rabbit

Children in Key Stage One at Vane Road Primary School joined in with the Chinese New Year celebrations on Thursday 3rd February. Each class participated in a drama workshop about the story of "The Four Dragons" led by Paul and Tara from Debutots. The children helped to tell the story by taking on the roles of the flying dragons and also learnt about the four main rivers of China and as well as the Chinese New Year.



Newtonian Succeeds in Getting Apprenticeship



Craig Hewitt, Helen Goodman and Matthew Philippo

A well established plumbing firm in Bishop Auckland, K. Hewitt Ltd. have been taking on apprentices for over 15 years. This year the firm employed Matthew Philippo, 16, from Newton Aycliffe. Matthew spends 4 days working on the job with an experienced plumber and 1 day a week at Bishop Auckland College's Skills & Enterprise Centre in Spennymoor studying functional and technical skills. Craig said "We are a family company with over 50 employees and have learned from long experience that taking on apprentices is good for us. It involves a lot of commitment on our part as it takes 4 years to become a qualified plumber. By employing apprentices we can train them to suit our style of work; it helps breed loyalty and the apprentice gains valuable training on and off the job, we are very happy with Matthew as he is proving to be a hard working lad. The support we receive from Bishop Auckland College is great, we have a long history with the College as many of our past apprentices and present employees trained there too."

Matthew said "Before I left school I decided to try and get an apprenticeship in plumbing and was really pleased to be offered a place with Hewitt Plumbing as I know how difficult it is to find employers offering apprenticeships. I enjoy working with experienced plumbers and I am learning something new every day" Bishop Auckland MP Helen Goodman took time out of her busy schedule to meet Craig and Matthew to help the College promote the National Apprenticeship Service North East campaign **100 apprentices in 100 days** challenging employers to give a young person the opportunity of an

apprenticeship between January 19th and April 28th 2011 If you are an employer and would like to learn more about taking on apprentice please ring the Skills & Enterprise Centre on 01388 825823

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GOVERNMENT OPTS OUT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING RULES

New EU rules to crack down on human trafficking have been approved by the European Parliament. Despite pressure by campaigners, the British government has refused to opt in to the proposals, meaning that the new rules won't apply to the UK.

Speaking after the vote, Stephen Hughes, North East Labour MEP said: "Human trafficking is a crime that shows no respect

for international borders. Acting together with other EU countries is the obvious way to protect these vulnerable people and to stop this form of modern day slavery.

"It is disgraceful that David Cameron has decided he would rather appease his eurosceptic backbenchers by sitting on the sidelines while other governments act."

Stephen Hughes, added:

"We're talking about the illegal exploitation of highly vulnerable people, mostly women and children. I simply can't understand why the government has chosen to opt out of these proposals.

"I urge the government to show that it is serious about protecting vulnerable women by agreeing to sign up to these plans and to work with European partners to stop this evil trade."

AYCLIFFE COMPANY EXHIBITS AT WORLD TRADE FAIR



Standing L-R: David Osborne, Managing Director, Aina Brunet, Export Manager, Julian Pearson, Commercial Director. Sitting: Angela Arundel, Export Executive, Loraine Henderson, Marketing Director.

THE UK's leading shower brand, Newton Aycliffe based Roman, is preparing to further strengthen their European Export Market by exhibiting their products at the world's leading trade fair in Frankfurt.

Roman is a leading UK shower designer and manufacturer. They will exhibit a selection of their key products at the ISH exhibition, Frankfurt, taking place during March. This is the first time Roman has directly exhibited outside of the UK.

With their dedicated Export Team, whose languages include German, Spanish, French and Italian, Roman are looking to further penetrate into the European market.

Roman currently exports to customers across Europe, the Middle East, the USA, Canada and Asia, with Export making up around 10% of the business.

Roman will be looking to develop existing relationships, as well as to forge new partnerships with a mix of distributors, retailers, contractors and specifiers at the exhibition. Another key aim for Roman is to enter the German market - making the exhibition the perfect match for the company.

As well as developing the European Export market, Roman will be looking to build worldwide partnerships. The exhibition attracts visitors from 140 different countries around the world - visitor numbers exceeded

200,000 throughout the 5 days last year, with 1 in 3 visitors being from outside of Germany.

Roman's Export plans are being supported by UK Trade and Investment funding, who have provided funding support for attendance at

the show. Export growth over the last two years has helped to cement jobs in Newton Aycliffe and is heavily influencing future investment plans - in terms of jobs, machinery and infrastructure.

Roman's Managing Director, David Osborne commented: "We are very much looking forward to being involved in this year's ISH exhibition. The show is the leading name in our industry and a natural

progression for our Export team who have secured a number of successful contracts, most notably in the Middle East - having specified products for 5 star hotel projects. Roman's product range is perfectly placed for the European market, with something for all, from bathroom retailers, to interior designers, architects and hotel specifiers. We're certainly excited to see what the show will bring!"

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sbh

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Monday 28th February 2011
sbh will be operating
NEW OPENING HOURS
for enquiries at
Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre.

Tenants will be able to call in from
9.00am to 12.30pm
Monday to Friday

At other times please call us on
0845 505 5500
when we will be happy to deal with
your queries over the phone or
arrange to visit you at home.

happy Valentine's day

To my gorgeous beautiful amazing girl
*All my love on Valentines,
Girl you stand by me,
I'm forever yours
faithfully*

Connor Smith
*I pure love you,
will you be mine?
Love, Jasmine Campbell xx*

Tina Peacock
*Happy Valentines Day
My super, sexy, angel
eyed, pork chop.
Love from Marc xxxxx*

Fred
*"You are my rock"
Love you forever
Wilma
xxxx*

Marc Armstrong
*To my naughty, cute meerkat.
Happy Valentines Day
Baby. Love, Tina xxxxx*

Joanne
*All my love and some
DIY! Love will last not
sure about the DIY!
Stu xxx*

To Sexy Bum
*You are the best thing that has
happened to me. I will always
love you. Happy Valentines
Day. All my love, today and
always. Sexy Lady xxx*

Carolyn Weastell
*I love you more every day.
Love and kisses
from you know who !!!
xxxxxxx*

Angel Eyes
*Be My Valentine
Forever . . .
Love from ??*

Alex Crawley
*To my wonderful Husband
"Happy Valentines Day"
Love you more and more
every day, your forever.
Sam xxxxxxxxx*

*The lucky winner of the bottle of wine is Sam
Crawley, congratulations - your bottle of wine
can be collected from the Newton News office*

HIRE THE YOUTHY!

Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre have marvellous facilities in the town centre to hire. As an example for a Child's Birthday Party for 1 hour in the Sports Hall and 1 hour for the Room with use of the Kitchen etc. would cost only £34. There is no charge for setting up and clearing away. The Main Hall [70 seated] is available with a Disco for a small cost and there are also several meeting rooms including a Training Room for meetings and seminars. For information pop in and see us or contact or ring 307522 from 9.30-3.30, Mon-Fri.

Maureen (Nichol) Mawson

Engaged to marry 14th February 1963 - Died 14th February 2009
"Still my only Valentine"

You were so young and beautiful, and I truly loved you so. Your lips so rare, eyes that shined, shamed the stars that glow. You filled these lonely arms of mine, and let me kiss you tenderly. Always to be forever young, and so beautiful to me. You were so young and beautiful, you were everything I loved. Your angel smile, and gentle touch, are still all I dream of you. You took my heart I offered you, and now you've set it free. But you will remain forever young and beautiful to me. "My one and only Valentine".

From your only loving Valentine, loving Husband, Derrick



FREE HALF TERM NATURE EVENTS

Mammal Trapping, Tuesday 22nd February, 3-4pm
Many mammals will be rooting around at this time of year searching for food to keep them going over the cold weather, so why not join Great Aycliffe Town Council's Environment Officer to see what we can catch in various traps which will have been set around the woodland near Moore Lane Eco Centre. Please meet at the Eco Centre at Moore Lane.

Nature Detectives, Friday 25th February, 10-11.30am
Even at this time of year there are still many animals active if you know where to look. Spend a few hours rooting around the undergrowth at Aycliffe Nature Park looking for those tell tale signs of animals in the area. Please meet at Travellers Green, off Clarence Chare. Both activities are FREE of charge and provided by Great Aycliffe Town Council. For more information please contact the Town Council on 01325 300700, or the Environment Officer on 0777 9090 842.

Tesco Support Draw



The Rotary Club wish to thank Tesco for allowing members to sell tickets for the Bumper Community Charity Draw. They will be in store in March and just prior to the draw in April. The tickets are going very well attracted by the fantastic prizes offered, valued at over £3,000 including 2 tickets for "Take That" Sofa, 42" TV, and valuable vouchers and other goods. Tickets for the Draw Night to be held in the British Legion Club on Thursday 7th April will be on sale soon and will include entertainment, Bingo and Supper.

GREENFIELD ACHIEVE ANTI BULLYING ACCREDITATION FOR FOURTH TIME

Pupils and teachers have continued to uphold the good work that was already in place to help make young people feel safe when they are at school. In order to achieve this status schools must have an Anti Bullying Policy in place and show that they take Bullying seriously. The Accreditation is awarded by County Durham Anti Bullying Service, Childline and the NSPCC in recognition of a commitment to addressing and reducing bullying through a whole college intervention. One of the new initiatives this year has been to establish a group of Transition Mentors who help new pupils who join Greenfield after the normal start to the academic year settle in and feel part of the school Community. The Mentors underwent training provided by Andrew Shaw from the County Durham Anti Bullying Service. Mrs Stubbs believes that this has been a positive move forward as it is often difficult for young people to transfer from one school to another without the support of their Peer Group. Mentors watch out for new pupils for six weeks and make sure they know about the support systems provided by the school. Other initiatives this year have included a confidential email address to enable pupils to share any concerns about themselves or their friends. This empowers young people to take control of a situation before it gets out of hand.



At Greenfield we take Bullying seriously and encourage young people to speak out. Parents are encouraged to be vigilant when their children are using the Internet as this can lead to a serious form of bullying known as Cyber Bullying. We are proud to have ownership of this award which acknowledges the hard work of pupils and staff and shows the schools commitment to providing a safe and happy environment for all who are part of Greenfield. Photo: Victoria Pinner, Chloe Wise-Stubbs and Tom Hunter

JOIN THIS CLUB FOR FUN



New Friends New Places club members enjoy dancing to the music provided by Guitarist Alan who donates his fees to MIND. Last week 26 members went for Saturday Lunch at Shotton Garden Centre and then on to Dalton Park for shopping. On 10th March members are going to a Motown night at Shildon and on Easter Monday to the Lake District. On 13th June members will be going on a trip to Great Yarmouth. If you want to join us we meet every Tuesday from 2pm until 4pm. Line Dancing, Armchair Aerobics and plenty of fun. Come soon or ring 308094 for further details.

SBH Lessen the Blow on Rent Rises

sbh is hoping to help tenants through difficult economic times by reducing rent rises this year.

The company is proposing not to implement the full rent rise it would have been allowed because it appreciates that tenants are facing increasing bills for many essential services.

Customers on the company's Tenants' Panel are being consulted over the plan before a final decision is made.

John Hawes, head of finance for sbh, said: "Under the current proposals there will be an inflation rise of 5.1 per cent, which affects all tenants.

"For more than 1,000 properties that is the only rise they will face. Our other tenants are subject to annual increases decided in a national rent restructure in 2001.

"Under the formula decided then we could put rents up by £2 per week above inflation but we have decided to hold that to only £1.50 this year, which will reduce our income by more than £100,000 over the year.

"In addition around two thirds of our tenants receive Housing Benefit which will cover all or part of the increase.

"We want to keep the increase as low as possible because we understand the financial pressures facing everyone but we also need

to maintain the levels of service and investment in our homes that our tenants expect and deserve."

Rents for sbh garages will rise in April to £7 per week if the proposal is accepted. sbh is also making slight changes to the way it collects its rents, moving the weeks when tenants are not asked to pay rent.

From April the 'rent free weeks' will be the first and last weeks of the financial year, the week including August Bank Holiday and the weeks of Christmas and New Year.

John Hawes added: "We have made this slight change to help tenants with the expenses of children going back to school, which they asked us to do, and to help us at difficult times of the year."

Bishop Auckland Town Hall events

Comedy Night Hilarity Bites Seymour Mace, Rob Deering & Chris Ramsey
Friday 25 February 8.00pm.
Tickets: £8 advance £10 on the door.



Comedy Night Hilarity Bites Richard Herring: 'Christ on a Bike'
Friday 1 April 8.00pm.
Tickets: £10 in advance or £12 on the door.



Comedy and Magic Barry and Stuart
Friday 17 June 8.00pm
Not suitable for children under 14.
Tickets: £10 in advance or £12 on the door.



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OUTSTANDING STUDENTS OFF TO TOP UNIVERSITIES

Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Darlington is once again celebrating the success of its students in being offered places at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

This year nine students have conditional offers from these prestigious Universities where competition for places is intense and offers are only made to high achieving students after rigorous selection procedures, including interviews. To take up their places in the Autumn, they must now all keep working at the exceptionally high levels they have shown themselves capable of and must attain top grades in their final A Level examinations.

Two students have offers from Oxford University: Clare Storey will read German & Philosophy and Anna Stephens will read French. The seven students with offers from Cambridge University are: Tom Chappell, Charlotte Howell, James Currie, Rebecca Auster, from Newton Aycliffe, Owen Cundy, Ross Lindsay and Laura Raine.

Tom will study Engineering, Charlotte's place is for Economics and James will read Computer Science; Rebecca's degree will be in



Law, Owen and Ross will both study Natural Sciences and Laura's place is for Veterinary Science.

Simon Nicholson co-ordinates Oxbridge applications at QE. He says: "QE continues to be the most successful institution in the region for enabling students to gain places in the most prestigious and competitive Universities in the UK. This is a result of the hard work and determination of both students and staff."

The Principal, Tim Fisher, adds: "I am exceptionally proud of the achievements

of our Oxbridge candidates. To have so many being offered places at Oxford and Cambridge is an accolade for them and for the whole College. It is recognition of the outstanding work of the College in striving for excellence in learning and teaching."

Left to right front to back: Clare Storey, Rebecca Auster, Anna Stephens, Charlotte Howell, Jamie Currie, Laura Raine, Tom Chappell, Ross Lindsay. Simon Nicholson, Oxbridge Co-ordinator Owen Cundy is not pictured.

For further information please contact Anita Blackburn at College on 01325 461315.

RESIDENTS CALLED TO COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

Residents of the Burnhill Way area of Newton Aycliffe are being invited to support a big spring clean next week. (W/C February 14) Throughout the week,

Durham County Council civic pride officers will be visiting local schools to deliver assemblies about environmental issues. They'll also be promoting the Tidy

Business Standards scheme to local businesses. The Tidy Business Scheme encourages organisations to manage their waste responsibly, support the local community and help keep the local area clean and tidy.

The initiative is being funded by the local Area Action Partnership, Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) and Sedgfield Borough Homes.

Durham County Council Senior Civic Pride Officer, Clare Hubbard said: "This is the fifth community clean-up organised for Newton Aycliffe and we are really pleased with the local support we have had."

"We very much hope people living in the Burnhill Way area will be really keen to get involved and help us keep their area clean and tidy."

Details of the different activities are listed below:

Tuesday 15 February – County Durham Furniture Help Scheme will be collecting household goods which can then be recycled and resold to low income households. Residents can ring 01388 721 509 to arrange a time for collection.
Wednesday 16 February

- free collection of bulky household waste by Durham County Council between 08.30am and 2.30pm. Residents are asked to leave items on the kerbside for collection.

Thursday 17 February neighbourhood inspection involving council Neighbourhood Wardens and Civic Pride Officers, Sedgfield Borough Homes officers, local councillors and representatives from Great Aycliffe and Middridge Area Action Partnership. Residents are invited to join in, meet outside Burnhill Way Methodist Church, at 10.00am.

Saturday 19 February Dog micro-chipping at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre, Burn Lane, between 10.00am and 2.00pm.

The clean-up will take place at the following locations
Bakewell Place
Bates Close
Booth Walk
Brockett Close
Fox Place
Hedley Close
Loraine Walk
Mackenzie Place
Sampson Place
Scott Place
Thornton Close

Police Cost Frozen

Thousands of local council taxpayers across County Durham are in line to see the policing element of their council tax bill frozen from April 2011.

Durham Police Authority, which oversees policing on behalf of the public, is facing huge financial challenges as a result of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review; despite this, the Authority's Finance, Audit and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 1 February 2011, decided to make a recommendation to the Full Authority for a council tax freeze for 2011-12. The ultimate decision will be made by the Police Authority at its annual budget meeting on 22 February.

If it does decide on a council tax freeze, the Police Authority will have access to funding from the Government's grant scheme, which is equivalent to raising the council tax by 2.5 per cent. With payments staying the same as last year, for a Band D property the council tax rate would remain at £153.41 per year for policing.

The Authority and its police

force have looked at a range of bold and innovative measures aimed at cutting costs including the new 'Hub and Spoke' Force Operating Model, measures aimed at increasing productivity, a recruitment freeze across the whole Force and the recent redundancy process for back-office police staff. The resulting savings have allowed Police Authority Members to make the recommendation to freeze the council tax.

Mr Thompson continued: "We have had some difficult financial decisions to make recently, in particular the compulsory redundancy programme which we concluded late in 2010."

"Policing finances have seen a massive hit during this last year. However we are determined to put front-line policing at the forefront of our priorities as we move ahead into an era of stringent financial restraint. The Police Authority will continue to support the Chief Constable and his officers in every way possible to ensure that the Constabulary maintains its status as one of the best performing Forces in the whole of the Country".

College Course Leads to Apprenticeship

Two young apprentices who recently achieved their NVQ Business Administration level 3 are now working full time for one of the UK's leading pensions' administrators.

Stacey Dickinson 20, from Newton Aycliffe and Tom Staples 18 from Bishop Auckland started their apprenticeships with rpm in 2009. The company have their head office in Darlington where they employ over 250 people, administering pension schemes on behalf of 200 clients and looking after 500,000 pension scheme members.

When Stacey first left school she went into retail and Tom went to study A levels, but neither enjoyed their choices and decided to find out about apprenticeships. They applied to Bishop Auckland College to do an apprenticeship course and were successful in being taken on by RPM. Both agree that doing an apprenticeship was the correct choice for them as apprenticeships are work-based training programmes that combine on the job training with theoretical knowledge to gain a nationally recognised qualification... plus you get paid.

Asked about working for RPM, Stacey said "We have both learned so much; received the best training and everyone has been very supportive". Tom added "There are also future opportunities for us both within the company as it continues to grow and win more new business". Stacey and Tom, with



the help from the company now plan to study for further and higher qualifications. Alison Skingley from RPM's Human Resources Team said "At RPM, our people are at the heart of all we do and we recognise that they are our greatest asset. Stacey and Tom are very motivated and keen to learn. Because of our past experiences in employing apprentices, we will be supporting Bishop Auckland College's promotion of the NAS 100 apprentices in 100 days campaign and be looking to take on another apprentice" If you are an employer looking to take on an apprentice please contact Bishop Auckland College's Skills & Enterprise Centre on 01388 825823

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"Saturday Night Live"

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Saturday 12th February - "Insanity"
"Two great sets with something a little different, early Sabs, Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Foo Fighters and a brilliant version of Queens Of The Stone Age 'No One Knows' were amongst the stuff Insanity serve up. Not all my cup of char, but thoroughly enjoyable. Band were nice and tight with Graeme his usual rocking self at the back ably assisted in the rhythm section by Hirdy playing great bass and jumping around like only he does. Brian on vocals has a perfect voice for the material and headbangs and poses like a proper frontman. I was most impressed with John 'I only play rhythm really' ... yeah, right!!! Trigg on guitar. Great clean but dirty tone playing in a variety of tunings and some real tasty phrasing and playing. Definately a less is more style, but some lush soloing that was even more impressive considering the lack of saturation, each note ringing out nicely. Excellent stuff!!!" - GIG PIT REVIEW - www.insanity-rock.com

Saturday 19th February - "Kimera"
Saturday 26th February - "MotherEarth"
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READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Readers pics showing Old Railway Line on the Nature Walk from Kathy Harker; Ducks on the Lake and a pretty sunset by Brian Geddes and photo of spectacular rainbow over Newton Press (unfortunately no pot of gold found!) - Keep 'em coming by e-mail to syd@newtonpress.net



Cute photo of a duck at West Park Lake taken by Sarah Dightam, who carries a series of local pictures on her website www.magnoliaphotography.co.uk

IN PRAISE OF GOOD COUNCILLOR

Dear Sir,
In Heighington we have a Borough Councillor, Gerald Lee, who works 7 days a week. This week he is out doing speed checks on people driving through the village, sorting out parking at the local school. He has set up a monthly bus for people unable to get to supermarkets. You can contact him any time and he will do his best to help solve a problem. They may get £20,000 a year salary and I don't really care, because I would not have the job as his life is not his own.
J. M. Gowland

AYCLIFFE POLICE STATION ON THE MOVE

Newton Aycliffe Police Station is to be replaced with a new modern building. Current staff will be moving into temporary premises at Parsons Court on the Business Park at the end of this month. We will then see the old building demolished. Signs to the temporary Police Station are already in place and must be a bit confusing to visitors.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Newton News Brings a Good Response

Dear Sir,
Just to say a really big thank you for the time you put in to photographing and advertising our Dancercise Class, held at the Youth Centre on Friday mornings. The response has been tremendous, bringing many new participants. June Kneafsey
Development Worker
T: 01388 720064

"I Recommend Local Garage Autosafe Ltd"

Dear Sir,
I read about Autosafe's expansion and would like to confirm how honest and reliable this garage is as I have used them since they opened and their service is outstanding! I have never felt ripped off and they always do what they can to keep costs down for me. I am quite particular and whenever I have collected my car it was always clean and tidy. No job is too small for them and I recommend Autosafe to everyone.
Mr. Davies
Watson Road.

GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Dear Sir,
As I read the outline plans for Woodham Golf Course I could feel my blood pressure rising and my anger increasing. Phrases like 'there will be a new roundabout and construction of 50 executive homes and a 75 room hotel' as if it was a fait accompli and the decision had already been made! Residents in Woodham have not changed their minds. We feel badly let down by what appears to be bullying, underhand tactics of Councillors who are overruling all of the objections we raised at a meeting in 2008. Let Washington Developers build their dream somewhere else. We don't want or need you here!
Yours sincerely
Woodham Resident.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Councillors on "Gravy Train"

Dear Sir,
I was shocked at the excessive allowances and expenses claimed by Newton Aycliffe County Councillors. The highest amount by Counc Bowman works out at £1,617.00 per month and the total annual allowances for all councillors is £118,780.00 which is an absolute disgrace. How many hours do they work to warrant such amounts. Councillors, in my opinion, should not be paid except for travel and stationery etc. It gives the impression they are on a "gravy train" which should be halted! John Clare said they once did the job as volunteers and that's how it should be. It is important we are informed of all expenses claimed.
S. Glover

Thanks for Help from 89yr Old Man

Dear Sir,
On the 4th February walking from the town centre I was blown over by a very strong wind. I was helped to my feet by two couples nearby and a young woman with shopping bags, who kindly drove me home. I want to thank them all especially the young lady named Tracey Price. I want her to know her help was appreciated by an 89 year old man.
Mr. J. Smith
Lyon Walk

Reduce the Number of Councillors

Dear Sir,
I read with interest your letter regarding justification of Councillors expenses, and also the comment regarding the number of councillors. I am old enough to remember when councillors served their communities on a purely voluntary basis. They covered their meagre expenses out of their own pockets. The government is trying to reduce the large and unnecessary number of MP's. We should do the same with local councillors. It would be interesting to see how many of the present councillors would want to serve if their high expenses were reduced to zero. This would be one way of automatically reducing the number.
your sincerely
G.A. Oakley
25 Ryder Court

Middridge Road Cannot Cope with More Traffic

Dear Sir,
What has changed the minds of The Town Council who voted in favour of the Planning Application to build houses at Woodham alongside Middridge Road? The Council were against the previous application after more than 120 residents attended an open meeting, also a few hundred letters of objection were sent to the Planners. This new application is on a smaller scale but the previous objections still apply. To build on this site would be SHEER VANDALISM and spoil forever the entrance to Woodham. The artists impressions on the application look superb but in the real world the view from the road would be a mish mash of sheds, jungle gyms, trampolines etc. No matter what the Director of Washington Developments and his Traffic Experts say Middridge Road cannot cope with more traffic.
John Forster

WE ARE BETRAYED BY COUNCILLORS

Dear Sir,
As a resident of Woodham I felt betrayed by the Town Council decision to support the latest planning application by the owners of Woodham Golf Course to build a hotel and houses on the course. In 2008, around 120 Woodham residents held an open meeting in the Woodham Community Centre with local Planning Officers and I suspect that all of them will also feel badly let down by the Town Council. At that meeting, residents expressed very many and varied reasons why permission should be refused including encroachment into green wedge land, risk of flooding down Woodham Burn, loss of wildlife habitat, traffic problems along Middridge Road and dangerous and poor access to the site amongst the myriad of objections raised. It was at this meeting, that the Town Council suddenly

Surgeries Need Car Parks

Dear Sir,
The extension to the Medical Centre at Pease Way is just another example of putting the cart before the horse and poor planning. It should have been obvious before they started how many more people would need parking facilities. It doesn't seem reasonable to expect people who are ill to walk to receive treatment and they may be annoyed enough to look for a doctors surgery where parking is available.
J.M. Gowland

VALUABLE SERVICE

Dear Sir,
Just a quick note to let you know how well your article on Indian Visa photographs went. The response was really good with over a dozen people coming in to the shop for their special size visa photos. Many of them had tried elsewhere and were concerned they could not find someone who could do the necessary sizes. I expect to have more people coming in over the coming weeks. Once again thanks for your help.
Stephen Holmes
Aycliffe Framers

announced that they were withdrawing their previous support for the application, presumably recognising that the Woodham residents had made very strong and valid arguments. So what has changed? The latest application has certainly been watered down a bit from the last one but all of the issues previously raised remain relevant. Residents are becoming rather weary of the continuing need to oppose successive planning applications for this site and it is time that, once and for all, the owners are told that further encroachment into the green and woodland areas at the edge of our town is unacceptable, particularly when there are so many brown field sites still available in the area. The question arises, do our Town Councillors really represent the residents who voted for them and take any serious account of their views or are there some other more mysterious reasons why the Town Council should show such inconsistency by reversing their previous decisions so frequently?
Yours sincerely
Woodham Resident
Name & address supplied

Apocalypse Now!

Dear Sir,
This Tory government has already significantly damaged the life opportunities of ordinary young people by its changes to EMA and tuition fees. It has hammered particularly the poorest families with a VAT increase and benefit cuts. Now we brace ourselves for a Tory government cut of £120million in County Council spending. Apart from the impossible pressure that this places on front-line adults' and children's

Make Use of Our Railway Line

Dear Sir,
We don't make much use of this area's deep involvement of the railway. We have a super museum at Shildon with something for everyone. The Heritage line passes through Newton Aycliffe and Heighington Station where the first Locomotion was put on the lines in 1825. The pub of the same name was until the late 50's a main parcel office for the industrial estate. At one time a railway line ran over the Blue Bridge possibly serving the ammunition factories on the estate. The single line we now have continues to Darlington and Bank Top Station from where you can catch a train to almost anywhere in the UK. I think we should introduce a steam train journey along the Heritage Line. There are many points of interest and beautiful countryside along the route which would attract tourists and rail enthusiasts.
J. M. Gowland

services, does Samantha Mitchell realise that this will involve a pro-rata cut to the funding of every community group which the County Council supports? Meanwhile, the County Council expects to have to lose 1600 jobs in the next four years. One wonders where our young people are going to find jobs when the County's biggest employer will not be taking on ANY new entrants for the next FOUR years. And are these cuts being made fairly, in a 'we're-all-in-this-together way'? Of course not! Durham, the poorest county, is getting one of the biggest cuts; down south (surprise, surprise) the Tory Council of Dorset is actually getting an increase in funding! At the same time, the government continues to delay the decision on Hitachi, and thus to deprive us of the opportunity even to work out our own salvation. And that is before you even begin to consider the cataclysmic effect it would have on this County if the government gets its wish to abolish Business Rate redistribution and recalculate the Barnard formula. Does Samantha Mitchell even understand what I am talking about? Probably not because, according to her, politics is boring. If she had asked why we are not organising a march on Parliament, what she might do personally to protest the cuts, or why it is that information on these issues dribbles down through a smokescreen of Tory lies in a right-wing press, I might have had some sympathy. But she just wants me to shut up. These are people who can't recognise the Apocalypse when the Horsemen are riding over the horizon.
John D Clare

Thanks to Blood Donors

Dear Sir
I would like to thank all our blood and platelet donors for making a special effort to give blood during the severe winter weather and over the festive period. We never take the generosity and commitment of our volunteer donors for granted and appreciate everyone who took the time and in some busy times were willing to wait to donate. As a result blood stocks across all blood groups remained strong over the period and have now quickly returned to healthy levels. While availability of all blood types remained good during the bad weather, we made a special appeal for O negative donors as maintaining good availability of group O negative is particularly important as it can be given safely in emergencies to patients of any blood group. Thanks to a fantastic response we collected a record amount of 1,119 units of O negative blood on Wednesday, 22 December - the highest number collected in a single day since 2000. Anyone interested in becoming a blood or platelet donor can call 0300 123 23 23 or visit www.blood.co.uk. First time donors should be aged between 17-65, weighing at least 50 kg (7 stone 12lbs) and in general good health. If you've donated before, you can start again up to your 70th birthday and there is no upper age limit for donors who have donated in the last two years.
Yours faithfully
Jon Latham
Assistant Director of Blood Donation

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COUNTY COUNCIL OPEN THE BOOKS

Every council's New Year's resolution must be to open up their finance books to the public, Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles said as he kicked off a countdown to the January deadline for putting spending data online.

Ministers have been clear that councils need to show they have done everything possible to reduce waste and duplication to save taxpayers' money before considering frontline services. The local government settlement is helping those most reliant on grants.

Six months ago Mr Pickles wrote to all councils calling on them to throw open their files to make local government spending more transparent and show waste is being eradicated. Research by credit experts Experian has revealed that town halls could be wasting nearly £150m on duplicate payments.

The call for greater transparency includes publishing details of senior pay, councillor expenses, minutes of meetings, and any useful frontline service data of interest to residents or entrepreneurs. Local Authorities now only have until the end of January to get all of their spending data over £500 published online in accessible formats.

The minister's department is leading the way with all its spending over £500 already up online. In addition it is keeping a close watch on councils, logging progress on a public timeline on its website. A code of practice is due to be published shortly.

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles said: "New Year is traditionally a time when the country sets its goals for the year ahead. In 2011 I would like to see every council make their New Year's resolution to cut more waste and fully open their books up to public scrutiny. "Councils have shown they're not afraid to be transparent and I applaud them. Openness is an essential part of a proper modern democracy. The taxpayer has a right to see where their money is being spent, to point out waste and decide local priorities."

The list of council that have put their spending data online is at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/>

The letter to councils encouraging them to throw open their files and alongside spending info publish a wide range of data online included the following five issues:

INFORMATION on senior salaries, names and job descriptions.

COUNCILLOR allowances and expenses; minutes and papers of council meetings

JOB vacancies that will enable people to see why council wage bills are so high and how many of the positions are for key local services

FRONTLINE service data - including rubbish and recycling rates, council tax collection rates and detail of major planned projects

DATA such as food hygiene reports for food outlets - information which is routinely collected and of interest to residents, but not currently shared in an easily accessible format.

Durham County Council is on the list of participants.

Quality Award for Durham Record Office

A service that has helped hundreds of schoolchildren learn about their history has received national recognition.

Durham County Record Office has been awarded the Learning outside the Classroom (LotC) Quality Badge.

The award recognises those organisations that provide a high quality learning experience for youngsters outside of school.

The record office holds a wide range of archives relating to the history and heritage of County Durham, including maps, diaries and parish records.

It provides tailored learning sessions for groups of all ages and in recent years has run workshops on topics as diverse as the Tudors, the Suffragettes and local history as well as covering subjects including art, history and science.

The LotC Quality Badge was launched in 2009 as part of a national initiative to ensure children have as many opportunities as possible to learn in interesting and exciting environments outside the classroom.

In order to gain the badge, providers must meet a set of six quality indicators, which cover both the visit itself and the clarity of the information provided to teaching staff.

Dawn Layland, Record Office education archivist, said: "It's really great to be recognised in this way. "We've worked hard to build

up our education services and to make each visit an enjoyable and worthwhile experience for both pupils and teachers.

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MODERN 3 bedroom town house in Woodham to let. Rent £650 per month, available March. For details Tel 07724 314498

3 BEDROOM house to let in Hutton Place, Newton Aycliffe. Rent £500, admin £300. Tel 07724 314498

5 BEDROOM detached house with conservatory in Shildon to rent. £600 per month, bond and references required. Tel 01325 307445

LOVELY PART furnished 3 bedroom detached house with garage, Hamsterley Road, Newton Aycliffe for rent £625 pcm. Please contact Paul on 07876 752 406 if interested.

HEDLEY CLOSE smart, spacious, 3 bedroom house. DSS welcome. Tel 07760 225 555

Congratulations



Kevin Palmer

Happy 50th Birthday
12th February 1961
All our love, Mam, Dad, Linda, David, Kathryn, Dorothy, Ruby, John, Milly and Daisy xxxx



Ava Louise Hickey

Happy 1st Birthday
15th February 2011
Our special little girl. Lots of love, Mammy, Daddy, Adam and Liam



Shirley Kennedy

49+
13th February 2011
Lots of love from Mom, Sean and Family



Becca Ingman

Happy 16th Birthday
Love From Mam, Dad, Andrew and Chloe xx
Happy 16th Birthday
Becca
Love Mark and Hayley xx

JACOB DOONEY Happy 13th birthday Son. Love, Dad, Nikki, Liam, Finley and Faye

KATH BENNETT 11th February 2011. Happy 70th birthday Mam. Have a wonderful day. Love from Helen and Sandy xxxx

KATH BENNETT 11th February 2011. Happy 70th birthday Kath. All my love, Ben xxx

KATHLEEN BENNETT 11th February 2011. Happy 70th birthday Kathleen. Love always, From Mary and family xxx

KATH BENNETT Lots of love and best wishes Kath on your 70th birthday. From Trish, Dave and family xxx

KATH BENNETT Happy 70th birthday Kath. Love from Jean and family xxx

KASIA TEGAN SHAW Happy 11th birthday. So far you have seen JLS at the Arena in the groove. Then on your birthday you will be watching Flawless dance their moves. My little treasure you are so special and so loving too. Hope the rest of the year is as good for you. Love you, love you 2-10, Auntie Pamela xxx

MATT ALDER Happy 18th birthday. Hope you have a good one. Love you always, Mam and Maddie xxx

MATT ALDER Happy 18th birthday. The drinks are on your Mam. Love from the Carlton gang xxx

Obituary

HEWISON on 4th February, peacefully in hospital, Angela (Ann), aged 86 years. Devoted Wife of the late Rob, a much loved Mum or Bob, Mel and Marshall and beloved Mother-in-Law, Gran and Great Gran. Friends please meet for Funeral Service on Monday 14th February, 12.00pm at St Clare's Church, prior to private interment. Family flowers only by request, donations may be made in lieu to Muscular Dystrophy

JOHN ROBERT HODGSON Died 3rd February in Darlington Memorial Hospital. A loving Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. Funeral Service at St Clare's Church on Monday 14th February, 9.45am. Private cremation at Darlington

Indian Restaurant Donate Draw Prize



The Management and staff of The Bengal Lounge Indian Restaurant at Woodham who have donated a meal voucher for the Rotary Club Community Draw. The winner can be assured of the most excellent Indian Cuisine served in a very pleasant atmosphere with friendly attentive waiters. Ring 301066 to book your next meal out or for a takeaway.

Let them know you are thinking about them

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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

or via email directly to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

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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 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!

Aycliffe FC Look After Refs

Newton Aycliffe have got match officials on side with a brand new £3,000 changing facility at their developing ground. The Newtonians have carried out a number of ground improvements in the last 12 months since their promotion to the Northern League in 2009.

League referees have given the new changing room the thumbs up, while Aycliffe have again been praised by the Northern League for their high standards.

Referee Chris Keightley is pictured (centre) with his assistants Ian Enderwick (left) and Ste Shaw in Aycliffe's new changing room for match officials.

League chairman Mike Amos said: "Newton Aycliffe FC have already made substantial ground improvements since joining the Northern League and the new referees' room is further evidence of the club's determination to do everything to a high standard."

Aycliffe chairman Gary Farley added: "This is just the latest in a long line of ground improvements we've made in the last 18 months or so and we have more planned over the coming months to further enhance the ground."

Aycliffe are currently having a second new stand erected alongside their all-seater stand which was installed just under a year ago. They're also planning to invest in a new portacabin to host visiting guests and officials.



FIXTURES

Saturday 12th February: Horden CW (H), 3pm
 Wednesday 16th February: Crook (H), 7.30pm, Div 2 Cup
 Saturday 19th February: Whitehaven (A), 3pm
 Wednesday 23rd February: Crook (A), 7.30pm
 Saturday 26th February: Northallerton (A), 3pm
 Friday 4th March: Darlington RA (H), 7.30pm
www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk

Aycliffe's promotion bandwagon continued last weekend with another thumping win – this time a hugely-impressive victory at one of the division's top form sides.

Eighth-placed Hebburn Town had been rejuvenated by a glut of new signings and a five-match winning streak. But Allan Oliver's side steamrolled the South Tyneside outfit with an avalanche of second-half goals.

Aycliffe's hopes of progressing in the League Cup were dashed this week when they were beaten at local rivals Spennymoor Town on Tuesday night.

The Newtonians bravely took the current first division champions to extra-time in the third round tie at Brewery Field, with Mickie's second-half strike cancelling out Spenny's opener.

But the home side grew in confidence as Aycliffe tired in extra-time and bagged four goals to humble the visitors 5-1, although the final score didn't reflect the original 90 minutes.

Aycliffe face Horden at home this weekend followed by a home tie against neighbours Crook Town next Wednesday night at Moore Lane Park, in the second round of the Ernest Armstrong Memorial Division Two Cup.

LOCAL SPORT

Sibling Swimmers Qualify for Nationals

Sister and Brother Hayley and Matthew Bradley from Bishop Auckland have again qualified for the National Schools Biathlon final in Crystal Palace.

After success in the heats at Hexham in October both went on to compete at the semi-finals in Macclesfield on 30th January 2011.

Hayley aged 15 a year 11 pupil at Durham High School for Girls competed in freezing conditions completing the 1000 metre run in a time of 3 minutes and 27 seconds. She went into the swimming event placed 6th.

After an excellent swim, completing 100 metre freestyle in 1 minute and 4.14 seconds, she increased her placing to 3rd and this gained her automatic qualification for the finals. Hayley achieved a personal best time for her swim.

Her younger brother Matthew aged 12 a year 8 pupil at St. John's Roman Catholic School in Bishop Auckland followed on from his Sister's success. Matthew completed his 1000 metre run in 3 minutes and 22 seconds. This placed him 9th going into the swimming event.

Matthew swam the 100 metres freestyle in a staggering 58.50 seconds and this placed him

in 1st place and he gained automatic qualification for the finals in the year 8 boys. Matthew also achieved a personal best for his swim and gained a medal for "best swim" at the event.

Hayley and Matthew are competitive swimmers and are members of Sedgfield 75 Amateur Swimming Club, based in Newton Aycliffe.

QUAKERS CUT TICKET PRICES FOR HOME TIE

Darlington are again offering cut-price cup tickets for their FA Trophy quarter-final tie against Salisbury later this month.

Quakers will entertain the Southern League Premier Division club on Saturday February 26 after beating Telford in the third round on Saturday.

Tickets for the game at the Northern Echo Arena will be priced £10 adults and £5 concessions (over-60s and under-16s) and will be available from February 9th at the Northern Echo Arena main reception and from the ticket office on match days.

Season ticket holders have until 5pm on Wednesday February 23rd to buy their usual seat.

INTERACTIVE EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY GROUPS



Pro Energy is going on tour. It's first ever touring venue will be at Vane Road Primary School from Monday 14th February until 18th February. This is wonderful opportunity for the Primary students to explore healthy eating in a fun and interactive way. The Pro Energy installation was created by students from year 9 and 10 at Greenfield School Community and Arts College, Newton Aycliffe with support from Falling Cat (Kit Haigh, Amada Drago and Mona McCarthy, Julie Sutherland - School Health Team and project managed by Katy Milne).

The group explored 'energy in' (what we eat) and 'energy out' (the activity we do) for over 6 months, used new technologies and the idea of interactive games to create this interactive, exciting and engaging installation. The group have developed a resource pack which accompanies the installation, offering ways in which it can be used to help explore health issues.

This equipment is available to schools and groups. Contact Katy Milne: Community Arts Co-ordinator (Greenfield Arts Centre) katy.milne@greenfieldschool.net - 01325 307 147

Comments from youngsters: "It really helps our teamwork. We have helped each other to learn about different food groups" aged 11 - "I really enjoyed playing the games and learning about a healthy diet" aged 10 - "I have enjoyed the installation games and the teamwork" aged 10 - "I will use these skills in drama club and in running in PE" aged 9

BARGAIN BUYS

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WASHING MACHINE

- 8kg Load
- 1400 Spin
- Free Installation
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YOUR ENVIRONMENT NEEDS YOU!

MASTER COMPOSTERS WANTED

Durham County Council is running a recruitment drive with a difference, as the hunt for new master composters gets underway.

The Master Composters are a group of enthusiastic volunteers working together to try and involve as many people as possible in home composting and share information on the benefits that can be reaped.

The council's Master Composter Volunteer Scheme was established in May 2009 by the strategic waste management team who are now searching for new members to join the group. Waste strategy and policy officer Rachel Gatland says there are lots of reasons to get involved: "By becoming a Master Composter you will meet like-minded people, get the chance to be part of a really enthusiastic team and learn new skills that will benefit yourself, your local community and the environment."

"We offer free training and to qualify you just need to be over 18, keen and green!"

The Cabinet member for the strategic environment is Cllr Bob Young: "The Master Composters do a fantastic job, out and about all over the county and inspiring residents of all ages with everything from bug hunts to hands on demonstrations."

"By encouraging more people to get involved in home composting and offering expert advice on how to get the best out of it, they are also doing an important job in reducing the amount of biodegradable

waste going to landfill, making a valuable contribution to the local environment."

To further boost the message County Durham residents can get a discounted home compost bin until March 31st.

Order online at www.durham.getcomposting.com or call 0845 130 60 90. The offer is limited to two bins per household. The price for a 220 litre bin is £3.00 and a 330 litre bin is £7 + £5 delivery. To find out more about volunteering contact Strategic Waste Management on 0191 383 5674 or email wasteaware@durham.gov.uk

CASH 4 CLOTHES

40p per kilo

Help the environment and your pocket, convert your unwanted clothing, shoes, handbags, sheets, curtains, towels into cash. Simply sort your clean dry clothing etc. into bags and call or text and I will ring you to arrange collection at a time to suit you. We are a polite, friendly local business. Clear out your wardrobes and make money

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- We Pay
- At a time to suit you

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