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Bumper Draw Social Night

Tickets for the Rotary Club Bumper Draw Night at the British Legion on Thursday 7th April are now on sale. In addition to the Draw with prizes valued at over £3,000, the British Legion are providing 3 top entertainers: Tori Summer, Reece Alexander and Chris Atkins. There will also be Bingo and Tombola. A Pie & Peas Supper is included in the admission price of only £5 per ticket. Tickets are available from The British Legion, Newton Press Offices on the Business Park and Walkers Butchers, Simpasturegate. Tickets are limited so get yours early to avoid disappointment.

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Sat: Roast Beef Dinner
Sun: Roast Pork Dinner

Call Ian or Lesley on **01325 300203** to arrange your Delivery

CIVIC DINNER RAISED £2100 FOR CHARITY



The Annual Town Council Charity Civic Dinner was hosted by the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Dorothy Bowman, on Friday, 18th February 2011 at the Hall Garth Hotel & Country Club, Coatham Mundeville. Entertainment was by 'Chyrelle Addams' and Dancing to music by 'John Melvin'. The fundraising at the event was in aid of the Mayor's nominated Charities during her year in office and this year the Mayor has chosen the 'Chyrelle Addams Breast Cancer Trust' and 'Wear Valley Women's Aid', based in Bishop Auckland. The event was a huge success and a special thanks must go to Barclays Bank who match funded the evening. A total amount of £2,100 was raised from the Tombola, Raffle, Bottle Draw and Match Funding. The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe also made a donation of £500 towards the Mayor's Charities and this was presented to Councillor Mrs.

Bowman by their President, Mr. Barry Hutchinson. Councillor Mrs. Bowman would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported the event by supplying prizes or, indeed, attending the event. Special thanks must go to friends and fellow Councillors for their generous help with the fundraising and also to the following companies who gave their support on numerous occasions: Husqvarna UK Ltd., Barclays Bank, Hall Garth Hotel & Country Club, Durham County Cricket Club, Sunderland AFC, Heineken/Newcastle Breweries, Boots Chemist and Savers.

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Class 4 at St. Mary's Primary School have taken inspiration from their church's Jubilee Quilt and have made one of their own.

At the beginning of the term their RE topic was 'Books'. They talked about their favourite books, as well as books in the bible and chose some of their favourite stories.

Mrs Clausen, their class teacher, who was involved with the Jubilee Quilt, helped the children to create a picture out of fabric to represent these stories from both the old and new testament, and sewed them to together to make a fabulous quilt.

It was going to be hung on the back of the piano, but the children's efforts were so great that it is now going to take pride of place in the entrance hall of school.

Well done Class 4!

NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

A 6 week course on Dog Obedience starts soon at the Centre. If you are interested in joining ring 313924. Only 6 dogs per class run by Lesley Thompson.

Coming shortly - Zumba Dance Exercise each Monday starting 4th April at 7.30pm.

Major Rotary Raffle with over £3000 worth of prizes. Please assist us by selling tickets as we receive half the ticket sale money.

Please note we need your unwanted goods to sell on our stalls to help funds. Bric-a-brac, books, DVD's etc. etc.

We need a microphone if anyone has one to donate.

If you served in Her Majesty's Forces including National Service you are eligible to receive the Veterans Badge. A special Parade is being organised at the centre with presentations made by Deputy Lieutenant Colonel James Ransbotham.

We are looking for a volunteer pianist to play wartime tunes on the day prior to the presentation and during afternoon tea. Ring 313924.

New Bingo Club starts Wednesday 2nd March at 1-2.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Speaker from Oz at Xcel

This Sunday, February 27th, Xcel Church in Newton Aycliffe will be hosting internationally renowned speaker, author, leader and motivator Jane Evans of Paradise Community Church, Adelaide. She has a passionate desire to influence the lives of others and with wisdom beyond her years, Jane is able to communicate powerfully and dynamically to people of all ages.

She and her husband, Ashley, host their own TV show which is broadcast to tens of millions of homes across Australia six times a week.

Jane will be speaking at Xcel's 6pm Service and admission is free. You do not want to miss this straight-talking Aussie girl!

For more information, please visit www.xcelchurch.com or call 0845 450 5871

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ASSAD CELEBRATES 1st ANNIVERSARY



Assad the new owner of Mancinis at Woodham is celebrating his first year in his own business, but brings 20 years of experience in catering and believes the proof of the food is in the eating. His Pizzas are all hand made with rich delicious sauces which set the taste buds racing. To help with the credit crunch Mancinis are offering special value-for-money offers, but there will be no short cuts on quality. "We aim to provide superior quality food using fresh ingredients to gain complete customer satisfaction" said Assad.

Assad brought his family from Iran to the North East in 1975. He worked as an Electrical Engineer for 5 years before moving into catering. He is married to Susan and they have a son and daughter.

Ordering your Pizzas and Kebabs is easy whether by telephone or from the website (see advert on this

page) You can collect or for a small extra charge have your order delivered to your door.

The new owner is building a good reputation for fine food bringing a taste of Italy to your doorstep. Assad invites you to join his growing number of satisfied customers.

Appeal for Witnesses & Information

Between 3.40pm-4.30pm on Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17th February a female aged between 12-16 years old attended the Ramsey Place area of the town collecting money for charity.

This girl had no appropriate identification or supporting documents therefore believed to be suspicious. The girl was described as white, slim build, long hair tied in a pony tail, wearing a bright coloured top, black skirt with black tights and calf length boots.

On each occasion the girl had with her a dog on a lead similar to a greyhound or whippet cross. The dog was also wearing a jacket. If any persons have any information in relation to the incidents, or identification of the female, please contact PC 1452 Thompson or PCSO 7044 Hodgson at Newton Aycliffe Police on Tel 0345 60 60 365. PC1452 Thompson

POLICE SUCCESS ON YOUTH OFFENDING INITIATIVES

Durham Police Authority has welcomed a report by County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) on the Pre-Reprimand Disposal Scheme (PRD), an innovative solution to reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system and reduce re-offending – unique to the Durham Constabulary area.

Led by CDYOS and Durham Constabulary, the Pre-Reprimand Disposal was introduced in May 2008, initially for young people aged 10 to 14 to provide early intervention and prevent further offending.

Interventions include family support and restorative measures.

The PRD has now been extended to include young people up to 18. Young people are on police bail until the PRD is completed.

The PRD has been developed within existing resources and has the support of all partners in the Children's Trust, the Safe Durham Partnership and the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB).

The initiative has seen some impressive results:

71% reduction in first time entrants to the youth justice

system between 2007/08 and 2009/10.

50% reduction in the number of young people re-offending and the rate of re-offending for those receiving a PRD (compared to a Police Reprimand).

98% of PRDs successfully completed with full engagement of young people, parents and carers.

80% of young people receiving a PRD engaged in 25 hours of education, training or employment by the end of the intervention.

Delivered within existing resources.

THANKS FOR HELPING

The Primary Children of The Church of Latter Day Saints wish to thank all those who contributed to their "Pennies for Africa" campaign.

This enabled them to present a cheque for £314 to the West Africa Trust as reported in last week's edition of Newton News.

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Young People Learn Money Management

Phil Wilson MP this week joined young people from DISC in Newton Aycliffe to take part in an interactive workshop using six fictional characters to learn about money management and balancing budgets. Barclays Money Skills is an interactive financial literacy programme developed by

Trading Standards and delivered in partnership with Barclays, which has so far enabled over 25,000 young people across the North of England to become more financially literate and able to take control of their finances. The resource is a fun way for young people to develop

the skills that are so vital in the world of finance and banking. The boxes open to reveal six characters whose stereotypical lifestyles enable young people to look at issues such as luxuries and necessities and how these might change over time, examine bank statements and terminology used, look at credit scoring and how their lifestyles and activities can be affected by a poor credit rating.

Phil Wilson said: "It's so important that young people understand money issues and it is great that Trading Standards and Barclays are working together to deliver money management skills through Barclays Money Skills workshops for the community." Joanne Waller, Head of Environment, Health and Consumer Protection, with Durham County Council, said: "At Trading Standards a large proportion of the complaints we receive relate to credit agreements."

"What is clear is that many of those consumers would have made different choices if they'd had more information and knowledge about what products were on the market. This is why it is so important that Trading Standards are active in the community, educating young people about the safe choices available."

Kelly Oliver, Senior Practitioner at DISC, said: "Barclays Money Skills provides a fun and interactive way of learning how to keep a track of our finances, choosing financial products and staying informed about financial matters." Barclays Money Skills is being delivered to Housing Associations, prisons, young offenders institutions, Children's Centres, local community groups and schools and colleges across the North of England. Please contact the team by email moneyskills@wyjs.org.uk or visit the website at www.ts.wyjs.org.uk



Villagers Unite to Fight Crime



A crime fighting partnership in the form of a new Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, has been launched in Aycliffe Village. Residents have formed a network throughout the village to combat crime and anti-social behaviour. The village which normally enjoys low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour suffered several criminal incidents towards the end of last year.

The new scheme will link homes throughout the village to the Police voice messaging system and is further evidence of the revived growth of the Neighbourhood Watch network.

There are many benefits for those involved, often including: reduced home insurance premiums; more secure neighbourhoods and the formation of closer links with neighbours, the police and their partners.

Durham Constabulary Community Liaison Officer Neil Langthorne said: "There was overwhelming support from residents for the new scheme in Aycliffe Village." He said: "We can all benefit and must not underestimate the power communities have to influence crime reduction and promote community safety within their respective neighbourhoods."

In the former Sedgfield Borough area, almost 25% of households are committed to Neighbourhood Watch, a figure which the Police are keen to see grow.

Roger Curtis a resident coordinator said "We see Aycliffe Village as a safe place and we see Neighbourhood Watch as a way of keeping it that way".

The new scheme was launched at the village hall on Saturday (19th Feb) and

was attended by the new scheme co-ordinators, Police Beat Officers and council wardens.

Movie + Pie & Peas Supper - £4

Woodham Movie Drome are holding a Pie and Peas Supper and Movie, at St Elizabeth's Church Hall Woodham on Tuesday 1st of March at 7pm.

The price of a ticket is £4 including tea or coffee. For more information and to confirm your booking, contact Brian on Aycliffe 319067 before Saturday 26th of February.

NEWTON AYCLIFFE YOUTH CENTRE

SESSION TIMETABLE

MONDAY
Health Drop-In (4-5pm)
8-11 Years (4.15-5.45pm)
Girls Group (6-8pm)

WEDNESDAY
Project Session (currently)
Babysitting Course (4-5.30pm)
Arts Award (6-8pm)

THURSDAY
Inters (4.30-6.30pm)
Boys Group (7-9pm)

FRIDAY
Seniors Drop-In (6.30-8.30pm)

SUNDAY
Duke of Edinburgh (6-8.30pm)

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Girls Hovercraft Challenge



A group of students from Woodham CTC recently took part in an Aim Higher project in Spennymoor. The group of year eleven girls took part in a group challenge to design and manufacture and race a Hovercraft with other students from across County Durham. The girls worked in groups of six to design, manufacture, present and race their prototypes

against the other teams. All students also looked into the idea of pursuing a career within Engineering

through the support and assistance of Leeds University Engineering Faculty.

OPEN EVENING AT COLLEGE

Bishop Auckland College will be holding an Open Evening on Thursday 10th March 2011 from 4.30pm – 7.00pm. Visitors can tour our fantastic facilities and get information and advice on courses and careers from our friendly experienced staff.

Everyone welcome.

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Village Hall Hub of the Community

Heighington Village Hall Association hold their AGM at the Village Hall on Tuesday 8 March at 7.00pm and are keen to welcome any villagers who would like to be involved and make a contribution towards the running and upkeep of the village hall.

There will be elections of Officers and Members of the Management Committee and members would be delighted to welcome along any villagers who would be interested in finding out how the Committee operates. Drinks and light refreshments will also be served.

The Village Hall is the hub of the community and a lot of hard work is put into the day to day running of the building so it can be there for ALL villagers to enjoy. Without the hard work of the Committee, who are all volunteers, the village hall would not be open - so every bit of support they can get is greatly appreciated.

Last year, with the support of a group of ladies from the village who did a fund-raising evening and were able to provide new mums with a nappy changing unit which was a great addition to our facilities. Without the

constant help of villagers like these ladies we would be struggling so perhaps you could be the next group of villagers to come up with some great fund-raising ideas? Do contact us if you can contribute a great idea - or if you would like to join our Committee.

Pauline Moses,
Hon Secretary

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

A Volkswagen Beetle car has been subject to repeated damage over the last 3 months at Fewston Close. This included various parts of the vehicle being stolen.

Overnight on Thursday 17th February 2011 the owner of the vehicle was awoken by her car window being smashed. Unknown persons have then ripped out the interior light of the car causing extensive damage.

If anyone has any information that may help with the ongoing investigation then please get in touch on 0345 60 60 365 or Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111

SPRING CRAFT FAIR AT PCP CENTRE

The Pioneering Care Centre is organising a Craft Fair on Saturday 12th March from 10am – 2pm and admission is free. The Centre is conveniently located at Cobblers Hall. Come and see the wide choice of hand made craft items on sale.

There will be over 30 stalls including jewellery, wood turning, cards, hand crafted gifts and a tombola. Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be available as well as delicious home made scones and cakes. With free parking and a popular, busy Coffee Shop, you will find everything here for a great Saturday out!

Also, collect details of our other events, activities and classes based around health, fitness and learning. Throughout the year the centre offers Massage, Hydrotherapy Pool Sessions, weekly Health Walks and Cycle Rides, Boxercise and Zumba classes to name but a few.

This is an ideal opportunity to meet up with friends over a cup of tea or coffee and take advantage of the many interesting objects on offer. Further information telephone 01325 321234 or email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net



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Pinewood Close, Newton Aycliffe, £187,999 - REDUCED
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Wynyard Court, Newton Aycliffe, £179,999 - NEW
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Coverdale Court, Newton Aycliffe, £169,999
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Sandown Drive, Woodham, £164,999 - NEW
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Cowdray Close, Newton Aycliffe, £149,999 - REDUCED
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Garsal Close, Newton Aycliffe, £147,999 - REDUCED
A three bed detached house, Popular area, G.C.H., D.G., Fitted Kitchen, Lounge/Dining room, Garage, Drive and Gardens.
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Bewick Crescent, Newton Aycliffe, £124,999
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Elwick Avenue, Newton Aycliffe, £123,999
An immaculate three bed semi detached house, G.C.H., D.G., Conservatory, Excellent fitted Kitchen, Garden, Garage and Drive - Viewing a must.
Lancet Close, Newton Aycliffe, £124,999 - NEW
A three bed semi detached house, G.C.H., D.G., Ideal family home, Close to local schools and bus route, Gardens and Garage. - No chain - Vacant possession
Rifas Green North, Newton Aycliffe, £104,999 - NEW
Ideal family home, four bed mid link, G.C.H., D.G., Garden area, Garage, Kitchen, Lounge, Downstairs W.C. - Viewing recommended.
Stead Close, Newton Aycliffe, £101,999 - REDUCED
A four bed semi detached, Ideal family home, G.C.H., D.G., Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Gardens, Patio area. - Viewing essential.

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Kendrew Close, Newton Aycliffe
£129,999
A well presented three bed semi detached house, Ideal for the growing family. Fitted kitchen, dining room and lounge, Downstairs W.C. and Utility room. G.C.H. and UPVC D.G. Gardens, garage and drive.



Mellanby Cres., Newton Aycliffe
£87,999
An immaculate two bed mid link, excellent fitted kitchen and bathroom. G.C.H. and UPVC D.G. Garden and patio. Popular location. Viewing essential, not to be missed.

Elsteb Close, Newton Aycliffe, from £114,999
Choice of two three bed semi detached house, G.C.H., D.G., Lounge, Kitchen, Gardens - ring for further details.
Kirkham Close, Woodham, £167,999 - NEW
A two bed semi detached, G.C.H., D.G., Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Space to the side of the house, Gardens, Drive - Vacant possession - No chain.
Silkin Way, Newton Aycliffe, £167,999
A three bed and Terrace, D.G., Lounge, Dining room, Gardens, Garage - Vacant possession and No chain
Pemberton Road, Woodham, £99,999 - NEW
A two bed semi detached house, G.C.H., D.G., Kitchen, Lounge, Garden, Larger than average Drive - No Chain - Vacant possession.
Rowan Place, Newton Aycliffe, £97,999
A four bed semi detached house, G.C.H., D.G., fitted Kitchen, Lounge/Dining room, Utility, Ideal family home, Garden and Garage.
Stead Close, Newton Aycliffe, Guide Price £94,999 - NEW
Ideal family home, five bed mid terrace, Plus Attic room, C.H., D.G., Conservatory, Kitchen, downstairs Shower room, Gardens. - Viewing essential.
Tunstall Road, Newton Aycliffe, £94,999
A three bed mid link, G.C.H., D.G., fitted Kitchen, Popular location, Close to amenities, Garden, Parking to the front if required. - Vacant possession.
Heatherburn Court, Woodham, £89,999
A three bed end link, G.C.H., D.G., fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Ideal for the F.T.B., Garden, Drive - Popular location
Moore Lane, Newton Aycliffe, £87,999
A two bed mid link house, G.C.H., D.G., Kitchen, Lounge, Utility, Ideal for the F.T.B., Garden. - Viewing recommended.
Elmfield Place, Newton Aycliffe, £79,999 - NEW
A well presented three bed mid link, G.C.H., D.G., Lounge, Dining room, Conservatory, Garden area. - Viewing recommended.
Bede Crescent, Newton Aycliffe, £79,999 - NEW
A top floor flat, two bed, Lounge/Dining room, Kitchen, Communal Garden, C.G., D.G., Intercom systems. - Viewing recommended.
Gregory Court, Newton Aycliffe, £79,999 - NEW
A refurbished ground floor flat, new Kitchen and Bathrooms, C.H., D.G., Garden area, Close to amenities. - No chain - Vacant possession.
Walsey Close, Newton Aycliffe, Guide Price £69,999
A three bed end terrace, Requires works, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining room, G.C.H., Garden. - No chain - Vacant possession.
Skillin Road, Newton Aycliffe, from £69,999 - NEW
Choice of two, Lounge, Dining room, Kitchen, Gardens, Ideal for the F.T.B. - No chain
Lyon Walk, Newton Aycliffe, £47,999 - REDUCED
Two bed first floor flat, C.H., D.G., Minimum age 55 years - please ring for further details.

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PRE-SEASON CRICKET TRAINING

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club begin pre-season training with a 4 week session of indoor nets at Greenfield School. The net practices, which will be primarily for both the first and second teams and the under 18's and under 15's teams, will start on Sunday 6th March from 9.30am until 11.00am and all new and old members are invited to attend. This may be the last season that the club's senior

teams play in the North East Durham League as we have been accepted by the prestigious North Yorkshire and South Durham League to join them for the 2012 season, subject to a vacancy. Anybody interested in playing cricket this season or has any queries regarding the club's activities should contact Secretary Lee Weldon on 07759 754959 for more details.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 9th March 2011
Full Council
at 7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

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

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".

Half A Million Visitors in 8 Months

The Newton News website continues to increase in popularity and since it opened in June last year we have received over half a million visits. We have 1137 members and carry 2,144 local stories (as of 18th February 2011). This is a tremendous achievement in 8 months and we will build on this success with new useful additions. We already have 59 local businesses linked to our site and elsewhere there is great interest in our archives showing copies of Newton News and the Newtonian going back to the 1950's. We are very proud of our success and thank all our readers for the support they show for their community newspaper.

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Woodham Students Compete for Tallent Apprenticeship



A group of Year 11 students from Woodham Community Technology College are preparing their applications to take part in an exciting and challenging programme to demonstrate their potential and readiness for the world of work.

Thyssenkrupp Tallent will be putting students through their paces in a scheme similar to the television series "The Apprentice". The company trialled the programme to recruit a new apprentice at the College for the first time last year. It was such a success that it has been decided to repeat the process this year.

The students will be set industrial tasks, and will have to work together in groups to find solutions. Their assignments begin at Woodham early in March when they will make presentations to the TK Tallent panel. They will be expected to work under pressure and complete tasks within set deadlines. A final day of presentations will take place at TK Tallent

on 13th April. The student who has most impressed the TK Tallent panel with the quality and standard of their work throughout the process, will be hired as "The Apprentice", the winner will be announced in early May.

Jonathan Lumb, Deputy Headteacher said "this is a wonderful opportunity for students to apply their skills and demonstrate their future potential to Thyssenkrupp. The opportunity of a real apprenticeship at the end of the process is a huge and very rewarding incentive to all involved."

Good luck to all students.

Xcel Expect Full House for Conference

Xcel Church, have spent the past year settling into their purpose-built home on the Aycliffe Business Park. The new multi-million pound centre became a necessity after the thriving church rapidly outgrew its old building in Woodham Village, and March may see the main auditorium, capable of holding up to 1,200 people, filled to capacity again as the Church holds its annual INFLUENCE Conference. Churches from all around the UK are eagerly registering their congregations for a weekend of faith building, inspirational messages from special guest speakers, Pastor Clive Urquhart of Kingdom Faith Church in Horsham and Pastor Dave Gilpin of Hope City Church, Sheffield.

Music will be provided by Xcel's in-house worship team and singer-songwriter

Philippa Hanna. The overriding theme of the weekend will be 'Building Local Church', the focus being on how the Church as a whole can make a positive contribution to 21st century society.

The Conference kicks off on the evening of Friday March 4th, and continues all weekend, culminating with Xcel's regular Sunday Services at 11am and 6pm. The Church's thriving kid's ministry 'Planetkids' will spend the weekend hosting their very own Neverland themed conference for children aged between 3 and 11.

Registration is open to everyone and further details can be found at www.xcelchurch.com. Places are still available and you can book in by calling the Church office on 0845 450 5871.

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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 photo; 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

Relief for Pain Sufferers

Sally McDowall now offers the Bowen Technique Therapy at Langton Medical Training, Bede House, St Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe.

Bowen Therapy is a gentle non invasive hand's on therapy which consists of a series of rolling moves over specific muscles, ligaments and tendon's, it is very subtle and very relaxing as there is no hard tissue manipulation. Treatments are performed through light clothing, costs £30, and last approximately 1 hour.

Many conditions which respond well to Bowen Therapy are sports injuries, bad backs, frozen shoulders, plus many more. Further details can be found at www.bowennortheast.co.uk or telephone 07790 081283 to discuss or arrange an appointment.

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Review of Community Alarm Service

Cabinet members are being asked to note proposed changes to the Community Alarm Service across County Durham.

The valuable service has been provided in County Durham for over 20 years and gives users, mostly older or disabled people, a pendant or pull cord which can be activated to summon help following a fall or trip, for example.

There are currently over 17,000 users across the county and Durham County Council plans to carry out a review to ensure it is receiving value for money from the service and to ensure it continues to support vulnerable people in the best way possible.

Telecare contracts, consisting of equipment and services that support safety and independence in the home, were introduced in 2006 and will be considered alongside the Community

Alarm Service as the two are so closely linked.

An initial consultation showed the current service is highly valued by both service users and the professionals involved in their care and support.

The service is delivered in house by Care Connect and a review group will consider future procurement options to ensure the best possible service in the future.

The review group consists of representatives from the council's Adults, Wellbeing and Health Service, Housing Service, Adult Care and NHS County Durham and Darlington.

A three month public consultation process will take place, starting next month, giving those with an interest in the service the chance to have their say.

Look out for more details on the consultation on the council's website: www.durham.gov.uk

NEWTONIAN CLIMBS KILIMANJARO FOR BHF

I left England for Tanzania and Mount Kilimanjaro on the 29th January, expecting the trek to be the greatest challenge I had faced and it did not disappoint me. It was great to be trekking with a good group of people, all with different reasons for wanting to climb this mountain.

I wanted to raise as much money as I could for the British Heart Foundation as they have done so much for heart disease research and surgery.

The part of the trek that I knew would cause the most discomfort was the increase in altitude of 1000m between each camp. Most trekkers suffered at some point of altitude sickness symptoms, the guides chants of 'pole, pole' slowly, slowly, were heeded by all.

No one was allowed to pass the front guide and we were kept together, worked as a team and supported each other, building up some very strong friendships along the way. The whole experience

was fantastic, the guides and porters, the magnificent scenery, sunrises and the camaraderie all came together to make this unforgettable.

Our guide ensured we were all prepared for the summit night, training us on our acclimatisation days and never letting us lose sight of what we were there to achieve.

We left the camp Kibo at 11pm, climbing through the darkness with our head torches lit, walking so slowly all wrapped up against the biting cold, but it was a sustainable pace and like the tortoise and the hare we did pass those who had stormed ahead in other groups.

After six days of trekking, all 21 of the British Heart

Foundation group reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, Uhuru Peak at 5895m (19,340ft). The wind was howling and tears were freezing on people's faces. I was there to see the sun rise over Africa, looking down on Mawenzi Peak which had been towering over us for days.

It was a very special moment. And it was a time to think of those people who had supported me and those people I have known who are no longer here.

The strength of support I felt with me up the mountain gave me the courage and strength to complete this challenge which was amazing!

Thank you
Lesley Thompson



Lib Dem Proposals for County Budget

Durham County Council Liberal Democrat Group today unveiled their proposals to support hard-pressed families across the county as part of the Council's Budget Setting Meeting on Wednesday this week.

In particular the Liberal Democrats will be proposing:

- Scrapping County Durham News, which is little more than a Council propaganda sheet,
- Stopping Labour's proposed scrapping of the Welfare Rights Unit,
- Stopping Labour's proposed cut in grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) in County Durham, and
- A package to subsidise home to school/college transport for over 16s travelling more than 3 miles to study.

Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Councillor Nigel Martin, said: "While Liberal Democrats understand the need to find substantial savings to help deal with the country's massive financial deficit left by Labour, I am dismayed by the approach taken by Labour at County Hall.

"Instead of looking at priorities, Labour has taken the simplistic approach of trying to find similar cuts across all the main service groupings.

"Liberal Democrats recognise that times will be hard for very many people across the County and we will try to maintain support for those in particular difficulty.

"The Welfare Rights Unit has

a national reputation for the work it does and brings in millions a year in additional benefits that not only support those in need but also the local economy.

"CAB has an increasing workload at the moment and the last thing we should be doing is pulling the rug out from under it.

"In addition, continuing a level of support to sixth form and college students must be right at this time.

"Surely it is much better to use scarce resources for these things rather than spending money on a council propaganda sheet of little or no value to hard-pressed citizens of County Durham.

"And there are other things that can be done.

"Other Councils, including Lib Dem run Sheffield, have come to agreements with staff on pay restraint that have both protected low pay staff and minimised the risk of redundancies. In Durham nothing has been attempted.

"On top of all this, Labour is now only just revealing the true nature of their cuts with Leisure Centre closures being announced in the press before Councillors in areas affected had been told. This is something we shall be challenging as Labour's cuts go through.

"Labour in County Durham seems to know the cost of everything but has lost sight of both the value of key services and of Council staff. Liberal Democrats aim to redress the balance."

Agnew Centre NEWS

Agnew Community Centre is proud to welcome ex Middlesbrough and Darlington professional footballer Dale Anderson [a Newtonian] and Anderson Sports Development to the centre to launch and run its new under 8's foundation football club

Children can come along and enjoy fundamentals and fun with football and as with all ASD courses the building of confidence, self esteem and the wellbeing of children

being paramount. Parents are not forgotten and will have a separate room in which light refreshments will be available at low prices and a free quiz with prizes for the winners along with education from the staff on a whole raft of sports issues.

Club session information:

Mondays

4.30-5.30 for ages 4 & 5.

5.30-6.30 for ages 6 & 7

First sessions starts Monday 7th March for 6 weeks

Price £15 per child for the 6 weeks.

To download a registration form and make payment please go to www.andersonsportsdevelopment.co.uk or ring Ron on 321504/301033 or mobile: 07749 236 853.

Tuesdays

6-7pm Aerobics Class

7-8pm Zumba Class just turn up on the night.

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Update your Free entry in the Newton Aycliffe Town Guide

Newton Press is revising the official Town Guide produced in co-operation with the Great Aycliffe Town Council. As in past issues, the publication will give comprehensive information relating to Newton Aycliffe and the immediate district, including an A-Z of the Business Park. The Guide will come with a street map of Newton Aycliffe. In an effort to help Town Organisations recruit more members, they may include details of their club, group or service FREE OF CHARGE.

(Please use BLOCK CAPITALS - Copy required by March 31st 2011)

Name of Organisation

Contact Name

Contact Telephone

Contact Email

Website Address

Contact Address

Meeting Day

Meeting Time

Meeting Venue

Brief description of Activities

Please hand your completed form in at our agents:
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your queries over the phone or
arrange to visit you at home.

Top Local Restaurant Supports Town Draw



The proprietors of “The County” in Aycliffe Village have donated a £50 Meal Voucher to the Rotary Bumper Community Draw adding to the growing list of fabulous prizes totalling well over £3,000. Tickets are on sale now and it is not too late for other town organisations to get involved earning half the money from sales of tickets for their own funds. You can't lose and everything else is organised by the Rotary Club who not only obtain the prizes but provide the tickets, registration of the draw and the general administration. They have also arranged the British Legion for the draw itself on Thursday, 7th April at 7.30pm with entertainment and supper.

FUN FITNESS FOR YOUNG WOMEN

Now is the time to start working on that beach body ready for summer with the launch of a wide variety of fitness classes this month. Women aged between 16 and 25 from across South Durham are being encouraged to get in shape with a diverse range of sports offering something for everyone from traditional activities such as squash to the latest dance craze. The sessions have been organised through Durham County Council's Young Women's Project in partnership with Sport England and County Durham and Darlington PCT. **Thursday:** Zumba Class 6.30pm to 7.30pm Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre **Saturday:** Squash Coaching 12.45pm to 1.45pm Oak Leaf Sports Complex Activities are led by fully trained instructors and are open to all abilities, block bookings are not necessary and women can attend one or several times as required. For more information on these sessions or to book a place call or text Marie Urwin on 07834 569 436.

The Future of Sport & Leisure

Modern well equipped sports centres offering wider activity options, investment in and better support for grassroots sports clubs and associations and better value for money. These are the driving forces at the heart of a brand new sport and leisure strategy which aims to get more people active in County Durham and will go before the council's Cabinet next week. (March 2)

Following extensive consultation with residents, partner organisations, schools and community sports providers last year Durham County Council is proposing a new way to deliver sport and leisure across the county. The aim - to broaden the range of activities on offer, increase the number of people participating (Target 0.5 per cent each year) and address the current over provision of Leisure Centres. The Council's Cabinet member for leisure is Cllr Bob Young: "We have reviewed what we have been providing because research and consultation has shown a clear trend away from indoor facilities and in favour of a wider range of outdoor activities. We have an over provision of sports halls located in the wrong places and in need of considerable investment, at the same time we have less people using these facilities and more seeking alternative ways to keep fit and have fun. "The consultation has demonstrated a need to move with times and find a new way forward with our partners to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and find better ways of meeting the needs of the harder to reach groups." Terry Collins is the Council's Director of Neighbourhood Services: "We, along with our partners are committed to increasing the number of people participating in a sport or leisure activity. Nowhere is this better illustrated than in our determination to deliver a £14.7m state-of-the-art pool and sports complex at the heart of Consett. Provision needs to be better situated and adapted through a host of methods, including more sports development, to fit the needs of the communities it serves."

As well as being asked to support the adoption of the new Strategy Cabinet will also be asked to approve a 3 month consultation designed to look at the current over provision of indoor sports facilities. A report to members outlines the need for the authority to address the number of under used facilities and to meet the challenge of a 25 per cent reduction in the sport and leisure budget, following major reductions in Government grants. For the Council's Leisure Services this equates to a saving of £3.5m over the next four years with nearly £1.5m of that within the next financial year (2011/12). The proposals, reflecting the central drivers for the sport and leisure strategy, explain how sites have been identified and how it could lead to £1m in savings.

Cllr Bob Young again: "Currently we have 19 indoor facilities which is significantly more than any other Council in the region and even with the proposed changes we would still have good provision. "We must find a way forward which meets the need to save money but also, and more importantly, offers fair and relevant access to a broader range of sports and activities to residents of all ages and abilities." Terry Collins again: "As well as addressing the changing trends reflected in the sport and leisure strategy, a consultation period would serve two main purposes. It would give groups, clubs and other organisations, currently using the facilities the chance to offer up alternatives to closure and give us the opportunity to ask people what they would like to see improved in the future." The recommendation is for Cabinet to approve consultation on the proposed closure of the following Leisure Centres: Abbey, Coxhoe, Deerness, Ferryhill, Glenholme – Crook and Sherburn. Should Cabinet approve the start of the consultation process then anyone interested would have the opportunity to feedback online, via the Council's Have Your Say option at www.durham.gov.uk, or hard copies are available at Durham County Council-run Leisure Centres and Customer Access Points. There will also be involvement in the process through the Council's Area Action Partnerships, Town and Parish Councils and a whole range of partner organisations. A further report would then go before Cabinet before any final decisions were made.

Classes in Darlington & Newton Aycliffe & other areas coming soon. Please Contact Yvonne on 07740 199778 or email yvonne.lazydaisy@sky.com

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Saturday 26th February - "MotherEarth"

A super group formed by north east rock legend Freddie Parvls. Two years in the making, after only their second gig were offered a spot on the main stage at Stormin' last year. 'Just when you think the room in the Tuns can't get any hotter along come a scorching performance by MotherEarth and the crowd could have been forgiven for thinking they were actually in a sauna. Kicking off with Toto's Child's Anthem to get the musical chops in gear the first set included classics such as Journey's Separate Ways, Hold The Line and surely one of the best AOR classics in Jefferson Starships Jane, along with Love Walked In, In A Broken Dream and Ain't No Love In The Heart of the City. Special mention also for the fantastic harmonies on Kansas classic Carry on My Wayward Son and Styx' Renegade. There was no let up in a second set that included a marathon G 'N' R version of Live and Let Die/November Rain plus a blistering Four Play/Long Time from Boston. Special mention to young drummer Paul Reed for his playing on what aren't exactly 4/4 songs and he nailed them each time. Freddie joked he's set also to be the poster boy for the band with the 'old blokes' in the background. The set rounded off with Don't Stop Believin and a rousing version of the Hooters Satellite before the band headed off for a well earned lie down in a darkened room for what was the end of a 3 night run. The band are sure to be a big hit at the upcoming Stormin' and should also be on the must have list of the regions music venues if they continue this blistering form.' - Review of "Call out Three Tuns gig" - www.myspace.com/motherearthrockband

Saturday 5th March - "The Kill"

"The band took to the stage, from the off it was a great hard rock attack that set the vibe that would continue throughout the performance. Vocalist Gregg took centre point on stage and really went for it. Not just vocally but physically too! I've said it before and I'll say it again, the Office stage is bigger than most pub set-ups and it needs a band with a genuine physical presence to attract the audience's attention in a building of that size. They had that charisma about them. The rock style of the band continued on with a commercial AOR feel on such songs as Def Leppard's 'Animal', and even though the group did generally go down the path of recognisable rock anthems, it never became too cheesy or entirely predictable. I think they hit a marvellous balance of choosing songs that would have a larger appeal, and yet still maintained an element where you weren't too sure what was coming next" - Colin Smith REVIEW. Tracks covered by: Bon Jovi, Foo Fighters, Def Leppard, Guns n Roses, Linkin Park, Metallica, Ozzy, Pearl Jam, Skid Row, Poison and more - www.thekill.co.uk

Saturday 12th March - "Shanghai"

For more information on bands go to www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034
Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke

READERS PHOTOGRAPH

William Cooksey sent this photo of what he claims to be the biggest icicle in town. If you have taken an unusual or beautiful digital shot of something or somewhere in the town send it in to syd@newtonnews.co.uk

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Tai Chi Class at Youthy



The ancient art of Tai Chi, is proven to suit all abilities, improving posture, core strength and balance, participants also report a sense of well being and an improvement in the bodies natural energy. This class is for anybody aged 50+ looking for a gentler form of exercise, we run every Wednesday at the Youth Centre 12noon-1.00pm. Interested or need more information please phone Age Concern 01388 720064

Sponsor for Heighington Boys Team

Heighington Boys AFC Under 10's, have just benefited from a sponsorship deal with local car dealership, Darlington Car and Commercial. Team Manager and Coach Jim Barr would like to thank owner Neil Plews for the financial support to enable the club to purchase a brand new set of first team strips. He'd also like to thank Debbie Rance and the team at local printing firm Visual Branding for decorating the strips with badges, logo's and squad numbers.

The team which only came into existence in August 2010, train on a Saturday morning at 09:30 on Heighington Parish Fields, and play their games in the TJFA Durham League Division 3, on a Sunday morning. The team which has made a steady start to the season is sitting mid table with games in hand due to the recent bad weather. The team has also had a couple of social events including a coaching matchday experience at Middlesbrough FC, and a Christmas party which were both well attended and enjoyed by the kids.

More events are planned before the end of the season, to help raise funds for the club



who have five other teams, from U8's up to senior level. We are actively looking to expand the squad so if you are interested in coming along to join in the football and fun activities, call Jim on 01325 365044, or check our website for information www.clubwebsite.co.uk/heighingtonafcboys/121273/

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AYCLIFFE RUNNERS IN NATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS



On Saturday 19 February two runners competed in the National Cross Country Championships at Alton Towers. Conditions were that bad the course had to be modified for health and safety reasons and was more akin to bog snorkelling than running!

Despite this James Askew put in an excellent performance to finish 65th in the Under 20's race in a time of 31.44, whilst a number of top athletes struggled. James took a big scalp in the under 20 World Trials Championship gold medalist for 800 metres, Neil Brooks who he beat by a minute. Henry Johnson from Newton Aycliffe (representing Chester le Street) had a mature run in the modified Under 13 race. He ran a time of 9.19 for the 2.5K course, finishing only 32 seconds behind the winner. The following day the two runners were at it again competing in the NYSD Cross Country League at Summerhill in Hartlepool. The very muddy and hilly course didn't stop Henry Johnson from notching up his fourth run out of four in the Under 13's, winning by

50 seconds in a time of 13.14 for 3K. James Askew ran the 9K, three lap course and won by 55 seconds in an excellent time of 32.38. George Reid was next home in a time of 39.17, finishing as the second Veteran 2. Other athletes that took part were Richard Campbell (41.52), Alex Lineton (43.53) and Kevin Greenall (46.04). In the Ladies Race Penny Johnson was the only representative for the club finishing the 4.5K course in a time of 23.30. Interested in seeing what the running club is all about? There is a very popular indoor gym session every Tuesday at the Oak Leaf Sports Centre from 6pm until 7pm. This is followed by an outdoor running session from 7pm until 8pm. Some do one session, some do both. We also meet at Sunnydale Stadium in Shildon on a Thursday from 6.15pm until 7.15pm. Interested in Joining? Just come along to one of the sessions and introduce yourself. More details about us can be found on our website: www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk

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COMMUNITY FAIR PLACES GOING FAST

Free places for the town's Community Fair organised by the Rotary Club are going fast and applicants are urged to fill in the application form as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

"We have room for 70 organisations and over two thirds have been booked already for the Saturday May 14th event so it is important groups take advantage of this opportunity to promote themselves and recruit new members" said Project Leader Roger Curtis.

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, Simpasturegate.

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- 1st: BATHROOM SUITE
Aqualisa, Darlington
- 2nd: SAMSUNG 42" TV
Tesco, Aycliffe
- 3rd: "TAKE THAT" TICKETS (2)
Premier Events, Aycliffe
- 4th: SOFABED
Factory Furniture Outlet, Aycliffe
- 5th: ROUND OF GOLF FOR 4
Darlington Golf Club
- 6th: ROUND OF GOLF FOR 4
Bransford Golf Club
- 7th: BOWLING FOR 15 + FOOD
Planet Leisure, Aycliffe
- 8th: ICE SKATING FOR 15 PLUS FOOD
Planet Leisure, Aycliffe
- 9th: LASER TAG FOR 15 PLUS FOOD
Planet Leisure, Aycliffe
- 10th: AERIAL OBSTACLE FOR 15 PLUS FOOD
Planet Leisure, Aycliffe
- 11th: £100 MEAL VOUCHER FOR 2
Sakura Hall, Aycliffe
- 12th: COMPUTER CHAIR
Curtis Office Supplies, Darlington
- 13th: £50 MEAL VOUCHER
Country, Aycliffe Village
- 14th: £50 MEAL VOUCHER
Sardis, Darlington
- 15th: BATHROOM SUPPLIES
Roman, Aycliffe
- 16th: MASSAGE SESSION
Redworth Hall Health Club
- 17th: HARBORRESSING
Redworth Hall Health Club
- 18th: 5 DAY MEMBERSHIP
Redworth Hall Health Club
- 19th: PASTA COOKING SET
David Scott Associates
- 20th: £30 MEAL VOUCHER
Bengal Restaurant, Woodham
- 21st: £30 MEAL VOUCHER
Eastern Spice, Greenwell Rd
- 22nd: FISH SUPPER FOR 2
Redz, Woodham

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TOO MANY COUNCILLORS AND TOO EXPENSIVE

Dear Editor,
I don't often agree with Don Fraser but I think he has a point. I don't support County Councillors in the proposed cuts and they should tell the Government to tell them what to cut!

When it comes to Councillor expenses I believe they earn their money, however I would stop paying any Councillor who fails to attend meetings and the attendance allowance should be stopped for non - attendance. It is a ridiculous situation that you only have to attend one meeting every six months to qualify for full money.


The other issue is the number of Councillors. In the days before Unitary, Durham had 63 and should now be no more than 90 which is the number for most Metropolitan Councils including Birmingham - one of the largest. Can anyone explain why we need 30 Councillors on Aycliffe Town Council? Let's work out how much it would save in reducing the number of Councillors on Durham from 126 to 90 at £13,000 a year and reducing the Town Council from 30 to 15 at £1059 each per annum. It is not what they earn so much as how many do we need?

Mike Haley

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Woodham Development Would Spoil Entrance

Dear Sir,
With regard to the letter in favour of the proposed development at Woodham Golf Course.

We are just now starting to get the town centre improved and he wants to ruin an entrance to Newton Aycliffe.

The modest economic benefits that would come from the proposal would be more than offset by the cost to the community for having to accommodate this level of development in such a sensitive location, and from the damage that would be done to the area changing for ever this approach to the town.

If this development were granted there is no legal commitment to provide the low density of building as proposed. If approved the developer would certainly look to put more houses on the site.

Again once this tongue was developed along Middridge Road, and the open character of the area is enclosed on this side, there is likely to be pressure for more development across the whole golf course, a precedent already being set.

I understand over 100

letters of objection have been sent to the planners as there are many brown field sites for more housing in Newton Aycliffe that would not impact on a beautiful entrance to the Town.

I am not a "well off" resident just a hard working delivery driver and I believe this application should be refused.

Alan Stubbs

How Long is "Temporary?"

Dear Sir,
It was interesting to see the DISC Offices being demolished. This was built around 35 years ago as a "temporary rent office" then became the ADC Architects Department I'm sure at the time of it's construction the building was only to last 2 or 3 years.

Colin Hall



HELPING CHARITIES

Dear Sir,
In last week's Newton News I read that Honest John helped Aycliffe Football Club by fundraising at Newton Aycliffe Market Place on a Tuesday. As much as I think John's help is without doubt a compassionate gesture, by giving time to help charities, I do not believe a Football Club warrants this, or even the Nemesis Cheerleaders - sorry!

I honestly think the community benefits more by assisting the vulnerable and the suffering who are people unable to help themselves.

J.P.

Name & address supplied

Kind help from Newtonians

Dear Sir,
We would like to thank all the staff of Julie's Pet Shop and the members of the public who offered and gave help on Tuesday lunch time, to myself and my partner, when he became ill in the town centre.

It took about an hour for him to recover but he is fit and well now. Thank you once again. There are a lot of good people still about and most of them live in Aycliffe. It was a privilege to meet you.

Angela and Brian

Let's Debate Something Else . . .

Dear Sir,
I am VERY disappointed with the Great Aycliffe Independents. For a long time, I have been encouraging people to debate political issues, without descending to personal abuse. Some people (particularly 'PC') have made constructive contributions, but not the Independents!

Just before Christmas, they appeared to agree with me, and Ken Stubbs proposed a discussion on why people are not interested in politics. And then nothing! Perhaps we should try an easier question.

May I suggest we debate THE ENVIRONMENT? It's topical, and of key local relevance at the moment. And it should be something that the GAs can write about, because Cllr Warburton is an RSPB expert, and Cllr Curtis is a skilled gardener and beekeeper.

So here's my question to them. What - if they got into power - would the GAs do for Great Aycliffe's environment that the Labour Group is not doing already? (And how would they pay for it?)

Politics is about contrasting opinions, keenly debated. I hope they make some really good points, and then people will be able to decide which party they want to support on the issues.

John D Clare

DIABETES HELPLINE

Dear Editor,
Diabetes affects over 2 million people and no doubt many of your readers will have the condition. Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes are different but both are serious conditions which are not always easy to manage or to live with. Sometimes it can be helpful for people with diabetes and their families to talk about their worries and fears with someone who listens with some understanding. Some people feel they need more information to help them to have a better understanding of their diabetes.

Our charity has recently expanded its Helpline to offer people with diabetes and their families emotional support and a listening ear. We do not offer medical

advice but we can provide information over the phone or free written information on many aspects of diabetes.

We also have a free quarterly Newsletters and a booklet 'Understanding Your Diabetes' which provides information about the differences in Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes and how they are treated and is especially useful for people who have been recently diagnosed. I hope that your readers will call our Helpline on 01604 622837, it is available between 9.00 am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday or e-mail enquiries@iddinternational.org.

As the welfare of people with diabetes is important to us, we are here to help where we can.

Jenny Hirst

WOODHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE AGM

Dear Sir

Woodham Village Community Association will hold their AGM on Wednesday, 16th March, 2011 at 7.00pm.

The meeting is open to all, but only members will be able to vote on items from the agenda.

Nominations for Officers, Committee members (forms from the Secretary) and any proposals must be with the Secretary on or before the 28th February 2011.

Mrs S Leatherbarrow

Telephone: 07593 544 328

E-Mail for Free Book

Dear Editor,
May I use the media of your newspaper to promote World Book Day and inform readers I am privileged to have been chosen as a giver.

Certain people throughout the country have been selected to give away an amount of books. 50 famous authors have donated copies of their books and mine is "Stuart a Life Backwards" by Alexander Masters an

autobiography of a homeless alcoholic a very touching story. If any person, school, group or organisation would like to receive a copy, please email me, at hoggattfarm@talktalk.net.

This is a massive campaign used to promote reading and the use of libraries. It will be promoted on television and in the press with a launch in London on March 5th

Kathy Brockless

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ST MARY'S CHILDREN CHOOSE THE MENUS

Written by St. Mary's RCVA Primary SNAG Group

We are members of the SNAG group at St. Mary's. SNAG Stands for 'School Nutrition Action Group'. It is our job to ask members of our class what they think about the school meals in our school. So far we have helped to organise 'Fun Friday' where we have some of our favourite foods to look forward to each week. E.g. Pizzas, fish fingers, chips and chocolate fudge cake and ice cream for dessert. The most exciting thing we have done so far has been to help to create our own menus for the week. We have had a great week - each class got to

have their chosen menu from week beginning the 14th of February. We have had 22 parents coming into school to have lunch with their children and 14 extra children having school meals. Here are some of the comments from our classmates: "We loved our parents coming in to have lunch with us". "The puddings were the best. I loved the fact we could choose our own menu for a day!" "Our meal was delicious". SNAG will be organising another week like this next term.



Work Club at Hotel Helps Job Seekers



The Barceló Redworth Hall Hotel has launched a new 'on the premises' Work Club to help unemployed find jobs, in support of the Government's Get Britain Working scheme. The hotel is hosting a monthly workshop in conjunction with the local JobCentre Plus to offer career advice and job searching tips to unemployed people in the County Durham area. The sessions will be led by the HR Manager Diane Tallentire, who has over 20 years experience in the hospitality HR and Employment sector. Diane says: "Last year saw the highest increase in unemployment on record with over 2,000 people losing their jobs in the UK every day. Many people who are currently unemployed had been in the same job for years and are now out of the employment market, not knowing what their CV should look like or how to handle tricky interview

questions. We are taking part in this scheme to give something back to the local community and provide a place where people can meet, share tips and get valuable career advice." The hotel's first Work Club was held on the 26th January and was a great success. Diane continues: "We had a fantastic response at our first Work Club which is extremely encouraging. It was great for people to come and visit the hotel, to see how it works and what different departments are involved in the day to day running of the business. We will be looking to fill around 6 new positions within the hotel in March and attendees of the Work Club will be top of the list which is a great incentive for people to come along. We are already looking forward to the next event." The Work Club's are held in one of the Barceló Redworth Hall Hotel's well equipped meeting rooms, once a month, from 10am - 12pm. Special guest speakers including entrepreneurs, local business owners and senior staff at Barceló UK will also offer invaluable career advice. Cilla Perry, Senior Account Manager at JobCentre Plus says: "In support of the Government's 'Get Britain Working' initiative, Barceló UK have quickly shown their commitment to work in close partnership with JobCentre Plus to help unemployed people into jobs. Through measures such as Work Clubs, Barceló UK are offering tangible and valuable opportunities to ease the journey back into work for local communities and this is greatly welcomed by JobCentre Plus." The Barceló Redworth Hall Hotel is a luxury County Durham hotel situated in 150 acres of beautiful countryside. To sign up to the hotel's next Work Club, contact Wendy Spooner at Newton Aycliffe JobCentre Plus on 0845 604 3719.

AYCLIFFE FIRM HELP GIRLS FIND CAREER PATH

Roman, Aycliffe's shower manufacturer has been helping young people who are currently not in employment, education or training to gain work experience through work placements at their factory in Newton Aycliffe. Roman gave two young girls, Rachel Munton, 20 of West Auckland and Stephanie Gardner, 18 of Newton Aycliffe, a week long work placement through a ground breaking work-readiness initiative run by Connexions and Esh Group.



Stephanie Gardner, John Wright and Rachel Munton, in Roman's Manufacturing Plant.

Roman offered the girls placements within departments of their choice to give them a head start on their chosen career path. Their work placements got underway during the North East Apprenticeships week, which took place between the 7th and 11th February. John Wright, Operations Director at Roman organised the work placement. He commented: "We have been trying to encourage local young people to get involved with the business and gain an understanding of the opportunities a business like ours can offer. We were asked by County Durham Economic Partnership if we were interested in a training project devised by The Esh Group, Connexions and The Learning Skills Council. This seemed to be the perfect fit for what we were trying to accomplish. The girls have been really

helpful throughout their time spent in marketing and finance. They are both hard working and eager to learn, so it's great to be able to give them the opportunity to gain some hands-on experience that they can now add to their CV. It also gives them a real insight into the different aspects of the jobs they are interested in so they can see if it is the right fit for them."

Both the girls were keen to get involved in the work placement and were excited about the opportunity. Rachel, of West Auckland, commented: "I was interested in a career in marketing and when Roman

gave their presentations at one of the Esh Connexions workshops, I was keen to come in and give marketing a try at the company, so I could find out what it was like working in a real marketing department. It was my first time so it was a completely new experience for me."

Stephanie, from Newton Aycliffe, commented: "I'm interested in a career in finance, so it was great when the opportunity came up to spend a week working in the finance department of a real company that is right on my doorstep. The placement allows us to gain real experience that I can now include on my CV."

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Handwrite the Bible

2011 marks the 400th anniversary since the publication of the King James Bible. To celebrate this the Methodist Church is undertaking to have a complete Bible handwritten during 2011.

If you would like to participate in this come along on: Friday February 25th 1-4pm at Newton Aycliffe Library with opportunities to share favourite Bible stories. Just bring yourself or come with a friend. If you have a Bible you would like to share with others bring it along. Refreshments will be available.

ANNUAL DAY OF PRAYER

Over 3 million women worldwide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer on Friday 4th March. They will be using an order of service prepared by Christian women of Chile. The extent in prayer is shown by the fact that meetings will begin at sunrise in Tonga and finish only with sunset in neighbouring Western Samoa, after there have been meetings in over 170 countries. This year St Mary's Catholic Church welcomes you to attend the Service at 11.00am. The Speaker is Mrs Margaret Lee.

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UP AND OVER garage door lock, £7. Tel 01325 316580

WOOD 7 lengths 2"x2"x8', 12 lengths, 1½"x1"x13", offers. Tel 01325 316580

NEED An old domestic appliance removing? Can't wait for the Council? Tel. 321 678

Thank You

JOSEF MLATILIK Michael, Alison and Michelle would like to thank all friends and relatives for the cards and floral tributes received on their recent sad loss of Josef. A special thank you to Father Campion and Bob Fleming for a very touching eulogy, also to Colin from Cooperative Funeral Care for this thought and understanding.

BILL BULLOCK The family of the late Bill wish to thank everyone at Aycliffe Care Home for all there support and for looking after our precious Grandad. Thanks go to Cooperative Funeral Care namely David Scott for taking care of Grandad until he came to his final resting place. God bless you Grandad, you will never ever be far away from us.

MAY I EXPRESS my thanks to June and Diane and all the ladies who came to my aid when I took ill in the Youth Centre and everyone else involved. Also to the paramedics who attended to me and got me off to the hospital quickly. Thanks, Liz Worthington

In Memoriam

Ronald Gordon 18th February 2010

Friend and devoted
Father and Grandfather

"Death is nothing at all. I have only slipped away into the next room. I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just around the corner. All is well."

WILLIAM HALL (Bill). 25th February 2010. Today, tomorrow, our whole life through, we will always love and remember you. Although you can't be here with us, we are truly not apart, until the final breath we take, you will be living in our hearts. Missed every day by Daughter Jean, Hughie; Grandchildren Mark, Darren, Julie; Great Grandchildren Markie, Kayleigh and Natasha

ELLEN ATHERTON 25th February 2009. Miss you, never forget you. Love, Julie, Mark, Kayleigh, Mark, Agnes and Georgie

Anniversary Memoriam

MAUREEN MAWSON (Nichol).
Married 17th February 1965.
Died 14th February 2009.

Maureen
All alone I dream of my land,
of an island, far across the sea,
where an angel waits for me.

"Maureen - Maureen"
My heart is filled with pain,
to be forever without you,
not having to hold you, ever in my arms again. In all of my dreams I dream of you "Maureen". The misty moonlit meadows and the hills of dreams. Hills that heard us whisper, "the secrets of our hearts". The hills that heard us promise "that we would never part".

"Maureen - Maureen"
Someday white sails will gleam,
knowing you are back again to stay. Forever more "Maureen". To my one and only love. Loving Husband, Derrick

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MARGERY THOMAS If tears could build a stairway and memories were a lane. We would walk right up to Heaven and bring you back again. Our hearts still ache in sadness and secret tears still flow. What it meant to lose you, no one can ever know. Lots of love to a special Gran. Michael and Haley xxx

MARGERY THOMAS To my Great Gran. We never had long together, but you are special to me and you will always be a part of me. Love you. Cayden-Lee xxxxx

MARGERY THOMAS (a dear Mam, 27-2-2010). A year ago today the angels took you far away, the pain still clear to see. All they left were memories which we treasure eternally. You are now the brightest star in the sky for all the world to see. But we all know that you shine bright just for our family. Miss and love you loads, Harry and Marian

MADGE THOMAS Loving you is easy, we do it every day, missing you is heartache that never goes away. We miss you and your cheery ways, with you we spent the happiest days. While you dear Gran rest and sleep, your loving memory will always keep. Miss you so much. Love always, Lindsey, Kieran and Cameron xxxxx

MADGE THOMAS 27th February 2010. You still live on in the hearts and minds of the loving family you left behind. You are dearly missed Gran. Stu, Kim and Amy

MADGE THOMAS Dear Gran, you live on in our hearts and minds, through all your family you left behind. The tears in our eyes we can wipe away, but the pain in our hearts will forever stay. I love and miss you always. Love, Dawn xxx

MADGE THOMAS To Great Gran. You are our shining brightest star in the sky. Lots of love and big kisses to our angel! Love, Declan and Noah xxx

MARGERY THOMAS Much loved Mam, Gran and Great Gran. Memories are like leaves of gold they never tarnish nor grow old. Sadly missed by Jennifer, Jimmy, Gary, Sue, Craig and Jenna xxx

MARGERY THOMAS (Madge). Together at the start, together at the end, a love shared forever, my Mam and my friend. Can't believe it's been a year already. Life goes on but there is a big hole in mine that won't close. Thank you for everything Mam. You were one in a million, simply the best. Loved, sadly missed and remembered always by Valerie and Colin xxx

Catering

CRAFTY CAKES For any occasion, cakes made and iced or just iced. Tel 316 084

Obituary

BILL BLENKINSOPP, Peter and David would like to thank family and friends who attended the Funeral of our late Sister, Margaret. Who passed away on 10th February, peacefully in hospital after a long illness. Also thank you to everyone for the cards and words of sympathy received during this sad time. A special thank you to John Meynell Funeral Directors and especially Jessica for there excellent professional service. Thank you to Dr Clark and Staff at Peace Way Medical Centre. Thank you also to Karen and Brian at the North Briton for the excellent buffet provided for the people who attended Margaret's Funeral. Many thanks to the Rev. Julie Wing for a brilliant Service, also her support not only during this sad time, but also to Margaret herself during her visits. Also a big thank you to Linda, Lesley, Ashley and Alison who where not only very close friends to Margaret for a lot of years, but who where there when needed at any time.

AUDREY McVAY on 18th February, died suddenly, Audrey, aged 78 years. A dearly loved Mam of Annice and Kay, Mother-in-Law of Jim and Denis and also a devoted Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Funeral Service to take place at St Clares Church, Newton Aycliffe on Monday 28th February at 10.45am prior to burial at Stephenson Way Cemetery. Friends please meet at the church

ELIZABETH BALDRY ("Betty"). on 16th February. Betty, passed away peacefully in her sleep at Bethany House Nursing Home, aged 88 years. A caring Wife of the late John Patrick, beloved Mother of Jeannie and Marguerite, a devoted Grandmother to Bev, Louise and Becky, and also a Great Grandma to Kyle and Ryan, a loving Mother-in-Law to Joe and Steve. Funeral Service took place on Friday 25th February. Donations to Bethany House Nursing Home. The family would like to sincerely thank all the staff at Bethany House, especially to Nurse Carron and also to John Meynell Funeral Service for their support

Public Notice

WATCH BATTERIES now available at Taylors Newsforce

DONATIONS needed of Bric-a-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

Congratulations

Sam Hemmingway



Happy 18th Birthday Sam
Love from Mam and Dad
Happy 50th Birthday Russell
Love from Clare and Sam

Charlotte Kerr



Happy 18th Birthday
to a wonderful Daughter
and Sister. Lots of love,
Mam, Dad, Dani and baby
Bella xxxxx

Georgia Howe



Happy 21st Birthday
for a special Daughter,
happy 21st birthday. Love
from Mam and Dad xxx

Jane Dolby



Happy 40th Birthday Jane
25th February 2011
Lots of love and kisses,
Steve, Aidan and Amber
xxxxxx

Baz Thompson



Happy Birthday Baz
28th February 2011
All the best.
Dave and Brenda

Amy Richardson



Happy 3rd Birthday Princess
28th February 2011
Love from Mammy
and Daddy xxxxx

Birthday Remembrance

BOBBY MORRELL Dad. Happy birthday. Thinking of you. Love, Julie and Les

BOBBY MORRELL (29th February 1932). Happy 79th birthday, always thinking of you, miss you forever. Your loving wife, Agnes

BOBBY MORRELL (29th February 1932). Happy 79th birthday Dad. Always in our thoughts, all our love, Roberta and Reggie xx

BOBBY MORRELL (29th February 1932). Happy birthday Granda. Miss you loads. Love always, Robert, Hayley, Ann-Marie, Andrew, Adele, Orin and kids xxxxx

BOBBY MORRELL (29th February 1932). Happy birthday Dad. Always thinking of you, forever missed. Love always, Thomas, Julie, Stephen, Shaun, David and Jenny xxxxx

DERICK YOUNG 2nd March 2005. Treasured memories of a dear Father. Father-in-Law and Granda. Sadly missed. Michael, June and family

JIM CLELLAND 2nd March 1996. Always in our thoughts. Love, Marina, Debbie and Jayne

JOE WHARTON Died 2nd March 1988. Too dearly loved to ever be forgotten. I miss you. Jessie xxx

JOE WHARTON God bless Grandad. Mark, Vikki, David, Hayley and Peter xxxxx

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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
nters, Gra

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 Expect Record Crowd

Newton Aycliffe are expecting a record league crowd for a local derby at Moore Lane Park next weekend.

The Newtonians are due to welcome Darlington Railway Athletic next Friday night (March 4, 7.30pm kick-off) in another crucial league game for Allan Oliver's side.

Aycliffe were eight points clear at the top of the Northern League second division before their game at Crook on Wednesday night.

And North Shields' slip-up last weekend, drawing 0-0 at Birtley, gave the Blues more breathing space in their title assault.

They go to Northallerton this weekend then face Darlo RA next Friday night in what promises to be an entertaining game.

Aycliffe and RA agreed to switch both their league fixtures this season in an attempt to boost gates for the games.

It worked for RA, with 320 turning out for Aycliffe's 5-0 win at Brinkburn Road back in October, comfortably their biggest crowd of the season.

Now Aycliffe are hoping their fans turn out in force to beat Aycliffe's previous Northern League record gate of 312.

Boss Oliver said: "It would be nice to see a really big crowd for what is another big game for us.

"We're not counting our chickens yet. It's an old cliché but we really are taking each game as it comes. They're counting down now and with every win it's getting closer and closer.

"I'm sure everyone in the town would love to see us do it and a bumper crowd against

FIXTURES

Saturday 25th February: Northallerton (A), 3pm
Friday 4th March: Darlington RA (H), 7.30pm
Saturday 12th March: Team Northumbria (A), 3pm
Tuesday 15th March: Whickham (A), 7.30pm
Saturday 19th March: Brandon United (H), 3pm
Tuesday 22nd March: Marske Utd (A), Div2 Cup, 7.30pm
Saturday 26th March: Seaham Red Star (A), 3pm
www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk



Darlington RA will hopefully help to inspire the lads and create a buzzing atmosphere.

"We took a big following to RA earlier in the season and it would be great if we could beat their gate of 320 and get a record crowd for us in the Northern League."

Aycliffe produced a stunning comeback at Whitehaven last week, scoring three goals in the last 10 minutes to keep their title bandwagon on track.

They fell two goals behind in the opening 12 minutes but eventually beat the in-form west coast club 4-2. Top scorer Warren Byrne scored a hat-trick for the second consecutive league game, taking his tally for the season to 31, while Dan Mellanby added his eighth of the season after coming off the bench with 25 minutes to go to inspire the fightback.

Parties at Oak Leaf

Are you looking for the ideal venue for that special party? Here at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex our Function Room is available to hire, and seats up to 60 people, with panoramic views over the surrounding country side. So whether for an engagement party, wedding, anniversary, special birthday or just a get together with friends, we offer an extensive choice over our menus, with something for all tastes and budgets. Why not let us worry about the catering and any mess, and bring your function here, so the only thing for you to worry about is having a good time. For further information, contact the Oak Leaf Sports Complex 01325 300600.

NEWTON AYCLIFFE SOLDIER WINS ARMY BOXING CONTEST



A Newton Aycliffe soldier has won a British Army Boxing contest in Germany in a hard fought fight in which he displayed the bravery and determination expected of all personnel in the British Army. Rifleman Simon Sapsford, 20 of 5th Battalion the Rifles beat his opponent by a unanimous points decision in their Featherweight clash in the British Army Germany Inter Unit Boxing Championship Finals, held in the Northern German City of Bielefeld.

Simon who goes to Afghanistan later this year helped his unit to second place in the team event losing narrowly by four bouts to five to 7 Regiment the Royal Logistics Corps. Speaking shortly after his bout Simon, whose parents Neil and Sharon still live in Newton Aycliffe said: "This was my fifth fight and my fifth win. I am exhausted but feel really great, I haven't been beaten yet but that was a very hard fight. I fought to win - to fight hard. I needed a strong mind to come through - my opponent had the advantage in terms of reach but I was a bit stronger than him."

Boxing is one of the most popular sports for soldiers because it helps them maintain high fitness levels and promotes discipline. Simon, who joined the Army in 2008 and has also served in Iraq, added: "I started boxing with the Army in 2009 - shortly after coming back from my tour in Iraq. My superiors recommended that I try it and I really loved it. The training is very hard - but worth it for nights like this.

Taking part in boxing

contests like this takes a lot of courage and really helps you to stay fit."

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

We are always interested in local news stories. We like to feature good news and interesting items on achievements & community service

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www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk

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