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Newton News

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER - LOCAL NEWS THAT MATTERS

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Week Ending 4th March, 2011



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Hitachi are Coming! Great News for Aycliffe

A wave of optimism covers the town following the announcement that the Hitachi project can proceed. The 1st March will be remembered as the day Newton Aycliffe jumped into prominence and began a revival putting us where we belong.

The developers Merchant Place and our M.P. Phil Wilson are to be congratulated for their hard work in securing the contract for Hitachi.

The campaign began in 2009 with our MP Phil Wilson launching the bid and since then he has worked tirelessly to promote the project. His determination and leadership has paid off and he is reported to be jubilant. All his supporters here were celebrating this week and the news of Hitachi is on everyone's lips.

It will boost everything and we will see house prices rise and a flush of enquiries from companies wishing to take factory space near to their giant client.

The County Council will need to look seriously at our internal social infrastructure to accommodate the new workforce moving into the town.

The Town Centre



development will be even more important and the news may now bring interest

from those retail outlets who previously ignored Newton Aycliffe.

FREE ADVENTURE COURSE FOR YOUNG NEWTONIAN

Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club are offering a young person over 16 years old the opportunity to go on an exciting 4 day adventure course designed to give them leadership skills.

They will meet other youngsters from the north east, learn team work while enjoying outdoor and indoor activities.

The course to be held in the summer is funded by the Rotary Club and applicants should write in the first instance to David Hogg c/o Newton Press, St. Cuthberts Way, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe.

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Greenfield Students Learn to Market Tourist Attraction

Seventeen year 11 students from Greenfield Community Arts College have had the opportunity to carry out an innovative way of doing their work experience through the new vocational Diploma in Creative and Media studies, working alongside a variety of professionals from the Industry.

Nikki Locke, Arts Officer from Learning & Culture at Durham County Council designed the project in partnership with Durham Education Business Partnership with the aim to promote the DLI Museum and Art Gallery in Durham City as an attraction for 13-19 year olds living in the region.

Students researched other similar attractions in the North East and were offered first hand advice and tips from the front runners in the art gallery and museum industry, the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead and the Discovery Museum in Newcastle.

Other advice for the campaign came from advertising executives, graphic and web designers and the Principal Marketing Officer for Libraries, Learning and Culture from Durham County Council.

Some impressive ideas were suggested by the group. One idea was to promote an art competition to local schools and colleges where they would be asked to create a piece of art inspired by the north east. The art would then be exhibited in the Gallery at the DLI and an awards/viewing evening organised for participants where a winner would be selected.

Other ideas included creating new marketing material aimed at the target audience using bright, edgy colours and changing the current website to make it more appealing to young people, using the gallery as a venue for local bands to play and the use of social networking; Twitter, Facebook, Bebo etc.

Students presented their ideas to a panel of Durham County Council staff and it is hoped that they will take some of the information forward when looking to promote the DLI in the future.

Through this applied learning work experience and supported by Cheryl Stirk from Durham Education Business Partnership, the students have been able to complete the 'Create a Campaign' unit of their qualification.



Photo: Durham County Council staff Nikki Locke, Arts Officer from Learning & Culture, Lawrence Pearson, Principal Marketing Officer from Adults, Wellbeing and Health and Emma Hamlett, DLI Museum Manager with the year 11 Creative and Media students.

Half Term at Greenfield Arts Centre

During February half term Greenfield Arts Centre held a successful activity week including; ceramics, steel pans, glee performing arts workshop, print workshops and glass workshops. There were over 50 children who attended these fabulous workshops!

We are holding similar arts activities to these and more at Easter. If you are interested in hearing more about our exciting courses call us on: 01325 379048 or Email: info@greenfield-arts.co.uk

The Steel Pan Reunion Gig is at Greenfield Arts Centre. Come along and join us for our Steel Pan Reunion Performance.

Anyone who has ever been involved with Steel Pans at Greenfield Arts Centre has been asked to perform on Wednesday 16th March 2011 from 6.00 to 6.30pm.

If you are interested in coming along to play then the rehearsal will take place on Monday 7th March anytime between 3.30 – 5.30pm. We look forward to seeing you.

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Newton News Works

Newton News have received many letters from regular advertisers attesting to the popularity of this newspaper which is full of local news and events, the following is a sample of a letter from Brian Edwards a former Sub Editor of the Northern Echo:

*Hi Syd
An important announcement to parents is attached, we thought Newton News would be the best way to convey this information if ok with you. Also, just to say Syd, thanks so much for all the work you have been doing for us recently, especially to such tight deadlines. Chris, Stu, Paul, yourself and your staff have been absolutely brilliant in producing The Voice, Woodham Learning materials, the design prints for the walls, letterhead etc, etc, etc - and it is very much appreciated by us all here at Woodham College. You have a great team at Newton Press, everything is done with a smile and good humour!
Thanks again
Love from
Marie Oswald x
Woodham Community College*

POLICE APPEAL FOR HELP ON BURGLARY AND BIKE THEFT

Our local Police are looking for help to find those responsible for a burglary at Moore Lane (Newton Aycliffe Football Club) whereby offenders have entered the club kitchen area and taken various foodstuff items (3 crates of Lucozade sport and crisps) and a Makita drill charger. It looks as though the offenders have entered via the A167 and left the same way. This incident happened overnight on 23rd February into the next day. 2 BMX bikes were stolen from Tesco's Park. This incident occurred at around 1810 hours on 24th February. There were 2 young male offenders, around 12-13 years,

of a slight build, one was wearing a grey hooded top. They drove from Tesco's park around to the front of Argos, along Greenwell Road, past the Legion and up Pease Way. The 2 bikes that were stolen were a BMX Harrow XO, mainly blue in colour with touches of black and white. It had slight scuffing on the plastic parts of the handlebars. The other was a BMX Harrow 200.2 which was black and white in colour. PC Paul Tingle can be contacted on the Durham Constabulary phone number on 0345 60 60 365 or by this email: Paul.Tingle@durham.pnn.police.uk

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Aycliffe Wasn't on Hitachi's List

Dear Newton News readers,

This week, the Government made the long awaited decision on the future of the Intercity Express Programme and allowed the project to go ahead. For the North East it was a historic decision. The implications for the North East, and Newton Aycliffe in particular, are massive. The decision means Hitachi will now go ahead with constructing the company's train building facility in the town. Hundreds of jobs will be created during the factory's construction period, followed by hundreds of direct jobs once the plant is completed and ready to build trains. Thousands of indirect jobs will be created in the supply chain. For every £1 of public investment there will be a £48 return. There is no public sector investment required until after the next election; Hitachi will invest £90 million in a new factory. The new trains will replace the rolling stock on the east coast mainline between the North East and London and between London and Wales on the Great Western line. The trains will be a valuable addition to the country's rail network.

I want to congratulate the Government for their decision and pay tribute to the previous Government who first started work on the Intercity Express Programme. Most of all, I

want to thank the people of the North East for the way they pulled together and made the economic case for the Hitachi bid.

As a region we can be proud of how we campaigned together through the North East Chamber of Commerce, The Northern TUC, Durham County Council, the Federation of Small Businesses, UNITE and the thousands of people who signed the "Back on Track" campaign petition launched by The Northern Echo. I also want to thank One North East, the soon to be abolished Regional Development Agency, for their work in attracting Hitachi to the region. Our approach has been non-partisan, held cross-party support in the region and put before the Government the facts of our case. I genuinely believe our reasonable, balanced and considered approach made it harder for the Government to say 'No'.



Newton Aycliffe can be proud of all we have achieved. When Hitachi first looked at sites around the UK for their factory, Newton Aycliffe wasn't even on the list. Aycliffe came through the middle because of the local skills of the workforce and the infrastructure required for the factory, and also because of the foresight of Jeff Hunton and Merchant Place the developers. Hitachi is to build its factory next to the original railway line along which George Stephenson travelled with Locomotion No.1 to Darlington to start work on the Darlington to Stockton railway 180 years ago.

I believe, with the arrival of Hitachi, Newton Aycliffe will fulfil its potential as a thriving centre of industry and a decent place to live. There will be many challenges ahead no doubt, but we now have the opportunity to build on our skills and abilities. We did just that with Nissan; now let us do the same with Hitachi.

Phil Wilson MP

Aycliffe Artist Exhibits in Newcastle



Tim Cornley from Newton Aycliffe started painting last year after a career in teaching. Some of his work is due to appear as part of The Biscuit Factory Art Gallery in Newcastle's Spring Exhibition.

It will run from Saturday March 12th for 3 months and is his first real exhibition since starting to paint. Tim also has work in Darlington's Gallerina and can be contacted for commissions via his website www.timcornley.com

LOCAL CHARITY PCP RECEIVES £50,000 GRANT

PCP was today celebrating after receiving £50,000 from the Department of Health. Jane Hartley, Chief Executive said "This vital funding will help us to continue with the vital work we do to support disadvantaged people to improve their health and wellbeing and improve their skills."

The money was received as part of a £3.6 million Financial Assistance Fund set up by the Department of Health to support charities, which need money immediately to continue their valuable work this financial year. This will enable these organisations to continue their valuable work and supporting thousands of people with a whole range of needs.

Health Secretary Andrew Lansley said:

"I'm pleased that we're able to give this money to PCP to ensure they are able to keep providing valuable support and services for the people they help."

"Charities play an important role in our vision for the Big Society and it is right

that in these difficult economic circumstances we should give short-term support to organisations like PCP which are helping to support health and care services. This support will ensure that strong, independent voluntary organisations survive and are able to prepare for future opportunities that will be opened up by public service reform."

Local charity PCP runs the award winning Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe which provides access to a Hydrotherapy pool, therapies, lifestyle and exercise classes and learning opportunities to enable people from across Co. Durham & Darlington to improve their health and wellbeing. PCP also runs a number of projects in the community aimed at supporting people to improve their health, lifestyle and skills across Co. Durham and Tees Valley. For more information see www.pcp.uk.net or call 01325 321234 for a programme of activities.



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Greenfield School Community & Arts College

YEAR 8 RUGBY FESTIVAL

The following pupils from Greenfield School Community & Arts College took part in a Rugby Festival at Tudhoe School on Thursday, 17th February. They had the exciting opportunity to learn more about Rugby and take part in a range of skills sessions led by Tamara Taylor an England Rugby player. They then played in a tournament against Sedgefield, St Johns and Tudhoe where they all were fantastic and really engaged in the event.

Greenfield B came second which is a fantastic achievement as many of the girls had never played Rugby before. Greenfield A came in first place and again played fantastic and worked hard as a team against some tough opposition.

Also Patrice O'Donnell won a special award for player of the tournament; she played extremely well and scored a number of tries.

An outstanding effort from all the girls and we hope to continue our success with Girls Rugby.

A Team

Sophie Bennett
Zoe Blakey
Elle Cliff
Mia Dunbar
Rebecca Lowes
Patrice O'Donnell
Ashleigh Postlewaite
Kate Scowen

B TEAM

Shanaya Atkinson Jones
Abi Barker
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£235,000



Extended 4 bedroom detached. Loft conversion. Luxury ensuite. fitted kitchen, conservatory, games room.

MEARS DONATE £500 TO STEPHENSON WAY SCHOOL



David Walters, Customer and Community Manager and Tracey Wilson Customer Care Officer at Mears Sedgefield and Tenant Evelyn French visited a local school to present a cheque for £500, which Evelyn had won in the Mears Competition at the CIH Conference in Harrogate. Evelyn stated "The school is close to where I live and they are looking for funds to develop the garden area in the school, this money will go a long way towards this project"

Mr Dobson, Head teacher said "At first we thought it was a joke as no one gives that kind of money to our school, The gesture is excellent and I will ensure that I will update both Mears and Mrs French on the progress of the project" David Walters said "Mears are happy to donate to such a worthy project. During our visit we saw activities in school centred on the Indian culture and both Evelyn and Tracey Wilson, Customer Care Office were happy to take part."

NOMINATE MOST ACTIVE STUDENT IN THE COMMUNITY

Newton Press launched a scheme in August 2010 to encourage students in Year 11 at Greenfield and Woodham College's to excel in their last year to win great prizes including a Laptop, Ebooks and Ipods.

There are five different categories so everyone has a fair chance, categories include Most Helpful Student at School; Most Active Student in the Community; Top Academic Student; Top Sport Student; and Most Improved Student. All the categories but one are finalised through

teachers and staff at the schools, but Newton News need the help of readers to find the "most active student in the community".

Remember the person you nominate must attend either Greenfield or Woodham Colleges and be in year 11. Please send your nominees and the reason why you have nominated them to paul@newtonnews.co.uk or write to Paul Howarth c/o Newton Press, St Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6DX or hand in at Walkers Butchers (Simpasturegate) or Taylors Newsforce (Town Centre) before 30th May 2011.

The sponsors for this event are Tesco, Newton Aycliffe Town Centre Management, Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club, Newton News and Newton Press who have all generously donated money to purchase the prizes.

The winning students will be awarded their prizes at the Year 11 Proms at the end of the school term by Newton Press Director Paul Howarth and the Rotary Club President.

AYCLIFFE SPD VICTIM STARTS CHARITY

Sarah Dightam of Newton Aycliffe has started the first SPD Charity offering support to all SPD sufferers whether pre, during or post pregnancy including help for other pregnancy related conditions or problems. Sarah was disabled by the complaint during her pregnancy and is suitably qualified to give advice. The website is www.supportpelvicdysfunction.co.uk which contains frequently asked questions to help people cope better with email and telephone support systems in place.

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Woodham Village
£205,000



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Aidens Walk
Ferryhill
£205,000



An extended 4 bedroom detached home. Two en-suite facilities, sun room, solid oak breakfast kitchen, immaculate throughout, must be viewed.

Pemberton Road
Woodham Village
£105,000



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Emerson Way
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2 bedroom mid terrace property, unfurnished, £450pcm + Bond

Cheltenham Way
Woodham Village
£179,500



Realistically priced 4 bedroom detached, ensuite shower room, refitted modern kitchen, GCH, garage and gardens. Good location

Heild Close
Newton Aycliffe
£74,500



A 2 bedroom mid terrace property. Double glazed, gas central heating, fitted kitchen, immediate vacant possession. Good location

Editorial LOCAL PROBLEMS SOLVED LOCALLY

A Newton News editorial around the time of the snow and ice crisis, which created havoc and prevented people getting to work, might be proved correct. We suggested there was no point in spending £millions gritting and clearing main roads if people could not get out of their own streets! We said clearing streets was an on-the-spot problem which the County Council should delegate to local authorities, in our case, the Town Council. We dared suggest that a Parish Council, given the resources, could tackle the work, locally, to clear snow and ice to help people get to work and allow emergency and other incoming services to do their job. It is gratifying to see the Town Council has taken this forward and may get responsibility for this and other local jobs which are currently being wastefully carried out by County. For example, is it an efficient use of men and machinery to travel into an area to complete a job which could be done cheaper on the spot? It is nice to see common sense prevail and simple solutions to problems being considered. Who knows, with a bit of luck, something might be in place to tackle the problems of next winter?

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REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY

TOWN COUNCIL TO CLEAR SNOW & ADOPT STATION

Last week's Environment Meeting contained some important items. Townspeople need to be made aware that – given the cuts that Durham County Council is having to make – the Town Council is offering to cooperate with Durham County Council to deliver certain services. First, the meeting instructed officers to progress discussions with DCC regarding snow clearance. We already assist with the filling of the 67 salt bins in the town. The suggestion is that we might fit snow plough blades and salt spreaders to a couple of our mini-tractors. This would allow us to clear – during the week – priority pathways. People will have to be reasonable – we obviously cannot clear ALL pathways! But it would make things a little better.

The meeting also delegated the Leader, Deputy Leader and Town Clerk to approach DCC with regards to taking over from the County Council the management of its environmental spaces within the town. This would allow us to keep the areas cleaner and more frequently maintained. Also, our Town Pride and enthusiastic Environmental Volunteer teams would be able to get into special areas like Byerley Park Nature Reserve.

We would be able to apply a consistent and town-wide ecological plan which would encourage the migration of species and improve biodiversity. In short, things could be much better if DCC will lease or licence the land to us to look after.

Of course, we are just beginning discussions, and we need to make sure that we don't saddle the Town Council with liabilities which we will later regret. But things are tight at the moment, and the Town Council wishes to 'do its bit' to help where it can.

In similar vein, the Town Council is adopting Newton Aycliffe Station. We will be tidying up the nearby

scrub areas, and maintaining flower tubs on the platform. We won't be responsible for the decorations, buildings or line, but hopefully we will be able to help it all look smart.

Another environmental initiative announced by the Leader was our intention to investigate the possibility of planting a woodland area in Woodham Burn as our contribution to celebrating the Queen's Jubilee next year.

We considered a letter from a dog-walker, revolted at finding human waste in the Lorry Park, who asked if the Council could build a toilet there. This is obviously too expensive a solution just for the occasional filthy lorry driver who cannot be bothered to walk to the Sports Complex! But we will ask the Town Pride team to check that the area is clean.

By contrast to the Environment Committee (which dealt with a string of new initiatives),

the Recreation Committee which follows immediately after was very much a case of 'business as normal'.

We heard reports from the Golf Professional and the Sports Complex Leisure managers.

Both are enthusiastically developing their sections, and both reported a welcome increase in business in January. We urge all townspeople to use the Golf Course and Oak Leaf facilities whenever they can.

Finally, a problem has arisen with the hiring of the flat-back vehicles we use for the Santa Tours, and the Councillors authorised the officers to find an alternative supplier. Townspeople can be assured that (however Scrooge-like the government) Santa WILL be coming to Newton Aycliffe next Christmas Eve!

JCL

"A NEW ERA OF OPTIMISM AND PROSPERITY"

Dear Sir,
Forty years ago, Central Avenue and the Blue Bridge teemed with the sounds and was thick with the smell of traffic - early and late - as workers made their way to and from Aycliffe Industrial Estate.

The town was vibrant and optimistic. Newton Aycliffe was a good place to live. Since those heady days, times have not been so good; the lifeblood, flowing into and out of the Estate, became more of a trickle. Yes, there were success stories. Yet all too often, they were false dawns, morning glories that faded and died.

Our town was struggling. But now, with the news that Hitachi is to develop a factory - on our Business Park - a new era of optimism and prosperity beckons for both workers and local businesses alike.

Very many people and organisations have played a part in this modern day success story.

The media have banged the drum; The Northern Echo and the Newton News included. Durham County Council have also done sterling work in bringing this non-political alliance together. However, I think that special praise should go to our MP, Mr Phil Wilson. He has worked tirelessly to bring this to fruition and deserves all of the accolades that will come his way.

At a time when many politicians have a bad Press, here is someone who we can rely on, as an integral part of our community. Well done, Phil. Well done, Newton Aycliffe!

Derek G Atkinson
Denham Place
Newton Aycliffe

If you've got a business idea, don't just sit on it.



Jade Upton didn't. She got in touch with Be Enterprising who helped her start her own business - Lily Lloyd Flowers. With a whole bunch of useful advice and help with accessing funding, it wasn't long before she was up and running. So if you ever need a florist, give her a call on **01388 779 207**. We've helped over 3000 people to start new businesses in County Durham - why not join Jade and be one of them?

Call Be Enterprising on 0800 030 4134 or visit www.be-enterprising.biz and make it happen.



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IN COUNTY DURHAM

MP Won a Hard Fight

Dear Sir,
Phil Wilson is to be congratulated for spearheading the campaign and fighting tooth and nail to get the Hitachi factory and jobs in Newton Aycliffe.
He fought against the odds and the Government must be credited with listening to the case he put
Arun M Chandran

LETTERS

Save Be-Enterprising

Dear Sir,
I am asking people to write to their local MP to save [Be-enterprising.biz](#). It has helped thousands of businesses and charities to start up, yet Durham County Council are to close it in September! If we lose this, unemployment will only get worse as people will not be able to have the help they need to become self employed. Be-enterprising helps with business plans free advice and grants! This cannot stop! People should write to their MP Phil Wilson at wilsonphil@parliament.uk Sarah Dightam

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K9's GOT TALENT

Has your dog got the Rex Factor?

K9 Pursuits Dog Day Care are celebrating their 5th Birthday on the 27th March. In conjunction with their open day celebrations they are holding a competition for talented dogs.

A panel of judges consisting of Simon Growl, Sharon Dogbone, Louis Leash and Doggy Minogue will be looking for a dog with Star Quality.

The competition will be open to all dogs whether they can sing, dance, do tricks or whose owners just think they are extra special in some other way.

All they have to do is convince the judges that they have the Bow Wow Factor.

On entering the competition they are also helping other dogs less fortunate than themselves as all entry fees will be donated to Dogs Trust in Darlington.

The event will be held at K9 Pursuits Dog Day Care and Training Centre on Aycliffe Business Park.

You never know the Judges might even discover the next "Canine Superstar".

For more information please contact Gill Crawford or Andrea Rogers, Whitworth Ave, Aycliffe Business Park Tel 01177 or 07813 962077. e-mail: k9pursuitsltd@hotmail.co.uk

Youthy Members Make Quality Films of Life in Newton Aycliffe



Budding young animators from Newton Aycliffe got to show off two short films, based on their experiences of living in the area this week. The youngsters are all aged between 13 and 17 and attend Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre. They have spent the last six months working on the films as part of County Durham's Positive Futures project.

Artists from The Forge teamed up with youth workers from the centre to teach the girls animation techniques to bring to life their experiences of being a young girl in the South Durham town.

They were given the opportunity to use cameras to film their stories and were shown how to create storyboards to plan and sequence a film and got the chance to act in their creations as well as learning editing, directing and exhibiting skills.

Lisa Denham, Positive Futures coordinator, said: "All of the girls are local to the Newton Aycliffe area and use the Youth Centre but came together as a new group to work on the arts project. The films are so good they are a true testament to the hard work of these young people and I think they are good enough to be entered for any number of young people's awards."

The films, 4EVA Fighting, a film about differing attitudes to fighting and Never Walk Alone, a film about staying safe, were showcased last week at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre.

Those who took part were: Amy Swainston, Ashleigh

Barker, Becca Gibbon, Catherine Jackson, Chelcie Braithwaite, Courtney Jenkins, Jess Reed, Kayleigh Simpson, Kelly Keane, Kim Hindmarch, Lauren Welch, Leah Oxley, Paige Braithwaite, Staci Richardson, Toni Mcmillan, Zara Peek.

COUNTY COUNCIL WILL BUY LOCALLY

Firms in County Durham could be line for a business boost if the County Council adopts a new approach to buying goods and services. Members of Durham County Council's Cabinet will be asked to agree the Buy Local: Buy Durham initiative when they meet on Wednesday, 9 March.

Introducing the new system would help make the purchasing procedure more transparent and create more opportunities for local suppliers to tender for work. Cllr Alan Napier, Durham County Council Cabinet member for resources, said: "The council's procurement policy aims to secure the best value for money while also taking into account our wider environmental, social and economic responsibilities.

"Adopting Buy Local: Buy Durham would provide a major opportunity for the County Council to demonstrate its commitment to creating opportunities to spend money with local suppliers, which could have economic benefits at a local level."

Under the Council's current procurement policy, all

purchases above £50,000 must be made via an electronic system. Goods and services valued between £5,001 and £50,000 can be secured on a quotation-only basis, with a minimum of three quotes needed.

Buy Local: Buy Durham would mean all purchases above £5,000 would be made through the electronic system, making them more transparent and more standardised.

The system would also ensure that at least one quotation was sought from a company based in County Durham.

The Council would still have to ensure contracts were awarded on a fair basis and would not be able to favour local firms when deciding on a supplier, but it is hoped the new rules would address concerns that the procurement process puts smaller businesses at a disadvantage.

Efforts would also be made to raise awareness of the new system, with County Durham firms being encouraged to register as suppliers.

Businesses wishing to register as a potential supplier to the County Council should visit www.nepoportal.org

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WATCH OUT FOR CARJACKERS

You walk across the car park, unlock your car and get inside. You start the engine put it into reverse. When you look into the rearview mirror to back out of your space, you notice a piece of paper stuck to the middle of the rear window. So, you stop to remove that paper that is obstructing your view.

When you reach the back of your vehicle, carjackers appear out of nowhere, jump into your car and take off. And I bet a lady driver's purse is still in the car. So the carjacker has your car, your home address, your money, and your keys. Your home and your whole identity are now compromised! If you see a piece of paper stuck to your back window, lock your doors and just drive away. Remove the paper later. Pass this story to friends and family, especially to women.

SATURDAY 5TH MARCH 2011

ALI CARTER EXHIBITION #7 IN THE WORLD

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DON'T FEED THE PLANTS!



'Don't Feed the Plants' will be the advice given by members of Woodham Youth Theatre as they stage their production of 'Little Shop of Horrors'.

Students from Woodham Technology College have been rehearsing hard to entertain the audience with acting, singing and dancing as they tell the story of Skid Row and the man eating plant Audrey II.

The cast involves students from Year 7 to 11 as well as a large team of Woodham Student Leaders who are involved in backstage, front of house, technical support and publicity.

Woodham has a history of staging successful musicals and is delighted to welcome back some former students who have contacted the College to see if they can be of any assistance.



The performance dates are Wednesday 9th March, Thursday 10th March and Friday 11th March. Tickets are available from the College priced at £5 for adults and £3 for concessions. Seats are allocated so please purchase tickets in advance by calling the College on 01325 300328.

COUNTY DISABLED SWIMMERS COULD BECOME PARALYMPIANS

The Olympics is a pipe dream for most but not for young disabled swimmers in County Durham. Primary and Secondary pupils from 11 schools including Greenfield competed in the second annual Disability Swimming Gala at Freeman's Quay Leisure Centre in Durham City on Friday 11th February, where having a splashing time while talent spotting the country's next generation of elite athletes was the order of the day.

Boys and girls aged seven to fifteen were selected to take part by their school or qualified at the recent Aquasplash Festivals which took place across the county to recognise skills achieved at swimming lessons. All participants were cheered on by parents, teachers and their classmates as they competed in a variety of different strokes and distances depending on their ability, including: mixed,

fly and freestyle races over 25m.

The regional development coach for Disability Swimming with ASA (Amateur Swimming Association), Jo Barber attended to select youngsters to go on to further assessment later in the year, when they will put their skills to the test for the chance to gain a place on the county squad.

Durham County Council's school swimming Development Officer, Lee Dalzell, said: "The main aim of the competition was to promote swimming as a fun activity for children with disabilities. However,

for some skilled swimmers this could be the start of something great, with a scout here on the lookout for young stars that show the potential to be future Paralympians."

For more information on disability swimming contact Laura Welford on 0191 301 8811.

Record Attempt at Church FairTrade Event

St Clare's Church in Newton Aycliffe is hosting a FairTrade Coffee Morning on Saturday 12th March with the aim of raising awareness of the importance of Fair Trading.

The usual popular cake stall will be there and we shall also be taking part in trying to break the record for 'the world's longest bunting': we shall send our bunting off to join the countrywide effort.

Why not come along and have a tea/coffee, peruse the fairtrade items and add your name to the bunting - it's fun! If you have an old fairtrade t-shirt then bring that along too as long as you don't mind it being cut up into bunting! Children are welcome to the event and can add their piece of bunting too. Coffee Morning from 10.00am - 2.00pm

Ash Wednesday Services

Services for the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, will be held at St. Elizabeth's Church, Woodham at 7pm on Wednesday 9th March and at St. Andrews Church, Aycliffe Village at 11am.

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PREVIEW EVENT

Wednesday 16th March, 2011 - 6.00pm to 8.00pm
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Youth Groups Wanted for Community Fair

Free Exhibition space for the Community Fair, organised by the town's Rotary Club, is filling up with only a few weeks left to the event on 14th May in the Leisure Centre. Project Leader Rotarian Roger Curtis told Newton News he would like more applicants from Youth Groups including entertainers and schools.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to show what social activities our community offers. We are fortunate to have so many different organisations and they should grasp this chance to increase awareness and membership" said Roger. To book your place make contact by e-mail: roger.curtis@onyxnet.co.uk

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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MEASURES TO IMPROVE POLICE PRODUCTIVITY

Durham Police Authority Members have approved an innovative approach to measuring and managing productivity for local policing at a meeting of the Authority recently.

Durham Constabulary presented a report to the Authority identifying new working measures put in place to record the Force's productivity. These measures include indicators such as police availability, sickness and overtime, the number of crimes detected per officer, crime and anti-social behaviour reduction, attended incidents within the target time (per officer) and victim and public perceptions of the service provided by the Force.

Just weeks after the recent

report announcing how well Durham Constabulary is performing nationally with the best crime detection rates in thirty years, Chairman of Durham Police Authority, Mr Peter Thompson, said: "Taking an innovative approach at how productivity can be measured is one of the ways the Authority and Force is looking forward to continually develop Durham Constabulary's current status and standing".

These new reporting measures further highlight the radical and forward thinking approach of how local policing in the future will have to do more with less.

Members also heard how these will provide further advantages to local communities, as they are produced for all twelve main police stations across County Durham and Darlington. This means that specific productivity indicators can be compared across different police stations enabling the areas to continue to work together proactively and learn from each other more closely in the future by highlighting good practice and any potential areas for improvement.

Durham Constabulary's Assistant Chief Officer Gary Ridley said: "This is part of the Force's ongoing process to improve value for money to the public. We will be looking to improve on our productivity work over time".



THE TURBINIA * Saturday Night Live *

The Very Best of Rock - Normally NO Cover Charge

Saturday 5th March - "The KIII"

'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 marvelous 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 Smout 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.thekiii.co.uk

Saturday 12th March - "Shanghai"

GIG PIT REVIEW AT THE TURBINIA - 'Wouldn't have wanted to miss this gig!! The first set kicked off with Purple's 'Hush' and was swiftly followed by Whitesnake's 'Feel for your Lovin''. Another Whitesnake track, 'Is This Love' was followed up with Purple's 'Burn'. I was taken by the effortless vocals of Russ, although he professed to have broken into a sweat in the first ten minutes, it didn't look that way. Nick on lead looked to be thoroughly enjoying himself, I love to see that. The opening tones of 'Radar Love' made me stop in my tracks. The second set began with Bon Jovi's 'Shot Through the Heart', and The Kinks, 'You Really Got Me'. Def Leppard's 'Animal' and two of my favourite Billy Idol tracks, 'White Wedding' and 'Rebel Yell' were dished out, expertly done IMO, one of THE best renditions of both I've heard in a long time. Aerosmith's 'Walk This Way' and Neil Young's 'Free World' were the last two tracks of the second set. Somewhere in amongst these, Nick showed us his plentiful guitar skills with a mega solo, his solo was interrupted for a harmonica solo by John, they then sat and had a guitar v harmonica competition. Fun to watch and a great way to showcase talent and entertain the troops!! Rapturous encore shouts got us another 4 (!!!) tracks, Whitesnake's 'Here I Go Again', Van Halen 'Talkin' About Love' and 'Jump' and finally Liddle's 'Rosalie'

Saturday 19th March - "Mugshot"

For more information on bands go to

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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

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BUSINESS AS USUAL AS POLICE MOVE TO TEMPORARY STATION

Police in Newton Aycliffe have set up a new home having moved from their station in the town's Central Avenue.

From Monday, February 28, they will be operating from premises half a mile away at Parsons Court on the nearby Aycliffe Business Park.

The station will continue to provide 24-hour policing and outside of those hours immediate assistance will be available through the control room.

Chief Inspector Vicki Martin, Neighbourhood Manager, said: "We are committed to maintaining a strong policing presence in Newton Aycliffe and, although we are operating from another base, it is 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." Chief Inspector Martin added: "We can still be contacted on both the

non-emergency telephone number 0345 6060 365 and 999 if an emergency arises."

The move to new premises is to allow for the demolition of the existing station and the rebuilding of a replacement on the same site. It is anticipated this will be completed by late 2012. The Police Station can also be accessed by Welbury Way and if you travel by car you can park just outside the door making it more convenient for visitors.

MP Praises Training for Young 3M Engineers



(Left) Apprentices Kalvin Atkinson and Lisa Pape with Phil Wilson MP and plant manager Shaun Morley (right).

The craft apprenticeship scheme run by 3M at the company's Aycliffe site won praise from Sedgefield MP Phil Wilson during a visit

to the plant. During his tour of the site, which manufactures respirators and products for the vehicle aftercare market, Mr Wilson met with two of the apprentices on the scheme.

"Companies like 3M should be congratulated for providing such outstanding training and support for budding engineers of the future," Mr Wilson commented.

The 3M scheme is accredited with the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and one of its apprentices, 21-year-old Lisa Pape, was recently a runner-up in the IET's Young Female Engineer of the Year awards.

Plant Manager Shaun Morley said the site took great pride in the quality of its training programme. "We believe very strongly in investing in our people and nurturing new talent," he added. "The apprenticeship scheme plays a big part in the site's succession planning."

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Dear Sir,
Let's put pensioners in jail and criminals in a nursing home.
This way pensioners would have access to showers, hobbies and walks. They'd receive unlimited free prescriptions, dental and medical treatment, wheelchairs etc and they'd receive money for doing very little.
They would have constant video monitoring, helped instantly, if they fell, or needed assistance. Bedding would be washed twice a week, and all clothing would be ironed and returned.
A guard would check on them every 20 minutes and they would have 3 meals a day. They would have family visits in a suite built for that purpose.
They would have access to a library, weight room, spiritual counselling, pool and education. Simple

clothing, shoes, slippers, PJ's and legal aid would be free, on request.
Private, secure rooms for all, with an exercise outdoor yard, with gardens. Each senior citizen could have a PC, a TV, Radio and daily phone calls.

There would be a Board of Directors to hear complaints, and the guards would have a code of conduct that would be strictly adhered to.
Criminals in a Home would get cold food, be left all alone and unsupervised. Bed with lights out at 8pm, showers once a week. Pay £600 a week to live in a tiny room and have no hope of ever getting out.

Anon

5th May is Referendum Day Across England

Dear Sir
On Thursday 5 May, voters will decide who represents them in local elections across England. There will also be a referendum on whether we use the 'first past the post' or 'alternative vote' system to elect MPs to the UK Parliament.

Many of your readers will want to get involved in campaigning in the referendum and elections. This could be by setting up a campaign group, standing as a candidate or starting a political party.
It is important that people can get involved but they should be aware that there are rules they need to follow. These are set out on our website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance and I'd encourage anyone planning to play an active role in the campaigns to check the rules.

Peter Wardle
Chief Executive
Electoral Commission

MORE PRAISE FOR AUTOSAFE GARAGE

Dear Sir,
I have seen a couple of letters from readers praising Autosafe Garage. I too receive great service from them and find it refreshing and fortunate to find such an honest and trustworthy garage.
Over the years I have been at the hands of many unscrupulous ones who have carried out work not required or not carried out work and still charged. I highly recommend Andy and his team and wish them all the very best in their new premises.

Fleur Brown, Thwaites Close

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ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR FORCES PENSION?

Dear Sir,
As a volunteer caseworker for the Royal British Legion and SSAFA Forces Help I meet ex-Service people and families of all ages in my work.

I am writing to you to raise awareness among the many ex-Service personnel within the Greater Aycliffe area who may be entitled to a Preserved Pension.
Anyone who served in the Armed Forces and left AFTER 6 April 1975 with less than 22 years service may be entitled to a Preserved Pension at the age of 60, proportionate to their respective service.

Initially, this was 5 years service and the qualifying age was discharge over the age of 26. In 1978 the age restriction was lifted and on 6/4/1988 the length of service reduced to 2 years to qualify.

So, from 1975 to 1978 a person had to have 5 years service and be aged 26 or over when they left, from 1978 the age didn't matter but they still needed to have 5 years service and from 1988 they only needed 2 years service.

Any one who thinks they are entitled can ring 0800 085 3600 which is the Pension advisory line. Also a reminder to those who do know they are entitled. When you near 60 you have to write to the Army/Navy/Air Force to claim your pension. They do not contact you. I hope this will help some of our residents at this time.

Wilf Emmerson
Lowther Drive

Praise for MP Phil

Dear Sir,
I would first like to say I am certainly no hardcore Labour supporter, however I felt it important to make public the work Phil Wilson has put in to ensure the Hitachi led consortium moves into Newton Aycliffe, bringing with it massive economic growth to the town, and the wider north east community. Having taken an interest in the campaign personally, I had the pleasure of meeting Phil at his Town Centre office, and was inspired by his enthusiasm for the project, his knowledge of what was required and his determination to take the campaign to the masses.

The hard work put in by Phil and the rest of the team behind the campaign has paid off and the government have seen fit to progress with the IEP.

Having had many years of a high profile MP in Sedgefield we finally have an MP who puts in the work and effort for the people of his constituency.

I would like to thank Phil for the effort and commitment to this campaign and wish him every success as a long term MP for Sedgefield.

Andrew Long
18 Neville Parade

Give More Time for Debate in Council

from one meeting to another which are rapidly arranged at short notice. Of course, if John would like a real debate he could join in and support these disabled workers.

The Deputy PM Nick Clegg was an ardent supporter of supported employment factories before the election but stands aside whilst Tory attacks the most vulnerable people in our society - not just in Remploy either.

Getting back to the debate on Environment as suggested by John Clare, perhaps as Deputy Leader he would support a move not to limit debate to 5 minutes per person. This would encourage more debate rather than Councillors behaving like nodding dogs.

John D Clare talks of the topicality and relevance of the environment. Will he debate the problem we had when snow was here and pavements were treacherous? Or what about public toilets in the Town Centre. I could go on, but I am sure readers will remember vividly what was done and what was not.

Politics is about more than contrasting opinions and debate, it is also about manipulating people, stifling debate and belittling the opposition.

Kenneth Stubbs
Secretary
(Great Aycliffe Independents)

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AGNEW COMMUNITY CENTRE JOIN BIG SPRING CLEAN

Agnew Community Centre are about to buck the national trend with regard to having young people in the 18 to 24

age group as Trustee's with 2 nominations from this age group being proposed at our Annual General Meeting

on Wednesday 16th March at 7pm.

We have also decided to book a date for volunteers for the Durham LitterFree Big Spring Clean which will be on Saturday 9th April from 11am to 1pm to meet at the Agnew Centre for around 10-30am to organise the group. We hope to cover litter picking both in Morrison Close and Stargate Close and if you want to join us, you will be covered by our Insurance.

Please contact us so that we can have the equipment ready for those on the pick by contacting the Secretary on 01325 321504 office, 01325 301033 home, 07749 236 853 or agnewcommunitycentre@btconnect.com - Please join us in helping to smarten up your area.

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READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS**TOP MARK FOR ADVICE SERVICE**

A service offering help and information to consumers in County Durham has been given the thumbs up by a national watchdog.

Durham County Council's Consumer Advice Service has retained its Quality Mark after an inspection on behalf of the National Legal Services Commission found that it continued to offer a high standard of service to customers.

Joanne Waller, Durham County Council's Head of Environment, Health and Consumer Protection, said: "It is reassuring for residents that if they have problems with goods or services that they cannot readily resolve themselves; our Consumer Advice Service is on hand to provide expert advice and assistance."

Initial advice and guidance

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EDITH KELL 03/03/2006
Loved and remembered everyday Always in our hearts
Your loving husband Bob and Family xx

Obituary

GALLAGHER, Mary Josephine of Hartley Road. Died Friday 25th February 2011 at Darlington Memorial Hospital. Beloved Mother of Vincent, Clare and Paul. Grandmother to Victoria, Amanda and Flynn. The Funeral is on Monday 7th March, 12noon at West Cemetery, School Aycliffe Lane. Flowers to Co-operative Funeral Care, Macmillan Road or donations in lieu to charity **SHEILA BEADLE** on 2nd March, peacefully at home after a prolonged illness of Broomfield Avenue, Eaglescliffe (formerly of Newton Aycliffe). Sheila, aged 80 years. Dearly loved Wife of Stanley, much loved Mum of Lesley, Gillian, Michael, Martin, Rachel and the late Susan. A dear Mother-in-Law, Nana, Great Nana and Sister. Funeral to take place on Wednesday 9th March. Friends please meet for Service in Darlington Crematorium at 2.15pm

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SOLID WOOD 4+2 drawer chest, antique pine with an oiled finish and metal handles, not flat pack, £70. Tel 07514 445606

32" TOSHIBA widescreen TV, CRT, black, £25. Tel 07514 445606

MAXI COSI child car seat, black, 5 point harness, adjustable straps, for use from 9 months to 4 years (up to 18kg approx), excellent condition, £50 ono. Tel 01325 313426

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

In Memoriam**Denise Ledley**

Anna Elizabeth McCormick
Happy 18th Birthday
6th March 2011

To a much loved Daughter, big Sister, Granddaughter, Great Granddaughter, Niece and Cousin. We wish you all you wish for yourself, health and happiness always. From all your very proud family xxxxxxxx

SHIRES Congratulations Lisa and Martin on your Silver Wedding Anniversary. Lots of love from Mam and Dad xxx

SHIRES Lisa and Martin, congratulations on your 25th Wedding Anniversary. All our love and best wishes, Karen, Kevin, Kayleigh and Jamie

JOHN ALLEN (4th March 1971). Congratulations on your 40th birthday John. All our love, Mam and Dad xxx

JOHN ALLEN (4th March 1971). Happy 40th birthday Dad. Lots of love, Charlotte and Luke xxx

JOHN ALLEN (4th March 2011). Congratulations on your 40th John. Love, Craig, Annabel, Vinnie, Oscar and Daisy xxx

AMBER MARSHALL Best wishes on your 18th birthday. Lots of love from Auntie Sue, Andy and Grandad xxx

AMBER MARSHALL Happy 18th birthday. Love, Aunty Debra, Uncle Geoff, Joel and Stevie xxx

TAYLOR SMITH Happy 21st birthday Taylor. Wishing you love, happiness and success for your future. Love from Nana, Grandad and Great Grandma xxx

TAYLOR SMITH Happy 21st birthday Taylor. Lots of love Uncle John, Aunty Claire, Ollie and Arthur xxx

JOHN ALLEN Congratulations on your 40th birthday on 4th March 2011. Love, Auntie Margaret, Uncle Joe and family xxx

RICHARD LEWIS TATHAM, Congratulations on your recent high profile Engagement to our Indian Princess Daughter, Nina. All our love Mr & Mrs Gupta xxx

JOHN ROBERT AISBITT 8th March. Happy 70th birthday Dad. Love from Gerard, Sharon, Nigel, Jacqui, Sweep and Dottie

JOHN ROBERT AISBITT 8th March. Happy 70th birthday Grandad. All our love from Luke, Cameron, Gerard, Finlay, Bailey and Benedict

SHANNON HESLOP 5th March 2011. Happy 13th birthday sweetheart. Love you so so much. Love always, Mam and Phill xxx

SHANNON HESLOP Happy 13th birthday to the best big Sister. Love you all the world and back again. Love, Daniel, Megan and Demi xxx

SHANNON HESLOP Happy 13th birthday Princess. Love you always, Grandma and Grandad

SHANNON HESLOP Happy 13th birthday Shannon. Love from Gram

Tuition

ENJOY LEARNING Guitar, Bass or Drums at home. Tel Roger 01325 321444 - Friendly, Experienced, Local.

Wanted

WANTED household items, old TVs cookers, washers, fridges, bikes etc. Garage clearances undertaken. Tel 321567 or 07984 817111

WANTED 5 point harness, adjustable straps, for use from 9 months to 4 years (up to 18kg approx), excellent condition, £50 ono. Tel 01325 313426

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

Congratulations

Sarah Louise Fleming
Happy 21st Birthday
13th March 2011



Amber Marshall
Happy 18th Birthday
5th March 2011



Beth and Aimee
Happy 13th Birthday Beth
10th March 2011



Happy 13th to our lovely Daughter Bethany, Ma and Da xxxx
Happy 18th Birthday Aimee
Happy 18th to our wonderful Niece Aimee. Auntie Jules, Uncle Kev and Bethany xxx

Bob and Sandra Norris**Happy 40th Wedding Anniversary**
6th March 2011

Mam and Dad, Gran and Grandad, all our love Joanne, David, Donna, Bri, Scott, Rachel, Bobbie-Jo, Jack, Charlie and Leo xxxx

Kieran Dixon

Happy 18th birthday
Congratulations to a very special Son and Brother on your 18th birthday. How time has flown. Love you loads, Mum, Dad and Sister Karina xxx

Matty

Happy 18th Birthday
Matty
I'm proud of you Son. Have a great day, but don't get too drunk, college in the morning! LOL. Love, Dad and Mandy

Property Sale

1 BEDROOM flat for sale, Spennymoor. New kitchen and bathroom, rewired and plastered, new laminate floor, double glazed, offers considered. Tel 07930 557330

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DON WALKERS (Simpasturegate)

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

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

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(Photo and up to 20 words)

LARGE PHOTOAD £25.00

(Photo and up to 30 words)

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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

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!

