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Week Ending 8th January, 2010

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IS AYCLIFFE IN LINE FOR AFFORDABLE HOMES?

Funding of more than £6.6m for new affordable homes in County Durham has been announced. Housing Minister John Healey pledged the cash, which will provide 128 new homes through a number of social housing schemes across the county.

The money will go to registered social landlords whose bids for funding, supported by Durham County Council, have been approved. The funding is the largest allocation of money in the North East region.

Coun Clive Robson, Cabinet Member for Housing at Durham County Council, said: "This is

excellent news for County Durham. We need to see a great deal more affordable homes built in the county and this announcement shows that the government is listening to us.

"We will continue to work with registered social landlords to develop these schemes and to maximise further funding opportunities for County Durham."

The funding will not only help to provide much-needed affordable homes but will also mean a boost to the local construction industry, helping to create new jobs and apprenticeships.

This follows an earlier

announcement which earmarked £1.6m for 28 new council homes in County Durham.

A further announcement on funding for council house building schemes is expected in the New Year.

POLICE WANT INFO ON VEHICLE VANDALS

Dear Sir,
May I request information into possible suspects for criminal damage to a motor vehicle (Red Peugeot 406) between 23/12/09 and 02/01/10, whilst parked in ARNCLIFFE PLACE CAR PARKING AREA, NEWTON AYCLIFFE.

The persons responsible have used an unknown implement to dent the two front wings and smash the wing mirror off the vehicle.

There was also damage to a motor vehicle (black Mitsubishi Colt) between 30/12/09 and 31/12/09, whilst parked in CLARENCE CHARE.

The persons responsible have punctured two tyres on the vehicle, using a sharp or pointed implement. Could any information be forwarded to me.

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Athletes Learn to Eat Healthily



Kate (far right) with Dame Kelly Holme's Olympic Hopefuls

Over Christmas and New Year the nation enjoy enormous Christmas dinners and all the extra treats that come with the festive season. However, for Aycliffe's star middle distance athlete Kate Avery, there was no partying or Christmas bingeing, and she trained as normal hoping to be chosen for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Eighteen-year-old Kate had a stunning 2009 campaign, winning a silver medal at the European Athletics Junior Championships over 3000m and most recently grabbing

a brilliant bronze at the cross country equivalent.

The Shildon Athletic Club athlete is part of double Olympic champion Dame Kelly Holmes' 'On Camp with Kelly' mentoring initiative, supported by Aviva. 'On Camp with Kelly' aims to help talented young middle distance runners become successful international athletes, providing them with support from Kelly herself as well as giving them the opportunity to take part in educational get-togethers with other athletes on the scheme. Recently, Kate attended an

'Eat for Success' cookery get-together hosted at University College Birmingham, where Dame Kelly teamed up with celebrity chef Ainsley Harriott, to give her protégées a practical nutritional master class.

The aim of the weekend was to give the athletes a better understanding of how to cook nutritious meals, enabling them to refuel more effectively after hard training sessions. In the time of year when eating well flies out of the window, Ainsley showed the athletes that its not hard to make tasty and healthy meals quickly.

Kate thoroughly enjoyed the experience and has vowed to put her new cooking skills into practice: "The OCWK cooking get-together was very beneficial to me and it was great to meet Ainsley! Over Christmas while everyone will be treating themselves and pigging out I will be eating sensibly but I still had a few treats on Christmas Day!" said Kate.

TOWN INDOOR ICE RINK HUGE SUCCESS

Pupils from eleven schools made use of a rink, installed in Aycliffe Youth Centre during the Christmas break as part of a five-day-long Fiesta.

The event was supported and funded by Great Aycliffe and Middridge Area Action Partnership (GAMP) and Durham County Council and encouraged young people from the Aycliffe area to get involved in more physical activity.

As well as skating fun, youngsters were treated to DJ workshops from Galaxy Radio and fun exercise sessions on Nintendo Wiis. Youth Workers from the Positive Activities for Young People Team, Durham County Council lead the programme.

More than 500 youngsters joined in the fun, with all those questioned requesting future, similar events.

Brian Riley is Area Action Partnership Co-ordinator for GAMP and is thrilled with both the turn out and the feedback from the 13-19-year-olds who took part. He said: "The events, held over the five days, were very well attended and we have received some extremely

positive feedback."

Teenagers questioned said they would like future plans to include bowling and roller skating and wouldn't mind events being held on

a bigger scale to include youngsters who live in the areas of the other Area Action Partnerships.

A discreet screening process used the opportunity to

promote safe sexual health and more than twenty chlamydia tests were carried out with over thirty youngsters filling out sexual health assessments.

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Cook for Life courses have started at Neville Parade Community Centre for 4 weeks on Tuesdays from 10-12 noon. The course includes eating a healthy balanced diet, reading food labels, snack eating, cooking methods practical skills and tasting etc. There are only four places left ring 313924 for information.

A new Bingo Club is on Wednesday at 1pm - newcomers very welcome. If you want to try Kurling or Table Tennis with the family book a time on Saturday between 3 and 5 pm. Your first appointment is FREE! Tel: 313924.

Two bands for the price on one on Saturday 13th February at 2pm. Durham County Youth Band followed by Durham Alumni big Band playing Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Buddy Rich and more.

Are you interested in joining a Domino Club? Please show your interest by ringing Peter on 313924.

We hear there are proposals to close Shafto House a home to many senior citizens. If you object to this and want to raise a petition please let me know. Tel: 313924.

We are looking for people to join our fundraising committee for the upkeep of the Centre.

Impossible you may think, but wait for it may well be true, That what seems quite beyond you, Is something you can do.

Begin today and once begun, You'll do things that can't be done. Think and Ring 313924.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Dear Sir,

Please pass on to residents of Neville Ward, my friends and colleagues my best wishes for a wonderful and peaceful 2010.

George Robert Gray
Town Councillor

starlight

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Crime prevention officers from across Durham County were in attendance. They were extremely impressed by the demonstration and all agreed that this level of security should deter even the most determined intruder, allowing householders to sleep a little easier at night.



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COLD WEATHER CHANGES HEIGHINGTON, TEA & COFFEE DROP-IN VENUE

Dear Sir,
Because of the cold weather we are experiencing, our Monday afternoon Tea & Coffee Drop-In will be held in Hopelands Court Community Room, Heighington opening at the usual time of 2.00pm and closing around 4.00pm. We would ask all Drop-In customers not to park in Hopelands Court itself as there is limited Parking and this area is for residents use only. As always we extend an even warmer central heating welcome to everyone to meet, chat and enjoy the afternoon with friends and acquaintances in a convivial atmosphere. In addition to our regular guests, we invite parents of school children to join us at the Drop-In. Why wait in the

cold for your child coming out of school when you could wait in nice warm surroundings drinking a hot cup of tea or coffee. Simply pop in and see for yourselves. Hopelands Court is at the bottom of the car parking area directly opposite the Main School Gates or accessed from Millbank via a few steps leading into the Community

Hall. We look forward to seeing everyone on Monday. In the meantime, on behalf of Rev Canon Philip Thomas, Dorothy Sned, Dorothy Branch, Olive Cotton, Joyce Bamford, and not forgetting Counc. Gerald Lee, we wish everyone a Very Happy & Peaceful New Year and thank everyone for supporting this enjoyable weekly event. Ruth Lee.

Trying to Keep Town Centre Clear of Snow

Dear Sir,
I just wanted to respond to the recent letter regarding snow in the Town Centre. We are working hard to maintain pathways through the Town namely the walkways at either side next to the shops covered by canopies, side paths i.e. the Halifax Passage and the main Centre access points. In addition we are creating single pathways on the main ramp, the secondary ramp on Beveridge Walkway and access to the car parks and

stairs where possible. Like the major local councils we do have to prioritise as salt stocks are lower than normal this year due to the severity of the weather and local authorities receiving priority supplies. I would question that the Town Centre is a 'snow go' area as all of the above is done on a daily basis and

certainly from personal experience other Centre's are less well prepared. Bryan Haldane
Centre Manager
Aycliffe Shopping Centre
Management Suite
3 Beveridge Walkway
Tel: 01325 300 605
Fax: 01325 300 130
Email: bryan.haldane@mjmapp.com

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BURNHILL BABY & TODDLERS GROUP

Dear Sir
I would like to let your readers know about Burnhill Way Baby and Toddler Group. We meet at Burnhill Way Methodist Church (next to the Turbina Pub) every Friday afternoon from 1 - 2.30pm, and started back this week (Friday 8th January) after the Christmas holidays. All volunteers have full CRB checks, and we have child first aiders on the team. We try and do something different every week, and have regular messy play, music time and imagination play sessions, as well as visit's from outside organisations including the library storytellers. Sessions cost £1 per family, and this includes a drink for parents/carers, as well as snacks and drinks for the children, which vary week to week. Older, school aged children are always welcome during school holidays when we do not close down, as well as on INSET/staff training days. Susan Mills (group leader)

Town's Tallest Snowman?



Spotted in Carr Place by a reader who asks if this is the tallest snowman in Newton Aycliffe?

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Diamond Wedding Celebration



Doug and Jean with the Mayor Mary Dalton and members of their family

FARLEY'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE FOR AYCLIFFE F.C. FANS

Chairman Gary Farley has thanked the club's fans for their support in what was a hugely successful 2009 and is asking them to keep it up this year.

It's been a very progressive 12 months for Aycliffe, with the redevelopment of Moore Lane Park and a Wearside League title win bringing Northern League football to the town for the first time in the club's history.

"The club would like to thank everyone for all their support and dedication. The town has really embraced the football club and it's been great to see some fantastic crowds at Moore Lane Park," said Gary. "It's also been extremely encouraging to see a healthy following at our away games with some very familiar faces who haven't missed a game all season up to now. All their support is very much appreciated and we'd like to thank everyone for their backing, and we hope everyone continues their support in 2010."

The weather put paid to Newton Aycliffe's festive programme of fixtures, with their trip to Birtley Town and their Boxing Day derby at home to Crook being postponed, as well as their New Year trip to Thornaby. Only Birtley has been re-arranged to date (for Tuesday January 26), while Aycliffe's next scheduled home game isn't until Marske United's visit to Moore Lane Park on Saturday January 23rd. Aycliffe's next game is at

Hebburn Town next Saturday (January 16), followed by Marske at home and then their midweek trip to Birtley.

There are still copies of Aycliffe's official 2010 Calendar available to buy, priced just £5. They're available from the refreshments cabin on matchdays, from any member of the committee, or call Martin Walker on 07826 525907, email martinwalker50@hotmail.com

FIXTURES

Sat Jan 16: Hebburn (A), 3pm
Sat Jan 23: Marske Utd (H), 3pm
Tue Jan 26: Birtley Town (A), 7.30pm
Sat Jan 30: Seaham Red Star (A), 3pm
www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk

Snowman for Defoe Court



Defoe Court's Snowman, made by maintenance man Neil Robinson who built it for residents to remind them of winters gone.

Joy-Marie Hairdressing

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 13th Jan. 2010

Environment Committee - 7.15pm
Followed by the Recreation Committee

QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 15 minutes has been set aside for electors to ask questions at the Recreation, Environment and Policy & Resources Committee Meetings. Written questions must be received by the Town Clerk at least 5 clear days prior to the meeting. Oral questions may be asked at the meeting which relate to an agenda item or is a matter for which that committee has responsibility. 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 70 minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Doug and Jean White celebrated their 60 year marriage on the 31st December 2009 and Mayor Mary Dalton was one of the first to call at their home in Clarence Green to congratulate the couple.

Doug from Middlestone Moor, met Jean while completing his National Service as a cook in the REME in Warminster. It was the custom for soldiers to walk down one side of the High Street while the girls walked on the other eyeing each other as potential partners for dates.

Doug recalls asking Jean to go to the pictures, but couldn't remember the film they saw as they were on the back row!

The couple stayed in Wiltshire for a while, Jean was a cashier and Doug worked at RAF Warminster and for Lord Bath at Longleat the now famous Animal Park.

The couple moved to Newton Aycliffe in 1955 when Doug took jobs with the former ADC, Bakelite, Talents and Aycliffe Hospital before retiring.

Jean worked for Talents, GEC and Broughs the Grocers. "We had six children and we needed the money" said Jean. Doug also supplemented the family income with a window cleaning round. He loved sport and played cricket for Bakelite (now Ineos). The family went along to the match and helped with the refreshments.

Doug and Jean have seven Grandchildren and nine Great Grandchildren and they all came together in celebration of this diamond occasion.

Gardens Guild AGM

The Guild's AGM is to be held on Monday 18th January at the Royal British Legion Club at 7pm to which everyone is welcome.

The Hut will be open at Clarence Chare Allotments on Sunday 7th February at 10am and continue until the end of October excluding August.

Gardeners in the town can purchase top quality garden goods at very reasonable prices.

Carols on the Green Raised £235

Many thanks to residents of Aycliffe Village and friends who came out on a very cold night and sang Xmas Carols with great gusto. Georgie and Tony (electrics), Sarah and Gavin for their music, and Keith as our M.C.

Special thanks to Stuart and Collette of "The County" for their hospitality and help.


Last but not least to Santa Claus who turned out for us in spite of his very busy schedule. The sum raised was £235.50p which will go to charities.

Fans' Footy Nights

at the Northern Echo Arena

**Wednesday and Thursday
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XMAS CHAOS IN TESCO CAR PARK

Dear Sir,
It will be interesting to know what Tesco will do next year to avoid the Christmas chaos in their car park. Most times the car park was completely full, but worryingly, there must have been up to 50 cars trawling around and around, waiting for a space to become vacant. It was

virtually gridlock. I am also sure that with so much 'out of town' traffic making a b-line for Tesco, the average speed of traffic travelling along the main roads within Newton Aycliffe, far exceeds the speed limit.
Observer
Editor:
We spoke to Tesco Manager Martin Butcher who saw the problems and will be taking various proposals back to his company to improve the situation next year.
Snowfall was also a factor which was of course beyond his control. "The problem of spaces was not aided by the severe adverse weather we experienced resulting in the loss of parking. Despite daily gritting, we had treacherous driving conditions resulting in slower manoeuvring of traffic in and out of the car park" said Martin.

SUPER SLIMMER STARTS NEW GROUP



Deborah before and after weight loss

Deborah Surtees, a mother of three, lives in Newton Aycliffe and works as a Slimming World Consultant. She is opening a new group in the town on Wednesday, January 13th at the Navy Club, Bluebell Way, at 7pm. Everyone is welcome, men and women.
Deborah is a member herself and to date has lost nearly FIVE and a HALF stone. "I am a great advert for the fantastic eating plan which fits all lifestyle. You can eat

loads of food on the extra easy plan, eat out and also have takeaways, even have a drink". said Deborah. Whatever your reason to lose weight, for health reasons maybe for a summer wedding or holiday or simply just for you. Group members receive personal support from Deborah and other members to reach their goal. "My life has changed totally since losing the weight. I am more active, have more self esteem, and best of all I have dropped 5 dress sizes, from a 22 down to a brilliant size 12. I have achieved all this in just 14 months, so if I can do it anybody can. Come along on Jan 13th at 7pm and Slimming World will change your life too". added Deborah. Contact No: 07549 174598.

Rotary President Thanks Appeal Donors



Dear Sir,
May I thank all who supported the Rotary Club's annual Christmas appeal. The total raised from events organised by members including Santa tours around the street, collections in Tesco and the Community Concert was almost £5,500 - a fantastic result.
The money purchased 60 extra large hampers, kindly packed by Tesco staff who chose the best offers in store to give great value for money. A donation will also be made to show support for our soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. I wish to thank my fellow Rotarians for all their hard work, but without our supporters their efforts would not be worthwhile. The generosity of those who donated was heartwarming and encouraging. Thank you all most sincerely and best wishes for the New Year.
Jean Thompson
President.

SANTA DID HIS BEST ON ICY ROADS

Dear Sir,
May I thank all the people who braved cold and icy conditions to welcome me on the Town Council Santa tour of Woodham and adjoining areas. Road conditions were difficult and I can assure everyone that Frank and John, driver and navigator made every effort to tour everywhere, but just couldn't access all streets due to poor road conditions. Everyone might have enjoyed the white Christmas but it can sometimes have its disadvantages.
Santa Designate.

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Employability

Office Return to Work Course (Business Admin Level 2, IT, Business English, Maths and English)	30 weeks	Newton Aycliffe Community Learning Centre
Employability Skills Programme (CV, interview preparation, etc)	10 weeks	Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Interview Skills	Half Day	Pioneering Care Partnership
CV workshops	Half Day	Pioneering Care Partnership

Computing & IT

Digital Imaging (can lead onto 10 week programme)	5 weeks	Woodham Community Technology College
Computers for the Terrified including internet & email (can lead onto Start IT or Level 1 onwards) (roll on roll off)	10 weeks	Woodham Village Community Centre
Introduction to Digital Photography	10 weeks	Woodham Village Community Centre
Intro leading onto Computerised Accounts	12 weeks	Newton Aycliffe Community Learning Centre

Health & Wellbeing

Salsa Dancing	10 weeks	Woodham Community Technology College
Crystal Healing	10 weeks	Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Confidence Building	6 weeks	Newton Aycliffe Children's Centre
Motivation & Confidence Building	Half Day	Pioneering Care Partnership
Yoga Advanced / Intermediate	10 weeks	Greenfield Community & Arts Centre
Belly Dancing	5 weeks	Greenfield Community & Arts Centre
Pilates	10 weeks	Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre

Creative Arts

Crafts for Pleasure	10 weeks	Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Art e.g. watercolours	10 weeks	Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Ceramics	6 weeks	Greenfield Community & Arts Centre
Painting & Drawing	10 weeks	Greenfield Community & Arts Centre
Glass Fusing	TBC	Greenfield Community & Arts Centre
Family History	10 weeks	Woodham Community Technology College
Gilding	5 weeks	Woodham Community Technology College

Skills for Life - National Tests English & Maths

- Greenfield Community & Arts Centre
- Newton Aycliffe Children's Centre
- Newton Aycliffe Community Learning Centre
- Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
- Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP)

ESOL (English for Speakers of other Languages)

- Woodham Community Technology College

Contact Information

Childrens Centre
Anne Hall - 01325 319753
anne.hall-surestart@durham.gov.uk

Community Learning Centre
Linda Skinner - 01325 316558
linda.skinner@bacoll.ac.uk

Library
Rosemary Hoban - 01325 312856
rosemary.hoban@durham.gov.uk

Youth Centre
Ian Defty - 01325 307522
ian.defty@durham.gov.uk

Woodham Community Technology College
Marie Oswald - 01325 375482
m.oswald@woodham.org.uk

Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP)
Stacy Arnott - 01325 321234
stacy@pcp.uk.net

Greenfield Community & Arts Centre
Sue Abed-All - 01325 378048
info@greenfield-arts.co.uk

Woodham Village Community Centre
David Sutton-Lloyd - 01325 316144
david.sutton-lloyd@virgin.net

For advice on learning and work
please contact your local
nextstep service on
0800 027 7944

Languages

French Intermediate	10 weeks	Greenfield Community & Arts Centre
Spanish Intermediate	10 weeks	Greenfield Community & Arts Centre
Spanish Plus	10 weeks	Greenfield Community & Arts Centre
Italian Beginners	10 weeks	Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Spanish Beginners	10 weeks	Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre

Performing Arts

Steel Pans	TBC	Greenfield Community & Arts Centre
Guitars	10 weeks	Greenfield Community & Arts Centre

Other Courses

Manual Handling	Half Day	Newton Aycliffe Children's Centre
Health & Safety Awareness	Half Day	Newton Aycliffe Children's Centre
Fire Safety in the Home	Half Day	Newton Aycliffe Children's Centre

Shaw Trust Employment

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Counselling

Intro leading onto Counselling	21 weeks	Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP)
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ICT (Level 3) advanced diploma

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01325 328317 or
wendy.matthews@abactraining.org.uk

Dyslexia Support is available and can be delivered at any venue please contact
LEAP on 01833 690281

Family Learning

There are a wide range of activities and courses available where parents, grandparents, children, carers, neighbours and friends are involved in learning together and it's fun. To find out more about family learning activities and courses in your area, contact Carol Neville or Hilary Hawkins (LEAP) 01833 690281, Ian Defty (Durham County Council, Adult Learning) 01325 307522 or Sharon Proud (Bishop Auckland College) 01388 443133.

If you are interested in any of the courses listed above, further information including details of course fees can be obtained by contacting the venue direct

Please note all courses will run subject to sufficient numbers enrolling on an individual course

AGNEW CENTRE A.G.M.

Please note this will be on Thursday 28th January 2010 at 8-15pm at the Centre in Morrison Close. All Nominations and Proposals must be in the hands of the Secretary no later than Thursday 14th January 2010. All welcome, but only paid up members will be able to vote on any item. Memberships available up to 7-30 pm on the day of the AGM at £2 and £1 for concessions. Call the Secretary on 01325 321504 or 301033.

Thanks from Care Home

Dear Sir,
On behalf of the Residents and Staff at Rose Lodge Care Home, a great big Thank You to everyone who helped and supported us in any way over the festive period. Special thanks to Byerley Park School, Stephenson Way School, Vane Road School, Woodham Community College, Rev Shelagh Stevens & Members of the Methodist Church, Members of St Clares Church, Members of the Excel Church, Aycliffe & Brancepeth Brass Band, Ferryhill Stage Society, Options Group at the PCP, Vi Steventon, The Tearaways, & Santa Claus who called in on Christmas Eve.

These people gave up their valuable time, in the run up to Christmas, to come in to entertain and celebrate the Festive Season with the Residents, for which we are very grateful. If there is anyone I've forgotten, thank you also and we wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2010. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Staff, Residents & Families for the cards, gifts & good wishes received on my retirement from Rose Lodge. Margaret Willis

COMMUNITY SPORTS LEADERSHIP COURSES

The Oak Leaf Sports Complex in partnership with local sports development company Active Inclusion CIC, are to run its first Community sports leaders award level 2 course in January.

The Level 2 Award in Community Sports Leadership is a nationally recognized qualification that enables successful candidates to independently lead small groups of people in sport and recreational activities.

Some benefits of the course are: Personal Development – increase confidence, self esteem and self management.

Obtaining Life Skills – Skills and experience that can be transferred into a variety of situations and environments and will help to prepare any candidate for life.

Community Involvement – Many leaders play an active and vital role within their local community and

are welcomed by clubs and organizations who need volunteers to help them operate.

Further Training – Many community sports leaders go on to further training and to gain further qualifications as a result of their experiences.

A Nationally Recognized Qualification – This can act as a stepping stone to employment or further education.

For further information on this course please contact Darren Anderson on 07891594706 or to book your place contact the Oak Leaf Sports Complex Reception on 01325 300600

Lib Dems Support Cubby



Words of support are all very well and much appreciated, however, the town's Lib Dems branch took it one step further over the Christmas period. Proceeds from their highly successful and enjoyable, Pie and Peas supper, held in The North Briton, Aycliffe Village, bought coffee, tea, biscuits and other commodities for the patrons of The Cubby. Liberal Democrat members, Lileen Cuthbertson, Councillor Alison Palmer, Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp and Derek Atkinson are pictured presenting some of the gifts to Janet Chapman, Secretary of The Cubby.

The premises are used as a drop in for Senior Citizens who can have a cuppa, rest and a chat after shopping. The Lib Dems also support the Cubby by renting the premises for their meetings.

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Music Exams

The following pupils of Terence Lawson, School Aycliffe, have been successful in the recent Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Examinations:

PIANO: Sally Cresser Grade 1, Michelle Smith Grade 1, Robyn Teasdale Grade 2.

SINGING: Sarah Bedwell Grade 3 with Merit, Tom Bussey Grade 3

Burst Pipe Closes Greenfield Gallery

A burst water pipe during the Christmas holiday has caused considerable damage to the Greenfield Gallery at the Greenfield Community and Arts Centre.

It is estimated that the extensive remedial work will not be completed until April 2010.

The Art Exhibition by Michael Lumb, scheduled to start on Wednesday 13th January until 3rd February has, therefore, been cancelled.

The Annual Open Art Exhibition scheduled for 10th March to 21st April, has also been cancelled. It is important to note that only the Gallery has been affected and there are no changes to the classes/courses that are part of our Learning Programme, due to start week commencing 11/01/10 (as advertised in this paper.)

Owing to adverse weather conditions, however, it is advisable to check the School website www.greenfieldschool.net before setting out for all events at Greenfield School Community and Arts College (01325 300378) and Greenfield Arts Centre. (01325 379048)

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The Christmas season has been a busy time at Burnhill Way Methodist Church. There have been Christmas craft sessions for children and adults, carol singing in Tesco, fundraising for Action for Children and Daisy Chain, Christmas Fair, Children's Nativity Service, Carol Services, etc, etc, - all washed down with many cups of tea/juice, mince pies and Christmas tree biscuits.

There were two visits from Santa with gifts for the children. And all the

fun will be rounded off on Monday 11th January with a New Year party from 6pm-8pm - with games and fun for all ages and refreshments. As always we invite our local community to join us.

On Saturday 23rd January there will be a special Burns Night meal and social evening starting at 7pm - cost £5 per person (£2.50 for under 12s). Again all are welcome. If you would like to come please ring Gwen on 301937 to ensure that there will be enough food for everyone!



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SNOWBOARDING FUN



A proud father watches his sons show their prowess on snowboards at Moore Lane Recreation Ground over the Xmas Holidays.

YOUTHY CHRISTMAS FOOTBALL CONTEST

Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre Junior Football Club held their annual Christmas Tournament for their thriving development section of 5 – 8 year olds at the Oak Leaf Complex on Wednesday 30th December

2009. There were 32 boys and girls competing aged from 5 – 8 year old, making up 5 teams playing a round robin competition with all teams playing each other twice. Everyone agreed that the quality of football was first class and all games were played with tremendous friendly spirit. The whole day showed what hard work has been put in by the boys and coaches throughout the year. There is no doubt that the football club's future is very bright with the boys and girls playing this standard of football at such a young age. If you are interested in developing in football with an FA Charter Standard Development Club and are a young boy 5-8 years old or a girl 10-12 years old please contact Berni 07939 045242

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Improvement Schemes

It was Highways Money that funded the new car parking bay in Pease Way so Councillor Enid Paylor deserves some credit for using money allocated to her for this community improvement project. Resident Delia Stout still insists that Sarah Iveson did most of the background work after being contacted by the Great Aycliffe Residents' Association. Readers are advised to contact their local County Councillor with requests or ideas to improve their areas.

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BEAUTY OF THE PANTO IS "BEASTLY"

When the curtain rises on The Tearaways Youth Theatre Group's pantomime, "Beauty and the Beast" this month, there will be a lot of local youth talent involved in the four performances. Like dancers Reece Pears, Hannah Day, Courtney Fawcett, Kara Ward, Nikita Walbey, and Courtney Oxley, all from Newton Aycliffe along with Olivia Dunn from School Aycliffe. They are all part of the seven dance

troupes in the production. Singing the foottapping music to the show are Lauryn Bennett, Charlotte Mc Adam, and Jade Oxley. Providing some of the wacky panto comedy are local girls Leah Oxley as Raggerty the Scarecrow, and Katie Baldwin from Woodham who is Silly Milly. As usual with these young peoples shows, Andrew Timmiss will be keeping a watchful eye, ensuring all

goes right. Oh yes it will! Performances at the Civic Hall, Shildon are on Thursday 21st, Friday 22nd January, 7.30pm and Saturday 23rd, Sunday 24th January, at 2pm. Tickets priced £4 Adults, £2-50 Children (5 and over) Concessions. All tickets must be pre booked by ringing (01388) 774838/07747 826324. More information visit: www.tearaways-shildon.co.uk

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Grit Theft

Dear Sir,
I wondered if you might shame someone into reviewing their actions. On Sunday 3rd Jan I passed a motorist on the entrance road to the Chestnuts, School Aycliffe loading a large bag of salt/grit into his car from the roadside container. I motioned that it was for use by the housing estate but didn't feel I could challenge him direct. His car was a blue Volkswagen and I have the registration number. He was quite blatant and I followed him for about 2 miles, but he was obviously leading me on a wild goose chase. The entrance is notorious for being icy and this man was putting residents at risk. He can purchase a bag of salt/grit at most garages, like the rest of us do. I'd naturally prefer my details were withheld, as someone who stoops this low would think nothing of being a nuisance. Indignant.
Editor: We would advise the theft details be reported to the Police.

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MIND FINANCES CLARIFIED

Dear Readers,
Last Week Newton News printed a letter from Muriel Gordon (Manager) of Newton Aycliffe Mind, titled "MIND Maligned" in which she corrected misconceptions of mine. S. Blenkinsopp also made comments in a letter titled "Nasty Letters concerning MIND. Whilst I understand her writing about an imagined attack on people suffering from Mental Health complaints, both letters require clarification. The statement from S Blenkinsopp, who I believe is the treasurer for Newton Aycliffe MIND, says the £10,000 is not a grant but recompense for money spent on the council's property! I attended the Town Council Meeting as a public observer where this grant of £10,000 was proposed by Bill Blenkinsopp (Lib Dem) & seconded by Sarah Iveson (Labour). Brian Haigh for the Great Aycliffe Independents specifically directed a question to the Chair and asked, "Is it compensation"? To which the reply was "No, it is not! I would imagine the vast majority of people who voted for an Independent Councillor would find it difficult to accept if their chosen representatives did not challenge situations where insufficient information is provided. Muriel Gordon states in her letter that my statement is false and said the £47,000 is the full running costs for the year and includes Rent, heating, wages and all other expenses. and the local branch is not funded by National Mind. I wish to dispute this as it is not true and perhaps S Blenkinsopp as Treasurer could help her understand the published balance sheets. The MIND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE statement for the year ended 30th April 2009 as provided to the Great Aycliffe Town Councillors at the town council meeting states quite clearly: Salaries & National Insurance £47,607.47 for Manager & Assistant Manager. Light & Heating - £1203.96 Lease - £1008.00 Staff Travelling Expenses - £620.00 Postage, Stationery, Advertising: £2941.25 The total expenditure comes to £61,820.61 Muriel Gordon said I implied they receive funding from National MIND. My letter said "Of course they do insist that each local association is responsible for its own funding and the services it provides". It would also be correct to address the comment made by her that Mind has invested in St Oswald's Old Pavilion, and that the town council now has a building with superior facilities to the one it leased to Mind 14 years ago. In actual fact they received grants to fund whatever alterations made or equipment purchased. Normally when a building is returned by a lessee to its owner, any alterations or equipment installed would not be taken into consideration for a refund or compensation. I wish to state that it has never been my intention to attack MIND for its principles or the service it provides. Kenneth Stubbs Secretary (Great Aycliffe Independents)

Chairman of MIND Replies . . .

MIND has moved on and is delighted with the support that it has received from GATC, the community and St Clares Church. MIND has no intention of becoming involved in a public debate with Mr. Stubbs or the organisation he represents. We celebrate our emergence from a very difficult year and we look forward to serving our community and those in need. We are sure that the public will want to see an end to the 'politics' good or otherwise involving our organisation. We extend to you a warm welcome and encourage you to support us in our future endeavours.
Chris Wheeler, Chairman

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CHURCH MOVES TO NEW VENUE

Local church, Harvest Christian Centre, previously at the Youth Centre, celebrated moving to its new venue last Sunday for their first Service of the year in Bethany Centre, Woodham the former home of the Christian Life Centre who now worship in the new Excel Centre on Aycliffe Business Park. Church Pastor, Geoff Walvin says, 'In spite of severe weather we had a great turn out as people of all ages gathered to worship and celebrate the beginning of a new year in our new venue. We are confident that in moving into Bethany Centre we will be able to increase our capacity to meet needs within the community. We look forward to an exciting year.' The church meets Sundays at 10.30am. All are welcome. For more information phone 01325 308284 or go to www.harvestchristiancentre.org.uk

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Thank You

REG DALTON - The family of the late Reginald Dalton would like to thank everyone for their letters, cards and messages of sympathy following their sad loss. Special thanks to the staff at Darlington Memorial Hospital for the way they cared for Reg during his short time in hospital. Thanks also to the Co-operative Funeral Services for their compassion and assistance. Also to Rev. Linda Potter for a wonderful Funeral Service. Thanks to Syd Howarth for his kind words in the Newton News. Heartfelt thanks also to the family's neighbours for their love and comfort which meant a great deal to the family. Mary Dalton and family

STEVE STEWART All the family give thanks to everyone who attended Steve's funeral. Also to all who offered sympathy and condolences. Special thanks to Rev. Selms, Staff of Ward 33, Meynells Staff, Steve's Carers and the British Legion

JOANNE HOWARTH would like to say THANK YOU for a GREAT 40th birthday; a GREAT party at the Cumbry; a GREAT band "Toxic" who got everyone on the dance floor; a GREAT colour scheme of pink and purple (by my great design friends); a GREAT buffet; a GREAT cake (or should I say "work of art!"); a GREAT pile of presents and GREAT bunch of friends and family for sharing it and making my birthday so GREAT... Love to you all, Joanne. PS: and finally a GREAT trip to Dubai still to come!! xxxxxxxx

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School Parking Problems at Heighington

Dear Sir,
I received a complaint from a driver who was unaware of the 'One Way' system that operates in Hopelands Heighington during school opening and closing times. I feel it is important to remind everyone of the history behind the school traffic problem and the protocol expected from parents when driving their children to and from school.

Following lots of complaints from the school gates I met with a group of mothers to look at ways to improve the safety of children. With no money and no experience in Highway Matters we conducted surveys, sent out questionnaires and though endless discussions and analysis of data we developed a Heighington Primary School Parents Charter and sought approval for it from the Police Safety Advisors and Local Authority Officers.

Over the years, the Charter has been refined with the latest version accompanied by a A4 coloured map showing the Parking Areas, non parking areas, and the adopted 'One Way System' sent into school for distribution to parents in January 2009. If anyone would like copies, please contact me. We encouraged parents to walk their children to school where possible, park away from the school gates and use a 'One Way System' in Hopelands to simplify the dropping off of children outside of the school gates. To help, I lobbied DBC to install two parking bays and replace a muddy wet grass strip outside of the school with

tarmac so children would not be stepping into mud and water when they were dropped off to school.

Later, the Mothers who were involved in the early days had their ideal scheme come to fruition when I succeeded with the opening of a Car Park in the Sports Field, a Traffic Management System on Redworth Road, a new school entrance and access path leading into school. All were Police approved, subject to the implementation of 'No Parking' and Waiting Areas along Redworth Road and outside the school main gates. I stand outside of the school from time to time and it is good to see how things have improved. It is not perfect but it is a tremendous improvement. However, there seems to be two contentious issues; the one way system in Hopelands and the No Parking Areas along Redworth Road.

I must emphasise that the 'One Way System' is not mandatory. The 'One Way System' is and always has been a simple recommendation to all Parents whose children are old enough to be dropped off at the Main School Gates to drive into and through Hopelands in a particular direction. Before the One Way System was introduced vehicles drove into school from all directions, some reversing into the school entrance and Hopelands Court, others driving against the flow of traffic, all in a hurry when at the same time children were having to try to cross the road safely into school - an accident waiting to happen. The One Way System makes a positive difference to road safety improvement and I would encourage all parents to adhere to this proven working concept.

With regards to the No Parking Areas along Redworth Road. I

accept I am not making myself popular when I confront parents who park on the Yellow Lines and have to tell them that they are breaking the law. I do it for the safety of the children and the parents bank balance because the police do check from time to time and they will issue a Penalty Notice to anyone parking on the yellow lines. Irrespective of parking fines it is important to remember that the Police insisted on the No Parking zone along Redworth Road because they are concerned that as vehicles drive faster along Redworth Road, a child will not walk away should he/she be hit by a moving car, and this is the important issue to remember.

Looking to the future, the Headmaster, is to install a Cycle rack which will encourage some children to ride into school and this may reduce the number of cars. I would also ask and encourage parents to car share. At a time when fuel costs are rising dramatically we are all encouraged to

reduce our carbon footprint. What better reason is there for parents to organise themselves to enable them to use one car instead of two, or three or even better still - four?

It has taken a long time to develop this safer system for children coming to school. I am indebted to those mothers who nine years ago, having expressed their concern, were prepared 'to do something about it' The Local Authorities provided advice and money and the Police were supportive in improving the safety of children.

Over the years our school population has risen which is putting increased pressure on parking spaces in the village and the Car Park but with continued care, patience and adherence to the Parents Charter, children can journey to school in safety.

If anyone has any suggestions to improve the safety around the school gates or wish to discuss the subject, please do not hesitate to contact me. Councillor Gerald G. Lee

Newtonians Married at Blackwell Grange



Samantha Jayne Graham married Steven James Smith at Blackwell Grange Hotel on the 19th December 2009. Bridesmaids were Stephanie Graham and Lyndsey Dundas, Best Man was Christopher Smith, Ushers were Wayne Marram and Mark Baptist and the Page Boy was the couple's nephew, Toby Smith.

The Newly Weds will be jetting off on their honeymoon in April to Las Vegas and to tour other States in America. Samantha and Steven would like to say a huge thank you to both sets of parents for all their fantastic help and support and to everyone who attended and made their day so special and unforgettable.

COUNCILLOR OFFERS TO SHOP FOR WARD VULNERABLE & ELDERLY

A personal shopping service is offered to vulnerable and older persons in the Greenfield, Horndale, Bluebell, Byerley Park and The Dales area during this cold spell.

If you are desperate for milk bread and urgent foodstuffs I will endeavour to do your shopping as I realise many older people will have difficulty leaving their homes whilst the snow is here.

Fortunately, I am capable of moving around in the snow, I would particularly like to offer my service, free of charge (you must

pay for your goods and a receipt will be given), to the older people living by themselves, elderly couples who do not have family members or neighbours to do their shopping in my Ward. I will not be able to help everyone but I will try to help as many as I possible can. I will be using the TESCO store only, as it has good extended opening hours. Please ring 308094 and leave a number to which I can reply. I will use my County Council name badge to identify myself to you. Dorothy Bowman.

DARLO FANS' FOOTY NIGHTS

Darlington FC are set to hold two Fans' Footy Nights to make up for the disappointing December postponements.

Fans will be able to quiz Darlo players, management and the board during the fun evenings, due to be held at the Northern Echo Arena next week.

A limited number of tickets are available for each night, priced £5 each which includes food (chilli or curry), while all draught beers and lagers will be reduced to just £2 a pint.

The club's general manager Phil Preston said: "The postponements have been hugely disappointing for us, not least our fans, and everyone who helped us clear snow off the pitch, so this is an opportunity for all our footy-hungry fans to get back into it.

"Fans Nights are always popular events here at the club and we're sure these will prove to be just as popular. They certainly promise to be fun and fans will also get a chance to put questions to some of our players and as well as the manager and members of the board."

The Footy Nights, which also include a Darlington-themed quiz with prizes up for grabs, are due to be held next Wednesday and Thursday (January 13 and 14) from 7pm in the Ron Greener Suite.

Tickets are available from the Northern Echo Arena main reception, or by calling 01325 387000.

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LEARN TO SIGN with your child "the fun way". Fridays at 11am at Woodham Comm Centre (for babies who already sign and toddlers who want to learn) up to 4 years old - GREAT FUN! Beginners Classes Friday's at 2pm (6 mths+) - learn over 50+ signs. **BOOKING IS ADVISABLE!** Contact JULES on 07966 968 388 or email: signingtots@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.signingtots.org.uk

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PAUL GITTINS DISCO For any occasion, also Karaoke. Tel 317666 or 07831 269526.

FUN-n-BOUNCE Bouncy Castles for hire with and without slide, adult sizes available. All parties catered for, also available for indoor use. Tel 01325 307445 or 07594 436127

FACE PAINTING for all the family. Any party, any occasion. Tel 07876 344498

www.fancydresspartycostumes.co.uk - Looking for Christmas Fancy Dress or Party Wear visit our online store many styles to choose from immediate despatch

PROSTAR Entertainment Disco or Karaoke for all occasions. (Colin and Caroline ex-Horndale Club). Tel 01325 313322 or 07976 719047

MR B's KARAOKE and Disco for any occasion. Tel 01325 308390 or 07527 212724

BOOKS GALORE at MyBookStuff.com Fiction, Non-fiction. All latest releases. Pop in for a browse.

Offenders Could Keep Streets Clear

Dear Sir,
I write on behalf of many like minded people who are suffering the lack of snow/ice clearing in their areas. Every week we read of the increasing number of 'soft option' Community Hours' being handed down by our local courts, so where are these people when they are needed?
Snow shovelling at one time fell to people on the dole who were called in to work, but Government cuts did away with that long ago. Why are those on Community Hours not doing this job? Perhaps if they did they would stop considering it a meaningless punishment.
H. Chadwick

For Sale



WOODEN playframe including slide, pole, rock climb, rope and ladders, great fun for the kids. £160 (no offers). Dismantled and ready to go Tel 307530

BARGAIN BUYS Bargain of the Week. Washing machine, 6kg load, Aenergy class, 2 year warranty, delivered and fitted for £219. Tel 321678

FACIAL sun lamp, hardly used, still in box, £10; Facial sauna, still boxed with all accessories, £60; Coffee table, 120x60, beech with frosted glass insert, £90; BiOrb 30 fish tank with led, intelligent light and accessories, £50; Boys first bike, £20; Leather framed mirror, 114x83, £30; JVC CD radio alarm clock, £30, hi-fi remote control, £30; Ipod Shuffle (blue), £20; Gear 4, Ipod dock black box, 24/7, alarm/radio, remote control, £20; Gear 4 blackbox speaker, remote control, £10; Bose 321 Home Cinema System £250. Tel 307530

PALLETS and Pallet toppers first come first served. Free, call at Newton Press M-F, 9am-4pm

YAMAHA portable piano with musical accompaniments. Barely used, with stand, £50. 301692

DURHAM PINE / Rubber wood dining table and 4 chairs, £75 ono. Tel 07966 542445

MONGOOSE expert BMX 1 year old, mint condition, blue and grey frame, blue chain, £170 ono. Tel 07999 304079

CREAM patterned fabric couch, 3 and 2 seaters in excellent condition, machine washable, £200 ono. Tel 07502 216375 or 07502 216376 (or 310282 eves)

DISNEY'S Cars (Lightning McQueen) bed set up, TV/ DVD, bin, table lamp, ceiling light, curtains and bedding to match, £250 ono. Tel 07502 216375 or 07502 216376 (or 310282 evenings)

YAMAHA stage custom 5 piece drum kit, including Paiste hi-hats and cymbol, drum silencer pads and other extras. Tel 07707 281839

BROWN leather 3 seater couch with 2 large footstools for sale, £250 ono. Tel 07727 290455

PINE OVERHEAD Bedroom fitment open to offers and red Go-Kart. Will accept £20 ono, Cost £80. Tel: 311292

ANTIQUE green leather recliner chair and matching two seat sofa, good condition, £250. Tel 315943

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

PCP Earns Equality Standard

Newton Aycliffe based PioneeringCarePartnership (PCP) have become one of a growing number of North East organisations to achieve The Equality Standard from Equality North East.

The registered charity, which aims to improve the health and quality of life of local people disadvantaged through caring responsibilities, disability, age or ill health and reduce inequalities in health, undertook The Standard in order to assess the effectiveness of their equality and diversity practices against a robust independently evaluated benchmark.

The Equality Standard is a practical programme intended to identify and promote businesses as employers and suppliers of choice and is relevant to all organisations, of all sizes and from all sectors, who wish to visibly demonstrate that they lead the field in their approach to equality and diversity.

Working closely with the community, it is vital that PCP is seen to be at the forefront of equality and diversity and having The Standard shows that they promote inclusiveness and demonstrates their commitment to removing barriers for people with disabilities.

The organisation was provided with a structured and measurable platform for the continuous improvement of their equality and diversity strategy and operational practices, which helped to support and underpin their existing policies. Tricia Collins, Policy and Research Manager at Equality North East, said: "It is fantastic to be able to award The Equality Standard to Pioneering CarePartnership. They have shown through their strong culture of inclusiveness and fairness, underpinned

by excellent policies and good practice, that they are steering in the right direction when it comes to equality and diversity."

Ruth Edwards, Finance and HR Manager, commented: "I was really pleased to discover that PCP had been awarded The Equality Standard. It's not only recognises PCP as an outstanding employer, but

enables stakeholders and potential funders to see the high standards that we work towards.

"Staff and volunteers worked hard to achieve The Standard, but it was a great goal to reach. The Equality Standard now sits proudly alongside our Investors in People Bronze Award and Working for Health Gold Award."

Change to Darlo Fixtures

Darlington's Coca-Cola League Two game at home to Lincoln City, postponed on December 28, has been re-arranged for Tuesday February 9, 7.45pm kick-off.

Quakers' last four games, three of which home ties, have been postponed due to the extreme weather.

The Northampton match, postponed just before Christmas, is now scheduled for Tuesday January 26 (7.45pm kick-off) at the Northern Echo Arena, while the trip to Rotherham, postponed on Boxing Day, is now set for Tuesday January 19.

The home game with Port Vale, postponed last week, is yet to be re-arranged.

It means Steve Staunton's side will face at least eight games in the next month, beginning with their trip to Bury on Saturday, weather permitting!

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Sat Jan 9: Bury (A) 3pm

Sat Jan 16: Aldershot (H), 3pm

Tues Jan 19: Rotherham (A), 7.45pm

Sat Jan 23: Crewe (A), 3pm

Tues Jan 26: Northampton Town (H), 7.45pm

Sat Jan 30: Cheltenham (A), 3pm

Sat Feb 6: Rotherham (H) 3pm

Tues Feb 9: Lincoln City (H), 7.45pm

In Memoriam

GORDON O'BRIEN Great friend, sadly missed. Davey and Phil

JEAN PARKER 11th January 2009. It's been a year without you. I miss and love you always. Love, Mandy xxx

JEAN PARKER 11th January 2009. Silent thoughts, sweet memories. Loved and missed dearly. Alan xxx

JEAN PARKER 11th January 2009. It's been lonely here without you Mam, miss you every day. Life is not the same since you went away. Deep in my heart you will always be. Love you always, Kay, Mike and family xxxx

SAMANTHA MADDISON 12-1-1994. No treasure on earth can replace you. Your memory will never grow old. We miss you because we love you. To us you are more precious than gold. Good night, sleep tight. Mam and Dad

SAMANTHA MADDISON 12-1-1994. We think about you often, we think about you too. We have special memories. But we wish we still had you. Dearly missed Sister and Auntie. Love, Robert, Nicola, Alexander and Lauren

SAMANTHA MADDISON 12-1-1994. In loving memory of a dear Granddaughter Samantha. Always in our thoughts. All our love, Grandad, Nana and Uncle John

SAMANTHA MADDISON 12-1-1994. A little tribute, small and tender, just to say that we remember. Auntie Eleanor and family

JEAN PARKER 11-1-09. Can't believe a year has gone already since you went away Mam. We love and miss you every day. You were a gift to all the world, a rare and precious treasure, whose memory will live on, for now and forever. Love, Gary and Vicki xxxxx

JEAN PARK 11-1-09. To a very special Nana, we miss you so much and think about you every day. You will always be special and we love you very much. Love from Annalise, Jack, Ashton-Bailey and Harvey-Jay xxxxx

DEMI HESLOP Jewell 01-09-06 to 08-01-07. Three years ago you were taken away. But in Mammy's heart you will always stay. I know I cannot touch you, but all I have to do is place my hand upon my heart as every beat is you. Love you all the world Princess. Love always and forever Mammy xxx

DEMI HESLOP We know a laugh we would love to hear, two hands we would love to touch, we know a smile we would love to see. A sister we love so much. Love you all the world and back again Demi. Love, Shannon, Daniel and Megan xxx

DEMI HESLOP 01-09-06 to 08-01-07. If roses grow in Heaven Lord, please pick a bunch for me. Place them in our Demi's arms and tell her they are from me. Tell her I love and miss her and when she turns to smile, place place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for a while. Love you all the world and back again Angel. Grandma and Grandpa xxxxx

DEMI HESLOP In our hearts your memory lingers, sweetly, tender, fond and true. There's not a day dear Demi, that we don't think of you. Love you always, Great Gran, Auntie Glennis, Uncle Bill, Uncle John, Auntie Annette, Uncle John, Auntie Yvonne and Tony xxxxx

BETTY WILSON 6-1-09. To Mam, Nanna and Great Nanna. One year today Lord you took our Mam away. Thinking of you nearly every day, sadly missed in every way. So please give our Mam a great big kiss and tell her we all send our love. From your loving family xxx

VALERIE MALONE From loving Brother Nigel. Another year past, Christmas is not the same without you. Love, Nigel xxx

DOT MILLER 4-1-2008. Deep in my heart your memory is kept, I miss you always. Your loving Husband, Fred xxx

EDDIE BURRELL Treasured memories of a dear Brother Eddie. Thinking of you today and always. God bless you. Sister Mena, Brother-in-Law Joe and families xxxxx

LOL GREEN Died 11-1-2003. Loved and remembered always. Love, Sue xxx

Free Alpha Course at Xcel Centre

The highly acclaimed Alpha Course will be starting this Thursday, hosted by Xcel Church at the brand new Xcel Centre.

Described by the Independent on Sunday as 'The world's most popular course in Christianity' the Alpha Course is designed for anyone who has just become a Christian, anyone who really wants to unpack more about what it means to be a Christian or anyone who just has questions about Christianity.

You can sign up by attending the Alpha Launch Party being held at the Xcel Centre at 7pm on Thursday 14th January. Every night will consist of food, drink and great discussion. It is an opportunity not to be missed. Plus it's FREE!!

For more information please contact Xcel Church on 08454505871 or email info@xcelchurch.com

Births

ADAM NORMAN and Kay Reed, congratulations on the birth of twins (boy and girl). Love you all, Nanna Dorothy and Grandad Liam xxx

ADAM & KAY well done, welcome to our world, twins on Christmas Eve (11.45pm). "Talya Jade" and "Ryan Liam". Love you all heaps. Mam Denise and Dad Gary Bailey xxx

ADAM & KAY Hip Hip Hooray, our twins are here, well done Adam and Kay. Love you all. Sister Teri-Ann and Brother-in-Law Dan xxx

Obituary

HINDSON, Margery of Newton Aycliffe died peacefully in Darlington Memorial Hospital on 4th January, aged 81 years. Beloved Wife of the late Jack, much loved Mother of Brian, Jackie and Beth, loving Great Grandmother to Chloe and much loved Sister to Kitty and Colin. Funeral Service at Darlington Crematorium on Tuesday 12th January at 3.45pm. Family flowers only please, but donations may be sent to British Heart Foundation in lieu

Birthday Remembrance

McLUCKIE Dear Ann, 13th January, my precious Daughter. Heaven made an angel, then sent her from above, just to be my Daughter and fill my world with love. From Mam, Tony and family

ANN McLUCKIE 13th January. Memories so special of a very special friend on your birthday. Love and miss you always. Sweet fairy dreams dearest "Sanfairy". Love, Angel xxx

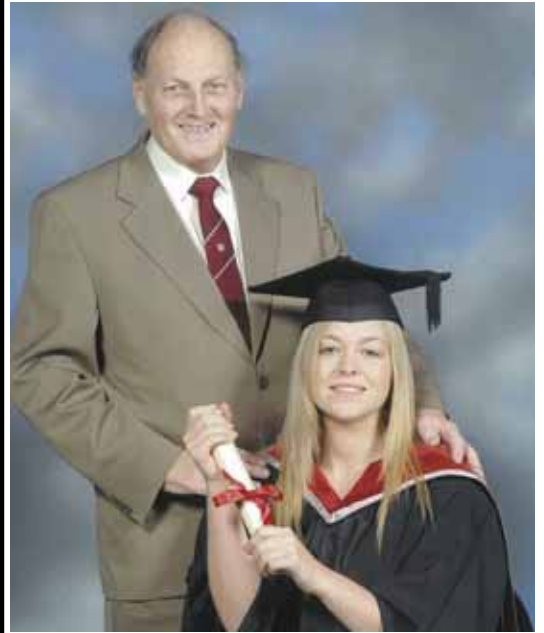
DAVID FRANKLAND 5-1-1945. We love and miss you every day. Thinking of you on your 65th. Love from Sandra, Paul, Darren, Melissa, James, Holly, family and friends

OLGAKIRTLEY 11th January. Mam. It has been 3 months since we lost you and your first birthday without us. We send all our love to you on this special day. Lauren thanks you for her bike. Love you always, Lesley, Lauren and Graham

Congratulations



Angela Kelly



Congratulations on Gaining your BSc in Adult Nursing with Honours at Teesside University. Love from Mam, Dad, Sarah, Leanne, Tia and Mark and Grandparents. Hilda Kelly and Helen and John Loftus

Heston Reid



Happy 4th Birthday 5th January
Happy Birthday to our Little Man. All our love Mummy and Daddy x x

Harry Abe Lee Surman



Happy 2nd Birthday 11th January, 2010
To our precious little boy Harry on your 2nd birthday. Lots of love and kisses, Mammy, Daddy, Danielle and Jack xxx

Pauline Kennedy



Happy 50th Birthday
Congratulations to beautiful Daughter on her 50th birthday. Love from Mam and family

Property Wanted

WANTED 2/3 bedroom house in local area to rent and/or buy. Please call Julie on 07971 278250

New Friends New Places

Six of our Lady members visited Bournemouth for New Year and had a fantastic time. During 2010 we have many trips and visits in the pipeline including Germany. We are having our Christmas/New Year Party on Tuesday 12th January 2pm at The Navy Club Burnhill Way. Line dancing, a singer etc. etc. Every one is welcome admission £3.50. Come and join us ring 308094..

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

Tel: Syd 01325 300212 or syd@newtonnews.co.uk

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FIREWORKS OR SNOW CLEARING?

Dear Sir,
Every November myself and thousands of other residents of Newton Aycliffe see thousands of pounds of our hard earned money go up in smoke when the wannabee politicians on our Council provide the annual fireworks display organised when they are not having cheap snipes at each other in this publication.

Surely after the weather conditions of the last fortnight when driving on the roads in the town can only

be described as extremely hazardous, due to the lack of gritting, it is time the council prioritised their expenditure. They should stop the firework display and spend the money on keeping the people of Aycliffe safe whilst out walking or driving. Should the Town Council decide it is not their responsibility to grit the roads and pavements then it is time they looked at the current system, and made the preservation of people's safety their number one

priority.
Norman Smith

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Dear Sir,
May I wish residents of West Ward and everyone in Newton Aycliffe the peace of love and prosperity throughout the New Year.
George Gray
Hon Alderman.

HAVE A SAY ON LOCAL ISSUES

Residents in Great Aycliffe & Middridge can find out how local issues are being tackled when the local area action partnership meets later this month.

The Great Aycliffe and Middridge Area Partnership (GAMP) Board will meet on Tuesday 26 January 2010, between 6pm and 8pm at Oak Leaf Sports Complex on School Aycliffe Lane in Newton Aycliffe. Local people

are invited to attend to observe proceedings.

People can also raise any local issues they would like the board to address. These need to be put in writing and sent in by 16 January 2010.

The GAMP Forum will hold its next meeting in April/May 2010 with the exact date and venue to be confirmed at a later date.

The forum meeting will be an opportunity for the board to

give an update on the progress made by the partnership.

Anyone who would like to attend the board meeting or the

forum event should register in advance on 01388 816166, ext 7769, or by emailing paula.stockport@durham.gov.uk

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HAIR SALON HELPS RAISE CASH FOR HOSPICE



Many thanks to Lyn and her staff at Creations Hair Salon who helped Anne Harland raise £202 for the Butterwick Children's Hospice over the Christmas period. Special thanks to 84 year young, Betty Barras, who made the wonderful Xmas Man with Post Box. The winning raffle numbers were 66, 381, and 81.

£800 for MIND

Dear Sir,
My Fundraising Stall has donated £800 to Aycliffe MIND. Once again, the townsfolk have donated and bought goods to support a good cause, unlike the two Scrooges Counc (Heartless) Terry Hogan and Ken (Poison Pen) Stubbs.

Their letters in the Christmas issue were an insensitive and ignorant attack on MIND. Many vulnerable people I know attend the MIND sessions and gain comforting and therapeutic help.

All anyone should know is that people in our town who need help are getting it! I would urge Newtonians to consider carefully who they vote for in future elections.

Honest John

£2,000 Raised For Scouts

Dear Sir,
I would like to thank all the People Of Newton Aycliffe who donated Raffle Prizes, Clothes, and Soft Toys over the last year in aid of The 1st Newton Aycliffe Scout Group. Without their help, especially Honest John, Great Aycliffe Town Council, and the Moore Lane Sports Club, who gave us cash donations, and all the people who bought Raffle Tickets we would not have been able to raise the grand total of over £2000 for the Group funds. Once again thanks to you all.
Evelyn Goudie

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Tuesdays
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RAFA Club Function Room, Barrington Road
6.00pm with Nicola - 07791 909376

Wednesdays
(new group opening 13th January)
Navy Club, Bluebell Way
with Deborah - 07549 173598

Thursdays
St Clare's Church Hall, Central Avenue
1.00pm and 5.30pm with Debbie - 01325 300615

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A&S Winchester	RRP £199.00	NOW £99.00
A&S Dorchester	RRP £199.00	NOW £149.00
A&S Majestic	RRP £249.00	NOW £199.00
Slumberland Blue Seal	RRP £299.00	NOW £249.00
Slumberland Red Seal	RRP £349.00	NOW £299.00
Slumberland Ortho Seal	RRP £399.00	NOW £359.00

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A&S Candy	RRP £69.00	NOW £59.00
A&S Winchester	RRP £99.00	NOW £84.00
A&S Dorchester	RRP £159.00	NOW £149.00
A&S Majestic	RRP £249.00	NOW £199.00
Slumberland Blue Seal	RRP £349.00	NOW £279.00
Slumberland Red Seal	RRP £399.00	NOW £299.00
Slumberland Ortho Seal	RRP £449.00	NOW £359.00

4'0" and 4'6" BED SET

A&S Candy	RRP £119.00	NOW £99.00
A&S Winchester	RRP £159.00	NOW £139.00
A&S Dorchester	RRP £239.00	NOW £209.00
A&S Majestic	RRP £299.00	NOW £299.00
Slumberland Blue Seal	RRP £499.00	NOW £399.00
Slumberland Red Seal	RRP £549.00	NOW £449.00
Slumberland Ortho Seal	RRP £599.00	NOW £499.00

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