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## JOBCENTRE PLUS STAFF HELP HAITI APPEAL

**RAISED OVER £1000 IN 48 HOURS**



A staff member of Jobcentre Plus in Stockton from Newton Aycliffe took a copy of Newton News showing the Rotary Club's appeal to provide Shelterboxes for Haiti earthquake victims. On Monday 25th January

the organising Committee led by Carol Graham decided to arrange an event for the appeal on the following Wednesday. "We wanted to do it quickly because of the emergency and decided on a "dress down day" and pay a £1.

We manned the entrance from 7:30 till 9:30 and were overwhelmed by the staff's generosity" said Carol.

Many donated far more than £1 and bakers among the staff donated cakes, scones etc for a cake stall. These were sold and there was also a raffle with 15 prizes including bottles of spirits, wine, chocolates and tins of biscuits.

The grand sum of £1033.42 was raised and presented to the Rotary Club President Jean Thompson last Saturday. Jean thanked Carol and Treasurer Liz Foulger asking them to take back the gratitude of the Rotary Club to Jobcentre Plus staff. The money will buy 2 Shelterboxes bringing hope and relief to 20 family members suffering extreme hardship as a result of the earthquake.

Job Centre Plus in Stockton Benefit Delivery Centre, have approx 500 members of staff and run a very active Sports & Social Club. Last year they won the award for the best club in the country, raising £10,000 for various charities.

Readers can still contribute to the appeal which desperately needs cash to provide shelter for millions of people living on waste ground.

**Donor Form on Page 2.**

## IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE



Joanna Boulwood is a wife and mother of six beautiful children and runs a successful cake design and cook business. A few years back she wanted a special birthday cake for her son and struggling to find one with the wow factor in shops, so decided to make her own.

When looking back she laughs at her first attempt as she hadn't a clue what she was doing. However the cake got good comments so Joanna decided to take the plunge and set up in business.

"Starting up wasn't the easiest thing, especially

in the current economic climate, but it can be done and easier than I thought. I am now busy making wedding cakes, novelty cakes and every other cake you can imagine" said Joanna.

"The children love seeing the cakes I create and have become interested, in baking and making models themselves; "It's very rewarding teaching the children to bake and watching them learn basic skills for life." said Joanna.

She wanted to share her story to encourage other mothers to try something that gives the best of both worlds by working from home.

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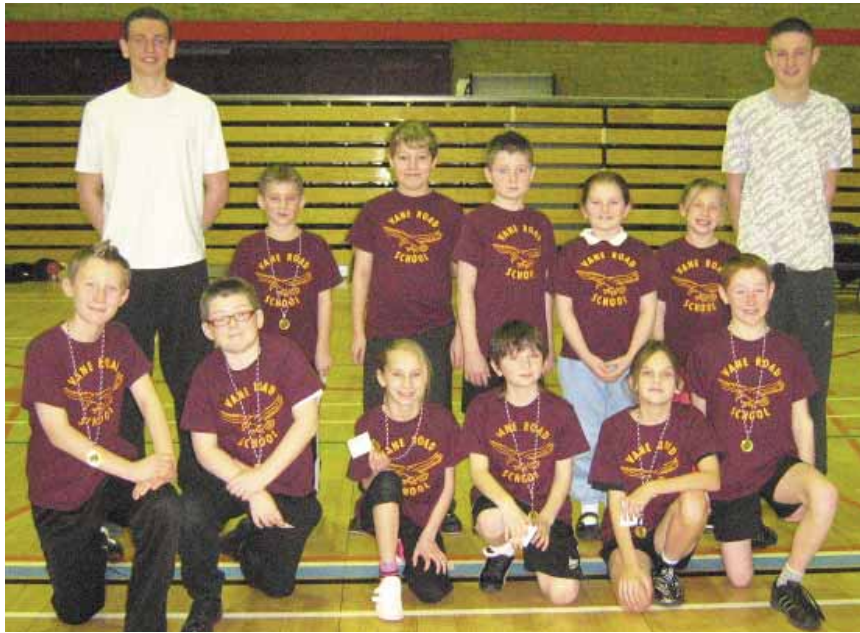
## BETTER FOOT FORWARD

Popular Catholic Priest Fr. Campion had foot surgery recently and we are pleased to report there were no complications. He told his parishioners: "I'm in some pain, which is to be expected, but the thought of being able to walk pain-free again makes it worthwhile".

He must keep the foot upright, with a cast up to the knee, higher than his hip for the next two weeks. He's not allowed to put any weight on it for the next six weeks and after that it will be in a cast for another six weeks.

It's life on crutches for the next 12 weeks for Fr. Michael but he is very grateful for the care he received in hospital and won't hear a bad word about the NHS.

## VANE ROAD SCHOOL WIN BASKETBALL CONTEST



On Wednesday 3rd February 2010, 11 year 5/6 children had the opportunity to develop their basketball skills at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. Joy Howden and players from Durham Wildcats, including two ex-Vane Road pupils, Alex Riley and Ryan Farley, were on hand to give their expert advice and tuition. The children had a fabulous morning and after many hard fought games they reached the final. After another tough game and an exciting penalty shoot-out, Vane Road won the game to become Woodham Cluster Winners. One of the players, James Nesbitt, won the title of Best Shooter and they are now looking forward to the Sedgfield Finals in March.

## LIB DEMS SURVEY

During the next week or so, the Lib Dems will be delivering a FOCUS questionnaire to residents of Aycliffe Central Ward.

We want to know your views on a wide range of issues including crime, education, local traffic and parking, as well as the provision of sporting facilities and what our young people REALLY want out of their town.

Your views, as well as the expression of any concerns, are important to us. We would appreciate it if you would complete the questionnaire, then place it in the PREPAID envelope and post it back. Your Lib Dem PPC, Alan Thompson, has expressed particular interest in the feedback from this survey, as he wishes to attune himself to the heartbeat of your concerns, as he strives to become our next MP and represent you at Westminster.

Your local Lib Dem FOCUS group, Derek, Bill, Lileen and Alison will collate your responses and make the feedback available to all, through the good offices of the Newton News.

The Liberal Democrats - listening to what you have to say - all year round!  
Derek G Atkinson  
(Lib Dem Focus Group)

## Rehearsing for "Pinafore"

Aycliffe Musical Theatre would like to thank everyone who supported their recent production of "Viva Mexico". We had a very successful show and good audiences both evenings. We are now starting work on our next production "H.M.S. Pinafore". Anyone who would be interested in taking part will be welcome to come along to Greenfield Arts and Community Centre, on Wednesdays at 7.00pm from 24th February.

## ROTARY CLUBS RAISE AWARENESS OF POLIO



Rotary Clubs throughout the world are on the last stage of eliminating Polio with only four countries left with the disease: Pakistan, Nigeria, Afghanistan and India. In co-operation with the World Health Organisation, UNESCO and major sponsors including the Bill Gates Foundation, Rotary is raising cash and awareness.

To this end they have been given use of a town centre shop to carry the message. Newton Aycliffe Club wish to thank Brian Haldane for use of the empty shop, next to the Post Office, urging Newtonians to take the time to read the posters.

## MILLIONS OF HAITIANS HOMELESS PLEASE HELP PROVIDE SHELTER

The greatest need in Haiti is shelter and the Town's Rotary Club are appealing for funds to buy Shelterboxes which contain, among many other items, a 10 man tent, sleeping bags, cooking utensils etc.

Rotary International has already delivered over 7000 Shelterboxes, but thousands more are needed to accommodate the homeless millions. Please help the cause and donate by filling in the coupon below

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I would like to donate £ ..... to the Haiti Earthquake Appeal

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Donations can also be made via our website: [www.newtonnewsads.co.uk](http://www.newtonnewsads.co.uk)

## 100 SPONSORED JIJITSU THROWS



15 year old Jujitsu student Esme Harte completed an amazing 100 consecutive throws at the Newton Aycliffe Club last week.

The challenge came as part of a fundraising campaign by a group of year 11 pupils from Sedgfield Community College who hope to visit Morocco later in the year as part of 'One World Challenge' enhancing teambuilding, leadership skills, and cultural exchange. Esme has trained at the club regularly for 3 years and recently gained her Brown and White belt. Sensei Trevor Forsyth 3rd Dan who runs the successful martial arts club said "This is the first time that one of our

juniors has completed such a daunting challenge and we are all extremely proud of her."

After the event a somewhat exhausted Esme said "It was tough, and Sensei Forsyth got me to do 50 throws before the event just as a warm up! So really I did 150 throws. I must say a BIG thank-you to all those who sponsored me!"

The club trains on Monday nights at Greenfield School, Newton Aycliffe from 6pm for Juniors and from 7.30pm for Seniors. For more details about the club Sensei Forsyth can be contacted by E mail: [tfoffy@googlemail.com](mailto:tfoffy@googlemail.com) or Phone: 01740 656295, Mobile 07960 639276.

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2 FOR 1 AT NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

A total of forty instrumentalists appeared at Neville Parade Community Centre last Saturday and performed a spectacular programme of “Big Band” music. The youth band aged 15-19 years old were magnificent and a credit to young people of today. The second band were ex University students who get together to perform Concerts around the area. They gave an excellent performance, delighting the audience with their talent. This same group will be appearing at The Sage later this month which indicates how good they are and how privileged the audience were to hear them perform. A special invitaiton goes out to the Polish community in our town to visit the Centre and join in the acitvities. Ring 313924 for details. A free Open Day is arranged for “Over 50’s” who want to Line Dance - Monday 22nd Febraury at 1.30pm. Beginners warmly welcomed.

Enjoying Healthy Active Lives



A six week pilot scheme to promote healthy eating and healthy physical lifestyles has been very successful. The Newton Aycliffe Extended ServicesCo-ordinatorMichelle Postma received funding from the PCT to support children & young people to achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle and weight. A partnership was then developed with the Oakleaf Sports Complex and Julie Sutherland school nurse and Stephenson Way Primary School to develop a bespoke programme. The Oakleaf Sports Complex came up with a brilliant idea

called A.L.F. (active lifestyles & fun). Each week for six weeks a group of children from Stephenson Way Primary School were taken to the Sports Complex and tried a different physical activity starting with archery and every week a more physical activity was introduced, finally working on circuit training by the end of the project. Before the physical activity session Julie Sutherland, school nurse, carried out a food related activity e.g. “The Eat Well” plate where the children learned the importance of a well balanced diet with the correct nutritional values. Incorporated with this the children would try a new fruit, like Mangos. The project ended with a celebration event with the Mayor handing out certificates

to the children. There was also “It’s a Knockout” competition, and families of the children were invited so they could share the experiences of the young people. A great time was had by all, and Mr Dobson, head teacher of Stephenson Way Primary said “The enthusiasm of the children has been brilliant and the fact that their awareness about healthier lifestyles has been raised will help the children while in school”. Julie Sutherland said “I really enjoy promoting health within young people. Education and health work hand in hand to allow children to reach their full potential. Julie also runs a circuit training class for ladies at Greenfield School on a Saturday 9.30am to 10.30am to help promote physical activity in adults. Michelle Postma Extended Services Co-ordinator said “I can’t thank everyone enough who has been involved in this project, it has worked better than we imagined. The staff at the Oakleaf and the school nurse put so much hard work and effort into making this a success and it has certainly paid off. Our next stage is to look at funding streams to allow us to apply for cash so we can offer this fabulous opportunity to other schools”. Michelle Postma Extended Services Co-ordinator, Shildon & Newton Aycliffe Clusters. Mobile: 07775 025222

INDEPENDENTS CAN BE A GROUP, IF NOT A PARTY

Dear Sir, I wish to address the point made that one cannot be a spokesmanissuingstatements on behalf of Independent Councillors as if they were a political party. Considering that is exactly what to do, the question must be, why not? A group of like minded Independent Councillors approached me to ask if I would help them. Their aim is to act as an organised and credible opposition to the ruling Labour Party on the Town Council. Their concerns stem from certain individuals, some of whom have featured in

the press in the last 2 years, which has helped compound the cynicism and political desert that confused voter alludes to. A broadly similar example is MP’s expenses: There may be several MP’s, who have not abused the system, so is it unfair they are being tarred with the same brush? The reason I agreed to help and support the efforts of this group of Independent councillors is because of their heartfelt determination to deal effectively as they can from abuses inflicted by the Labour Party. Being an Independent councillor means you are

not a member of a political party. The Borough of Havering has12 independent councillors who act as an organised Group. Do not confuse political party with a group. It is important for any group to be well organised and focussed as the more organised you are the higher profile you achieve. The Independent Councillors who approached me: Cllrs. Hogan, Curtis, Warburton, Ducker, Gittins, Hewittson, Brian and Sandra Haigh wish to give voters a credible alternative. **Kenneth Stubbs** Secretary for GAI (GreatAycliffeIndependents)

**R.A.F.A. A.G.M.**  
 The A.G.M. of the Newton Aycliffe Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association will be held in the **Canopus Club, Barrington Road on Wednesday, 3rd March, 2010.**  
 Doors close at 8.00pm prompt.  
 All members are cordially invited to attend.

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Crackdown on Dog Fouling in Woodham

Dog owners who let their pets foul on a public footpath are being warned that they could face an £80 fine. Neighbourhood wardens from Durham County Council are stepping up their patrols in the Woodham area of Newton Aycliffe following complaints about dog mess. They will be targeting a footpath running from the Huntsman pub to the A167, which has become a hotspot for fouling in recent weeks. Richard Brown, County Council Neighbourhood Warden Coordinator, said: “There has been a marked increase in complaints to the council about fouling on the pathway during the past few weeks. “We take dog fouling very seriously and are determined to tackle the problem, not just in this specific hotspot area, but across the county as a whole. “Our wardens are on the look-out for people flouting the law and will not hesitate to take action if they see someone allowing their dog to foul.” Anyone who fails to clean up after their pet can be issued with an £80 Fixed Penalty Notice. If they fail to pay the fine they could face legal action. Poop scoop bags are available from the Newton Aycliffe Library, Central Avenue and Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, Beveridge Arcade.

Valentine Greetings

**Joanne** Happy Valentines Day to my “One True Love”.  
Love always, Stuart xxxx

**To my Darling Twinkle**, you are the one person I want to be with for the rest of my life and grow old with. Happy Valentines Day.  
All my love, The Wife xxxxx

**To My Fiancee**, thanks for everything you have done for me lately. Love from Tedz Bear xxx

**Dave Patterson.** To my Husband on Valentines Day. Hope your present arrives on time.  
Love always, your Wife, Nic xxxxxx

**To Rachel.** Happy Valentines Day. Lots of love from your Fiancee, Paul xxx

**Donna**  
You first came into my heart and you have been there ever since.  
I love you, Mark xxx

**Muddy.** When I count my blessings, I count you twice!  
Always yours, Chris xxxx

**Alex Crawley** To my wonderful Husband. Happy Valentines Day.  
Love, Sam xxx

**To Mummy**  
Happy Valentines Day!  
Love from Isaac and Louis xxx

**To Annie**  
Roses and Red, Violets are Blue. I want everybody to know that I LOVE YOU  
Love 4eva, Claire xxxx

**Shellie Graham.** To my little Princess, “I love u loads, baby”.  
Lee xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

**To My Prince.** Just to let you know how much I love you.  
Your little Princess Shellie xxx

**TO YOU.** These words from my heart are simple but true. My dearest Valentine “I will always LOVE you”. FROM ME xxx

**Valentine Remembrance**

**Maureen Mawson** (nee Nichol)  
14th February 2009  
Today is not good for memories, twelve months since we did part. Remaining still, my broken heart. Was last February you went away, is what I really want to say. Our love together, yours and mine. You will always be my Valentine. You never did ask much of life, to me always, my loving Wife. Your heart was so true and lovingly tender. You loved and lived for us to remember. When I’m sad and so lonely, when everything seems to be going wrong, I hear your voice in a gentle whisper “Derrick, cheer up and carry on”. Then I look at your picture, with your smile you seem to say, “Don’t cry my love, I’m only sleeping, we will meet again one day”. You are always in my heart, where you will always stay. You know my love, I’m only a dream away. Forever my Valentine. Loving Husband, Derrick



## The Fight Begins to Keep Shafto House

Dear Sir,  
The fight to save Shafto House from threatened closure proposals from the County Council took on a new impetus on Friday 5th. February at a meeting at St. Mary's Church.

The meeting was so well attended that we had to move into the church to enable almost 80 relatives and supporters to find seats. We would like to extend very grateful thanks to Father Campion and his church members for making us so warmly welcome and giving us the use of their premises free of charge.

Comments ranged from anger at the proposals to deep sorrow when recounting the effect on individual residents. The feeling expressed time and again was that if this is what the Labour Councillors want to do then there will be a political fall-out at the general election.

Most of the time was given to solicitor Yvonne Hossack who had come from Kettering to let people know what can be done to fight the council proposals. As a result of her talk and advice it was decided to ask her to act as legal representative for the residents in Shafto House. She and her team visited Shafto House to meet the residents on Saturday morning.

Relatives will ask Councillors to meet residents on an individual basis to see for themselves what closure will mean. As representatives from other homes in the area were present Yvonne agreed to meet them in a similar fashion and to hold a large public meeting to discuss the way forward.

One idea is that we could

join with other parts of the country faced with similar problems and organise a visit to Downing Street to let the Prime Minister know of the risk to health and welfare local county councils are placing upon the elderly population.

In offering Yvonne and her team, who are willing to act completely free of charge, heartfelt thanks the meeting vowed to take the fight to the highest levels and trust that the whole town supports us by making their voices heard to their councillors.

David Dutch

## ARTS CENTRE BIRTHDAY

Greenfield Community and Arts Centre will be celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

During the Half Term holiday, we will be holding FREE activities starting with our Arty Clarty Workshop (8 years and over).

This will run on Mon 15th, Tues 16th and Weds 17th February 1.00pm to 3.00pm. All completed work will be displayed in the Arts Centre reception area.

What about trying our FREE Steel Pan Workshop (13 to 19 years) Thurs 18th and Fri 19th February 1.00pm to 3.00pm (funded by the AAP).

You will need to book places for both activities. Contact 01325 379048 or email [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk)

## VIVA AYCLIFFE THEATRE GROUP



The Aycliffe Theatre Group's "Viva Mexico!" show was very colourful and entertaining. The Concert version with an orchestra at Greenfield College attracted good audiences last Thursday and Friday to hear the foot-tapping rhythm of popular songs "La Cucaracha" and "The Clapping Song".

A lot of work in rehearsal, under their Musical Director George Lee, was much in evidence and the whole cast can take pride in their performance.

The Show had everything: male and female striptease, peeping Toms, humour and fantastic music, bringing light, live entertainment to Newton Aycliffe.

The group value the support they receive and are always on the look-out for new members. If you are interested in singing and joining a friendly theatre company get in touch by ringing Ruth on 321729 or

Margaret on 318968.

The next production is Gilbert & Sullivan's "HMS Pinafore" 8th - 10th July. Aycliffe Theatre Group hope you will come on board.

## Advice Bureau's 50th Birthday

Sedgefield & District Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) opened on April 21, 1959. Back then the service would help a few people each week, but today it helps about 10,000 people a year from its two main offices in Spennymoor & Newton Aycliffe and its outreach sessions.

On the 28th January 2010, the organisation celebrated its anniversary in style after Hardwick Hall Hotel, near Sedgefield, offered to hold the event in the Coleman Suite free of charge. The Hotel catered for the event at a substantially reduced rate and also donated a first place raffle prize.

Pauline Chambers, the Service Manager said "Hardwick Hall's generosity made the event possible and appropriate for such a well used and respected service to celebrate its achievements". Mrs Chambers said "Sedgefield CAB is currently well supported by Durham County Council, who has continued to fund our core services at the same level as Sedgefield Borough Council. The County Council assures us through its representatives that they consider the CAB service across the County to be an essential service for residents. CAB are the only holistic advice agency in the area and with new enquiries reaching an unprecedented high, clearly we are a service that people can't do without".

The event was opened with a speech from the former chief executive of Sedgefield District Council Allan Roberts, followed by Allyson Whisker from the National Association of Citizens Advice (CitA), Cllr Brian Stephens & Cllr Lucy Hovvels from Durham County Council.

The second session was opened by the Hon Phil Wilson MP for Sedgefield, who expressed his support for the CAB service and congratulated



the CAB for all the good work it had done over the last 50 years. Sedgefield CAB Chairman Vince Crosby and Vice Chairman Dennis Ramsey also gave knowledgeable and supportive speeches and Bess Robertson (Training Officer) gave a presentation on Volunteering with CAB.

After a 'networking buffet' a light hearted look back over 50 years was presented by staff which ended with a sincere and passionate speech by CitA Bureau Management Consultant Eddie Collins. His off the cuff closing speech was uplifting to all who had worked or volunteered for the service.

The 50th Birthday event was an opportunity to let potential funders, key political figures, current funders and our clients know about the work we do and how hard we are trying to ensure it continues. The generosity of local businesses, many of whom are probably struggling themselves as a result of the recession, still donated to our raffle, which covered the costs of the incidental expenses we occurred from holding the event. We are grateful to them all, who are sadly, too many to mention individually.

"This service is needed more now than ever and although at times things look bleak, we still hope to be an important part of our community in another 50 years."

## County Bus Information

Durham County Council's Cabinet is being recommended to adopt a new bus information strategy, following a public consultation process.

Earlier this year views were sought from bus operators, county and parish councillors as well as members of the public. Under the Transport Act 2000, Durham County Council is required to have a policy on what sort of bus service information is provided and how this should be done.

Head of Transport, Adrian White, says "the feedback has been very helpful." We carry out these consultation exercises

because we want to provide services and information that are user friendly. In this instance we are asking the Cabinet to adopt a new strategy which includes some significant changes.

"If it is approved, the new strategy will include publicising information on special features like wheelchair and pushchair accessibility, related transport links like bus to rail connections and putting location names on bus stops in key locations. "Together these small changes can make a really big difference to everyone using our public transport network."

## Quilt to Mark Parish Golden Anniversary

Dear Sir,

To celebrate St. Mary's Parish 50th anniversary this year we would like to make a patchwork quilt to hang behind the altar in St. Mary's Church.

We hope each square will depict an aspect of parish life, and features of Aycliffe, eg public services, industries, town features etc.

If anyone would like to help us with this project (you do not need to be able to sew), our next get-together about the Jubilee Quilt will be held on Wednesday 24th February from 1.30-3.30pm, in the meeting room, at St. Mary's Church.

This will be a chance for those interested in making a square for the quilt to make a start. It will be an informal gathering where we can share ideas, materials, and help each other with drawing, glueing, cutting, sewing etc. If anyone is interested in helping, we would love to see you. If you need anymore details please contact me at St. Mary's School, on 300339.

Catherine Clausen



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### GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

**Wednesday 24th Feb. 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 to 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](http://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.



## HOMEPLAN SUPPORT PROJECT IN PERU



When "Homeplan" heard of Emil Franchi's request for help to prepare him for his ventures in the Building trade, they were happy to oblige with some basic training. However, his venture was going to prove just a little different. Emil, along with 24 other students from St. John's Sixth Form Centre in Bishop Auckland, plans to visit Peru, in July of this year. Whilst there they will be part of a project,

intent on building and refurbishing food kitchens and meeting places for the people of Raucana, on the outskirts of Lima. For many, these facilities provide their only means of daily food provision.

It will be a strenuous and challenging two weeks once out there, but the hard work has already begun, as each student must raise the £1500 it will cost to travel, and stay there. Thanks to the generosity of family, friends, business contacts and his own ingenuity, Emil has already made headway with his fundraising.

In order to maintain his progress, he is planning to take on the Coast to Coast Cycle Challenge, when he hopes sponsorship will boost his funds. Meanwhile, "Homeplan" are acquainting him with the more practical side of things, so that once out there, he should be able to build the "Hadrian's Wall of Raucana."

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## Free Sales Course a Hit!

A free Sales course offered jointly by two organisations, Bishop Auckland College's Business Training Services (BTS) and SASDA, the enterprise agency in Newton Aycliffe, has proved a hit with new and existing businesses in Co Durham

Increasingly aware of the difficulties faced by businesses in today's economic climate the NVQ 2 Sales course, fully funded by the LSC (Learning & Skills Council) will cover the essential elements of selling products and services. As time is crucial to many businesses the course will run for 4 - 6 months to meet the needs of individual learners.

Thirteen people from nine businesses have already signed up for the course and learners met each other at the first workshop recently.

Shelley Askwith from Touchstone Leads (cold calling experts) in Shildon and Fred Traice (Sole proprietor) of Traice Marketing in Newton Aycliffe both agreed that the event was very helpful and networking with people from other businesses gave them an overview of how others were dealing with the downturn in the economy.

Course tutor Geoff Barrass said "Today was a getting to know each other session, share experiences and gain an overview of the selling process and practices. We also discussed that to sell successfully, businesses must focus on quality, benefits and value to customers".

Co-ordinator of the initiative, John Jenkins at Bishop Auckland College, Business Training Services said, "Bishop Auckland College is proud to be



working with SASDA to develop a course which meets the number one need of businesses of any size - trying to increase sales and make more money. Initial feedback from this course has been excellent and Bishop Auckland College is delighted that all businesses could share 'best practice' ideas to further enhance the growth of local employees and businesses."

For further information on the course please contact Ann Boyd (SASDA) on 01325 310730 or John Jenkins (BTS) on 01325 379600

Website: www.sasda.info  
Website: www.bishopaucklandcollege.ac.uk

## Petrol Higher in Newton Aycliffe?

Dear Sir,

Just wanted to bring to your attention petrol prices in and around Newton Aycliffe. For some reason our petrol is more expensive than a number of areas, and if you go to Durham, Darlington, Leeds, Harrogate, Tyne & Wear petrol is around £108.9p per litre.

Woodham Services are always high and I'm told it is because each petrol station buys independently, but then you have Tesco in Newton Aycliffe that buys as a group charges inflated prices here.

I think your readers should check prices between Newton Aycliffe and Darlington and ask "WHY DO WE PAY MORE" I would like to support local businesses but I have to compare costs.

Michael Powell

## FAMILY PLAY ROOM TO OPEN AT LOCOMOTION

Locomotion: the National Railway Museum at Shildon is in the process of developing a community play and learning space for young families which will open at the end of February.

The space is located within the historic Hackworth building at the museum and provides indoor and outdoor facilities where young families are able to meet and play together.

The refurbishment was made possible following funding of £5,000.00 being awarded to Locomotion by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) as part of the Broadening Horizons Project. A consultation exercise was undertaken in November 2009 to ask local families what they would like to see within the space.

Including the purchase of new furniture and toys, the room will be repainted with improved lighting and the current stoneflag floor will be covered with a large rug to make it more comfortable for play. Outside in the Victorian yard new planters were sited for family gardening projects and this area will open in the spring.

The refurbishment will be celebrated with a Victorian Day event for local families on the 20 and 21 February 2010. For further information about the project or the exhibition please contact Locomotion on 01388 777999 or email info@locomotion.uk.com.

Locomotion: the National Railway Museum at Shildon  
FREE admission - FREE parking.

## Valentine's Day Service

@ Harvest Christian Centre

Join us @ Bethany Centre

Village Close, Woodham

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am

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## LETTER

## Why We Must Keep Shafto House

Dear Sir,  
I would like to comment on the possible closure of Shafto House. My husband had a stroke five years ago, and since then I have given him 24 hour a day care. I don't receive carers allowance, because I have worked all my life and having paid into a small pension scheme do not qualify. I was still working at 62 years old when he had his stroke, and had to stop to look after him. In five years I have had three respite breaks using Shafto House each time. It is not about the décor and surroundings, it is the excellent care that he got. I went away without having to worry about him, knowing he would be very well looked after. Mrs. Caroline Norton, Lee Green.

## TOP ART MURAL ON SHOW AT DARLO ARENA

A STUNNING mural is now on show at the Northern Echo Arena thanks to a year-long arts project. The masterpiece, made entirely of plastic bottle tops, depicts Darlington railway pioneer Joseph Pease in front of the Quakers club crest. It will be displayed at the Arena for six months to help promote the history of Darlington, as well as the need for people to re-cycle. The work was produced by the Structured Day Care clients of the North East Council on Addictions (NECA), Darlington, who worked over a year, securing funding through the Prince's Trust, collecting materials, planning the project and engaging to complete the final piece as a community arts project. Local artist Yvonne Preston was funded to assist the clients with the design and



construction of the final piece of work. "I have thoroughly enjoyed working with this group of people," said Yvonne. "They have made me feel very welcome, shown lots of great personality and commitment and really taken ownership of their work."

The Structured Day Care team are responsible for providing intensive community based support, treatment and rehabilitation which offer clear programmes of defined activities and group work. Trish Stephenson, of NECA, said: "Structured Day Care clients are delighted to have created this work for the benefit of the community, promotion of the football club and to promote recycling in Darlington."

"The dedication and teamwork from the clients is commendable. The sense of good citizenship and community involvement is something we strive to achieve with an otherwise excluded group."

The project included working in partnership with many agencies including Age Concern, to which members accessing the organisation made a substantial contribution to the collection of the bottle tops. Others involved included partnership agencies such

as the National Probation Service, 700 Club and The Elmfield Centre who contributed to the client engagement and collection of materials, whilst members of the local community and shops also offered their support.

### P.A.C.T. Meeting

Police & Community Together

PACT meeting **SHAFTO/ST MARY'S** is on Tuesday 23rd February 2010 at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, Beveridge Arcade, at 6pm.

Durham Constabulary are dedicated to making your neighbourhood safer. If you have any issues affecting your quality of life and want to discuss it with your neighbourhood Police Team then get involved in your local PACT Meeting.

This is an informal discussion with the Police and local partners to resolve problems where you live.

Ring 0345 6060 365

PCSO 7044 Scott Hodgson, Newton Aycliffe Beat Team.

## UPDATING YOUR IMAGE

Are you feeling the pinch during the credit crunch? Would you like to re-vamp your wardrobe on a budget? Help is at hand! Image Consultant, Louise Morton of Premier Image is an expert in helping you to update your image. Whether you are applying for a different job or just wanting to sharpen your look. Perhaps you have had a lifestyle change such as a new baby or retirement. She can help you in lots of different ways and completely understands that for a lot of people money is tight. "I believe that it's important to look good every day. But I also understand that no-one can afford to replace their entire wardrobe," says Louise. "I try to help people to work with clothes they already have, and advise them how to update their look in the most flattering and cost effective way."

Louise offers lots of different services including Colour Analysis, Style Assessments, Wardrobe Management and

Personal Shopping. She can also 'tailor make' a package to suit your individual requirements. During a colour analysis Louise will analyse which colours enhance your skin tone and eye colour. You will discover which characteristics within each colour range flatter you best, and you will receive your personalised colour swatch to keep. You will look younger and healthier and you will have much more confidence when choosing new clothes.

A style assessment involves looking at your body shape and proportions. "Size isn't important, shape is," insists Louise. You will be given detailed advice on correction techniques to disguise any 'problem areas' together with ideas to accessorise your outfits. She will analyse your face shape to help when choosing accessories. You will also learn which neckline shapes are the most flattering. Wardrobe management involves sorting through

your existing wardrobe to discover what suits your body shape as well as why some items don't work. "Very often clients end up with lots of new outfits, using clothes that they already own."

This could then be followed up with a personal shopping session which will take into account your needs and budget. "I often compare my services to the price of a haircut or beauty treatment. They last for only a few weeks. A colour analysis lasts a lifetime."

Gift vouchers are available, so why not treat your partner for Valentine's Day or your mum for Mother's Day. Give her a unique gift to show you care. Louise is also available for Bridal makeovers, using VIE at home products. So why not book a trial session now to ensure you look your very best on your special day? For more details or to book a consultation contact Louise 317040 or 07980 468615 premier.image@sky.com www.premier-image.co.uk

## SASDA HELPS BRITAIN'S BEST CHIPPY COPE WITH DEMAND

A Newton Aycliffe chip shop, voted best in the Britain, has taken on a new member of staff thanks to help from SASDA.

Redz in Woodham, Newton Aycliffe, topped the Daily Mirror's competition to find the best fish and chip shop and has quickly recruited Kayleigh Lawton, 20, of Newton Aycliffe, to cope with demand, thanks to funding from regional development agency SASDA.

After receiving hundreds of nominations from readers, secret taste testers visited the shop, owned by George and Wendy Redford, of Washington, to rate the food, service and value for money. Undercover diners described the fish as "of excellent quality and perfectly cooked" and the chips as "tasty and full of flavour".

Redz took advantage of help available from SASDA - which supports businesses in the Sedgefield Borough and creates employment opportunities for residents through its Working Neighbourhoods Fund.

"We have had a very exciting couple of weeks, first to be named best chip shop in Britain and secondly for business to go through the roof," said Mr Redford. "We were a little nervous to recruit because of the sudden growth, but SASDA made the decision easier due to the funding that is available."

"I'm just overwhelmed, it's fantastic. It took us a few years to crack it but now we get people calling us saying that we have the best fish and chips they've ever tasted." Previously the husband and wife duo - who re-mortgaged their house to buy the business three and a half years ago - worked the shifts between them but have realised the sudden growth is more than they can handle by themselves. They are already looking to add another member of staff to the team with the help of SASDA.

Ann Boyd, SASDA sales specialist, said: "There are so many fantastic businesses in the local area and it's great



that one of them has been acknowledged on a national scale for its service. Due to Redz success people are now travelling from near and far to sample the chips and their creditability is overwhelming. "We are delighted we have been able to support them at

this exciting time, to help them cope with the sudden growth and will continue to support them to ensure it is long-lived." For further information about how your business can receive support and funding from SASDA contact 01325 310730.

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# Residents Meeting to Discuss Shafto House

Great Aycliffe Residents Association are holding a Public Meeting on Thursday 4th March as part of the consultation process on the proposed closure of Shafto House Care Home. Faced with increasing costs and under-use the County Council have given good economic reasons why a number of care homes in their charge should be closed. However there has been a vociferous outcry from those in our community who will be affected, not least the residents of Shafto House themselves who have come to regard it as their home with the staff as part of their extended family. Shafto House has a fine reputation for care of our elderly, but like a lot of

homes the County Council run, it is described as below standard in the quality of premises and facilities offered. The argument against, from some, is that the quality of care and the contentment of residents is more important. GARA has invited all our County Councillors to the meeting in the hope they will give their point of view on the subject, thereby helping residents make an informed decision on the consultation. It is possible officers of the Council may also attend to give objective opinions. The decision on whether we keep Shafto House or not may not affect you at this moment in time, but could in the future. The meeting starts at 7.30pm and everyone is invited.

# The Truth is Out There

Dear Sir,  
I was perturbed by a letter in your paper last week by M & C Carter, regarding the possible closure of Shafto House. The letter clearly stated that "weeks ago, the Labour Group meeting (on Durham County Council) voted 46 to 6 for closure." Naturally this will be a cause of serious concern. Political Groups are perfectly entitled to make policy decisions predetermined and pre-disposed as shown on my website from a decision of the High Court in London. But what is cause for concern here, is that the Durham County Council recently publicly announced, in this very paper, the launching of a public consultation exercise covering the future of Shafto House. If the letter reporting the vote is true, then this would be a serious breach of trust between the Labour controlled Durham County Council and the people in Great Aycliffe. It would be tantamount to saying that the County Council will consult the public, hold public meetings to explain the choices, and reasons, listen to views expressed, but, by the way, we have already decided

to close Shafto House as a matter of policy, irrespective of what the people want. I find it hard to believe the controlling Labour Group on Durham County Council would behave in such a blatantly cynical manner, and wonder whether M & C Carter have misunderstood or misheard or been mis-informed. I would be grateful if they could provide further details to give proof of their statement. They will be doing a great public service by enlightening us further on this. With a general election approaching, this serious allegation, if true, will cost Labour thousands of votes certainly in the Great Aycliffe area. This information would be of interest to all Labour Party members in Newton Aycliffe, our MP, as well as Town Councillors and of course most importantly the electorate. I for one would appreciate a further explanation from M & C Carter and equally appreciate the Labour members of Durham County Council representing Newton Aycliffe shedding light on this matter. Arun M Chandran, Labour www.greataycliffe.com

# Party Politics in Town Council

Dear Sir,  
In reply to politically confused I would like to state the Independents are not a political party. There are only two - Labour and Lib Dems - who have party lines to follow which an Independent does not. Political parties are becoming more of a feature in Parish Councils against the policy of the National Association of Local Councils. (Toolkit for Town Councils) Parish Councillors should serve their own communities and not be sidetracked by party politics. This can pose difficulties in terms of the impartiality of the staff and the relationship of staff with Councillors. Each Councillor elected under the banner of a party now needs to consider whether they are fish or fowl. Paul Ducker Independent.

# LIB DEMS MEET

On Tuesday night, The Cubby hosted the GAA Lib Dem February branch meeting. A well-attended meeting, welcomed both interested town residents and Lib Dem members. The meeting commenced with a session open to all; including prospective members. Topics under discussion included the future of The Cubby. Lib Dem Councillor, Bill Blenkinsopp, explained that The Cubby committee had decided to remain in their present premises and we agreed to continue to offer them our support. A letter was received, from the Chairman Ken Dixon who expressed thanks to the Lib Dems for their continued support, both moral and through proceeds from fundraising. The Chairman of GAA Lib Dems, Brian Fiske, then warmly welcomed, Alan Thompson, our Liberal Democrat Party PPC, for the Sedgefield Constituency. Alan gave details of his experience and background which was followed by a question-and-answer session. Alan expressed his concern at the run-down state of the Town Centre and was surprised to learn

that since the opening of Tesco, in October 2003, the process of redevelopment had basically come to a halt. He commented: "It is hard to believe that during much of this time, you had a Labour Party Prime Minister, as your elected MP." The possible closure of Shafto House was also discussed and information was disclosed, that six out of the eight local County Councillors - seven of whom are Labour Party representatives - voted for the 'consultation' process to begin, that could in effect lead to the closure of Shafto House. We agreed to offer our support to Great Aycliffe Residents' Association and any organisation seeking to co-ordinate opposition to this third attempt by DCC, to close Shafto House. Further items included a discussion on the Focus questionnaires, to be delivered to all households, in the Aycliffe Central Ward, during the next week or two. It was agreed that the next meeting of GAA Lib Dem branch would be at 7pm, on Tuesday 9th March 2010, in The Cubby. Derek Atkinson, Lib Dem member.



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# PROOF POSITIVE!

Mr Chandran's letter questions our sources of the details we mention. We respect Mr Chandran's interest, and suggest he reads the Northern Echo which gave detailed coverage on 15 Dec 2009. It would appear we misquoted the numbers as the Echo quoted unconfirmed numbers of 6 out of 76 not 46 as we said. Counc. Albert Nugent fought successfully against home closure in May 2006 causing the resignation of the then council leader. His position was taken by Counc Henig when the Unitary Council began. We, Mr Chandran and Counc Nugent agree that the Labour Group meetings were undemocratic if what we say is true. Counc Nugent's description goes further "They have scabbed against their own kind - their own people. Working class people have always stuck together. They put the purse before the people." Is he Old Labour or New Labour? Counc Nugent blew the gaff on the Labour meeting held in camera. Will he face repercussions, we wonder? Ask your Labour County Councillors. There was "No comment" from Council Leader Henig. Rachel Shimmen, the Councils Corporate Director of Adults, Wellbeing and Health, said that the Cabinet would consider a report recommending consultation with service users, carers, staff and stakeholders. Are you on this list? Is it the "public consultation exercise" quoted by Mr Chandran? This is of importance to all Council Tax Payers. Is this the first time we have been betrayed? The consultation on the very existence of the Unitary Authority was a stitch-up. The Public voted, by a massive majority, against it. We were told what was good for us because insufficient numbers voted. This, we hope, clarifies the problem. It does not even begin with its solution. M & C Carter

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*Sunday 14th March*

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## Arts Centre Birthday

Greenfield Community and Arts Centre will be celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. During the Half Term holiday, we will be holding FREE activities starting with our Arty Clarty Workshop (8 years and over). This will run on Mon 15th, Tues 16th and Weds 17th February 1.00pm to 3.00pm.

All completed work will be displayed in the Arts Centre reception area. What about trying our FREE Steel Pan Workshop (13 to 19 years) Thurs 18th and Fri 19th February 1.00pm to 3.00pm (funded by the AAP).

You will need to book places for both activities. Contact 01325 379048 or email info@greenfield-arts.co.uk

## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

The Town Library is running half-term Adult and children's events.

**Craft Session** Tuesday 16th Feb 10:30-11:30 (50p charge)

**Charlie the Magician Magic Show** Thursday 18th Feb 2:30 (£1)

Events for adults in March:

Crime author John Dean in on the 4th March at 2pm to do a Writer's Workshop (£1)

Talk on Mary Ann Cotton from Historian and author Tom Hutchinson on 11th March at 2pm (£1)

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# "THE KING AND I" SEARCH FOR JUNIOR 'ROYAL' STARS

Newcastle Musical Theatre Company is looking for some especially gifted children to play the parts of The King of Siam's royal princes and princesses, for its production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's famous musical 'The King and I' in September 2010 at The Theatre Royal.

There will be an open audition to be held at 10am on Saturday 27th February 2010 at the Robert Stewart Memorial Church Hall, Wingrove Road, Fenham, where 22 children will be cast as The King's children. These should include both boys and girls up to the age of 14, and at least one set of identical twins.

A 'tiny' boy or girl will also be included who will be carried by the King at arm's length in one of the best known musical numbers - 'The March Of The Siamese Children'.

Auditionees will be expected to sing 'Getting To Know You', take part in a drama workshop, and recite some of the script from the show. Also to be cast on the day

are the very important roles of Louis Leonowens (Mrs Anna's son), Prince Chululunkorn and Princess Ying Yowalak - who have the majority of the singing and spoken words of the group. These are in addition to the other 22 required. Registered chaperones will be in attendance at both the auditions and performances. Co-Director Ken Allan says - 'These children are central and extremely important to the success of

our production of The King and I. We are very excited at this marvellous opportunity, and would like to hear from anyone interested in advance, but youngsters will be allowed to turn up at 10am on the day, as long as they are accompanied by a responsible adult'. Please contact either Ken Allan on 07721901371 or N.M.T.C. on 0191 2415486. Applications can also be sent to: nmte@live.co.uk or www.newcastletheatre.co.uk

## RACE NIGHT MOVES TO SCOUT CENTRE

The venue of the Charity Fun Race Night organised by "Women for Women" on Saturday 27th February is changed to the Scout

Centre at Bluebell Way. It starts at 7.30 pm and the tickets priced £5 include a Pie & Peas Supper. Tickets are available from Margaret Gent on 317308.

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## Warning to Parking Badge Cheats

Durham County Council is clamping down on parking cheats in the wake of a rise in the number of complaints about the misuse of blue disabled parking badges in Durham district.

Recently the police have worked along side the council's enforcement partners, NSL Ltd., to seize badges from motorists caught flouting the rules. The penalty for parking in the bays illegally can be as much as £1,000.

Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Development, Cllr Neil Foster, says the Council won't tolerate it, "I think what people who breach the rules forget is that by taking up a bay designated for disabled use they are making life more difficult for other people who may be in greater need.

"Displaying a fake or stolen badge, or one which is not designated for use by the person using the car, is a criminal offence and it concerns both the public at large and us, as the Council. You could face a fine of up to £1,000, so ask yourself, is it really worth, it when you can park legally in any of our pay and display parking bays all over the city."

Anyone wanting more information about parking rules or blue badge regulations should call the council's Parking Services Team on 0191 383 3442.

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022301  
**3 BEDROOM** house for rent.  
£110 pw. For details ring 07540  
256 364  
**2 BEDROOM** bungalow to let  
in Washington Crescent area.  
Recently refurbished, DG,  
GCH. For further details ring  
01325 311348  
**2 BEDROOM** house, Walcher  
Road, £425 per month rent,  
£400 Bond. Tel 07771 660369  
**TO RENT** Attractive 3  
bedroom semi-detached house  
and garage in Woodham  
Village £495pcm. Call Lynn  
07725 118 054  
**TO RENT** Attractive 2  
bedroom semi-detached house  
in Woodham Village. £420  
pcm. Call Aaron 07974 770  
006

## Entertainment

Discos for any occasion  
Weddings a Speciality  
**INASPIN  
ROADSHOW**  
Face Painting - Bouncy Castle  
P.A. and Lighting Hire  
Tel: 01325 316008 or 07816 002900  
www.inaspin-entertainment.com

**Mr. B's KARAOKE & DISCO**  
For any occasion  
**Tel 01325 308 390**  
**or 07527 212 724**

## Osteopathy

**Melanie J. Rowland**  
BSc (Hons) Ost Med DO ND GOSc  
at the  
**Pioneering Care Centre**  
Newton Aycliffe  
Tel: 01325 321234  
Mobile: 07867 555801  
For relief of Back, Neck,  
Shoulder, Hand, Hip, Knee  
and Foot Pain

## Sits Wanted

**RELIABLE** and  
**TRUSTWORTHY** Lady  
looking for work. Housework,  
shopping, dog walking, one-off  
cleaning, anything considered.  
Ring Sandra on 01325 301327

## Chiropody

**CHIROPODY**  
Mr P. Oliver  
BSc (Hons) - M.Ch.S  
for a Home Visit  
**Tel: (01325) 320126**

## Licence Applications

**Goods Vehicle  
Operators Licence**  
JA, SM and AR Ayre trading as  
Ayre Transport Services of 12  
Redworth Road, Heighington  
Village, Newton Aycliffe, DL5  
6PR is applying for a licence  
to use Unit 12B/375 Leaside  
North, Aycliffe Business Park,  
Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham  
DL5 6DU as an operating centre  
for 2 goods vehicles and 4  
trailers. Owners or occupiers of  
land (including buildings) near  
the operating centre who believe  
that their use or enjoyment of that  
land would be affected should  
make written representations  
to the Traffic Commissioner at  
Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills  
Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating  
their reasons, within 21 days  
of this notice. Representors  
must at the same time send a  
copy of their representations  
to the applicant at the address  
given at the top of this notice. A  
guide to making representations  
is available from the Traffic  
Commissioners Office.  
12-02-10

## Wanted

**BENTLEY SWIFT & CO**  
Antique Valuers and Buyers  
**WE WISH TO PURCHASE:**  
Antique Furniture, Watches,  
Pre-War Furniture & Paintings,  
Old China & Clocks, Old Books  
Post Cards, Cigarette Cards,  
Medals, Militaria, Coins, Toys,  
Dolls, Silver and all Jewellery  
Photographic Equipment, Linen,  
Autographs, Fishing Tackle,  
Deceased Estates etc.  
**All transactions in confidence**  
**ALL AREAS COVERED**  
**(01325) 480561**  
www.bentleyswift.co.uk

# IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT WOODHAM

## Community Centre Activities

**Sprint Personal Trainers**  
who offer individual  
tailored services, have  
started boxercise and  
extreme circuits fitness  
classes at Woodham  
Community Centre every  
Friday evening from 6pm. -  
8pm. Both classes are great  
for newcomers or more  
advanced people. Your first  
session is FREE, thereafter  
£4 per person.  
Or try some of our long  
running classes.

## Hairdressing

**MOBILE** Hairdresser,  
have your hair styled by an  
experienced hairdresser in the  
comfort of your own home.  
OAP discount rates. Tel 319497  
or 07904 219 997  
**COLOUR CUTZ** latest  
techniques in hair design.  
07732 188090

## Personal

**BVA Foundation**  
**FREE**  
**Confidential**  
**Post Abortion**  
**Counselling**  
**available**  
**Telephone:**  
**01642 616077**

**SAMARITANS** - 13 Woodland  
Road, Darlington. We are  
here for you 24 hours a day.  
Telephone 08457 90 90 90

**MARY'S  
SEWING  
ALTERATIONS**  
30 Years Experience  
Cheap Rates  
**Telephone: 301979**

## Computers

**AYCLIFFE  
COMPUTERS**  
Computers Built to  
your own Specification:  
Computer Repairs  
Upgrades - Data Recovery  
**Windows 7 Installation**  
Broadband Installation  
Networking - Anti Virus  
**Call out within 24 hours,**  
**usually same day**  
**XBox 360, PS3, Wii and**  
**Online Gaming Setup**  
**~ NO CALL OUT CHARGE ~**  
**Contact Rob**  
**01325 310737**  
**07841 867 170**  
aycliffecomputers@googlemail.com

**PC Problems?**  
Hardware - Software  
Upgrades - No fix, No fee  
Home Networking  
Broadband Installation  
No call out charge  
**01325 317649**  
**0800 955 6867**

**GAMES CONSOLE  
PC REPAIRS**  
NO FIX NO FEE  
NO CALL-OUT CHARGE  
PICK-UP & DROP-OFF  
UPGRADES  
VIRUS REMOVAL  
Laptops and Wireless Set-up  
**Andy McLean 07828 012 607**  
**or 01325 312970**

**Taekwondo:** Tuesday  
5.30pm - 8.15pm. Sunday  
10.30am - 12.00noon.  
**Karate:** Thursday 6pm -  
8pm. Sunday 4pm - 6pm.  
**Rosmary Conley Keep  
Fit** Thursday 8.15pm. -  
9.30pm.  
**Step Inside Dance Class:**  
Monday and Wednesday  
6.30pm - 8.30pm.  
**Tea Dance:** Friday 2.00pm  
- 4.00pm.  
**Badminton:** Tuesday 9am  
- 10am & 8.15pm - 10pm.  
Wednesday 2pm - 4pm.  
Friday 9am - 10am.  
**Do you fancy a cup of tea  
with cake, and a chat?**  
Come to the "Cuppas"  
Morning every Thursday  
10.00am - 12.00noon. All  
proceeds to local charities.  
If it's a new skill you are  
after why not try **Computers  
for the Terrified / Digital  
Photography** - next courses  
start end of March.  
**The Art Group** meets  
Tuesdays 12.30pm -  
3.00pm.  
**The Hobbies Group**  
meets Thursday 1.30pm -  
3.30pm.  
**Ladies Group** meets every  
2nd and 4th Wednesday  
each month 7.00pm -  
9.30pm.  
Fancy helping your young  
child learn Basic Signing  
and Communication Skills?  
**Signing Tots** meet Friday  
11.00am - 12.00noon and  
2.00pm - 3.00pm.  
For details contact David  
Sutton -Lloyd on 316144.

## Pets

**DOG WALKING** Services,  
caring for your animals in their  
own environment, no matter  
how big or small your pet is.  
Call 07773 617265

## Weddings

**BEAUFORDS**, Daimler  
limousines, Rolls Royce's,  
Mercedes and Jaguars available  
for weddings, anniversaries and  
special occasions. Tel 01740  
620 147 (Sedgefield), 07721  
771 113 or visit our website  
on: www.durhamweddingcars.  
co.uk

## Public Notice

**WATCH BATTERIES** now  
available at Taylors Newsforce  
**DONATIONS** needed of Bric-  
a-Brac and other good condition  
items for Newton Aycliffe good  
causes. Ring Honest John on  
316630  
**RSPCA** Durham and District  
cats and kittens for adoption,  
fee applies to cover 1st and 2nd  
vaccination, also neutering and  
id chip. Please Tel 311215  
**AYCLIFFE** Car Boot Sale  
every Sunday, 9am-1pm in the  
multi-storey car park. Enquiries  
01325 320319

## Catering

**AUSTEN  
SHAW**  
**FREELANCE CHEF**  
Bespoke Dinner Parties  
in your own home  
for any occasion.  
2-20 people  
choose your own menu  
**07948 846 972**  
www.austenshawfreelancechef.co.uk

# GETTING THE BEST DEAL FOR AYCLIFFE'S YOUNG PEOPLE

A new partnership has been  
established in Newton  
Aycliffe putting children,  
young people and their  
families at the heart of its  
aims.  
By co-ordinating positive  
activities for children and  
young people it will enable  
easier access to funds and  
maximise opportunities  
for positive activities. The  
first meeting was organised  
and chaired by Michelle  
Postma, Extended Services  
Co-ordinator for Newton  
Aycliffe and held at Great  
Aycliffe Town Council  
offices.  
The proposal is based  
upon a similar group where  
Michelle is a partner, called  
SCYPAN in Shildon.  
Voluntary, community and  
statutory organisations  
work harmoniously to  
ensure the children and  
young people of Shildon get  
the maximum opportunities  
available to them.  
The following  
organisations attended:  
Methodist Church, Great  
Aycliffe Town Council,  
Oakleaf Sports Complex,  
Greenfield Community  
Arts Centre, Fishing  
with Tom, Woodham  
Technology College,

NewtonNews, GAMPAA,  
Youth Centre, CAVOS,  
Surestart, Pioneering Care  
Partnership and extended  
services.  
The group discussed the  
feasibility and benefits of  
working in partnership to  
help children and young  
people of Newton Aycliffe.  
It was agreed it would  
minimise duplication  
of activities, and help  
co-ordinate and share,  
information of current and  
planned activities. There  
could also be a sharing  
resources and funding  
with an aim to integrate  
the "every child matters"  
agenda by consulting  
with children and young  
people.  
The group decided there  
were many benefits to  
this partnership and it was  
agreed a meeting be held  
each half term. The next  
planned meeting is on  
Wednesday 24th March,  
2010 at 3pm.  
**If any organisation or  
individual would like  
further information or  
would like to attend  
contact Michelle Postma  
on 07775 025 222 or  
email postmam@  
sunnydaleschool.co.uk.**

# WHAT'S ON AT THE YOUTHY?

Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th  
Feb 1pm - 4pm: **Football  
Coaching** with Darlington  
Football Club Ages 11-16  
**DJ Training** Ages 13-  
19, Wednesday 17th and  
Thursday 18th Feb, 1pm  
-4pm: **Graffiti Art** with  
professional artist on  
Thursday 18th February at  
6.30pm: **Cinema Night:**  
Big Screen with full  
surround sound. For further  
information please contact  
the Youth Centre on 307522.

## TRY PILATES

The method of body  
conditioning you've been  
waiting for, PILATES. It  
leaves you refreshed and alert  
with a feeling of physical and  
mental well-being.  
Classes held on Wednesday  
and Sunday evenings at the  
Oak Leaf Sports Complex.  
For details contact Pat  
Kenneally, class instructor,  
on 01325 261880 or 07791  
630 726.

## Opticians

**K. McGuinness**  
**OPTICIAN**  
Town Centre  
Newton Aycliffe  
**Tel: 316600**

**FRAMING SERVICE  
AT NEWTON PRESS**  
A good selection of frames made to order:  

up to 8" x 10"	from £10.00
up to 10" x 12"	from £12.00
up to 11" x 14"	from £14.00
up to 12" x 16"	from £16.00
up to 16" x 20"	from £28.00
up to 20" x 24"	from £56.00

*Prices exclude V.A.T.*  
**PHOTO PRINTS  
ON CANVAS,  
GLOSS OR SILK**  
We are able to scan and print your  
original photographs, prints can also be  
taken from digital camera memory cards.  

Size	Canvas	Mounted
A4 (210x297mm) =	£14.00	£30.00
A3 (297x420mm) =	£20.00	£40.00
A2 (420x594mm) =	£30.00	£52.00
A1 (594x841mm) =	£40.00	£61.00
A0 (841x1189mm) =	£55.00	£85.00

*Other sizes available, please ask*  
**NEWTON  
PRESS**  
*Your Environmentally  
Friendly Printer*  
St. Cuthberts Way, Aycliffe Business Park  
Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6DX  
**T: 01325 300212 - sales@gonp.co.uk**



## 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 307 530

**BARGAIN BUYS** Bargain of the Week. Washing machine, 6kg load, A energy class, 2 year warranty, delivered and fitted for £219. Tel 321 678

**FACIAL** sun lamp, hardly used, still in box, £10; Coffee table, 120x60, beech with frosted glass insert, £90; Boys first bike, £20; Leather framed mirror, 114x83, £40; JVC CD radio alarm clock, 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. Tel 307 530

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

**PRE 1900s** original Welsh dresser, beautiful wood grain, medium oak, excellent condition, £300. Tel 317281 or 07544 990613 (can be delivered)

**BRAND NEW** double divan with fully quilted mattress. Can deliver, £120. Tel 07789 113 343

**LARGE** oak wood kitchen units for sale, all in excellent condition, cheap. Tel 321049 or 07721 689134

**MOBILITY** walker, used twice, excellent condition, cost £90 new, burgundy with seat, basket, brakes etc. £60. Tel 07834 614659 after 5pm

**MINI BODEN** girls clothing, age 3-4 years, excellent condition. Tel 321606 for details

**GARDEN SHED** new, 6x4 apex window, heavy duty, tanalised, delivered and erected, £170. Tel 07538 812963

**BEAUTIFUL** wedding gown, white, size 12-14, petite. Tel 07974 798 388

**DISABILITY** Scooter, serviced, new batteries, excellent condition, £350. Tel 312664 or 07931 727318 after 4pm

**6ft POOL** table, cues and balls, £25; Table football game on legs, £25; Boys mountain bike, 1 will suit 8-12 years, £25; 1 will suit 12 years +, £25. Tel 07956 160126

**DOUBLE** head board, darlon, £15; Raleigh pioneer gents cycle, £10; Portable TV, 14", £10; Mahogany CD rack, £10. Tel 310963

**12" PA** speakers, Tel 310963

**COMPLETE** new toilet and wash basin, still in boxes, £120. Tel 07546 226608

**WHITE** quadrant shower enclosure with sliding door complete with shower tray, good quality second hand, £150 ono. Tel 07546 226608

**MAHOGANY** fireplace, excellent condition, £50; Gas fire, Canon precept deluxe, excellent condition, £50; Freezer, Beko, 7cu ft, good working order, £50. Tel 01325 321517

**4 PINE** doors, £20. Tel 07853 134945

**ZANUSSI** spin dryer £30; Worktop tumble dryer £30; Small pine kitchen table £15; Pine desk and chair to suit 5 years + £5; Small glass top coffee table £10; Deep fat fryer, new £15; New all wool rug, beige, thick pile, 6ft x 4ft, £15; 2 x armchair folding tables, £5 each. All in excellent condition. Tel 321134

**MOTHERCARE** travel system, pushchair, unisex, like new, £50 ono. Tel 07792 919 092

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

# Questions and Facts on Shafto House

Dear Sir,  
Is the intention to keep Shafto House open in its present condition? i.e. with empty rooms, sub standard with no en-suite facilities?

Is the intention to upgrade it and to what level and at what cost? You realise that any funding will be coming out of your pocket in the Council Tax.

The majority if not all surrounding authorities have closed their homes without any noticeable reduction of service but rather achieving better focussed use of resources with improved other service and with no complaints.

In Aycliffe and throughout the County there are many better equipped private provisions for which people are opting for - as can be seen by the vacancies in Council run homes.

Why has there been no screams of anguish from those who were moved from the previous closures,

rather they seem well satisfied?

Are you aware of the range and diverse nature of County Council provision across the County?

Who is speaking for the majority who want to stay in their homes as long as possible? How do we improve that provision for this (silent) majority?

As a councillor I seek to speak for the voiceless and help provide the best service for all and especially those at the bottom of the pile and not for those who have the loudest voice and biggest elbows.

I am interested in seeking better provision for the future and not seeking to continue to provide provision which is out of date. Such solutions come about by people working together to find solutions in partnership with a common purpose.

Mike Dixon  
County Councillor

## DARLO OFFER CUT-PRICE TICKET 'BUNDLES'

Darlington are offering fans the chance to return to the Northern Echo Arena on matchdays with cut-price ticket bundles.

The club are making the offer available for the final 12 home games of the season as Steve Staunton's side bid to climb away from the bottom of the Coca-Cola League Two table. The deal enables fans to buy a ticket for any five of the club's remaining home fixtures, at a reduced overall price.

The adult bundle is available for £65, which works out at £13 per ticket and is a total saving of £25 on matchday prices.

Over-65's bundles are priced £40 (£8 per ticket, saving a total of £20), Under-16s are £20 (£4 each, saving £20), Under-10s are £12.50 (£2.50 each, saving £12.50) and family tickets are priced £150 (£30 per match, saving £50 in total).

Chairman Raj Singh said: "We're still only half way through the season in terms of matches, so there's a lot of football to be played, especially at home, and these are going to be crucial games

to us.

"We want to try and encourage as many fans to come back, particularly during this time of great need for the club. We're convinced increased attendances will only help the players on the pitch and we'll be able to get ourselves out of this.

"I firmly believe we have a genuine chance of achieving what would be the greatest of Great Escapes, but we won't be able to do it without our supporters, whether that's those who continue to support us, lapsed fans or even new ones.

"By taking advantage of this ticket offer our fans will be giving us an extra helping hand."

The ticket bundles cover the last 12 games of the current season, beginning with Rotherham on Saturday, and also includes Lincoln, Chesterfield, Notts County, Port Vale, Torquay, Barnet, Aldershot, Hereford, Accrington, Grimsby and Dagenham.

The bundles are available from the ticket office at the Northern Echo Arena, or call 0871 855 1883.

## Situations Vacant

### St Francis CE (Aided) Junior School

have a vacancy for a

**CLEANER**

10 hours per week: 3:30pm-5:30pm  
(£6.30 per hour)

A vacancy has arisen for a Cleaner at the school from Monday 8th March 2010. This will initially be temporary starting with a six month probationary period. Interviews are scheduled for Monday 1st March.

Application packs can be collected from the school or posted out on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

St Francis CE (Aided) Junior School  
Scholars Path  
Newton Aycliffe  
Co. Durham DL5 7HB

Telephone: (01325) 300236

## Births

**MICHAEL & HALEY** Well done on the birth of "Cayden Lee". My gorgeous nephew, love from Lindsey. Kisses from Kieran and Cameron for their little Cousin xxx

**DAWSON and MEAKIN** Congratulations Michael and Haley on the birth of your 1st child, a beautiful Sib "Cayden Lee" (2-2-10). A Grandson for Harry and Marian, we are so proud. Love, Mam and Dad xx

**MICHAEL & HALEY** congratulations on the birth of my Great Grandson. Love, Gran

## Obituary

**DALE** 3rd February, peacefully in hospital. Lew, aged 81 years of Newton Aycliffe. Loving Husband of the late Elsie, a much loved Dad of Brian and Janette; a deeply loved Grandad of Lyndsey, Kimberley, Claire, Donna, Catherine, Lee and Paul. Great Grandad of Joshua. Also a dear Father-in-Law of Mick. Funeral Monday 15th February. Would friends please meet at 3.30pm for Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon

## Thank You

**BRENDA, JOHN**, Kevin and family of the late Arnie Milburn would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and messages of sympathy. Thanks also to the Royal British Legion for their help and support. Special thanks to Rev Linda Potter for a comforting Service and to Gillian Marley of the Co-operative Funeral Care for her help and guidance.

**JULIE TURNBULL**. A huge thank you to Tony, Mam and my kids for organising my "surprise" 40th party. I'm very impressed you managed to pull it off, you really did me proud. Thanks to all family and friends who came to make it the success it was and for lovely cards and gifts received. I can believe how sneaky you all are!!! xxxxx

**NANCY WALTERS** Died peacefully at Lindsfarne Care Home on the 5th February 2010. I would like to thank all the staff for their care and love. Also to say thank you to the Doctors at Peace Way Medical Practice. Thanks again, Nancy's Niece, Josephine

## NEWTON NEWS

Conditions of  
Acceptance of News  
and Advertisements

Newton News is printed and published by Howarth Ltd. trading as Newton Press, St. Cuthberts Way, Aycliffe Business Park, Co. Durham DL5 6DX. As the publishers we retain the right to refuse copy or artwork of which we may not approve. The Publisher cannot guarantee publication of copy received or accept responsibility for omission, damage or innaccuracy in the printing, but will attempt to put right any fault of our making by printing a correct version. The Publisher retains the copyright of all material published and it may not be reproduced without permission of the proprietors of Newton News.

## Poppy Appeal Rasies £13k

The Newton Aycliffe Branch of the Royal British Legion wish to thank everyone for their generous support for the 2009 Poppy Appeal which raised £13,064.47p.

## Tuition

**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

**DRUM TUITION** Styles, grooves, grades, studio/live techniques, all abilities and ages. Tel 07707 281839

**PIANO** and Guitar tuition, qualified and experienced tutor. Tel 321539

**MUSIC TUITION** Guitar, Bass and Drum Lessons in your home. Friendly teacher, 10 years experience. Tel. Roger 321444

## In Memoriam

**JIMMY OLIVER** 12-2-2009. In memory of a loving Husband and Dad. You are always in our hearts and thoughts. Sadly missed and never forgotten. Ann, Chloe and James

**JIMMY OLIVER** 12-2-2009. Our Jimbo. Never a day goes by without the memories flooding back of the great times we had. You are the star that will never fade. Allan, Jill, Suzie, Kayleigh and Jack

**JIMMY OLIVER** 12-2-2009. Remembered Today, Tomorrow and always and loved always the same each day. Missing you Brother. Paul, Linda, Tom, Katy and Josh

**JIMMY OLIVER** 12-2-2009. Thinking of you today Jimmy. Your Brother David

**JIMMY OLIVER** 12-2-1009. I see you smile daily Jim, your face looking up at me with that grin. I have a photo of you and Anne on my dressing table, you, healthy, even tanned and that permanent grin. And this is how I like to remember you Jim. Because this is who you were and this keeps me strong Jim. Every time I feel a tear. I love and miss you Big Brother.

Isobel, Dennis and family  
**PAUL STEVENS** 17th February 2004. So many thoughts of you we have each day, how straight you were, how tall, how strong. No-one can reach us in just your way. Every day of our lives, your absence so wrong, loved always. Mam and Dad xx

**PAUL** My Brother. No length of time can dim the past. Too many memories hold it fast. These memories of you are proudly kept. You were too special to ever forget. Love, Julie, Michael, Dan and Kelly xxx

**JOE BARNETT** 12th February 2002. We cannot bring the old times back when we were all together, but memories bring you close to us and memories last forever. Loving Wife Eva and family  
**JOE BARNETT** 12th February 2002. Those special years will not return, when we were all together. But with the love that's in our hearts, you will walk with us forever. Betty and family  
**PEGGY BELL** Died 15th February 2006. Tommy Bell, died 14th February 2002. Forever in our hearts. Loved and missed every day. With love, Glynis, Alison and all the kids

## Congratulations

### PAULA CARNEY

40 TODAY!!  
12th February 2010

Hope you have a fabulous time. Love and best wishes from Michelle, Chris, Jack and Joe xxx

### Ross Keegan Hindmarch



#### Congratulations

on "Passing Out" in the Royal Navy on Friday 5th February 2010. Well done baby Bro. We are very proud of you. Love, Zara, Gary, Paul, Kelly, Dean, Jodie, Jade, Nikki, Demi and Evan.  
**Well done** Uncle Ross. Love, Kurtis, Leah and Leon xxxxx

### Ross Keegan Hindmarch



#### Congratulations

on your Royal Navy Passing Out, 5-2-10. Good luck in your career as a Marine Engineer Technician. We are so proud of you! Love, Dad, Mam and Grandad Ed

## Holiday

**FLORIDA VILLA** now booking for 2011. Sleeps 8, close to all attractions. www.villafloida.biz or call 300 212 (M-F, 9-5pm)

**FLORIDA VILLA** Disney, sleeps 8/10, pool, spa, games room, visit www.florida-villa-2-rent.com or call 320 409

## Birthday Remembrance

**McKAY**, James Bernard. 17-2-1929. To my Husband on your birthday. I feel so very lucky that I shared my life with you. We had that kind of special bond that lasts a lifetime through. You were a kind and loving Husband and you meant the world to me on your birthday and forever. That's the way it will always be. Miss you so much. Your loving Wife, Heather xxxxxx

**McKAY** James Bernard. 17-2-1929. To my Dad and Grandad on his birthday. Love and miss you always. Will never be forgotten. Daughter Heather and Grandson Christopher xxxxx

**McKAY**, James Bernard, 17-2-1929. Happy birthday Dad and Grandad. Third one away from us up above, so we'll celebrate your special day for you, while sending all our love. Miss you loads, Love from Alicia, Grandsons, Dean, Wayne and Ricky xxx

### Godfrey Bennett



#### Happy 70th Birthday

All my love, Shirley xxx  
**Happy** birthday Dad. Lots of love, Lesley, Gary, Adam, Martin and Lynsey  
**Happy** 70th Dad. Have a great day. Love, Lynne, Ian, Stacey and Jordyn  
**Congratulations** Dad, 70 on 16th February 2010. Love always, Debbie, Alan, Katherine, Jennifer and family

### Becky Allen



#### Happy 16th Birthday

13th February 1994  
Happy birthday to an extra special Daughter and Sister who is as beautiful on the inside as she is out! We all love you lots. Mam, Dad and Kirsty xxxxxxxxxxxxx

### Mark Wood



#### Happy 21st Birthday

Love and Best Wishes Mam, Dad, and Ben xxx

#### STEPHEN BAMBRIDGE

Happy 40th birthday. Love, Shirley xxx

#### STEPHEN BAMBRIDGE

Happy 40th birthday Dad. Love from Lee, Amy and Ross xxx

#### KASIA TEGAN SHAW

Happy 10th birthday treasure. Just want to say, hope your special day is just the best. Have lots of fun, dance about and listen to your JLS. Love you, love you 2-10 hi 5. Auntie Pamela xxxxxx

#### ALEXANDER SCOTT

19-02-1997. Happy 13th Birthday Alex. Lots of love, Mam, Chris, Adam & Josh xxxxx

#### DANIEL BOX

Happy 18th birthday Son. Love, Mam, Rob, Nanna, Grandad, Uncle Anthony, Linda and Thomas

## Photography

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## DARLO/COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP



STUDENTS from Darlington College joined their principal at the Northern Echo Arena to celebrate a new community partnership at the town's football club.

The partnership, which includes advertising and sponsorship opportunities for the 2010-11 season at the Arena, means the college is entered into a free draw to become Darlington's new shirt

sponsor next season.

The Quakers are offering companies of all sizes the chance to be the club's official shirt sponsor in 2010-11 as part of the unique Business Backing Darlington Club. Darlington College have joined Joseph Parr Ltd as the second organisation to join the group as part of their community partnership with the club. The college's principal, Tim

Grant, said: "Partnerships like this are important for Darlington College. It will enable us to utilise a number of very valuable advertising opportunities through the club next season as part of our targeted community marketing strategy, and means we're reaching a young, specific audience that we might not otherwise."

"It's also very important for us to support and work hand-in-hand with the football club, which is very much at the heart of the town's community. "This is just the beginning of a long-term partnership between the college and the club which will bring benefits to both parties so from that point of view it's great news all-round."

Darlington's general manager Phil Preston said: "To get Darlington College on board is a major coup for the club so we're over the moon with the partnership. "The college, like the football club, is one of the town's high-profile organisations and it's fantastic that we can come together like this and help one another."

"This partnership follows the recent Joseph Parr deal so hopefully the Business Backing Darlington Club is now starting to take off. We have a number of irons in the fire and we'd hope to have some more news soon." Interested companies or individual business people can call the club's general manager Phil Preston on 01325 387000, or email phil.preston@darlington-fc.net

## LETTER to the EDITOR

### WILL THE COUNTY COUNCIL LISTEN?

Dear Sir,  
Durham CC are seeking to close a number of their care homes including Shafto House in Aycliffe. Unfortunately all the comments we are seeing from spokespeople of the Council pay scant regard for the actual residents of the Care Homes, they appear to have forgotten about human rights and even at 93 my Mum has human rights.

My brother and I are actively involved with the fight to retain the services at Shafto House as our Mother, Margaret, has been a resident there for the last 2 years. She is extremely happy there, through the kindness of the staff, who to her are an extension of her family. The County Council are proposing to close 7 of the homes stating the cost of bringing them to the required standard would be £39M, this figure includes each resident having an en-suite bathroom. We do not know if they have heard or care about health and safety, but our mother would be in great danger if there were an en-suite bathroom available to her.

Being of an independent mind she would attempt to use the bathroom alone which, because of her health problems, would expose her to a very high risk of injury if not more. We are told of private homes who have en-suite rooms having to lock them to protect the residents in case they injure themselves. A tremendous waste of money then to construct en-suite in Council run homes, or is this just a red herring to make the figures look good? Real care is not to be found in wall coverings and en-suite bathrooms but in the quality of the staff.

We attended the Cabinet Meeting of the Council when it was decided to move to a consultation period over the

closures, but as one councillor asked from the floor "Will you listen to the views expressed, instead of ignoring them as you did at the end of the last consultation?" This question went unanswered.

We are extremely concerned over the steam rolling tactics of the Council. Moving residents to a private home may save costs for the Council but the standard of care could drop as the staff tend to be younger and less experienced and inclined to move from job to job.

The Council must be brought to task over this, and already a case against Stockton has gone to the Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg and perhaps it would be advisable if Durham County Council put a stay on the proceedings until that case has run its course.

David & George Dutch  
david@daviddutch.com

## Aycliffe Pipped at the Death

Prudhoe & Stocksfield 23 Newton Aycliffe 22

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club came within a whisker of a fine win at third place Prudhoe and Stocksfield in the Durham and Northumberland Division 3 at the weekend. Aycliffe gave a debut to front-row forward Niall Jenkins and a place on the wing to Jack Braley.

Aycliffe played down the slope in the first half and began by showing that they had the advantage of pace in the backs whilst Prudhoe were the larger team. Braley made a number of fine tackles as he fitted comfortably into the team. The first score came when the ball was swiftly passed along the backs to Chris Wilson who touched down for the try. Luke Tinkler added the conversion from wide out. The game was well balanced for the rest of the half and Prudhoe equalised when the visiting defence was wrong-footed. A Prudhoe penalty made the score 10 - 7 at half time.

Early in the second half, Prudhoe powered through weak tackling to add a second converted try, but Aycliffe fought back straight away, Gareth Parsonage breaking

through the defence before exchanging passes with Wilson to score a try. When Wilson added his second try of the game in the corner, the score was tied at 17 - 17. Prudhoe attacked again and took the lead with a penalty goal before a long lineout throw from Bob Malvern to Warren Parsonage was quickly spun down the line with full-back Luke Crossen cutting back in side to score for Aycliffe. The conversion was missed giving Aycliffe a narrow 2-point lead. With the game winding down, Prudhoe missed a penalty but at the restart Aycliffe went offside and Prudhoe were given another chance. This time they did not miss and the game ended in a 23 - 22 home victory. This was a cruel end for Aycliffe after their best performance of the season.

On 13th February Aycliffe continue their league programme hosting Chester-le-Street; kick-off 2:15. Aycliffe's sponsors are Fabtech Engineering and Workshop Supplies. More information is available at [www.ayclifferrugby.co.uk](http://www.ayclifferrugby.co.uk).

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## Litter Picking

Dear Sir,  
I write about the lack of litter being picked up by street cleaners. When living at my previous address the litter picker never came into the street and you would see him walk past the bottom of the street.

At my new home where I have lived for a year, I have seen a litterpicker on a few occasions, but he fails to pick up all the litter, and just wanders around picking up the odd piece. As he is paid by the Council from our Council Tax, surely he should be supervised to check he is doing his job correctly.

I am proud to live in Newton Aycliffe, with its green areas, trees and flower beds, but sad we have so much litter. There should be more people prosecuted for littering our streets, to teach them a lesson. A. Hindmarch, Pease Way.

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