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# NEWTON NEWS

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Week Ending 19th February, 2010

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## Children's Sponsored Bike Ride for Haiti



Children from Heighington School got together and raised over £300 for the Haiti Appeal. Oliver Morgan of School Aycliffe thought of a sponsored Bike Ride, and organised the forms and asked friends to take part. The parents weren't involved but were happy to encourage their children who cycled 10 miles around Great Aycliffe Way in very icy conditions. The children who joined Oliver were Jack Hodgson, Thomas Hunter, Alex Coatsworth, James Morgan and James Dryburgh (Hummersknot Comprehensive).

## PUBLIC MEETING ON SHAFTO HOUSE

The Public Meeting called by Great Aycliffe Residents' Association to discuss the proposed closure of Shafto House is on Thursday 4th March at 7.30pm in St. Mary's Church. All of the County Councillors representing Great Aycliffe have been invited, but at the time of going to print none has responded. The general public are invited to the next AAP Meeting on 30th March to hear a presentation on the subject.

## SPONSORED SWIM FOR HAITI VICTIMS



Jessica Bruce (13) and Bethany Clarkson (11) train five times a week with Sedgefield 75 Swimming Club. Using their 2 hour Saturday morning session the youngsters organised sponsorship in aid of the Haiti earthquake victims, and are hoping to raise in excess of £200. The talented swimmers, who both recently achieved personal best times in a Gala, have been swimming since they were very small and are life long friends.

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## NEW CINEMA OPENS AT WOODHAM



"Woodham Movie Dome" would like to thank the Mayor, Mary and her consort, Michael Dalton and all who attended

the launch of the new cinema at St. Elizabeth's Church Hall on Thursday 11th of February. We hope a good time was had

by all and would also like to express our gratitude for the generous donations made on the night. This will go towards updating our equipment and restocking the DVD library.

The Children's Matinee Shows started on Saturday 13th of February and was well attended by an enthusiastic audience of children and parents.

The next show will be on Saturday 27th February in St. Elizabeth's Church Hall. Woodham at 1pm. Everyone welcome.

Brian Phillips

## Open Voting

Dear Sir,

We are told time and time again that we have an open and fair democracy, but voting at Durham County Council is done by electronic devices.

The public have a right to know how Councillors vote and who voted. Perhaps an electronic screen can be provided so that the members of the public can see who voted for what.

A show of hands was good enough before, why not now, or are the County Councillors so afraid of being named in meetings?

A Councillor is elected to represent the people not the Party, or is it because 3 line whips are in place? Perhaps they should remember this and so should the general public when elections come around again.

Alan Warburton  
Independent Councillor  
(People before Politics)

## NEWTONIAN NAVY CHEF MAKES FLIPPING GOOD PANCAKES



A Royal Navy chef, from Newton Aycliffe, learnt how to make the perfect pancake in the lead up to Shrove Tuesday.

Trainee Logistician Daniel Fox is currently in the 20th week of his 26 week Defence Chefs Course within the Defence Maritime Logistics School. The course is preparing him to take on a role at sea. Royal Navy chefs can be required to cater for over 1,000 people depending on the type of ship and tasking.

Daniel, aged 19, joined the Royal Navy in June 2009 and after completing his nine weeks basic training, began his chef's course last September. Highlights of his professional training have included a week on board the Royal Navy's Flagship, the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal, alongside at Portsmouth Naval Base.

The former pupil of Greenfield School Community and Arts College worked as a chef before embarking on his Royal Navy career and joined the Service for the opportunity to progress further in his chosen career.

He said: "I have absolutely loved training. It's been fantastic meeting so many new people and all the instructors have been brilliant. Being on board HMS Ark Royal was great. I expected everything to be small and

cramped, but it was much better than I thought and it was good to see how the chefs work on board."

Details of career opportunities within the Royal Navy are available online at [www.royalnavy.mod.uk](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk) or by calling the Recruitment Line on 08456 07 55 55.

## STANDARDS OF CARE MATTER MOST

Dear Sir,

I feel compelled to write to the Newton News for the first time ever in response to Mike Dixon's inflammatory article, (Questions and Facts on Shafto House 12th Feb). As the Grandson of an extremely satisfied and content resident of Shafto House, I wonder how Mr Dixon came to the conclusion that the present condition of Shafto House is 'sub standard'.

Why is the council caught up on the idea that if a home has no en-suite then it is sub standard, particularly when it would be unsafe for many residents? Have these men and women been consulted as to whether they would like an en-suite room?

It should be standards of care that matter here and not the state of a building. Does he have a relative or friend that lives at Shafto House? Did he ask their opinions? I fear not. I found the article extremely patronising and yes Mr Dixon, I do realise, as I'm sure the majority of Aycliffe residents do, where our council tax goes.

Mr Dixon goes on to pontificate that those people that were moved from previous closures are 'well satisfied'. How does he measure this? Please could he pass on the results of his audit?

Furthermore, I am not at liberty to comment on these events but I am confident to use my 'loud voice' and 'big elbows' to advocate for my Grandma and the excellent standards of care that the staff provide her with in her own 'home', at

being Shafto House.

I completely understand as a Specialist Nurse working within the NHS, that helping people to stay in their own home is the ideal but it is not always the right solution.

If Mr Dixon is interested in, 'working together to find solutions in partnership with a common purpose' then may I suggest that he and his fellow Councillors improve the provision for the (silent) majority of people who want to stay in their own homes. By consulting these vulnerable members of society and their families directly, they could advocate for them to prevent them being 'voiceless'. Indeed he may find in the council chamber that his voice becomes louder and his elbows a little bigger!

It seems to me that if Mr Dixon is looking for sub standards he should revisit his article.

Peter Dryden  
Grandson and Advocate

## Quick & Kind Assistance

Thanks to the gentleman in the changing rooms at the Leisure Centre on 9th February who assisted my husband who had collapsed. The staff quickly called a paramedic and the Ambulance took him to Hospital for treatment.

They even visited him in the ward as he was recovering. We don't know who you are, but we are truly grateful.

Jim & Margaret Molloy

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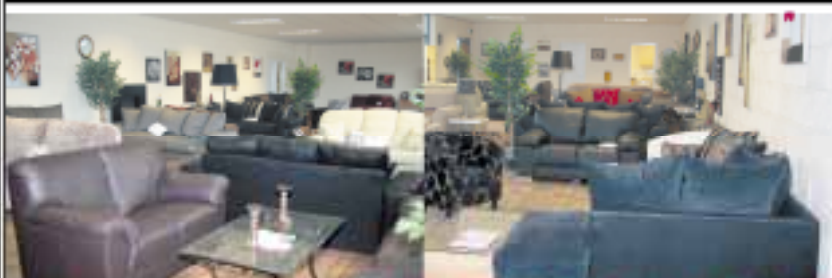
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## Please Return Music Score

After a very successful performance of "Viva Mexico" by Aycliffe Musical Theatre the group must return the scores to the lender.

Unfortunately four scores were given out and no contact details were taken. It would be appreciated if dancers Emily and Kirsty and Chorus singers Timothy and Katie would return the books to Greenfield Community College or ring Nora on 316328 to arrange collection.



### Monday

Woodham Golf & Country Club - NEW TIMES  
5.15pm & 7pm with Nicola - 07791 909376

### Tuesday

Brand New Venue  
RAFA Club Function Room, Barrington Road  
6.00pm with Nicola - 07791 909376

### Wednesday

Navy Club, Bluebell Way  
7pm with Deborah - 07549 173598

### Thursday

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

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## RUNNERS UP IN COUNTY SWIMMING GALA



Byerley Park Primary School Swimming Team has raced their way again to second place in the Durham County Swimming Gala. The Team of twelve, from Year 4 to year 6, finished in first place in Sedgefield Schools' Gala and this result meant that they qualified for the County Final. The Gala was held in the pool at Freeman's Quay in Durham City on Friday 29th January and was a morning filled with action and excellent swimming. All the pupils competed well and supported each other. The Byerley Park Team was successful in achieving medals in many of the individual races. The relay was a closely fought event, too, with the Byerley Park Team finishing in second place.

This is a fantastic result for the children coming in second place in the whole of the County. Well done indeed! Members of the Team are Jennifer Banks, Kira Banks, Katie Lovelass, Joseph Stelling, Callum Cook, Lyndon Hall, Dominic Hindmarch, Connor Elston, Elle Dewar, Ben Stephenson, Georgia Heads and Leonie Wong.

## YEAR 2 LEARN HOW TO MAKE A FILM



A specialist animation film production team worked with Year 2 at Sugar Hill School last term to direct and produce their own film. The children learnt a valuable lesson using the specialised equipment which will be used in school for future presentations.



A Premiere, complete with red carpet, was held last Wednesday afternoon to which relatives were invited. Everyone involved enjoyed making the film and narrators chosen from the Year Group passed on details of their experience to the audience.

## CYNICISM SHARED

Dear Sir,  
I thank M & C Carter for their response to my query last week re Shafto House. Having checked the Northern Echo archive 18.12.2009 it says: "Coun Albert Nugent was speaking after Durham County Council's ruling Labour group approved a confidential report proposing the authority consult on the possible closures at a behind-closed doors meeting held at County Hall, Durham, on Monday."  
"Unconfirmed reports suggest just six councillors from the 67-strong group voted against the move." In other words they voted to consult, ..... not close.(yet). I just thought it important to clarify that point. The decision to close has not yet been taken, but like M & C Carter, I share their cynicism on the consultation exercise, based on past experiences.  
Arun M Chandran

## NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

An Under 10's Disco is to be held on Saturday 27th February from 10.30 - 12 noon. Children must be accompanied by parent or Grandparent. Admission on £1 per child.

A Family Bike Ride on Great Aycliffe Way is arranged for Sunday 6th June, meeting at Stephenson Way at 1pm. We can assist with bikes if required and every child receives a medallion.

A volunteer adult or teenager is needed to instruct beginners on the Wii. For all the above ring 313924.

Line Dancing for Beginners every Monday 1.30-2.30pm. Followed by Old Time & Modern Dancing from 2.45-3.45pm for beginners. Just pop in for a warm welcome.



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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 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting.

### Great Aycliffe Resident's Association

## PUBLIC MEETING

To discuss consultation  
on proposed closure of  
SHAFTO HOUSE

St. Mary's Church  
Thursday 4th March  
7.30pm

Followed by Association AGM  
including reports and election of committee

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## ENTRIES OPEN FOR £1000 ART PRIZE

Amateur artists are being encouraged to draw on their creative skills for the chance to scoop a £1,000 prize.

Durham County Council's second annual Spring Open Art Exhibition will take place from Wednesday, 19 April to Sunday, 9 May at Locomotion, The National Railway Museum, Shildon.

Anyone can submit a piece for inclusion but the final selection will be made by a panel of expert judges from the art world.

They will also select a winner who will receive a £1,000 prize, plus second and third place runners-up who will be awarded £500 and £250.

David Newell, Community Arts Coordinator, said: "Last year's exhibition was so successful that this year we're using a bigger venue so we

can display more pieces.

"I'm sure people across the county will once again take up the challenge to get creative and make sure we have another impressive selection of work on view.

"Featured artists will also have the opportunity to sell their work and, with the arrival of the Tornado steam train on the weekend of 24 and 25 April, there are sure to be plenty of potential buyers."

The closing date for submissions is Friday, 26 February. Artwork must be no larger than A2 and must be fitted with mirror plate hangings.

More information is available to download at [www.nrm.org.uk/locomotion](http://www.nrm.org.uk/locomotion) Alternatively, email David at [david.newell@durham.gov.uk](mailto:david.newell@durham.gov.uk) or call 07825 202 576.

## GO KART RACE TRACK IN THE PLAYGROUND



The children in Year 2 at Stephenson Way School have spent this half term building

Go Karts. They found this a very interesting part of their curriculum and have involved parents in the construction work.

The most exciting part however was on Friday 12th February when a special track was created in the playground to hold races to which everyone was invited.

The noisy reaction from the spectators almost matched the exhilaration of the competitors as they raced towards the chequered flag.

It was a memorable day for the schoolchildren and some lessons on road safety may have also been learnt.

## Serve the People Not the Party

Dear Sir,

Why did Counc Dixon stand as a County Councillor for the town? It is obvious from his comments on Shafto House he will not listen or serve the needs of the people who voted him into office.

The elderly people here need him to support them and be their voice at discussions on Shafto House. This is not about en-suite accommodation - the residents want the warm, friendly and caring staff that Shafto House provides.

Is it his intention to vote to close this Care Home against the wishes of the people? He recently ignored the petition of the people of Durham City regarding the horse statue in the Market Place.

Will he support the Cubby members when the Council want the land on which it has stood for many years?

Newtonians do realise that whatever the decision it all comes from the pockets of the taxpayer - just like the money he is allowed to do the job as our elected councillor.

Serve the people who elected you NOT the Party!  
M. Gray, Stephenson Way.

## P.A.C.T. Meeting

*Police & Community Together*

**GREENFIELD** - Wednesday 3rd March, 18.30hrs  
Evangelical Church, Ladybower

**MIDDRIDGE** - Monday 1st March 2010, 18.00hrs  
Middridge Village Hall

This will be an opportunity to get together and discuss any problems you may be having in your area. The police will be in attendance as well as representatives from the council and other agencies. We look forward to seeing you there.

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## 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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## GARDENING BARGAINS

The Gardens Guild Hut at Clarence Chare Allotments is now open for the season each Sunday from 10am till 12 noon.

Onion sets are available along with a variety of gardening goods at very reasonable prices.

## Table Top Sale

A Table Top Sale is to be held at Simpasture Court on Saturday 20th February at 9am.

Home-made cakes and Pies will be available along with tea and coffee.All welcome.

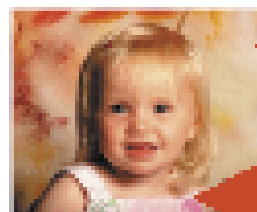
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Prize winners will appear in the Newton News at a later date



## CAB's Top Tips to Manage Debt Hangover

As part of their campaign to help people manage their debts and stay in their homes in 2010, Sedgefield & District Citizens Advice Bureau is publishing the following top tips to help you manage your finances. Pauline Chambers, Service Manager at Sedgefield & District CAB said: "January and February are often stressful months of the year for families, who have to cope with the demands of paying for Christmas and increased fuel bills. This is a good time to think about

how to manage your debts and talk to your lenders. The key thing is not to bury your head in the sand and don't be embarrassed to seek help."

- Don't panic and don't ignore the bills.
- Avoid borrowing further to try and pay off existing debt – this is likely to lead to more problems in the long run.
- Sit down and work out how much you owe and how much you need to pay your priority debts, like mortgage, rent, gas and electricity bills, and your council tax and

then work out how much you need for food, travel to work and other everyday expense.

- Pay your priority debts first every month. Don't fall into the trap of paying whoever shouts loudest first.
- Then work out how much you can pay to non-priority creditors like credit and store cards.
- Talk to your creditors - don't just stop payments without explaining why. They can sometimes be more understanding than you'd expect.
- If what you have left doesn't cover what your non-priority creditors are asking for each month, speak to them and come to an arrangement about how much you can afford to pay them.
- Only offer to pay off debts at a rate you can keep up – it is easy to be panicked into offering more than you can afford.
- If you need help to do that or they won't listen, make an appointment to see a money adviser at your local Citizens Advice Bureau.
- Don't pay for debt advice which you can get for free from your local CAB, National debtline or the Consumer Credit Counselling Service.

The campaign is part of a wide range of extra support the Government is offering to struggling homeowners. More information can be found here: <http://mortgagehelp.direct.gov.uk/>  
Our own adviceline number is 0844 4994123

## Ignoring the Views of the People

Dear Sir,  
Who does Counc Dixon think he is? He is supposed to be our elected Councillor whose job it is to serve the people of Newton Aycliffe. I was totally disgusted and outraged by his article and the arrogance he portrayed. He is not speaking for the voiceless - the people are speaking out because their elected representatives are ignoring the views of the people the proposed closures affect and those who support their plight. My Mother spent the last five years of her life in Shafto House where she was loved and cared for and I believe the care she received helped her live longer. She was happy and settled there and she felt at home. Shafto House is in the heart of our community, not miles away from family, but a home staffed by local people. It amy not have en-suite facilities, but do the residents need them? My Mother received what she needed, care and supervision carried out by dedicated staff to whom I am eternally grateful. If the Council had maintained the homes properly over past years they would not need as much money to improve them now, but I dispute the figures. Shafto House in its present state can still hold its own against the private sector and what it does have is a "heart", something lost on some of our elected representatives. Kathleen Allen Pudsey Walk

## LIB DEM CANDIDATE DENIED ENTRY TO SHAFTO HOUSE



The newly elected Lib Dem Parliamentary Candidate for this constituency Alan Thompson (2nd right) visited the town this week to acquaint himself with topical issues. During his tour he expected to call in at Shafto House to talk to residents and staff, but unfortunately the word got out and Durham County Council barred him. Bill Blenkinsopp said he had asked for the visit, but was later informed he would not be allowed to enter the premises. All this is a bit odd on the part of the County Council as all it needs is for a resident to invite Mr. Thompson and no one could stop him making a visit! Newton News is advised that the Unions GMB and Unison are holding a demonstration against closure of Care Homes on

the steps of County Hall Durham on 24th February from 8 am to 10:30 am.

## IMPROVING HEALTH OF LOCAL PEOPLE

It is hoped a new protocol will improve decision making and contribute to improvements in health and well-being for the people of County Durham. Durham County Council, NHS County Durham and County Durham Local Involvement Network have jointly developed the new practice which will aid decision making between these organisations. The agreement contains a series of commitments by all parties to work with each other and involve users, carers and the wider public in relation to plans for service changes. Gerald Tompkins, Head of Social Inclusion at Durham County Council, said: "I believe that this protocol will help to ensure that we work together more effectively to deliver better health and social care services that reflect the views of service users, carers and the wider public." David Gallagher, Director of Partnerships and Services, NHS County Durham, said: "NHS County Durham is committed to working with all parties to ensure the best outcomes for local people."

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## More Than You Bargained for . . .

Readers who use the internet to buy goods will be pleased the Government are targeting Internet scammers. You are also warned to check your bank statements for small amounts that suddenly appear, taken by direct debit. The first one to look for is insurance for electrical products where you may not have ticked a box refusing this option. Another is a ploy by a well known Airline with a sideline on Internet shopping, where for being a club member at £8 a month, you will be offered lots of goods at bargain prices. You have to opt out of this or you may find you have joined the club. There are lots of other dodges including the innocent looking testimonial of someone who found a cheap way to whiten your teeth mixing two products. It turns out to be a way of getting you to join a club which milks you for more of your cash.

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**Saturday 20th February - "Something Real"**  
"So what you've got with Something Real is an all round great rock covers band that's sure to live up any venue and 6 guys that will play something that most audiences will appreciate. I say most, because there's 'see Priest' here nor has there been with any band that's played this venue, metal is not what this pub is about. What Something Real brought here was a winning formula of covers that works really well, you only had to hear the crowd at the end of their gig to know that!" Teen Rock Page Review  
Tracks covered by Aerosmith, Jimmy Hendrix, Kings of Leon, Free, Police, Deep Purple, Lynard Skynyrd, Who, ZZ Top and much more

**Saturday 27th February - "Facelift"**  
"Facelift at the Tub - the return! the band! Not a bad night crowd wise, a lot of regulars missing, but a few new faces, which is always good to see. Teh band crackled off with T Rex, 20th Century Boy, followed by a bit of Bad Company. Fratello has them all boppin in their seats. Paranoed next, followed by a rocked up version of Spin Me Right Round, and gilly missed it, they played Priest, Free and therapy were followed by Michael Jackson, Green Day and Motorhead, finished a cracklin first set. Second half kicked off with Saturday Nights Alright for Fighting bailing out, Whiskey in the Jar, followed, then Cult, Purple and more Lizzy, did an excellent drum solo on a bass guitar, new one on my by now the dance floor was checka, for anchors, we were treated to Led Zeppelin, Sex Pistols and Metallica. A great band, great mix of music, classics to get them singing and dancing and a few unusual tracks they did in their own impressive style" Rock Page Review of a previous visit.

**Saturday 6th March - "Slip of the Tongue"**  
HUGE BAND FOR OUR 10th ANNIVERSARY PARTY  
For more information on bands go to [www.turbiniapub.co.uk](http://www.turbiniapub.co.uk)  
or 319700 Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke



# Hats Off to Village Schoolchildren!



The pupils and staff at Aycliffe Village Primary School raised £217.00 for the Haiti Disaster Appeal. Everyone joined in the event by wearing a hat for the day. Thank you to all who contributed.

## Helping Alli Fight Leukaemia

Leukaemia sufferer Allison White has been overwhelmed by the fantastic support she has received from Newtonians in raising money for research into the disease.

"Everyone has rallied round and the money is pouring in from everywhere," she told Newton News.

Allison has the support of her family and friends who meet regularly to plan fundraising activities. "With my condition it is tiring, but it is also keeping my mind occupied and giving me a positive attitude" said Alli

A bucket collection at a Country & Western Night at Albert Hill WMC raised £156.

Allison and friends recently went Bag packing courtesy of Donna and staff at M & S Darlington and raised almost £1,000. The Charity Night tickets at the British Legion on Thursday 25th February are selling well. If you want to go tickets are only £3. Ring Alli on 07762 258696. It will be a great night with entertainment, raffle and a valuable Auction.

## Golden Anniversary



Vic and Sylvia Spensley of Arrowsmith Square received a visit from the Mayor last week to congratulate them on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. The Golden Wedding was on the 2nd February, but the couple have been so busy celebrating with holidays etc. it was the first time the Mayor could catch them at home! They were actually in Benidorm on the day of their anniversary - the same place they celebrated their 40th.

They both come from Hartlepool and first met when Sylvia worked in the local florists. Vic was trained as a Plumber in the shipyards and he remembers their first date at the pictures watching Tony

Curtis in "The Vikings". Vic took a job in Newton Aycliffe and moved here in 1973, living in Fawston Close. He later worked for Darlington Borough Council as their Health & Safety Officer, but then was appointed College Lecturer until he retired in 2008.

Sylvia worked at Aycliffe Hospital for 16 years and before retiring was employed at the Food Weighhouse in the Town Centre. Vic enjoys golf and Sylvia loves her garden and reading. They have 2 sons and 2 daughters, 11 Grandchildren and 4 Great Grandchildren. The whole family live in the town and enjoy great times together.

## FREE COOKERY LESSONS AT THE YOUTH CENTRE



Learn how to cook simple, delicious, healthy, fresh, affordable food then Pass it On... Come along to one of 12 free events and/or courses to learn how to cook as part of a campaign to support Jamie Oliver's Ministry of Food.

People will be shown how to cook a simple and affordable meal and then asked to pass it on to the next participant at the event. Alternatively, people can sign up for a free six-week course to learn a variety of recipes and receive information and advice on healthy eating.

Courses taking place:  
9.30am - 11am Tuesday 23 February, Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre.  
1pm - 2.30pm Thursday 25 February, Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre.

Please note: Further dates for 2010 will follow. The programme of events and courses is being delivered by the Pioneering Care Partnership after it received funding from the Health Innovation Fund and the government's Transformation Fund. The programme is open to anyone over the age of 18 years who live in County Durham.

Dawn Fenwick, who attended one of the Pass It On event, commented: "Going along to the event and course has helped me to find out what's good for my son. Every child needs a healthy diet and I'm definitely going to continue to cook more soup, curries and puddings from scratch." Members of the public can also sign up to take part in a free six-week course to learn some additional recipes, receive information on nutrition, advice on food labelling, fats, salts and sugars as well as shopping on a budget and how to plan a meal. People who attend the course will be asked to act as champion's and 'pass it on' to family, friends and/or work colleagues. For more detail please visit [www.pcp.uk.net](http://www.pcp.uk.net) or to book a place please call: 01325 321234 or email: [passiton@pcp.uk.net](mailto:passiton@pcp.uk.net)

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## COFFEE MORNING

Heighington Village Hall Association are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 27th February from 10am-12 noon. Scones, Tea & Coffee will be served. There will be a cake stall and raffle with all proceeds to Village Hall funds. Come along, enjoy a cuppa, a scone and a chat.

*Mother's Day*  
Sunday 14th March

Treat Mum to a special day at Darlington Football Club's Northern Echo Arena. Let us do the work and relax in our elegant Ron Greener Suite with a three-course meal by our highly-acclaimed chef. Only £14.95 per person, which includes a special gift for Mum. Book now to avoid disappointment - call 01325 387000 or email [commercial@darlington-fc.net](mailto:commercial@darlington-fc.net)

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NEWTON NEWS is pleased to announce that we have a new website. The website is now live and can be found at [www.newtonnews.co.uk](http://www.newtonnews.co.uk). The website contains all the latest news, events, and information about the town of Newton. It is a free service and we hope you will find it useful. If you have any suggestions or comments, please email us at [info@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:info@newtonnews.co.uk).

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As part of the National Young Womens Sport and Active Recreation programme (YWSAR), women are invited to attend several new sessions taking place across County Durham. The sessions offer a fun way to tone up and participants will soon notice the difference in their strength, mobility and overall fitness, through participating in regular sessions.

Durham County Council are supporting the YWSAR project with sessions taking place in

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various council run leisure centres. While the programme is specifically aimed at the 16 to 25 age group, ladies outside of this age range are invited to contact the council for more information on other classes available.

Bookings are now being taken for all activities and for further information about this and other sessions within the YWSAR programme, please contact Samantha Morgan or Victoria Minniss at Durham County Council.

Tel: 01388 816166 ext 4412  
**SESSIONS INCLUDE:**  
**Trampoline classes:** Mondays between 7.30pm and 8.30pm at Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Shildon.

**Aeroboxing:** Wednesdays, between 4-5pm at Spennymoor Leisure Centre.

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# Byerley Park Helps Haiti



Local primary school, Byerley Park, have been busy dressing 'oddly' in a bid to help the victims of the massive earthquake in Haiti.

The School Council, working with the other children in the school, decided to abandon the usual school tie and regulation shoes and instead exchange them for a variety of ties and odd shoes for the day on Friday 5th February.

A great deal of fun was had

looking at some very odd shoe pairs!

Children also named a giant teddy for 50p a go. The amount collected was put with a £34 contribution from customers of 'Mr Chippy' and the total raised was a huge £340. The pupils are proud of their contribution and hope that this will help the people of Haiti in some small way.

Written by Dylan, Luke, Jordan, Lucy and Harrison

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Newton Aycliffe 27 Chester-le-Street 21

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3 with a home win over rivals Chester-le-Street. With a squad of 26 to select from, Aycliffe were able to select a strong side. Straight from the kick-off, a fine passage of play, containing

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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  
**EVENING** of Mediumship with renowned Mediums Les Henderson and Jean Clayton at the Rolling Mills, Darlington (Longfield Road) on Thursday 25th February 2010 from 7.30pm. Admission £7  
**TABLE TOPSALE** and Coffee Morning in Heighington Village Hall on Saturday 13th March, 10am-12noon. The price of a table is £8. To book a table telephone 01388 772360 or 312124. All proceeds towards church funds.

Deputy Mayor Mislays Chain of Office

Dear Sir,  
There have been so many breaches of protocol and inexplicable happenings surrounding Councillors Ray and Dorothy Bowman, that surely it is time they both considered their position. They have made GATC, a laughing-stock and heaped ridicule upon themselves. These extra-ordinary mishaps, would have to include, Councillor Bowman, trotting down twice, to Buckingham Palace garden parties, forcing GATC to apologise to Buckingham Palace, for this blatant breach of protocol. Then, Ray Bowman, a member of the Labour Party, simply decided to stand as an Independent in the elections for the Town Council. Little wonder he refuses to explain when he rejoined the Labour Party as I do not believe he ever actually left !

Dorothy mislaid the Deputy Mayoral chain for seven weeks and the police were involved. Then she found it! Unless, both Councillors, are able to explain their behaviour to the satisfaction of the electorate and their peers on GATC, these are resignation issues and Dorothy must now forget any ideas she may have of becoming Mayor. Finally, in view of these unfortunate CHAIN of events, and their propensity for shooting themselves in the foot, perhaps the Bowman's should rename their coach, the BLUNDER-BUSS!.  
Derek G Atkinson  
Denham Place  
**EDITOR:** *This may be a catalogue of unfortunate events, but we have to recognise that Dorothy works harder than anyone for the children of her Ward and has a heart of gold.*

Carers Must Seek Support

More than 5 million people across the UK currently care for a loved one, yet shockingly, more than two thirds of those do not see themselves as carers, and do not register on the radars of health or care organisations. Many people take on the role of carer without acknowledging it; often starting with offering to help an elderly relative with shopping, or checking if they've taken their medication, but before they know it, they're caring for several hours or more a week. As a carer, it can be difficult to admit you need support – physically, emotionally or financially. Many carers often neglect their own health and wellbeing as - to them - the person they care for is their main priority. Without help and support, before long you can find yourself struggling with what

can be very physical and mental demands, trying to balance work and home life, and potentially risking your own health and wellbeing as a result. I'm supporting the NHS Carers Direct 'Who Cares?' campaign, to help ensure that the millions of carers across the UK are taking advantage of the support available to them. The Carers Direct helpline can be that all-important first port of call, whatever your concern, however large or small, and as many of the helpline advisors have been carers at some point, they can provide help and support not only for your family member, but also for you. You can contact Carers Direct for support, information and advice by calling the helpline on 0808 802 02 02 or visiting www.nhs.uk/carersdirect. Dr Hilary Jones

APPRENTICESHIPS - LEARNING ON THE JOB

Anthony Wade 18 from Henknowle, is a Business Administration (specialising in IT Technical Support ) Apprentice with Dolphin Computer Access in Ushaw Moor, Durham. Dolphin, a multi-international company, is a leading manufacturer of computer software for the blind and partially sighted. The company also sells comprehensive computer packages with set-up included. Anthony said "I am very pleased to have been given the opportunity to do my apprenticeship here, it's a great place to work and I am thoroughly enjoying working with the team. In March I will be going one day a week to Bishop Auckland College's new Skills & Employment Centre in Spennymoor to study key skills and I am looking forward to learning there." Dolphin Managing Director, Mary McMahon said "We



had been thinking about taking on an apprentice for a while. It was while discussing possible sales training for other members of our staff with John Jenkins from College's Business Training Service at Aycliffe that we decided to go ahead and employ an Apprentice. John Jenkins said, "It's been a real pleasure working with Mary at Dolphin and finding the ideal apprentice suited

to their business needs. Bishop Auckland College is delighted to be working with small businesses across the region to provide the support and advice required to cut through the jargon and make it as easy as possible to employ apprentices." For further information on Apprenticeships offered at Bishop Auckland College please contact John Jenkins on 01325 379600



# MORE INFORMATION SOUGHT ON DURHAM BOUNDARIES

The independent Boundary Committee for England has opened a further limited consultation period for Durham Council's electoral arrangements to ensure local people get the most effective representation. The consultation, which will end on 26 March 2010, calls for evidence in relation to the local area including Great Aycliffe

Archie Gall, Director of the Boundary Committee, said: "We're very pleased with the response we've had to our draft recommendations for Co Durham. It's given us lots to think about. But before taking final decisions we're looking for more information and views on these specific areas so that our final recommendations strike the right balance between reflecting community identities and achieving equality of representation for

residents. "Having fair electoral boundaries is important. They ensure that every voter in Co Durham, wherever they live in the county, has a vote of the same weight when it comes to the election of councillors." The Committee will be writing to everyone who responded to its draft recommendations consultation in the areas concerned to make them aware of the new consultation. Detailed information is available on the

Committee's website at [www.boundarycommittee.org.uk](http://www.boundarycommittee.org.uk) and click on 'About electoral reviews' and go to the Durham review. To have your say, please write to: The Review Officer (Durham) The Boundary Committee for England Trevelyan House 30 Great Peter Street London SW1P 2HW Or email [reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk](mailto:reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk)

# POLICE SPEED CHECK THROUGH MIDDRIDGE

At a recent PACT meeting residents expressed concerns that vehicles are speeding through the village on a daily basis. Residents are reminded that the speed limit through the village is 30mph. Due to the complaints from local resident's officers will be conducting speed checks in the village which will involve the use of the speed matrix system, where offending vehicles will be issued with a warning letter, and their details

entered on our spreadsheet. There will also be speed checks conducted by the Road Policing Unit, and any offending vehicles will be dealt with by way of Endorsable Fixed Penalty Notices, and points on your license. PC Dave Nixon, Road Casualty Reduction Officer said: "Speed and inappropriate speed are significant factors in road traffic accidents and a cause for concern to local communities. The faster a vehicle is travelling the more severe the injuries will be because the impact is that much greater." Please be aware of your speed when travelling through the village, not only will it stop you from getting a ticket but it may also save someone's life. PCSO 6859 Mike Welch K1F 2253

# In Memoriam

**BOB KENNEDY** Husband and Dad. 23-2-2009. We all love and miss you every day. You are always in our thoughts. RIP with God. Love always, Win and family xxx

**GRANDAD BOB** 23-2-2009. We love and miss you every day. RIP Grandad. Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren xxx

**MAUREEN LEE** 21-2-2006. I think of the first time I saw you and the day God made you mine. We remember the last time we saw you, and will till the end of time. Murvyn and loving Sons, Stephen, Clifford and Brian

**ELLEN ATHERTON** Mum. 21/1/16-25/2/2009. I sat beside your bedside and held your hand with love. I watched you gently slip away to be with God above. And even though I loved you I had to let you go. But part of me went with you, the day God called you home. God saw you getting weary, a cure was not to be, so he gently put your hand in his and whispered come with me. Love and miss you Eleanor, Mel and family xxx

**ELLEN ATHERTON.** 25-2-2009. A gear ago today with your family by your side, God knew the road was getting rough, the hills were hard to climb. He gently closed your weary eyes and whispered peace be thine. Love always, Mary

**JAMES MOONEY** 25-2-2005. Precious memories of a loving Husband. There is not a day goes by that I don't think of you, miss you lots. Your loving Wife, Audrey

**JAMES MOONEY** 25-2-2005. A dear Uncle who is sadly missed and who will never be forgotten. Love always, Paul, Vivi, Emma, Paul, Steven, Tracy, Jade and Kylie xxxxx

**JACK FRANKLIN** In loving memory of Jack who died on 18th February 1999. Always in my heart and mind, will never be forgotten. Your loving Wife, Jean and family xxx

**BRIAN RILEY** (22-2-04). You are gone from my life, but not from my heart and mind. Much love, Ann R.I.P.

# Birthday Remembrance

**PAUL GIBSON** 23rd February. Sorely missed and always in my thoughts. Love always, Dad xx

**PAUL GIBSON** 23rd February. A birthday prayer for my biggest Brother. Don't party too hard with the angels. All my love, Mandy xxx

# For Sale

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

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

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

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

**2 & 3 SEATER** sofa, jade in colour, excellent condition and very modern, £175 ono. Tel 07917 808888

**ERDE 102** car trailer, used once, garage stored, vertical storage possible, £120. Tel 07737 722532

**STAIR LIFT** used only for 2 years, £400 ono. Tel 07508 019330

**OAK EFFECT** 6 seat dining room table with beige suede high back chairs As new, £140. Call 07967 327457

**HAUCK** 3 wheeler travel system, suitable from birth, excellent condition, £100. Tel 07967 307395

**STAIRLIFT** excellent condition, hardly used, £1000 new, accept £400. Tel 07768 161 894

**ELECTRIC** 4 wheel scooter deluxe model, cost £2750, three months old, £100. Can deliver. Tel 01325 269281

**GARDEN SHED** 6x4, joiner made, tanalised, apex window, felted, delivered and erected, £160. Tel 07538 812963

**SHOTGUN** D/B 12 G., hammered, £50. Permit holders only. Tel 314154

**OVAL TEAK** dining table, 4'8", extends to 6'4". High back chairs, 2 carvers, good condition, £50. Buyer collects. Tel 01325 317790

**LARGE** pine table with four chairs, good condition, £50. Tel 304131

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

# SASDA Helps New Business



Shildon-based X-Press Stores has saved the equivalent of more than two and a half months of wages thanks to staff from SASDA, which called into the shop as part of their outreach campaign promoting business support. SASDA – which supports businesses in this area and creates employment opportunities for residents through its Working Neighbourhoods Fund - explained to Kellie Thompson, the newsagent manager, what support she would receive by recruiting from the local area; something she wasn't previously aware of. The funding she received has been put straight back into the company to help pay the £25,000 business loan used to refurbish the shop when it was opened in November 2008. "If staff from SASDA hadn't walked into the shop and told me what help was available I would of missed out on receiving £2000, which is a staggering amount for a small business," said Mrs Thompson. "There are a lot of businesses in the region that can prosper from such support. I was considering recruiting a couple of members of staff but

in this economic climate the decision was made a lot easier by SASDA as they removed the worry and the risk. "There are now six people employed at X-Press Stores and we are hoping to recruit again in the near future, with the help of SASDA." The appointment of Sarah Nugent, 26, as shop assistant, and David Evans, as a driver, both of Shildon, has ensured the newsagents can continue to deliver to residents in remote areas who struggle to travel to the shop. Philip Beasley, chief executive of SASDA, said: "Payroll is usually the biggest outgoing expense to any business, so when companies are on the edge of growth it can be a difficult decision to expand the workforce. The Working Neighbourhood Fund allows companies to make the necessary decision and have a safety net whilst growing. "We are working in the community to educate businesses about what help is available so they can take advantage of funding and continue to grow at right pace." For further information about how your business can receive support and funding from SASDA contact 310730.

# CONTROLLING PESTS FOR 21 YEARS

Local company Pestguard is celebrating it's 21st year as a small business, treating for moles for local farmers and domestic customers alike, together with the treatment of wasp nest removal. Owner Brian Sowerby treats all kinds of pest problems in Newton Aycliffe for factories, council properties, hotels, cemeteries, golf courses and fishing clubs. Pestguard are a registered servicing company with NPTA (National Pest Technicians Association) and have all the necessary professional qualifications together with Public Liability insurances to treat pests from ants to wasps. Pest Control is a complicated business with strict rules regulations and guidelines for pest problems. A lot of people buy pest control products off the shelf (for amateur use only), but how many can safely say they have followed all the guidelines and relevant regulations as to how they carry out there pest control task safely?. Have they done a risk assessment of the area and followed health & safety guidelines?. You may think you can do the job more cheaply and

quicker but at what risk to yourself what and cost to the environment? Please, before you have pests treated ask if they are a member of a recognised association. Most Pest controllers carry ID cards so ask to see them first before letting anyone into your home., Check who they say they are registered with and don't just look at the ID card and take it for granted. Pestguard would like to thank past and present customers for their continued loyal support and look forward to being of service for the next 21 years.

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# Hire the Youthy!

Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre have marvellous facilities in the town centre to hire - at the weekends in particular. As an example for a Child's Birthday Party for 1 hour in the Sports Hall and 1 hour for the Room with use of the Kitchen etc. would cost only £34. There is no charge for setting up and clearing away time. The Main Hall [70 seated] is available with a Disco for a small cost and there are also several meeting rooms including a Training Room for meetings and seminars. For Voluntary and/or non profit groups we will consider a discount which will also apply to long term booking for profit making organisations. We can accommodate bookings in the week for meeting rooms particularly in the evenings. We have our own Car Park which is between Tesco and the Town Park For any booking and/or information please pop in and see us or contact us on 307522.

# Congratulations

**MACKENZIE JACKMAN**, happy 12th birthday, 24.02.10. Lots of love from Grandie, Grandad and Rose, Nan and Davy, Grandad and Lesley, Great Grandad Jackman, Uncle Simon, Auntie Mireille, Bryn and Aron, Auntie Bev, Uncle Dougie, Paul, Katy and James, Rachael and Gary, Kathy, Jack, Alfie and Elizebeth, Andrew, Sarah and Lesley and all your family and friends xx

**EMBLETON** Have a fantastic 18th birthday Georgia. All our love always and forever. Dad and Julie xxxxxx

**MATTHEW FRENCH** 25th February. Happy 13th birthday to a great teenager. With love from all the family xxx

**MOLLIE LUMSDEN** Have a lovely Special Birthday Mam. Lots of love, Debby, Terry, Mollie and Craig xxxxx

**MOLLIE LUMSDEN** Enjoy your day Nanna. Love and kisses, Lauren, Leigh, Clare and Katey xxxxx

**VALERIE CHAPE** For a special person on a special day. Happy birthday. Love, Colin

**COLLIN**, Elissa Rose. 19-2-10. Happy 11th birthday Princess. Enjoy your disco. Love from Mam and Connor xxx

**COLLIN** Elissa Rose. Happy 11th birthday, 19-2-10 to our special Granddaughter. Love, Grandma and Granda Collin xxx

**EMBLETON**, Georgia Lee. Happy 18th. 19-2-92. Lots of love, Mam, Tom, William and Olivia xxx

## Mackenzie Jackman



**Happy 12th Birthday**  
24th February  
Hope you have a great birthday 'Big Mac'. All our love, Mum and Dad xxxxx

## Little Bro'



**Happy 12th Birthday**  
Macca  
Lots of love, Madison and all the animals, Maverick, Murphy, Milly, Mitsuie, Major and Mojo xx

## Kay Hughes



**WOW - 15 Years Old**  
Happy birthday Kay. Have a wonderful day with your friends. Love u to bits. From Nan and Grandad

## Sian Pybus



**Happy 18th Birthday**  
Have a fab one, lots of love from Dad, Grandma, Grandad, Uncle Mally and Auntie Shirley xxxxxxxxxxxx

# 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 Son "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

# Sits Wanted

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

# 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](http://www.durhamweddingcars.co.uk)



# New Strip for Youthy Team AYCLIFFE'S NEW STAND ON THE WAY



Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre Junior Football Club would like to thank Graham Hutton of A1 Blinds / Vision Blinds for the donation of a new strip for our current under 8 side. The boys have been playing in the TJFA league since the start of the current season and have performed very well in a tough division. Dave Todd, manager commented that with every game the boys are getting more confident and are playing the football that they practice every week at their coaching sessions. The under 8's compete in the TJFA league and more players are needed. If you are currently in year 3 we would like to hear from you. We also have a thriving development section preparing for league football next season and are looking for year 2 boys. If you are interested in either age group contact Berni 07939 045242

Newton Aycliffe's new stand is now ready and about to be erected. The club are hoping the 113-seater stand, similar to the picture here, will be delivered and ready in time for Aycliffe's home game with Crook next Wednesday night (7.30pm kick-off). A month after getting official confirmation of match-funding from the Football Foundation, Arena Seating, based in Hungerford, are aiming to haul the ready-made stand 270 miles from Berkshire to Moore Lane Park next week. "It's an exciting time for the club," said chairman Gary Farley. "A lot of hard work has gone on behind the scenes to secure this, but we're not quite there yet, there'll still be a tremendous amount of work involved in getting the stand over to the football ground."



**FORTHCOMING FIXTURES**  
Saturday Feb 20: Brandon (H), 3pm  
Wednesday Feb 24: Crook (H), 7.30pm  
Saturday Feb 27: Sunderland RCA (H), 3pm  
Tuesday March 2: Seaham Red Star (A), 7.30pm  
Saturday March 6: Stokesley (A), 3pm  
Saturday March 13: Jarrow Roofing (H), 3pm  
Tuesday March 23: Thornaby (A), 7.30pm  
Saturday March 27: Washington (H), 3pm  
Saturday April 3: Northallerton (A), 3pm  
Saturday April 17: Team Northumbria (H), 3pm  
www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk

## County Gymnastics Winners



Six pupils from Aycliffe Village Primary school added to their recent success by winning at the County Gymnastics Finals at Belle Vue Leisure Centre, Consett. Alexandra Armstrong, Mitchell Flower, Brogan Gaygill, Emma Sandford- Hodgson, Kira Watson and Jodie Willcox formed part of the Sedgefield Team which won the Floor and Vault event. The competition was split into various categories. Alexandra and Kira won the Year 3 and Year 4 event. Brogan, Emma, Jodie and Mitchell formed part of the winning Year 5 and Year 6 team. Well done to everyone!

## FAIRER HOUSE ALLOCATION WANTED

Dear Sir,  
As a resident of this town for nearly forty years I write to give my thoughts on Sedgefield Borough Homes. Before they took over my family were 3rd on the then Council's housing list, having waited 10 years to achieve this lofty status. Since SBH took over we seem to be going backwards and the last time I reviewed my history

the house we last applied for we now find ourselves 29th on the list - clearly a backward step. I spoke to Tracy Boddy the Choice Based Lettings clerical officer and she informed me that the house allocation was not based on points but a bidding system. This I know, as I have read the new policy. My concern is that people who have lived on the town their whole lives are getting nowhere with SBH and more priority is being given to people from out of town. Anyone from as far away as Stanley can put a bid in for a house in Aycliffe. I realise that there are very many people who struggle to find accomodation and they must be housed, but my family are now at the point where we can't afford to pay bills or our rent, and yet we are not considered to be in hardship conditions? SBH isn't working and it's time the housing situation in this town was reviewed. Angry  
Name & address supplied.  
Editor: this is the fourth letter expressing the same concern and it would seem fairer to give preference to people who have a long history and already have relatives living in Newton Aycliffe.

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