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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.

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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

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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cramped, but it was much better that 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 or by calling the Recruitment Line on 08456 07 55 55.

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.

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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.



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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).

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.

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

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.

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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.

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

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

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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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. Tub band cracked off with T Rex, 20th Century Boy, followed by a bit of Bad Company. Fratello has them all boppin in their seats. Paracoid 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 crackin first set. Second half kicked off with Saturday Nights Alright for Fighting bolting out, Whiskey in the Jar, followed, then Cult, Purple and more Lizzy, did an excellent drum solo on a bass guitar, saw one on my by now the dance floor was checka, for eachers, 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"

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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.

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

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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 or to book a place please call: 01325 321234 or email: passiton@pcp.uk.net

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.

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Women aged 16-25 are being encouraged to get in shape.

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

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.
Rock Climbing: Thursdays, between 6-7pm at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre.
Hip Hop Dancing: Mondays, 6-7pm at Ferryhill Leisure Centre.

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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AYCLIFFE CONTINUE GOOD FORM

Newton Aycliffe 27 Chester-le-Street 21

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club made further advances in their first season back in Durham and Northumberland Division

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

good passing and support, saw top try scorer Chris Wilson score a try which was converted by Luke Tinkler. Chester retaliated when their speedy winger scored a converted try, but Aycliffe were soon back on top when Craig Holmes, making his first start for the club, showed excellent support work and speed to score.

Warren Parsonage playing at scrum-half for the first time in a long while was proving a good link between forwards and backs. A Tinkler penalty left the half-time score 15 - 7 to Aycliffe.

Into the second half Aycliffe were beginning to suffer in the scrums and Chester scored a second converted try to narrow the score to one point. The visitors were now on top and Gareth Parsonage did well to hold up former Aycliffe player Graham Brennan over the line.

Aycliffe continued to look menacing when the ball was spread wide, with Tinkler and Luke Crossen making a number of good runs. When the forwards made a break on the blind side, Neil Morgan's pass was well picked up by Wilson who scored in the corner.

A further try was added when Ronnie Gilyeat, receiving the ball deep in his own half, went on one of his typical dynamic runs to within 30 yards of the line, Holmes in support carried on in similar fashion to score under the posts.

Tinkler's conversion gave Aycliffe a more comfortable cushion. The visitors refused to give up and scored another converted try, but it was to prove the last play of the game and Aycliffe finally triumphed 27 - 21.

This result moves Aycliffe up to 5th in the League. On 20th February Aycliffe travel to second from bottom Hartlepool Athletic; kick-off 2:15. Aycliffe's sponsors are Fabtech Engineering and Workshop Supplies. More information is available at www.ayclifferrugby.co.uk.

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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 McMahan 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 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

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 xxx

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.

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.

AYCLIFFE EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Ladybower Signposted off Meadowfield Way
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Everyone Welcome
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www.aycliffe-ec.org.uk

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 xxx

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

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 xxx

Little Bro'



Happy 12th Birthday Macca

Lots of love, Madison and all the animals, Maverick, Murphy, Milly, Mitsie, 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 xxxxxxxxxxx

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

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

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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.

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."

Aycliffe are planning to hold a high-profile pre-season friendly, to officially mark the opening of the new stand. Aycliffe's eight-game unbeaten league run came to a demoralising end with a cruel defeat at Guisborough Town last Saturday. The visitors were left to rue several missed opportunities in the opening half-hour and, even though Aycliffe eventually took the lead with a well-worked goal after 65 minutes – Stuart Owen finishing after good work by Dan Mellanby and Dion Raitt – they succumbed to two late goals, an OG with 12 minutes left followed by a second for Guisborough with just four to go. Allan Oliver's side will be hoping to bounce back this week. Their scheduled trip to Hebburn on Wednesday night is followed by three consecutive home games, beginning with Brandon this Saturday followed by Crook on Wednesday and then league-leaders Sunderland RCA next Saturday. Two away games which were postponed have now been re-arranged. Aycliffe's match at Seaham Red Star, postponed on Saturday January 30, is now scheduled for Tuesday March 2, while their game at Thornaby, postponed on Wednesday February 3 after originally being postponed on January 2, is re-scheduled for Tuesday March 23.



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 accommodation 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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