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Which Politicians Will Suffer?

We hear the County Council will not be making a decision on the closure of Care Homes until the summer, well after a general election in May. A number of voters in Newton Aycliffe will want to punish the Labour controlled County Council for daring to think of closing Shafto House, and may decide to vote against Labour at the General Election.

This may seem a bit unfair against our MP who comparatively speaking does a good job. His record against his predecessor is outstanding! We do at least get to see and meet him. Phil Wilson is approachable and tries hard to represent his constituents. He also attempts to attend all the events to which he is invited.

Tony Blair was notorious for his poor performance, locally, and even snubbed our 50th anniversary celebrations, without even an apology! Disgruntled voters therefore may decide to wait until 2013 for the County Council elections to express their anger against what they feel will be the inevitable closure of Shafto House.

ELDERLY VANDAL CAUGHT ON "YOUTUBE"

Dear Sir,
I was experiencing serious criminal damage to my garden wall which had been vandalised nearly every night since Xmas. I informed the Police and the consensus was it is kids, yet again. I decided to investigate myself and videoed the damage being done. What a surprise I got, not kids but a lone man in a flat cap, aged about 60. He visited nearly every night between 11pm and 2am and pushed out bricks, trying to push the wall down.

As you can imagine I was very angry and placed a video of him committing the act of vandalism on Youtube. It did the trick and the man has been caught and cautioned. He also agreed to pay the cost of repair to the wall.

It sometimes pays to take action yourself and I may have found a way to help the police reduce vandalism. Alan Murray.

WOODHAM'S GOT TALENT



Woodham's Got Talent. Students had been had been through rehearsals and auditions to secure their place for this show. Prizes of £100, £50 and £25 were at stake for the first, three acts, so the level of competition was very high! Singers, instrumentalists and dancers, including special guests, Newton Aycliffe Cougars, who entertained the audience with three of their cheerleading routines. The show was hosted by Year 11 student David McCormick who delighted the audience with his stand-up comic talent, despite not being an actual entry in the show.

Eighteen acts made it to the final, and, after all acts had done all they could, the judges revealed their decisions. First place went to Year 11 students Beth Gibson and Nathan Elwick, who performed a rousing version of Don't Stop Believing, taken from the hit TV series Glee. Second place was awarded to Year 7 student Hayley Gallagher,

who performed a striking solo dance, while third place went to Year 10 student Sián Nicholson who performed a moving rendition of the Bryan Adams song Heaven. Beth Gibson, spoke about her experience: "I really enjoyed the night; it was great fun and everyone was a winner in my eyes".

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New "Ring a Ride" Service Proposed

Dear Sir,
 Would any of your readers be interested in a "Ring A Ride" service for Newton Aycliffe?
 DDYCA, a local charity, have been successfully running Darlington Community Transport and the Ring A Ride service for Darlington since March 2002 and offer wheelchair accessible

minibuses with driver to take you, your wheelchair and a companion anywhere in Newton Aycliffe for only £3.00 per journey. All of our staff are CRB checked professional drivers and all are holders of midas and first aid certificates the minibuses we use are custom built and have passenger lifts fitted and can handle up to 300kg we can also take your mobility scooters or rescue them after running the battery's down or maybe a punctured tyre then deliver them to a destination of your choice or back home safely. For me to give the go ahead for this service to begin a pilot scheme I need to know what the response will be and if there would be the support from the people of Newton Aycliffe. We intend to start with a limited service between 10 am and 2 pm Mon - Fri and to review the support after a month, hopefully with a view to increase the hours according to demand with possible trips into Darlington added later. The only criteria is that you are a registered member and you find it hard to access public transport, so if you are young or not so young, able bodied or not so able bodied, this service could be right up your street. Registration and membership are free. Please phone 01325 345833 ask for Rachel or Gayle and register your support.

P.A.C.T. Meeting

Police & Community Together

The next Pact Meeting is at Neville Parade Church Hall 6-300pm to 8-00pm on Thursday 1st April. Anyone with concerns on community issues who wish to talk with their local Police Officer and Councillors are warmly invited. Durham Constabulary are dedicated to making your neighbourhood safer. If you have any issues affecting your quality of life and want to discuss it with your neighbourhood Police Team then get involved in your local PACT Meeting. This is an informal discussion with the Police and local partners to resolve problems where you live.
Ring 0345 6060 365

Comenius Project Brings 55 Foreign Students to Greenfield



Three students from Germany join Greenfield student Joshua Holton for a music session outside the Arts Centre

Over the past few past years we have been involved in Project Comenius which is an exchange programme including students from Greenfield, Majorca, France, Germany and Poland. We have been on many visits to each country developing bonds between different nationalities, breaking down barriers and prejudice. The project has involved the theme

of energy and has looked at global issues from different countries perspectives. This week at Greenfield we are hosting 55 international students for the finale week. The programme includes visiting museums in Newcastle and York, visiting cultural landmarks throughout the north east and activities that involve professional dancers, sports and arts around the theme of renewable energy. This is a creative project that has developed skills and built long lasting friendships. We hope to continue developing these relationships in the future. We thank everyone that has been involved in Comenius.
 Charlotte-Rose Bainbridge
 Year 11



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People Power at the Pumps

Dear Sir,
 Why are we not protesting at the spiralling petrol prices which are only going to get worse after the Budget? Are we so demoralised that we have lost our fighting spirit? There is strength in numbers and if we all unite we can turn this situation around. I suggest a campaign to boycott every garage on the town every Tuesday starting from next week. Do not go in to buy anything at all. If that doesn't work, let's include Thursdays as well. If they are losing sales once or twice a week, they'll soon realise we mean business. Tesco for example has put it's prices up four times within the last fortnight! If this action became nationwide, the Government would have to listen and bring the prices down. Why should we have to pay for their mismanagement of public funds with constant increases in the price of everything? Let us join forces in this protest, spread the word and let the voice of the people be heard. Action has to begin somewhere so why not here in Newton Aycliffe?
 Kevin Wallis

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Dual Success for Aycliffe Company

This month Tyne Tees Demolition Ltd has two reasons to celebrate. Wayne Gullon 31, who works as a Site Demolition Operative for the Newton Aycliffe based company, won a National Competition organised by the Federation of Demolition Contractors. The award is highly prestigious, given only to one individual per year. The entrants have to demonstrate the ability to take on responsibility, show a responsible attitude and have the aptitude to perform under

pressure. Following regional selection each candidate had to face a tough round of questioning from the National Panel based in London. Wayne beat off stiff competition as it was recognised he had worked hard when Tyne Tees Demolition Ltd had offered him the opportunity of employment. The reward is a shield and £1000. Wayne was overwhelmed and admitted that this was the first time he had ever won any kind of award.



The award delighted his boss David Gauja MD of Tyne Tees Demolition Ltd since 1999. David has just taken over as Chairman of North East Region of The National Federation of Demolition Contractors. He was selected by members who believe he is the right man to lead this region. The NFDC works closely with CITB Construction Skills and has formed the National Demolition Training Group (NDTG) where they are reducing the number of

on-site accidents. Members regularly recycle more than 95% of all work, and they work in conjunction with Government bodies to further the causes of the environment and sustainability. Most importantly, the NFDC ensure that members are aware of changes to legislation and health and safety guidelines that affect their businesses. The NFDC is the voice of the UK Demolition Industry heard in the corridors of power in Parliament.

Bishop Opens Peace Garden at St. Clare's



I would like to thank those who attended the opening by the Bishop of Durham of the Community Peace Garden and also the Mothers' Union Daffodil Coffee Morning held alongside it. We very much appreciated the presence and support of our Mayor, Cllr Mary Dalton and Mrs Lynne Dalton. The Church is open every day but because of petty vandalism in the church, and wishing to prevent the same happening to the Peace Garden, we are currently looking at how best to time the openings. It can be assumed that it will be open on Monday 10.00 am - 2.00 pm, Tuesday Coffee Stop (yes - you can have coffee in the garden!), Thursday Café Church and Coffee Morning, Saturday Coffee Stop, and of course Sunday mornings. There will also be some afternoon and early evening opening during summer. Anyone unable to fit into those times, but who might wish to sit in the garden can contact Revd Linda Potter on 313613, and we shall do our best to help accommodate them. Disabled access and pram/pushchair access is from the Central Avenue entrance. All are welcome
Revd Linda Potter

SBH Appoint New Board Member

Sedgefield Borough Homes (SBH) is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Board member. Jonathon Mallen-Beadle joins the Board with strong knowledge of Registered Social Landlord functions and financial expertise, the core areas set out by the Board through the advertisement of the post. Colin Steel, Chief Executive at SBH says, "The appointment of Jonathon Mallen-Beadle will strengthen our existing Board. Jonathon's commitment to the social housing sector is outstanding and I am certain that he will make a positive contribution to the future aims of SBH." Mr Mallen-Beadle is currently

in position at Gateshead Housing Company as Director of Finance and Corporate Services and is responsible for the day to day management of Gateshead Council's homes. Previously Mr Mallen-Beadle worked for Tristar Homes in a similar role, having worked in the social housing sector for over seven years. About his new appointment, Mr Mallen-Beadle commented, "I've heard a lot of positive things about Sedgefield Borough Homes in their first year of operation and thought that the role of independent Board member is an excellent opportunity to give something back to the community. I hope that I can play my part in ensuring that all tenants get



the excellent housing services they deserve." Mr Mallen-Beadle will be attending his first board meeting in his new role next week.

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SBH EXPLAIN CHOICE BASED LETTINGS SCHEME

Since 1 October 2009, SBH has allocated its properties through the Durham Key Options (DKO) Choice Based Lettings (CBL) Scheme. Of the 410 properties advertised so far, the overwhelming majority have been let to applicants who already resided within the former Sedgfield Borough Area.

In the Newton Aycliffe area 128 properties have been advertised, generating a total of 3,600 bids. The average number of bids per property is consistently higher in the Aycliffe area than the number of bids for similar properties in other areas covered by SBH. What is Durham Key Options?

The scheme is an open and transparent way to let properties, which allows you to see for yourself the number and type of properties available.

DKO is a partnership of housing providers throughout County Durham who agreed to adopt common lettings criteria for assessing applicants. This means that there is less confusion for applicants as no matter which partner you contact for rehousing, your circumstances will be assessed in exactly the same way.

What is Choice Based Lettings?

CBL is a way to let properties that involves advertising all available properties and allowing you to express an interest in (or "bid on") any that you wish to apply for. Properties are advertised in a variety of ways and you can bid using several different methods. Properties are advertised on a weekly advertising cycle which runs from Thursday until Tuesday. The properties advertised will remain the same throughout this period, so you will not have to check every day for updates. By seeing what properties are advertised each week, you will not only be aware of each and every property available, but also have the opportunity to bid on properties that you would like to be considered for (subject to eligibility).

Who are the DKO Partners?

The DKO partners are:

- Sedgfield Borough Homes (SBH)
- Dale and Valley Homes
- Derwentside Homes
- Teesdale Housing Association

• Durham County Council

So, should you wish to apply for housing and are eligible to join the DKO Scheme, you will be registered to apply for homes not only with SBH but any of the properties managed by other partner landlords as well. For example, should your reason for re-housing be to provide support for relatives living in a particular area, you can now do so without the need to complete another application form. A small minority of SBH applicants have done just that to assist them in their moves to other parts of County Durham. To be able to take part in the DKO scheme you must first complete one of the DKO application forms, which are available from all SBH local offices.

How is need assessed? DKO operates a banding system to assess needs in line with government guidance. To find out more about this system you could either:

- Contact your SBH (or DKO) Local Housing Office
- Pick up a DKO User Guide or
- Go to www.sedgfieldboroughhomes.co.uk or www.durhamkeyoptions.co.uk

Where are properties advertised? Properties are advertised:

- on the DKO website www.durhamkeyoptions.co.uk
- in the DKO Property Paper (please contact your SBH Local Housing Office for details of your closest distribution outlet)

Is bidding easy?

Yes! Bidding allows you to choose where you want to live. You can bid in a variety of ways depending on your needs, including:

- By automated phone line
- By contacting your Local Housing Office
- Text Message
- Internet

What other options do SBH tenants have to move to another property?

Why not try a mutual exchange? You too will be able to advertise your property and, if a suitable and eligible match shows interest in your property, you may be able to apply to exchange properties rather than just placing bids via DKO.

Like more information on the scheme? SBH will gladly assist anyone who has any queries regarding the scheme. Please telephone our Choice Based Lettings team on 0845 505 5500 or email us on cbl@sedgfieldboroughhomes.co.uk SBH has also organised a local drop-in session for you to ask questions about the DKO scheme. This session will be held on Thursday, 22 April 2010 from 9.30am to 1.00pm at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. If you would like to come along, please contact us on the above telephone number to make an appointment.

LOCAL BUSINESS NETWORK 2nd LARGEST IN THE REGION



South Durham Business Network is enjoying great success as one of the most popular in the area. It is providing a great service to local companies with useful Seminars to improve trade with ample opportunities for networking. Led by an enthusiastic Chairman, Darren Race, SDBN attracts large numbers to events designed to bring local businesses together in an informal atmosphere.

The last event concentrated on how to keep your customers by putting them first followed by an interesting and amusing talk on Health & Safety.

Angela Halliday from Solutions 4 Enterprise presented on the Customer First Standard and Brian Green Managing Director of HSEQ Smart delivered a presentation on Risk Assessment.



Darren Race (left) with Angela Halliday and Brian Green

This was a free Seminar for members held at Spennymoor Town Hall with a hot meal provided.

The next SDBN event is on 22nd April at Hardwick Hall when local firms can learn how to successfully tender for work from local Authorities.

Registration from 18:00, for an 18:30 start finishing at around 21:00. Meal provided. If you want to be part of this growing organisation with genuine aims to improve your business get in touch now! Web: www.sdbn.org.uk Email: info@sdbn.org.uk

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End of Cross Country Season

The last cross country of the season for the North Yorkshire and South Durham League saw the young and the old from Newton Aycliffe Athletics Club come together.

On 14th March, young Lucy Postle (10yrs) made her debut run in the U11 event. The small lap course did not worry her following recent success at the inter schools event. She battled high winds and hills to come home in the middle of the pack.

William Crossen (U15) finished the season well. He took the 2 lap course in his stride and finished in 16.07 completing the 4K course in 5th position.

James Askew (U20) was left thirsty for more after the Inter County McCain Cross County in Birmingham. (13th March) Disappointed with his performance from the previous day, he attacked the 9.5K, 4 lap course. James ran extremely well and looked comfortable as he crossed the line in 6th place in 36.46.

Other senior men tackled the event and finished well. George Reid returning after injury was pleased with his run 44.13, Colin Gibson 47.10, Kevin Greenall 47.23.

Senior ladies were fewer on the ground with first lady back Sue Milburn 24.46, Penny Johnson 26.09 and Pat Edwards 27.57. Well done to all members for a great cross country season.

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Blind Daters Celebrate Golden Wedding



Billy and Dorothy Palmer of Silkin Way first met on a blind date, when they went to the Odeon Cinema in Newcastle to see "Vertigo". Billy was a Geordie and Dorothy came from Wallsend. She worked in the Wills Cigarette factory in the Laboratory and Billy was an Electrical Engineer at C & A Parsons. Dorothy was impressed when she met her future husband as he was well dressed in his 'Jackson the Tailor' suit and well polished shoes. They were married at St. Mary's Church, Willington Quay and moved to Newton Aycliffe in 1966 when Billy took a job with Bakelite (now Ineos) and Dorothy worked for Laws Stores.

Billy moved to work for the Coal Board at Tursdale where he experienced hard times during the notorious Miner's Strike. They are both staunch Labour supporters and when younger, enjoyed the outdoor life, walking and cycling in the Lake District with their family. They have two sons and two daughters. There are four Grandchildren and the whole family live quite close and see each other often. Mayor Mary Dalton called on the couple to pass on congratulations on behalf of the townspeople. The family held a celebratory lunch the following day and in May Billy and Dorothy will spend a holiday in one of their favourite spots in Cyprus.

Keep an Eye on County Councillors

Dear Sir
What Planet does our MP Phil Wilson live on? He is organising a draw to pick someone to knock the first brick out of the old health centre block which is coming down about 4 years later than scheduled.
If he sits on the fence and doesn't speak up for his constituents in Shafto House, in their fight against the Unitary Authority's proposal to close the Home and others like it, he could organise another draw to see who knocks the first brick out when they demolish Shafto House. That should be a vote catcher!
It is also worth keeping an eye on our still silent Councillors on the Unitary Authority to see if they vote, when the time comes to support the old and infirm of their wards, or follow like sheep and do what their Masters in County Hall tell them to do. Mike Dixon has given his view, how about the rest? Speak out that's what you were elected for.
Mr. B. Bennett

CHARITY SKY DIVE



Jason Scott from Darlington and Lisa Curry from Wilkinsons Store in Newton Aycliffe successfully completed a Sky Dive on Sunday 20th March at Shotton Colliery Airfield. The sponsored jump raised £1,210 in aid of Breast Cancer Care. Jason and Lisa wish to thank everyone for their support and sponsorship for this worthy cause.

AYCLIFFE REPRESENT COUNTY AT WORLD CUP IN GERMANY



Newton Aycliffe's Under-18s side has been selected by Durham County to take part in a World Cup tournament in Germany this summer. But the youth team need financial assistance in order to make the dream trip possible. Aycliffe will compete against teams from Italy, France, Switzerland and host country Germany in the Under-19s competition in June. The club, who compete in the Durham County Lomax Training Services Under-18s League, are now looking for corporate sponsorship and individual donations to help fund the three-day trip. "This will be a fantastic opportunity for our local lads to compete on an international stage", said boss Paul Jarps. "The boys will get the experience of international football and with the tournament set right in the middle of the World Cup the atmosphere should be

fantastic. "We have been greatly assisted by Durham County Council in helping fund this trip, but we still have a lot of money to raise so the team are keen to attract sponsors both large and small to help in funding this amazing opportunity as well as helping the team to develop over forthcoming seasons."

The World Cup tournament will be held over the weekend of June 18-20. Anyone who can help Aycliffe can contact either Paul Jarps on 07530 067335 or Colin Harrison on 07753 988244. More details on the Under-18s side can be found at www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk, and go into the Under-18s section.

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LABOUR EURO MP'S HELP SMALL FIRMS

The European Parliament has voted to exempt very small firms, known as micro-entities, from EU law on accounting standards, reducing the burden of red tape and helping them beat the recession. Local Labour Euro MP Stephen Hughes said: "as our small firms in the North East struggle to overcome the crisis I am determined to help them by cutting red tape. "It is vitally important that EU law does not over-burden very small businesses. This exemption means that very small firms will save around £1,000 in accountancy and audit fees." Stephen added: "We have made a commitment in the EU to reduce burdens on business by 25% by 2012, and this law is an important step towards meeting that goal. Micro-entities are often the first step on the ladder to successful employers of the future, we need to nurture and support these businesses, not place extra burdens on them."

LEARNING IS FUN IN RECEPTION CLASS



We make learning fun in Sugar Hill Reception Class! If your child is due to start school in September 2010, you are invited to meet staff, discuss the move from Nursery to Reception and see the newly refurbished Early Years setting. Prospective parents are invited to a Coffee Morning on Thursday 1st April, 10am-11am, to look around the setting and see how we work. All enquiries to the school office on 300334.

MEP VISITS INEOS



Martin Callanan MEP who is one of the three Members of the European Parliament representing the North East visited INEOS Newton Aycliffe Ltd on Friday 19 March 2010 where he viewed both the Compounding and Resin plants. Discussions were held with him regarding draft European legislation that could affect the company and he was very supportive of INEOS and its PVC products commenting that "It is good to see a company that is surviving the recession and employing people in the North East". Mr Callanan (right) is pictured with Jason Leadbitter the company's Sustainability Manager.

'Bury the Lot!' says Honest John

Dear Sir,
"Silly Philly" our M.P. has excelled himself this time by using remarkable ingenuity in the art of stalling. He has come up with the idea of a "Demolition Day" Lottery. What a mind! How thrilling and only six weeks before a General Election when he will get his one way ticket to ride, hopefully before the big demolition hammer is swung. Personally I think it would be better to have a "Burial Day" for all our Councillors - putting them in the building before the hammer swings. This would put an end to all our problems and we would all be winners.
Honest John

STOP RIDUCULOUS WASTE OF MONEY says Lib Dem EMP

HIGH COST OF TWO PARLIAMENT H.Q.'s

Lib Dem MEP Fiona Hall, Leader of the UK Liberal Democrats in Europe, has signed a petition calling for the European Parliament in Strasbourg to be scrapped in favour of one Brussels-based parliament. Currently, MEPs, along with all their staff and necessary documents, are required by treaty to up-root to Strasbourg for the full sessions of the Parliament once every month. This 500 mile round-trip is done at huge cost - estimated at €200million (£180 million) a year - and is environmentally damaging as the travel uses huge amounts of energy and

adds to CO2 emissions. The petition, delivered to European Council President, Herman Van Rompuy, this week, highlights the monetary and environmental burden of running two parliaments and states that the cost is 'completely unacceptable' to most MEPs. Fiona, who has been campaigning for a single seat for the European Parliament in Brussels since first becoming an MEP in 2004, said: "As the new European Council President under the Treaty of Lisbon, Herman Van Rompuy is in a position to give a strong lead on this issue.

"It is simply ridiculous that at a time when public finances need to be tightened, the European Parliament spends about 15% of its annual budget on pointlessly travelling between two cities. And it is outrageous that at a time when the European Parliament should lead by example in reducing its carbon footprint, the carbon emissions of the monthly trips add up to the carbon costs of about 4,000 houses in London. Unfortunately, it is not up to MEPs to decide where the European Parliament is based. It is the European Council, made up of Member States, which has the power to take action to stop the completely unacceptable commute between Brussels and Strasbourg. I will continue to lobby the British Government to take action in the European Council to scrap the seat in Strasbourg and put an end to the monthly travelling circus."

AYCLIFFE COMPANY SCOOPS MAJOR AWARD

A renewable energy firm has double cause for celebration, after completing one of the largest projects of its type in the region and scooping a major award.

Revolution Power, based in Newton Aycliffe, won the Environmental category at this year's Best New Business Awards Tees Valley, where they were described by judges as "God's Gift to Heat Pumps". And that success comes hot on the heels of the company finishing work on a huge five-month project for the English Churches Housing Group in Wellington Street, Middlesbrough.

Along with building services consultants CAD 21, Revolution Power worked extensively on the development which will provide supported housing to more than 100 homeless people, and Managing Director Wayne Richardson said: "The Wellington Street project is one of the largest, if not the largest, Air Source Heat Pump and Solar Thermal combinations installed in the North East of England.

Revolution Power installed 70kW of Air Source Heat Pumps which were connected to the heating system, providing about 60 per cent of the building's total heat. They also fitted 18 Solar Thermal Panels connected to the Domestic Hot Water system, providing up to 70 per cent of the development's hot water. Mr Richardson added: "We worked closely with CAD 21 the building services consultants to make this building one of the most

energy efficient buildings of its type in the area"

"Not only that, but from 2011 with the introduction of the Renewable Heat Incentive, it will generate an income of around £9,000 (based on current estimates) in revenue for the English Churches Housing Group and it will cut their CO2 emissions by around 70%, based on gas."

Mr Richardson completed a management buy-out of the company in April 2009, and has successfully turned his net loss into a net gain whilst almost doubling the company's manpower, and that helped them to win the Best New Business award at the end of February. "It's an absolutely marvellous feeling to get the award, one which I genuinely did not expect to win," he said.

"It's a big pat on the back for all of us who pulled together after the recession, picked it up and dusted it off. We have turned the company around, making it in to a profit-making, happy place to work and are taking on interesting projects."

Nearly New Sales Event

"Kid's Stuff" are holding a fundraising event in aid of MIND on Saturday 27th March from 2.30 - 4.30 pm at St. Clares Church. The event will feature twelve "Nearly New" stalls and there are some real bargains. For more details ring 077759 653681.

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FAMILY LEARNING IS FUN AND GAMES AT WOODHAM COLLEGE



Family Learning Days are now a firmly established part of life at Woodham Community

Technology College. As part of their Technology College status, Woodham held another event on Saturday 13th March, when children from the primary schools across the town converged on the college with mums, dads, brothers and sisters.

Based on the theme of "Learning is Fun", this event ran on the lines of a masterclass with workshops in Design Technology and Food Technology.

By 10.45 a.m., the college was buzzing with activity as workshops got under way. In Mr. Walker's Design Technology workshops, families got to work designing and manufacturing their own personalized key rings.

Meanwhile, families in the Let's Get Cooking workshops with Resident Chef, Phil Goldsborough, and his helpers were creating and decorating a fantastic array of cup cakes.

The event was voted a huge success by those attending; in the words of one participant. "My boys had a great deal of fun and really enjoyed every minute. They want to know when they can come back again!"

EASTER FUN AT LIBRARY

The Library is having an Easter craft session for under 7's on 6th April at 10:30 - 50p charge, please reserve a place at the library

There is also an Easter Egg colouring competition, running from 26th March until 6th April with a prize for the best picture. Colouring sheets are available in the Library now.

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Easter in London - 2nd April 2010 - £142.50 - 3 days (B&EB)
Based in Central London in the superb Riverbank Plaza Hotel, this London Mini-Break has luxury stamped all over it ... We will travel aboard one of our latest Executive Coaches and include en-suite Hotel bedrooms, English Breakfasts and a brief Sunday morning City Tour.

Spanish Mini-Cruise - 31st May 2010 - £85.00 - 4 days - (RO)
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Disneyland Paris - 26th October 2010 - Adults £199.00, Child £179.00 4 days (B&EB)
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COMMUNITY CENTRE BUS OUTING

Neville Parade Community Centre are organising a day trip to include a visit to Eden Camp and Whitby. The cost is £13, children £11 and the bus leaves St. Clares at 9am picking up at Aycliffe Village and Heighington. Tel: 313924. A Bingo Lunch on 7th April at 1pm, Soup & Bun followed by Pie and Peas. £3 finishing at 3.30pm.

Free taster session of Kurling on Saturday 27th March from 10am till 12 noon. Families of four welcome - please ring 313924 to book.

Your first session at Line Dancing is also free. Held every Monday at 1.30pm so come and give it a try.

Could you volunteer to teach people how to use the Wii? If so please get in touch, we also need a Table Tennis coach. contact Peter on 313924.

New Bingo Club starts 5th April. Every Monday and Friday at 7pm. Over 18's welcome. Free Stand-up Bingo to start.

Fun Fair Visits Town

A traditional Family Fun Fair visits the town from Thursday 8th - Sunday 11th April, open till 6pm during the week and 2pm on weekends. Both days will feature face painting, balloons and children's entertainers. The Fair will be on the Iron Horse Car Park and families are warmly welcome.

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Another Narrow Defeat for Aycliffe

Newton Aycliffe 12 v South Tyneside College 22

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club were hosts to South Tyneside College in their latest match in Durham and Northumberland Division 3. Paul Soakell returned at scrum-half, with Andy Newman in the back row and Drew Gibson playing his first game for a while.

Chances were few and far between due to good defence from both sides and at the interval there was no score.

The second half began in the same vein as the first until the College finally scored a try. The best move of the match, featuring the ball passing through numerous pairs of hands, saw Gibson cross the line in the corner for Aycliffe. He had the presence of mind to touch down near enough to the posts to give Luke Tinkler the chance to take the lead with his conversion.

A dropped ball in attack by the visitors saw Chris Wilson dribble the ball for 70m before touching down. With 15 minutes to go the College side, who were now beginning to take the advantage of a wearying Aycliffe pack, scored a converted try to tie the scores.

The match seemed destined for a draw before, with less than 5 minutes left; South Tyneside took the lead with a penalty. Straight from the kick-off, they were able to pressure Aycliffe again and scored a converted try to make the final score 22 - 12, ironically exactly the same score as Aycliffe's previous home game. Aycliffe were unlucky to lose after a valiant effort with a number of first

choice players missing but will be unhappy to have lost three consecutive matches. On 27th March Newton Aycliffe visit Seaham, kick-off

is at 3pm. Aycliffe's sponsors are Fabtech Engineering and Workshop Supplies. More information is available at www.ayclifferrugby.co.uk.

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WATCH BATTERIES now available at Taylors Newsforce **DONATIONS** needed of Brica-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring Honest John on 316630
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NUISANCE OFF-ROAD MOTORBIKES



Once again the summer is here and the Local Police have received calls from members of the public reporting the illegal use of off-road motorbikes across the town. Particular hotspots are GREENFIELD/MIDDRIDG WARD, and WOODHAM WARD. Police are actively targeting those individuals who are riding the motorcycles in an anti-social manner and will deal with them accordingly. During a hugely successful operation last year Operation BLUECRAB 2009 saw several motorbikes seized by the police and a number of prosecutions were made. The police are keen to clarify the legal position and ask that parents in particular are aware of the law if their children have motorbikes. In order to lawfully ride an off-road bike you must first obtain the land-owners permission in advance. (You cannot ride an off-road bike on a public road unless it has been adapted for such use - ie indicators, number plate etc). If caught riding a motorbike illegally the rider would receive a warning initially but then if caught a second time within a twelve month period the police may seize the vehicle. The riders may also be prosecuted for driving offences. If anybody has information about the illegal use of motorcycles or would like any clarification of the law they can contact the neighbourhood policing team at Aycliffe on 0345 60 60 365

number plate etc). If caught riding a motorbike illegally the rider would receive a warning initially but then if caught a second time within a twelve month period the police may seize the vehicle. The riders may also be prosecuted for driving offences. If anybody has information about the illegal use of motorcycles or would like any clarification of the law they can contact the neighbourhood policing team at Aycliffe on 0345 60 60 365

PASS on Saturdays

Play Active Sports Saturdays - Your Pass to fun on Saturday Mornings 9.30 - 11.00am. Come along and try many sports such as Golf, Football, Bowls, Squash, Archery and many many more. Open to anyone aged 8 - 13 yrs. Only £2 per session, taken by our very own Coach Stephen Waddingham. For further details or to book your place contact Oak Leaf Sports Complex on 01325 300600

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LAST CHANCE FOR CHEAP DARLO TICKETS

DARLINGTON fans have just over a week to take advantage of cut-price ticket bundles for the last five home games of the season. The club's five-match ticket will expire after the club's next home game against Hereford United on April 5. The deal enables fans to buy a ticket for any five of the club's remaining home fixtures, at a reduced overall price. The adult bundle is available for £65, which works out at £13 per ticket and is a total saving of £25 on matchday prices. Over-65s bundles are priced £40 (£8 per ticket, saving a total of £20), Under-16s are £20 (£4 each, saving £20), Under-10s are £12.50 (£2.50 each, saving £12.50) and family tickets are priced £150 (£30 per match, saving £50 in total). The ticket bundles cover the last five home games of the season against Hereford, Accrington, Grimsby, Notts County and Dagenham. The bundles are available from the ticket office at the Northern Echo Arena, or call

0871 855 1883

Free Easter Attractions at the "Youthy"

Monday 12th April: Giant Dance Mats. 1pm - 4pm Ages 13-19. FREE!
Tuesday & Wednesday 13th & 14th April: Girls & boys Multi Sports Session, 1-4pm. Ages 11-16. Archery on Wednesday. Pamper Afternoon with Nail Art and Beauty activities. FREE for 13-19 yrs, 1-4pm.
Thursday 15th April: FREE for 11-19yrs. Film Shows: 2pm: "Bandslam" 6.30pm "Percy Jackson"
FIESTA EVENT: Friday 9th April for 13-19year olds. 6pm - 9pm. Giant Inflatables, Health & Beauty, Arts & Dance, Free Refreshments and much much more! More details on 307522

Easter Deadlines
Week ending Friday 2nd April
Deadline: Tuesday 30th March, 5pm
Distributed from Thursday 1st April
Week ending Friday 9th April
Deadline: Wednesday 7th April, 5pm

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Trustees: Paul Howarth (Chair), Beverley Howarth (Treasurer), Syd Howarth (Secretary), Jacqui Molyneux, Barbara Connors-Fowler, Roger James, Alison James, Cheryl Waters, Philip Le Dune

POLIO VICTIM WALKS AGAIN

Martin Kpanou was struck down with Polio in his early teens. This affected his legs in such a way that it was not only very uncomfortable, but limited his mobility. Since January 2009 Martin, his wife Brigitte and their son Constantin have lived in the St John of God Hospital at Tangueti in North Benin while surgeons tried to improve his condition. Unfortunately they could only straighten one of his legs and amputated the other. Over the last year Martin has endured many more operations and will remain in Hospital until September 2010. During the next six months he will undergo strenuous physio sessions to enable him to walk with the aid of a prosthetic leg and crutches. This is a huge improvement to the situation that Martin was in before his operation, only able to move around in a wheelchair (with his legs sticking forward and backward) or shuffling along the ground with his hands or on a skate board. Before entering the hospital at Tangueti, Martin was enrolled in a Government run College for Disabled adults in Benin. Martin was taught to weave on a traditional loom to run his own business. On completion of his one year residential course, Martin and other residents were presented with the equipment needed to continue their chosen career in the local community, with the college acting as a co-operative for the sale of goods they manufactured, sold at a fair price to the general public. Because Martin has been in hospital for the last 12 months and been unable to work his hospital bill has been steadily growing. The overall cost of Martin's operations, physiotherapy and accommodation whilst in hospital is approximately £10,000. The West Africa Trust have a few benefactors who are willing to put so much towards the expense, but we do have a shortfall and ask for your help in completing this worthy cause. Any amount would be welcome and 100% of your donation is guaranteed to go to Martin's welfare. Over the next few months Newton News and the West Africa Trust will keep readers up-to-date on Martin's progress.

Photos: Top Right, Martin in 2007 before his operation when surgeons in the UK diagnosed amputation. Right: Martin in Physiotherapy, Above Martin's Wife Birgit and Son Constantin.

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR MARTIN
Because Martin has been in hospital for the last 12 months and been unable to work his hospital bill has been slowly and steadily growing. The overall cost of Martin's operations, physiotherapy and accommodation whilst in hospital is approximately £10,000. The West Africa Trust have a few benefactors who are willing to put so much towards the expense, but we do have a shortfall and ask for your help in completing this worthy cause. Any amount would be welcome and 100% of your donation is guaranteed to go to Martin's welfare.

I/we would like to donate £ to Martin's welfare, I would also like to gift aid my donation

Name

Address

Please send your donation to the address above, cheques made payable to "West Africa Trust"

BULLYING IN SCHOOL WORRIES PARENT

Dear Sir,
I would ask through you if any reader has experienced problems of their child being bullied at school and felt they were not given a fair hearing? All my children have attended the same school in the town over the past 12 years. When you have a problem you go through the correct channels, but when you decide to take a bullying matter to the Governors you can only do so in writing, whilst the Head Teacher can make a verbal report. I don't think this fair! I removed my child who suffered mental abuse which I think is worse than physical harm. I exchanged letters with the Head Teacher whose response

was that they were happy with the outcome and sorry the child had been removed and as such there was nothing more could be done. An apology would have been nice! The complaint covered four months and several visits to the school - a long time for a child to suffer! My child started a new school and is now much happier, but it is a massive change to undertake and we can't help feeling a little bitter sweet. I'm keen to know if this has happened to anyone else and if they felt let down by the system. If you have please write in as things have to change.
Disappointed Parent
Name & address supplied

RESPONSE FROM HEAD TEACHERS

We passed this complaint to a spokesperson for schools in the town and received the following statement:
Without wishing to enter into the specifics of this particular case all primary schools work very hard to address issues of bullying. A great deal of work goes into preventing bullying by encouraging all pupils to be aware of when they are either perpetrators or victims and how to deal with a wide variety of situations. Reported incidents of bullying are also dealt with. When complaints are made about any issue it is always hoped to resolve the situation through conversations with the head teacher but set procedures for all complaints do provide parents the opportunity to meet with governors and make verbal representations when all else fails. These procedures exist to protect everyone involved and ensure complaints are dealt with in a fair and appropriate manner

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Youth Fun & Fitness Sessions

Young people in Newton Aycliffe are being encouraged to get fit and have fun at the same time.
Durham County Council's Positive Futures scheme has launched a series of weekly Friday evening sessions at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, which it is hoped, will reduce the amount of young people on the streets and subsequently lower crime levels and antisocial behaviour.
The sessions are aimed at encouraging all young people in the town to build relationships and take part in organised activities.
The project has been set up in partnership with Rock Antics climbing group, based at the Leisure Centre, and the project is part of the national activity-based Positive Futures programme funded by the Home Office.
Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre already receives support from the Positive Futures Scheme and it is hoped this project will reach out to those youngsters who do not already access the centre and develop sustainable activities to help young people get fit.
Lisa Denham, Positive Futures Co-ordinator, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for young people to get involved in new activities that they may not generally have access to. The climbing challenges set by the team aim to encourage teamwork, communication and confidence skills within the group." Sessions run on Friday evenings between 07:00pm and 08:00pm.
For more information about Positive Futures log on to: www.positivefutures.org.uk or contact Lisa Denham, Positive Futures Co-ordinator, on: 0191 3834993.

In Memoriam

PAUL ABBOTT 27th March 2008, aged 39. It's hard to believe you are no longer here. We think of you, you feel so near. In some small way, every single day, memories of you come our way Paul. Love and miss you so much. Loving Partner, Tracy and Daughter Hayley

PAUL ABBOTT 27th March 2008. Aged 39. The ones we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. You are constantly in our thoughts Paul. We remember you with love now and always. Thank you for being a great Son. Love, Mum and Dad

PAUL ABBOTT Remembering a much loved Brother and Uncle. Sadly missed, Geoff, Sandra, and Children Colin, Deb and Children. We also think of the five people whose lives were saved because of Paul's Organ Donation. We are all so proud of you Paul. God Bless You

SANDRA GREEN Died 23-3-2004. 6 years have gone since you closed your eyes and left us. I think of you every day and miss you just as much. God bless, love always, Michael xxx

JANE HARVEY 31st March, 2003. Never more than a thought away. Loved and remembered every day. Sadly missed by Brenda, Douglas, Stephen and Helen

JANE HARVEY 31st March 2003. Days may pass and fade away, memories of you will always stay. Sadly missed by Mam

JEAN COOK 30-3-2009. Treasured memories of a very dear friend. Forever in our thoughts. Pat, John and family

JEAN COOK 30-3-09. In loving memory of a dear Wife, Mother and Grandmother. Loved and remembered always. Forever in our hearts. Love, Don, Steven, Kathryn, Richard and Dean xxx

JEAN COOK 30th March 2009. Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near. Greatly loved, greatly missed and very dear. Love from Mam-in-Law Margaret, Brothers and Sisters-in-Law, Maurice and Susan, Raymond and Allison, Lynn and Phil, also Nephews, Nieces, Great Nieces and Nephews. You were an angel on Earth Jean. Now an angel in Heaven. God bless xxx

JEAN COOK In memory of a dear friend and neighbour. Always in our thoughts. Sadly missed. Jack and Lilian

JUDY COLLEY 27-3-2004. Forever in our thoughts. Mam, Paul, Helen, Christopher and Michelle xxx

MCCABE In loving memory of Eddie, passed away 29th March 1997. You were my life when you were here. Now you are in my heart and always near. Your loving Wife, Mary

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ACORN PLAYERS IN REHEARSAL

After a long break the Acorn Players start new re-hearsals on Wednesday 31st. March in a private room at the Iron Horse, Simpasturegate, from 7p.m. to 9p.m.
We would like to welcome back old and new members. The forthcoming show to be decided before re-hearsals. For more information please ring Brenda on 311816 or Anne on 316956.

Obituary

SEAMAN on 21st March, peacefully in hospital. William (Bill), aged 89 years. Beloved Husband of the late Catherine (Kay). Loving Dad of Stan and the late Keith. Father-in-Law of Lyn and Pam. A much loved Grandad of Paul, Leanne, Tracy, Amanda and Gareth. And also a dear Great Grandad. Would friends please meet for Service on Monday 29th March at St Clares Church at 1.30pm. Prior to a Private Interment. Family flowers only by request.

Birthday Remembrance

MARGERY HINDSON (nee Mason). Wednesday, 24th March would have been our Mother's 82nd birthday, but sadly, Margery Hindson died in Darlington Memorial Hospital at 10:30pm, 4th January 2010 of heart failure aged 81. Until her diagnosis four years ago, her abundant energy and adventurous nature took her to many places around the country as well as overseas to visit her children and grandchildren. Her journeys to the Western Isles, Paris, Athens and Dubai, to name but a few, demonstrated her real enthusiasm to visit new places and the lengths to which she would go just to be with her family. She was a resident of Newton Aycliffe for 43 years and was happily married to Jack Hindson for 42 years until his death in June 1991. Her sister, Katherine Barry and brother, Colin Mason, survive her. As well as being a much loved mother to Brian, Barry and Jackie, she was a treasured grandmother to Saul, Richard, Alexander, Dylan, Emilie and Bethany and loving Great Grandmother to Chloe. She will always be in our hearts and our thoughts. The death of a Mother is the first sorrow wept without her... our Mother was much loved and she is so very much missed.

DES WALKER 29th March. Our birthday wish must be a prayer, this special day we cannot share. But in our hearts you are always there. Love always, Wife Julia, Daughters Melanie, Michelle, Angela, Louise and families xxxxx
EDGAR GRANT our darling Son's birthday, 27th March. If we could have one wish in life, you know what it would be. To turn back the clock 24 years to the way things used to be. We know that it won't happen Grant, but one thing we know for sure. That one day Son, Paul and I are going to come to you. Loved and longed for always Son. Mam and Paul xxxxxxx
EDGAR GRANT our Brother's 42nd birthday, 27th March. To have you back in the same old way, would be our biggest wish today. Miss you so much. Brothers, Lee, Andy and family xxx

Congratulations

Chris and Barbara Wheeler



Happy Ruby Wedding Anniversary
28th March 2010
Love from Toria, Phil, Ben, Christian and Nana

David Whittington on your 40th Birthday

29/4/1970-29/4/2010
Birthday wishes just to say, hope you enjoy your big day. Love and kisses, Mam xxx

Tony Moore (Porky)



Happy 50th Birthday Tony
Lots of love, Marie
Happy 50th Birthday Dad
Love, Mark and Becky
Happy 50th Tony
Love from Ann

Laura Thomson



Happy Birthday on your 18th. Loads of love, Dad, Mam and Emma xxx

Cora Chambers



Happy 90th Birthday
26th March 2010
Hope you have the most wonderful birthday Mam - you are adored and you look amazing.
With love from all your Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren

Alicia Daniels



Happy 21st Birthday
25th March 2010
Congratulations. Lots of love, Mam, Grace and all your family and friends xxx

Tuition

LEARN TO SIGN with your child "the fun way". Fridays at 11am at Woodham Comm Centre (for babies who already sign and toddlers who want to learn) up to 4 years old - GREAT FUN! Beginners Classes Friday's at 2pm (6 mths+) - learn over 50+ signs. **BOOKING IS ADVISABLE!** Contact JULES on 07966 968 388 or email: signingtots@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.signingtots.org.uk
ICT/COMPUTER studies, all levels (beginners welcome). Also Maths/English to KS/3. CRB checked, qualified tutor. Tel 01325 312651 or 07972 531476

Sits Vacant

AVON REPS wanted for all areas. Tel 07741 084415

Thank You

BELL The family of the late Wilf wish to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for cards of condolence, flowers and donations received of £160 for "Liver North". Special thanks to Doctors, Nurses and Carers for care given to Wilf in his last few months. Also to Rev. Linda Potter for a lovely Service and to Penny Dawson and Staff of John Meynell Funeral Service for their excellent care.

Births

KARL & SARAH congratulations on the birth of your beautiful son "Leighton". Love from Vicky, Sean, Ben and Kyle
ROSS Neil and Beccy would like to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful baby boy, "George William Ross" on 12-3-10, weighing 8lb 11oz. A big thank you to all our family and friends for the generous cards and gifts that we have received for him
ROSS Neil and Beccy. Congratulations on the birth of "George William" a beautiful first Grandson and Brother for Olivia. Love from Mam, Dad, Mark, Sarah, Maisie and Maddie
TAYLOR MATTHEWS Well done Calum and Michaela on the birth of your baby Son. "Thomas James" born on 8th March 2010. 4lbs 9ozs. Love, Mum, Dad, Seonaid, Dan, Big Cousin Emma and Drew

SWIM FOR CASH FOR YOUR OWN CHARITY

The annual Swimathon organised by the Rotary Club allows you to take half the sponsorship money you raise for your own club or charity.

The next event is on Sunday 9th May from 8am - 6pm at Spennymoor Leisure Centre. You can pick which hour you want for your team to swim, if you get your entry in early, otherwise you may have to take the spot allocated.

Each team of six swim in relay across the width of the pool for 55 minutes, getting sponsorship for the number of lengths completed. There are trophies for the Most Money Raised, Best School Team, Best Junior Team and Most Lengths Completed.

This is a fun way to help the main charity for the day "St. Teresa's Hospice", and also raise funds for your own worthy cause

which may be your own organisation. Entry forms with full details are available from Newton Press Offices, St. Cuthberts Way, Aycliffe Business Park. Tel: 300212.

BIRD BATH STOLEN

Dear Sir,
I am still grieving over my parents' death and am devastated by the theft of my late father's bird bath stolen from the garden.

It was used every year by birds visiting the garden and was a constant joy to us all, but someone chose to take it away, damaging the stand in the process.

This has been so upsetting for me and I hope the person responsible can live with their conscience for this heartless act.

P. Sowerby
Kempton Close.

AYCLIFFE FANS MAKE 24-MILE TREK



Two Newton Aycliffe fans are showing their dedication to the club by walking 24 miles to see a game!

Peter Allison (pictured left) and Frankie Swinburn, both avid Aycliffe supporters, have pledged to walk from the town to Northallerton's RGPS Stadium for Aycliffe's game there next Saturday.

The pair, who will set off at 5am next Saturday and expect to take five hours, are hoping to raise at least £1,000 for the football club by collecting money around pubs and clubs in Aycliffe as well as at their home game against Washington this Saturday.

"It came about as a bit of a joke in the pub," said Peter. "But then the ball got rolling and we started to take it seriously. We're both big fans and we know the club are always looking at ways of raising money. We felt this was a good way for us to do our bit."

Frankie, aged 70, added: "I've walked all over the place and reckon I can manage 24 miles easily! We're Aycliffe daft and we love to see the club do well, on and off the field. If we can do our bit by doing this and raising a few quid in the process, hopefully it will help the club out and it will feel like an achievement!"

Peter and Frankie will be collecting money with sponsor forms at Aycliffe's game at home to Washington this Saturday (March 27) as well as at Northallerton next weekend.

Anyone who can't attend either game but would like to make a donation can send a cheque, payable to Newton Aycliffe FC, to: Peter Allison & Frankie Swinburn Walk, Newton Aycliffe FC, Newton Aycliffe Sports Club, Moore Lane, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 5AG.

Aycliffe were due to be back in action at Thornaby on Wednesday night after having no game last weekend, followed by their home game with Washington this Saturday.

REMAINING FIXTURES

Saturday 27th March: Washington (H), 3pm
Saturday 3rd April: Northallerton (A), 3pm
Monday 5th April: Crook (H), 1pm
Wednesday 7th April: Hebburn (A), 7.30pm
Wednesday 14th April: Sunderland RCA (H), 7.30pm
Saturday 17th April: Team Northumbria (H), 3pm
www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLORS NEED NOT STAY DUMB ON CARE HOME TOPIC

Former Mayor, Arun Chandran, under the Freedom of Information Act, has asked whether legal advice has been given to Unitary Councillors over the Care Homes closure proposals.

He was annoyed that several Unitary Councillors left a meeting of the Town Council on Wednesday 10th March 2010 when this matter was being discussed and he believed they are in error based on the Standards Board advice on predisposition and predetermination.

By leaving the meeting they excluded themselves from hearing views and argument which they might

not hear elsewhere hence having a predisposed and predetermined view on the closure.

Before he raised this with the Standards Board he wished to know why these Councillors are being told to leave meetings where this subject is discussed, and had they received legal advice on the matter.

All they have to say is "they have not yet made up their mind and will only do so at the relevant meeting of the Unitary Authority" They could then stay and listen to views expressed.

The legal advice of the Standards Board is available from them or on his website

<http://www.greataycliffe.com/> First page legal advice by Philip Sales QC to the Standards Board.

"I believe by leaving the meetings, Unitary Councillors are showing a closed mind, predetermined and predisposed position and thus could be ineligible to vote on the matter at County Council" said Arun. The response Arun received states "No legal advice on the Care Homes has been given to the Unitary Council members."

Can we conclude from this they are showing a lack of courage by hiding behind an outdated interpretation of the rules?

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DEMOLITION DAY - WHEN?

Dear Sir
Now that the weather is much improved, and we all hope that we have seen the back of the snow, can Freshwater, the owners of the town centre, or our MP give us a revised schedule of works on the much delayed town centre regeneration for 2010?

I note from last week's issue, dated w/e 19th March 2010, that according to our MP demolition contractors have been appointed to tear down the Dalton Way end of

the town centre including the former Health Centre and the Library, but when?

We were initially told that this would happen (May 2008) between Summer 2008 and Winter 2009 along with constructing a retail block and pedestrian link to Tesco.

Since May 2008 we have been given differing statements for the demolition but the buildings are still standing and a continued eyesore in the town centre. I have been given to believe that there could well be a problem with asbestos in these buildings; is this the "bureaucracy" our MP is blaming for the delays? If this is the case is it a bureaucratic problem or a health and safety problem?

Newton Aycliffe residents deserve to be given a definite schedule of work for this year they have been patient for long enough.

Andrea Bergg
Concerned resident, no longer a Liberal Democrat.

Shopping Trip

Meadowhall Shopping Mall Trip Thursday 1st April. New Friends New Places invite you to join them depart 9am St Clares Church bus stop. To book ring 308094.

Come and join us - we meet every Tuesday at 2pm in The Navy Club, Burnhill Way. New members welcome

DTS Taxis

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