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TOWN POLICE STATION TO BE DEMOLISHED & REBUILT

PLANS have been agreed to demolish the old police station in Newton Aycliffe and build a new facility on the same site.

The present building, on Central Avenue was constructed in 1972, but recent surveys have established it is almost at the end of its working life.

A number of problems have been identified in relation to

the condition of the building which make it no longer fit for purpose. The layout of the site is also inefficient and does not make the best use of available floor space.

A report was submitted and it was agreed that demolishing the station and rebuilding on the same site provided the best value for money.

The authority will maintain business continuity and



public confidence, with a very clear commitment to maintain a strong policing presence in the town. Because the plans are at a very early stage detailed timescales will need to be agreed for the project, with work on the site expected to start sometime later this year.

Consultations will now take place with a number of organisations, including the County Council while the force looks to identify temporary accommodation to house staff and equipment once the demolition work commences.

"For some years now we have been aware the police station

has become increasingly dilapidated, and the situation had reached the stage where simply patching things up was no longer an option," said Chief Constable, Jon Stoddart.

"I am delighted the police authority has given approval for this project to go ahead. We are committed to building a long-term base for police officers and staff in Newton Aycliffe and the option we have gone for represents the best in terms of value for money and also in the benefit to the community," said Mr Stoddart.

The current building houses 89 officers and 61 members

of police staff, and occupies just under 1,200 square metres.

Phil Wilson said: "This is excellent news for Newton Aycliffe. The present police station has outlived its usefulness and a new, modern police station is required. The police have informed me the new station will provide an enhanced service to the local community. Coming on top of the announcement that the former health centre and library are to be demolished in the coming weeks shows real progress is starting to be made in the town centre area."

AYCLIFFE STAR GETS ENGLAND CALL-UP

A 15 year old girl from Newton Aycliffe is on the verge of international recognition after being placed on standby to travel to Amsterdam to represent England in two fixtures against Holland.

Anna Young has been named in the under-15's girls England football squad after attending trials at Hull University in October. Anna, who attends Woodham CTC, has been playing football since the age of 4, representing Heighington until the age of 8 when she moved to play for Darlington Spraire Ladies.

Anna's talent was identified by Middlesbrough Football Club at the age of 10 and she has been part of their Academy ever since. Her ability was recognised by her academy coaches who first recommended her for England trials for the under-15 squad when she was a year young playing in the under-14 age group.

After narrowly missing out on a place in that squad she has continued to work hard



in an attempt to represent her country. Anna is now the third footballer from Woodham to gain international recognition in recent times and she

is keen to follow in the footsteps of Ross Turnbull (Chelsea FC) and Jason Steele (Middlesbrough FC) in becoming an England regular.

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PLAYDAY EASTER BONNETS



On Wednesday 31st March the children in the Busy Bee room at Playday Nursery took part in an Easter bonnet parade. The children brought their bonnets from home and it was obvious a lot of thought and effort was put into creating some very individual and creative bonnets. Well done and thank you to everyone for all their hard work. If you would like any information about Playday Nursery, please contact Linda on 01325 312050 or email play.days@btconnect.com.

NEW HEAD TEACHER FOR WOODHAM TECH

Mr Steven Harness, Headteacher of Woodham Community Technology College is retiring later this year after 16 years at our school. The Governors have recently been involved in a recruitment exercise to fill this post and Mrs Christine Forsyth has been appointed as the new Headteacher from September. Many students and parents will already know Mrs Forsyth as she has been Deputy Head for some years and more recently she has been Acting Principal since Mr Harness extended his role to support failing schools.. The Governors are very aware that we need a Headteacher who will take education and our school into the 21st Century, who will ensure that students receive an education that will enable them to be part of our community, who will inspire our students and give them the confidence and the skills needed to succeed, no easy task, but one Mrs Forsyth is overjoyed to take on. Mrs Forsyth has been instrumental in bringing the School Centred Initial Teacher Training to our town and school. This has now been up and running for 5 years and over 100 students have become teachers and many are employed in our school, the county and surrounding area. It is recognised throughout the country as a centre of excellence. The two secondary schools in Newton Aycliffe, Woodham Community and Technology College and Greenfield School and Community Arts College, together with Sunnydale Community College for Mathematics and Computing in Shildon are now a Trust, Aycliffe and Shildon Schools Educational Trust (ASSET). Mrs Forsyth works closely with the Headteachers of the other two schools to ensure the schools are best able to continue to serve our local communities and are able to offer the breadth of curriculum and progression for all students in the 21st



Century, providing better opportunities for all our students. Most importantly, Mrs Forsyth is passionate about education, students and our school; the motto of Woodham is "Achievement for All" and Mrs Forsyth will continue to inspire and motivate everyone in Woodham.

HELPING DISABLED PEOPLE TO VOTE

Are you disabled or know someone who is disabled and would like to vote in the general election? 10.8 million disabled people are eligible to vote in the UK but not everyone is aware of how to do so.

Leonard Cheshire Disability has a new website called My Vote My Say which gives information on how to register to vote, the different ways to cast a ballot and how to become a volunteer.

Do you know how accessible your polling station or candidates constituency building is? Could this cause a problem on polling day? Leonard Cheshire Disability has found 44% of disabled people had experienced discrimination or difficulties when accessing goods and services in the past 12 months.

By visiting the website you can send a letter to your local candidates asking them to sign up to Leonard Cheshire Disability's pledge to be an

accessible MP. Take a moment to think if any of these circumstances could affect your right to vote and visit www.lcdisability.org/myvotemysay for more information.

ANIMAL SANCTUARY OPEN DAY

Kayshill Animal sanctuary in West Auckland is holding a spring open day Sunday 11 April 11.00am - 3.00pm. Everyone welcome admission is 50p. Please come and see the animals we care for and those in need of a loving home. There are stalls, tombola, bric a brac and refreshments. There is also a Dog Show for people to come and bring their dog and enter. FUN dog show is 1.00pm start and £1 per class entry. For further information see website www.kayshill-sanctuary.com or call Amanda 07817880770.

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SBH CELEBRATE 1st BIRTHDAY

Tenants and partners have all joined in celebrating Sedgefield Borough Homes' (SBH) first anniversary at Hardwick Hall in Sedgefield. The event, aimed at raising awareness of the successes achieved throughout the year and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead, was hosted by former Tyne Tees Television personality, Paul Frost.

Colin Steel, Chief Executive of Sedgefield Borough Homes, says, "It was really important for us to get together with people and organisations that have played a role in our first

year success and to join us in celebrating our early achievements. This event marks the start of year two for us and together with the publication of our interim Corporate Plan represents an ideal opportunity for us to set out some details of how we will make further progress in the next year and a half. We have a strong and dedicated team of people to help us to deliver the promises and commitments we have made and I am excited about the journey ahead of us."

The event welcomed over 80 guests from across the



region, including tenants, local residents, other social housing providers, and local councils. Instead of the often more formal approach to such events, Paul Frost hosted a question and answer session with a panel of board members and executives. No stone was left unturned as each member of the panel was asked some challenging questions. Those attending were also given an opportunity to ask questions and make comments of their own. Discussions throughout the day centred on the association's objectives and how it will improve services, access to service and increase tenant involvement. On this last point, Chair of the Board and Tenant Board Member, Bernd Bangel explained that "the association will continue to work hard to

bridge the gap between the board room and the doorstep."

Ian Youll, Board Member, commented: "SBH really does have the community at heart, and the community is part of everything that we do. We have a strong commitment to tenant empowerment and delivering aspirations through increased resident involvement. We have committed to spending £100m over our first five years that will greatly improve the standard of living for our tenants and improve neighbourhoods for the wider residential community."

A two minute film was produced to outline the successes and achievements which included comments from tenants in some of SBH's 8,500 properties. A fitting tribute to a successful year!

CORA'S 90th BIRTHDAY RAISED £448 FOR CHARITY

Cora Chambers, a resident for 45 years, wishes to thank all her family, friends, neighbours and friends from the Royal British Legion Ladies' Section for joining in her 90th birthday celebrations at the British Legion Club on Saturday 27 March. "Thanks for the many cards, flowers and good wishes; it was a wonderful occasion enjoyed by all," said Cora

Instead of presents Cora suggested cash for a cause close to her heart, and thanks to the generosity of guests the sum of £350 was raised. Cora has donated this to the Breast Cancer Campaign in memory of her eldest daughter Delia who lost her fight against breast cancer ten years ago. Cora allowed the charity to claim Gift Aid which adds an extra 28p for every £1 donated. This means the charity will actually receive a total of £448.00.



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Tony Returns to Praise Success of Pioneering Care Centre

Tony Blair visited the Pioneering Care Centre during his trip to the area yesterday. His last visit was to lay the Foundation Stone for the centre in 1998 so he was more than impressed by the recent expansion of the centre through the addition of an extension due to open in June this year.

Tony Blair said: "It's fantastic to come back to the Pioneering Care Centre - a place that I first visited when I laid the foundation stone in 1998. Back then, bringing public and private together in this way, was a fairly new concept. But you just have to come here and see the huge number of people this centre brings together and the essential services it provides for proof of progress. It truly has been a remarkable success.

"It is testament to the hard work of members of the local community that this centre continues to grow and expand and to become an even more integral part of Newton Aycliffe."

The extension has been primarily funded through a grant from the Government's Community Assets Programme of £752,000 from the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office. The grant was one of only 38 grants approved nationally from the £30 million funding programme.

The new space will enable the centre to provide more activities for the general



public to improve their health and well being. With a new lease of life, the centre will house a new Health and Well Being Suite, providing local residents with increased access to activity classes including dance, healthy lifestyle classes, therapy and rehabilitation services.

The revamped centre will also house an extended community café, Employability Centre of Excellence, meeting rooms and office accommodation.

Anyone interested in receiving more information about the new activities and opportunities available in the centre once the extension opens, please call 01325 321234 or email enquiries@

IT IS JUST PLAIN 'PHIL'

Following the dissolution of Parliament Phil Wilson for the duration of the campaign will not be referred to as our M.P.

He is now known as the Labour Candidate for Sedgefield Constituency and will be working hard to retain his seat.



pcp.uk.net and ask to be put on the Activities Programme Mailing List.

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Potential World Champ

Elle Jane Jeffries is a Roller Skating champion at the age of seven and has been told by a National Coach she has the potential to become a World Champion. Recently she entered a National Championship in Peterborough and came away with 2 silver and one gold. Elle, a member of the Durham Roller Skating Club attends Sugar Hill School and her fantastic achievement



was recognised at the School Assembly on the last day of term. The whole family enjoys the sport, and Mum once enjoyed skating at the club we had on the town in the 60's at Beveridge Hall, now demolished.

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LIB DEM SURVEY

Local Liberal Democrats are delighted with the response to the Focus questionnaire put out in Aycliffe Central Ward by Lileen Cuthbertson and the Focus team. Over 100 replies have already been received and they are still trickling in. Lileen says it is not too late to send in yours as they want as many views as possible. Councillor Alison Palmer says that the very good response has given the Laib Dems a cross-section of the views and concerns of the residents of Newton Aycliffe. There is almost universal opposition to the closure of Shafto House and despite it not being one of the questions many are highly critical of the false dawns re, the condition of the Town Centre. Throughout the town the amount of litter and dog dirt is a concern; those in the target area mentioned Woodham Burn bridle paths. Many complained about the lack of strategically placed litter and dog bins. Anti-social

behaviour is also a concern and in particular youths riding motor bikes or quad bikes on paths. The bus services also came in for criticism. High fares, poor or lack of services being the main comments. They appear to be the main reasons why so few people actually use the buses. There was also a perception that road traffic seemed to be travelling at increased speeds, throughout the town. On refuse collection and recycling, two issues raised by residents. Firstly, why cannot all the town have access to the brown, garden refuse bins. Also, perhaps a consideration for more regular collection of the green bins. The Great Aycliffe Area Lib Dems will shortly be delivering a Focus newsletter, to all within the Aycliffe Central Ward, giving a more detailed breakdown of your responses. Janine Mawson, Liberal Democrat Party

Students in Final Stage of "Apprentice"



A group of Year 11 students from Woodham Community Technology College are at the final stages of a demanding and exciting journey to become "The Apprentice". The students have been taking part in a challenging project with Thyssenkrupp Tallent, the first of its kind for the company, who, at the end of the process, will recruit a new apprentice from the ten students involved. On Thursday 26th March, the group spent the whole day at the plant working on a series of demanding tasks and being interviewed individually by senior managers at the company. After adding the finishing touches to their presentation on the design and manufacture of an eco-friendly car, each group of students delivered their PowerPoint presentations in the boardroom to a panel which included David Land, Commercial Director. Following their particularly competent performances, they faced some tough questions, but performed extremely well, and all earned high praise from the panel members. The students now face an anxious wait whilst the team at Thyssenkrupp Tallent deliberate over all aspects of each student's performance throughout the project to make their final decision as to who will become "The Apprentice".

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL
**Dates and Times of Statutory Meetings
of the Town Council and its Committees**

Wednesday 14th April 2010
Policy & Resources Committee - 7.15pm

QUESTION TIME
A period of up to 15 minutes has been set aside for electors to ask questions at the Recreation, Environment and Policy & Resources Committee Meetings. Written questions must be received by the Town Clerk at least 5 clear days prior to the meeting. Oral questions may be asked at the meeting which relate to an agenda item or is a matter for which that committee has responsibility. Agendas/Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk).

The press and public are cordially invited to attend.
The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 70 minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting.

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Interview Skills	Half Day	Pioneering Care Partnership
CV workshops	Half Day	Pioneering Care Partnership

Computing & IT

Digital Imaging (can lead onto 18 week programme)	5 weeks	Woodham Community Technology College
Computers for the Terrified Including Internet & email (can lead onto Start IT or Level 1 onwards) (roll on roll off)	10 weeks	Woodham Village Community Centre
Introduction to Digital Photography	18 weeks	Woodham Village Community Centre
Intro leading onto Computerized Accounts	13 weeks	Newton Aycliffe Community Learning Centre
Computer steps to success	Flexity	Woodham Village Community Centre

Health & Wellbeing

Balca Dancing	10 weeks	Woodham Community Technology College
Cybernetics	10 weeks	Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Confidence Building	8 weeks	Newton Aycliffe Children's Centre
Self-esteem & Confidence Building	Half Day	Pioneering Care Partnership
Yoga	10 weeks	Greenfield Community & Arts Centre
Pilates	10 weeks	Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre

Creative Arts

Crafts for Pleasure	10 weeks	Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Art & Design	18 weeks	Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Ceramics	5 weeks	Greenfield Community & Arts Centre
Fabrics & Drawing	18 weeks	Greenfield Community & Arts Centre
Glass Fusing	TBC	Greenfield Community & Arts Centre

Skills for Life - National Train English & Maths

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

For advice on learning and work please contact your local next step service on 0800 027 7344

Teacher sessions at the Library weeks 16th and 17th May 2010 - includes crafts, family history, IT, languages, counselling and more. Contact the Library for more information

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For more information please call Wendy Matthews on 01325 338317 or wendy.matthews@atastraining.org.uk

Dyslexia Support is available and can be delivered at any venue please contact LEAP on 0800 020071

Family Learning

There are a wide range of activities and courses available where parents, grandparents, children, young, neighbours and friends are involved in learning together and it's fun. To find out more about family learning activities and courses in your area, contact Carol Morris (LEAP) 01325 338317, Sue Boley (Durham County Council Adult Learning) 01325 347022 or Sharon Ford (Sheep Arkfield College) 01325 440422.

NALP

Newton Aycliffe Learning Partnership

Contact Information

Childrens Centre

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

Community Learning Centre

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

Library

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

Youth Centre

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

Woodham Community Technology College

Marie Oswald - 01325 375482
m.oswald@woodham.org.uk

Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP)

Stacy Arnott - 01325 321234
stacy@pcp.uk.net

Greenfield Community & Arts Centre

Sue Abed-Ali - 01325 379048
info@greenfield-arts.co.uk

Woodham Village Community Centre

David Sutton-Lloyd - 01325 316144
david.sutton-lloyd@virgin.net

Languages

French Intermediate	10 weeks	Greenfield Community & Arts Centre
Spanish Conversational	10 weeks	Greenfield Community & Arts Centre
Spanish Plus	10 weeks	Greenfield Community & Arts Centre
Spanish Beginner	10 weeks	Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre

Performing Arts

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

Other Courses

Manual Handling	Half Day	Newton Aycliffe Children's Centre
Health & Safety Awareness	Half Day	Newton Aycliffe Children's Centre
Fire Safety in the Home	Half Day	Newton Aycliffe Children's Centre
Food Hygiene	1 day	Newton Aycliffe Children's Centre

Next Time Event

Helping people dealing frequently and violence related incidents refers to work by offering services including CV Writing/Interview, Advice and Guidance, Job Search, Benefit Advice, Work Placement / Teacher Sessions, Basic Life Skills, Confidence and Motivation Building Courses and much much more. For more information please contact Diane Giller or Christine Dean on 01325 372250

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

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

Easter Activities at Sugar Hill School

On the last day of term Sugar Hill students were allowed to wear a funny hat to school with a donation to Cancer Charities including Macmillan Nurses and Leukaemia Research. Local charity fundraiser, Alison White, herself a victim of cancer, was present and the event was a result of her visit to talk to the School Council.

The winner of the best hat from the Infant Department was Joe Howarth and Best Junior Hat was by Emily Bussey, and both are shown right with Alison.



- The following students were winners in the Easter Egg and Easter Bonnet Competition at Sugar Hill Primary School.
- Nursery**
1. Connor Bennett
 2. Luke Ashcroft
 3. Lucy Ann Rollo
- Reception Class**
1. Emily Langsley
 2. Haydn Harrison
 3. Leon Sokell
- Key Stage 1- Eggs**
1. Connor O'Neil
 2. Morgan Pearson
 3. Ethan Wright
- Key Stage 1 - Bonnet**
1. Sophie Longmire
 2. Kiera McBride
3. Chelsea Gordon
- Year 3/4 Eggs**
1. Matthew Beddard
 2. Emily Halford
 3. Jack Williamson
- Year 3/4 - Bonnet**
1. Charlie Douthwaite
 2. Steven Lowe-Smith
 3. Sophie Tilley-Alexander
- Year 5/6 - Eggs**
1. Caitlin Weatherston
 2. Chloe Whitwell
 3. Bradley Westgarth
- Year 5/6 - Bonnet**
1. Emily Bussey
 2. Regan Young
 3. Chloe Hardy
- Grateful thanks to Mrs. Anthea Foster for donating all prizes.



The School Council with Alison White

You Must Register for Ring a Ride Service

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the response I got from the good folk of Newton Aycliffe last week when I announced my proposal to start a dial a ride type service for the town.

Most of the people who rang and registered their interest and asked for a membership form also said that this was a service desperately needed in Newton Aycliffe and would be a lifeline for lots of people stuck at home because of inaccessible public transport. As a Newtonian myself and an ex United bus driver I would be honoured to establish this service for all Newtonians who have mobility and transport problems.

To prove to the charity's trustees that this could be a full time sustainable service I need more of you to ring and request a membership form. Please don't sit back and think well if it starts I will do it then. DO IT NOW - get in first and let me run a service for you that we can all be proud of.

Ring Rachel or Gayle on 01325 345833 ask for a membership form and register

you interest DDYCA is a non profit making charity and only members can be carried on our buses. Gary Hemmingway

NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Coach Outings: Saturday 24th April to Eden Camp and Whitby, departing St. Clares at 9am picking up at Aycliffe Village and Heighington. Fare only £13, children £11.

Tuesday 4th May: Boundary Mills, dep 9am St. Clares, Aycliffe Village, Heighington. Fare £10. To book ring 313924.

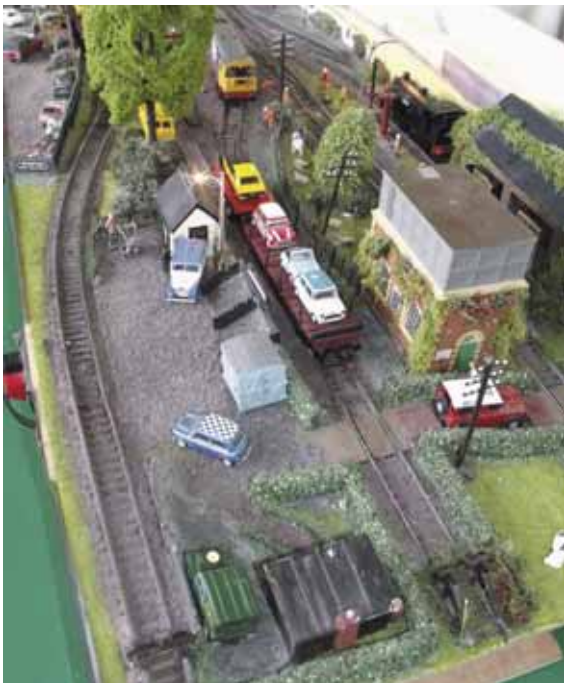
New Bingo Club Monday 5th May at 7pm. (Over 18). Refreshments 50p.

Bingo every Monday and Friday at 7pm. Wednesday at 1pm with tea/cake £1.

Over 50's are invited to learn the Wii every Thursday from 6-7pm. Free - to book ring 313924.

Jumble Sale Sat 10th April 10-12 noon.

FEAST OF EVENTS FOR RAILWAY FANS



Saturday 17th April will see two major events for railway enthusiasts. The Rotary Club is holding its first Model Railway Exhibition at The Youth Centre to raise funds for Polio Eradication and there is also an Open Day at Rail Restorations North East at its base in Shildon.

The Model Railway Exhibition will feature 9 working layouts in a variety of scales from "N" to "G1" some of which will be travelling from as far away as Hull. A number of layouts are being shown for the first time whilst others are firm favourites on the exhibition circuit.

There are layouts from a variety of periods from the grouping to modern image, based on locations from the North East to Bavaria. Trade

movement will be represented by displays from both the Weardale and Stainmore Railways. There will be refreshments all day and a tombola stand. Parking will be available at St Mary's R.C. Church. (opposite Tesco)

Entry is £3 for adults, £2 for concessions, 50p for children (3-15) under 3's free

The Open Day at Rail Restorations (Unit 8A Hackworth Industrial Park Shildon DL4 1HF) is a very special event, it will allow visitors a rare opportunity to view the repair and restoration of full size rail vehicles for use on heritage railways and the main line.

In particular progress will be visible on the steam loco "Norwood" being restored for use on the Weardale Railway. A range of trade stands and working model railways will be on display.

For further details on the Rotary Model Railway Exhibition visit www.newtonaycliffrotary.org.uk or ring 07870-210269 For further details on the Rail Restoration event at Shildon visit www.wrlpg.com Or ring 01388 777138

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No Money to Keep Care Homes Open

Dear Sir,

The suggestion that something catastrophic will happen to residents of council care homes who have to move to private care homes is not borne out by previous experience. You will not find a single case where residents concerns have not been accommodated to their satisfaction. Why should the residents of these homes be any different?

Those people who are opposed to the closure programme never mention the cost of keeping them open and who will pay the extra cost. These costs will have to be paid for by ratepayers. The fifty six council wards without any council homes will have to pay this as a subsidy to the remaining seven but will receive nothing for their money.

So what is the cost of keeping the seven homes open. The average cost of care in a council home is £300 per week per resident more than private care. For the 173 remaining residents in council care this adds up to £2.7m per year. This does not include the £2.7m needed for repairs. Any improvement to kitchens, bath rooms etc, would cost a further £15m. The cost of bringing the seven homes up to the national standard, which all homes will have to do in the near future, will cost another £22m.

There is no fairly godmother out there and this problem will not go away. Four years ago

Labour Councillors fought hard to retain the councils homes and rejected closure. They were left in no doubt by the Audit Commission that if they did not come up with a viable strategy to stem the losses the government would step in and take over the council and impose their own solution.

It will not matter what party is in control of the council, this is not a party political issue. If the Lib Dems, Independents, Tories or any other group have a solution which will satisfy the Audit Commission, let us hear it. If anyone thinks that an alternative government will give the County Council more money to keep these homes open they are living in cloud cuckoo land.

Keith Henderson
Aycliffe Town Councillor

Tickets for Play On-line

Tickets are now available ONLINE! for the Aycliffe Premiere of the new play 'Kissing Sid James'. The Stage One Productions play will be performed at St. Clare's Church from 2nd - 6th June. Tickets can be booked through their website using all major credit/debit cards quickly and securely via Paypal. Book now at www.stage-one-productions.co.uk

ITALIAN RESTAURANT AT STEPHENSON WAY



Your Editor was invited to sample Italian food cooked by Stephenson Way Year 2 Key Stage 1 students as part of their "Cafe Project" encouraging them to take an interest in foreign countries, their food and culture.

It started with a visit to Tesco's Cafe where they enjoyed Beans on Toast and a glass of milk. In the following weeks of the term the pupils cooked a 3 course meal representing a different country including Africa and America trying Cous Cous and exotic fruits. On the final week the students invited special guests to an Italian Lunch, cooking and serving in the cafe they had set up in the school hall. The menu consisted of Garlic Bread, Minestrone Soup for starters followed by Pasta Bolgnese or Pizza. The Dessert was Fresh Fruit or Ice Cream. The children enjoyed cooking, serving the meal and washing up afterwards for which they received well deserved praise for all their efforts.

ANTHONY CATCHES FAST LADY AND TIES THE KNOT



Amanda Whitaker and Anthony Dunn were married on 20th March in Darlington after being together for 10 years having met whilst instructing at Silverstone. They became Engaged in Durham 14 months ago and finally tied the knot at a civil ceremony at the Hall Garth Hotel. Amanda is a 3 times Monoposto Champion and also won the European Historic Formula Atlantic title in 2006. Recently she has been racing in HSCC Historic Formula Ford in a Mk8 Elden, narrowly missing the title last year to Westie Mitchell. Anthony is an ex-Formula Vauxhall Junior graduate and BARC Formula Renault race winner. He won the Radical SR3 Enduro British Championship in 2007. Last year he finished 2nd in the

SPEED UK series and won the European series partnering Barry Gates. Despite 40 years of racing experience between them, they have only competed against each other once at Croft in the SPEED series in 2008 where Amanda beat Anthony by one place! They both plan to race this season, with Amanda testing her rebuilt Elden Mk8 Formula Ford 1600 and recently acquired TIGA SF78 Formula Ford 2000 at Teesside Autodrome prior to racing at Cadwell Park on April 11th. Amanda will be keeping her maiden name for all racing, instructing & professional purposes. See Amanda's website www.fastestfemale.com for full information on up & coming races.

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Davys Rock Page Review 'All in all, a great night, with great atmosphere and a lot of people dancing, so if you want to hear newer covers with a great mix of older rock, 101 deliver'

Saturday 17th April - "F.M."

Rock Page Review 'Was this the best mid-week pub gig ever? Probably!! What can I say about FM, this was Rock and Roll hall of fame, they did the lot, Kaiser Chiefs, Foo Fighters, AC/DC, Black Sabbath, Led Zepplin. How long have they been around? Many a year and on this performance many a year to come. Thanks lads, you were awesome...'

Saturday 24th April - "Captain Rock"

For more information on bands go to www.turbiniapub.co.uk
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Unfortunately CAP had to close down, but now, thanks to a group of dedicated people, especially Bede who has worked extremely hard and is an inspiration to us all, we are now able to re-open. All of our team have been involved with CAP over the years so we have a good understanding of the problems people face. I, for one, never thought that nine years later I would be part of such an amazing team.

"I am going to be involved with CAP to help people in trouble such as debt and struggling to make ends meet and unable to buy food through being short of money as myself and my wife were at one time until CAP helped us". Mally.

"I have been involved with cap for a number of years now. I turned to CAP as I was having real problems keeping up with creditors. I was so down and felt there was no way out. When I first heard about CAP I was apprehensive as I felt ashamed I had let things go on like it for so long but after a few weeks I plucked up the courage to phone them. They came out to my house to discuss things took away all my bills to be sorted and instantly I felt a great big weight had been lifted off my shoulders. I am still with CAP to this day and urge anybody who is going through the same to contact them. Having been in the situation myself and know what people are going through I hope to be part of the team by visiting clients in there homes and clients will be able to see for themselves that they can overcome the situation that has arisen."

Dawn Scott.

For more information on Christians Against Poverty and managing debt please contact Bede Feechan on 0800 328 0006

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COUNCIL STREET SCENE SERVICE CRITICISED

To The Editor,
 I want the people of Newton Aycliffe to know how disorganised our County Council is. On Friday 26th March I phoned the "Street Scene" Department to have our 3 piece suite taken away and paid £10.

I was told to place the furniture on the front path outside the house to be taken away the following Monday, 29th March. I explained the public footpath would be obstructed so was then asked to leave it the furniture in the front garden.

When I returned home from work it was still there so I rang the department to be told they didn't know why it hadn't been collected, but it will be first on the list for the following day. It was still there Tuesday, so I rang again to then have my intelligence insulted by the lady who told me the Council workers had been to the property and there

was nothing in sight to take away. Believe me this couldn't be missed so I asked what the problem was, which they couldn't answer. I asked to speak to their Supervisor, and he said to my disbelief that while the furniture was in the front garden they would never remove it.

I explained I was told by a member of his team to put it in the garden, to which he denied all knowledge. He said we had to move it from the garden and he would reschedule collection for Tuesday 6th of April, but did not tell us where to leave the furniture.

I was not having this in my front garden till the night before the 6th April, after being promised it would go eight days previous to this. I could see I was banging my head against a brick wall every time I rang so said I would contact my Councillor and Newton News to which

the lady laughed down the phone. This made me more determined to do this and also let readers know what you're up against when you ask your Council for a simple service. I contacted Councillor Paul Gittins who rang on my behalf to see what he could do. He rang me back saying he had the same response and was going round in circles, but in the meantime I spoke to Mrs Jill Atterton who works for the Member Support at the Council, and she was very apologetic. She spoke to the department and the collection date could not be changed. Councillor Gittins was still trying to see what he could do but when I arrived home later,

to my surprise, it had gone! Over three days making numerous calls to the Council and getting nowhere at all, as soon I have our local Councillor on the case, Mrs Atterton but mentioning our local press it suddenly gets taken away.

I am very grateful for the kind help and intervention but honestly should it really take all this fuss after following what our Authority said to do in the first place? If anyone has a similar experience please tell Newton News. I am still awaiting an apology over this matter, but something tells me I will have a long wait!

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Application forms for the free excursions for Senior Citizens of the Parish will be available from Tuesday 13th March at the Recreation Centre, Oakleaf Sports Complex, Library in Dalton Way and at Great Aycliffe Town Council Offices between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 3.45 p.m. Monday to Friday or will be posted to you if you telephone 300700. Please note that you must provide proof of your age and residency, e.g.

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Residents over the age of 60 on 1st April 2010, who live in Newton Aycliffe or Aycliffe Village are eligible to choose one excursion. This year's destinations are Scarborough, Whitby, Blackpool, the Lake District or South Shields and will operate in the summer months from 7th June to 16th July. Application forms and further details can be collected from the Library at Dalton Way, Recreation Centre in Beveridge Way, Oakleaf Sports Complex or Great Aycliffe Town Council Offices

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TOWN CENTRE DEMOLITION DAY GRAND RAFFLE



The town's Rotary Club have joined Phil Wilson to organise a Grand Charity Raffle to celebrate the start of the Town Centre redevelopment with demolition work at Dalton Way including the old Medical Centre and Library. There will be lots of very valuable prizes to be won, but along with the first prize comes the honour of operating the bulldozer which knocks down the first wall. The raffle tickets will be on sale soon in the town's Charity Shops: British Heart Foundation, YMCA, Sue Ryder and British Red Cross

who will all receive a share of the proceeds, so don't miss this opportunity to win a major prize. Phil called in the shops this week to meet the staff and announce that demolition is scheduled for the end of May followed by the building of a discount food store. Phil said: "The Rotary Club has a great reputation on the town for its charitable work and I think it appropriate they play a role in organising something I believe will be of interest to the community and at the same time help charities."



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3M, which has a manufacturing site at Aycliffe, has topped a national poll among US consumers for producing the best quality products. The poll was carried out by the research firm Harris Interactive among almost 30,000 people. 3M was also rated in the top four companies for having the highest reputation overall. The diversified technology company develops and makes personal respirators at its Aycliffe site for an international market.

Runners up to 3M were the Intel Corporation in second place and Google third.

In Memoriam

MIRIAM ROSSITER 8-4-2004. Life has not been the same since that sad day 6 years ago. I think of you constantly Mam. Loved and missed so much. Lesley xxx
JOSEPH HEDLEY 13th April 2007. To a special Dad. The years may pass by, but our memories of you will never fade. We miss you, think of you and love you always. Love, Anne, Grace, Keith, John and Ruth xxx

JOSEPH HEDLEY I never thought you would be gone from me. I never thought your face I would no longer see. You are my friend, my Husband, my love for all eternity. Your loving Wife, Grace
McFADDEN, Keegan-James. 13th April 2009. To our special baby boy. Remembering you is so easy, we do it every day, but it's the heartache of losing you that never goes away. We miss you so much Son. We will always love you and we will never forget you. All our love, Mammy and Daddy xxx
McFADDEN, Keegan-James. 13th April 2009. To our special Brother. Today, tomorrow our whole life through, we will always love you. Always in our hearts and thoughts. Love from your Brothers and Sister. Demi, Callum and Ricky xxx
McFADDEN, Keegan-James. 13th April 2009. To my precious little Angel. Missing you so much and you are always in our thoughts. Love you always. All our love, Grandma and Grandad xx
McFADDEN, Keegan-James. 13th April 2009. To our special Nephew. We will always miss you and love you. From Danielle, Lee, Elizabeth, Lucy and Terry xxx
ROBERT PARKIN (Bobby). 11th April 2009. One lonely year without you. Things are not the same. It's hard to hide the heartache, when someone speaks your name. We think about you always, we talk about you too. We have a million memories, but we wish we still had you. Love and miss you always Dad. Lesley and Dave.
GRANDAD BOB Thank you for the years we shared, the love you gave and the way you cared. Always in our thoughts Grandad. Love, Stuart and Samantha
JOHN LAMBERT Has joined a new ship, pipe the new man aboard "bosun". Love, Duchess
ALEX HUMBLE Unseen, unheard, yet always near. Still loved, still missed, still very dear. Audrey and family
ANN McLUCKIE Dear Ann, 10-4-2002. You were a special Daughter, a loving Sister too, and although you are no longer with us, we will never stop loving you. Mam, Tony and family. Also remembering Husband, Dad and Granda Fred (14-4-1998)
TOMMY HARBOTTLE Died 7th April 2005. Happy memories of Tommy, a much loved Husband to Gladys, Father to Vera and Lavinia, Father-in-Law to Andy and friend to everyone. It's hard to believe that 5 years have passed without you. But your smiling face, laughter and happy memories live on with us forever.

John Whittington
on your 70th birthday
13th April 1940

Special birthday wishes sent with love. Enjoy your party up above. Joan, David and Cath xxxxxxxx

ROBERT WHITE In loving memory on your birthday, 5-4-10. Loving Son, Brother, Brother-in-Law and Uncle. You are sadly missed. With all our love, Mam, Dad, Gill, Geoff and Mickey xxx
KIRSTY BELL. 8th April. We want to put our arms around you so you're not all alone, because today it is your 21st Birthday, your first away from home. Missing you more each day. Love, Mam, Dad, Jade and Steven xx
KARMEN 5th April, Birthday Remembrance. You are always in our hearts. Love from Ronnie, Karen, Emma, Aimi, Craig, Marc and Meika
MONICA DIXON 7th April. Loved and missed forever Mam. Wendy, Paul and Emma xxx

Obituary

Susan Harcus



Aged 46, died peacefully at home on Monday 5th April surrounded by loved ones, following her courageous battle with cancer. Susan's amazing strength of character stayed with her until the end. She will be truly missed by all who knew and loved her. The Funeral Service for family, friends and colleagues will be held at 2pm on Wednesday 14th April at St Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe. (Followed by interment at West Cemetery, School Aycliffe. for close family and friends only). Family flowers only please. However, if desired, donations may be made in memory of Susan, c/o Whitehouse Funeral Services, Darlington (01325 482999) in aid of Ward 42, Haematology, DMH

Congratulations

Sylvia Simmington
(nee Toman)



Happy 55th Birthday
9th April 2010

I tried to match birthdays, but you had to have your way and come a day early! Impatient as always eh! Love you lots honey, Mam xx

Vic Spensley



Happy 70th Birthday
12th April

Hope you have a wonderful day.
All my love, Sylvia xxx

Vic Spensley



Happy 70th Birthday
Happy birthday to our Dad. We love you loads Dad. Have a great birthday. Lots of love from Julie, Den, Jeannette, Trevor, Vince and Gill xxx

Happy 70th birthday to the best Grandad ever. Love from Michael, Tania, Stephen, Amy, Paul, Stephen, Tony, Thomas, Sammy, Wynn, Emily and Abbie xxxx
Happy birthday to our lovely Great Grandad. We love you very very much. Kiera, Poppy, Kya and Thomas xxx

Chris Hay



Happy 11th Birthday
Lots of love from Mum, Dad and Lucy xxxx

Happy birthday Chris. Love from Grandma and Grandad Banks xxx

Births

SARAH & RICHARD congratulations on the birth of our first Grandchild "Daniel", born on 25th March 2010, weighing 7lbs 7oz. Lots of love, Mam and Kevin xxxx

Hairdressing

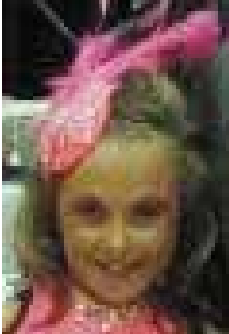
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Beatrice Anna
Lineton



Congratulations on gaining 5th Place in Solo Freestyle, 6-10 years Stardance. Well done on your 1st dance competition, you made us all so proud. All your hard work has paid off. Thank you to Caroline Race. Love from Mummy, Daddy, Alex, Laura and Sophie xxxxxx

Beatrice Anna
Lineton and
Elle-Jade Anderson



Congratulations on coming 1st place in your first Freestyle Pairs competition together. You were absolutely fabulous and made us all proud. Thank you to Caroline Race. Lots of love from both families xxx

Amelia Grace
Anderson and
Elle-Jade Anderson



Congratulations Amelia on coming 1st in 3-5 year Freestyle Solo and gaining Medalist of the Year. Well done Elle-Jade for coming 1st in Freestyle Pairs, and 4th in Rock n Roll Pairs with Beatrice. You are our little stars! A big thank you to Caroline Race. Love you both lots, Mum, Dad, Lewis and Bailey xxxxx

Charlie Armstrong



Happy 18th Birthday
12th April 2010

Love from Grandma, Granda, Katie and Rebecca

Stacey Shaw



Happy 21st Birthday
12-4-2010

You have turned into a wonderful woman with a heart of gold. We are so proud of you. Love you loads, Mam and Dad xx
Happy 21st to our big Sister. Love, Liam, Macaulay, Keaton, Ethan-J, Wyatt and your baby Sister Imogen xx
Happy 21st birthday Stacey. Love you always, Soggy xx
Happy birthday Mammy, Hugs and kisses, Alysha May and a big kiss from Shanie Boo xx
Happy 21st birthday Stacey. Love, Auntie Julie, Uncle Peter, Gary, Charlotte and Rebekah xx
Happy 21st birthday Stacey. Love you loads, Nanna and Grandad xx
Happy 21st birthday Stacey. Love, Auntie Mim, Uncle Dominic and Kids xx

Elle Jeffries-Mayhew



British Champion
Tots Free Skating

2nd Place, British Tots Figure and Combined Championships.
We are so proud of you, well done sweetheart. All our love, Mam, Dad, Ben, Laura, Kaitlyn, Gran and Ray xxx
Great big thanks to coach Jan "shut ya gob" and all the team at DDRSC. Also to Gran. I couldn't have done it without you all. Love from your "British Champion"

Andrew James Burn
and
Logan James Burn



Happy 21st Andrew
Lots of love always, Mam and Ian xxxx

Happy Birthday Andrew
Love from Sarah, Michael, Kal and Maisie xx

Happy Birthday Daddy
Love you lots from Logan xxxxx

Uncle Andy
Happy birthday. Love and kisses, Daisy and Harry xx

Happy 21st AndyRoo
Love from Mammy Sheila and Auntie Rosie xx

Happy Birthday Andrew and Logan

Love from Julie and Darryl xx

Happy 21st Burny and 2nd Birthday Logan
Love from Scot and Ang xx

Happy 21st Andrew
Happy 2nd Logan

Love from Grandma, Grandad, Uncle Andrew, Auntie Alison, Uncle Keith, Owen, Anna and Mackenzie xx

Happy 2nd Birthday
Logan, lots of love from Daddy xxx

Logan James
Lots of love on your 2nd birthday from Grandma and Grandad xxx

Happy 2nd Birthday
Logan, love from Auntie Sarah, Uncle Michael, Uncle Kal, Auntie Maisie, Daisy and Harry xxx

Summer



Congratulations Summer achieving 1st place in 6-8yrs Freestyle Medallist and 2nd in under 9's RocknRoll pairs with Reece. We are so proud of you. Love Mummy, Daddy, Amber, Nana and Grandad xxx. Special thanks to Caroline Race at Lee Green.

Rhianna Bonas



Happy 16th Birthday
1-4-1994

To our gorgeous Daughter on her 16th birthday. Love u the world, Mam and Papa Scott xx

Happy 16th birthday Rio. Hope you have a great day. Love, Aunt Joolz, Uncle Stegz, Emilie and Harrison xx

Happy 16th birthday beautiful. Have a great day, love you always, Grandma and John xx

Happy birthday Rhi. Love from Uncle Lee, Aunt Claire, Mollie, Lily and Daisy xx

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AS ROUGH AS A ROCK - AS SOFT AS FELT
AS LOOSE AS AIR - AS TIGHT AS A BELT
AS HARD AS WOOD - AS SOFT AS JELLY
AS THIN AS A TWIG - AS FAT AS A BELLY
AS SOUR AS VINEGAR - AS NICE AS CAKE
AS HOT AS AN OVEN - AS COLD AS A SNOWFLAKE
AS HARD AS METAL - AS DELICATE AS AN EGG
AS WET AS WATER - AS DRY AS A PEG
AS BIG AS A CHASM - AS SMALL AS A POND
AS DULL AS A BOOK - AS MAGICAL AS A WAND
AS MOVING AS TIME - AS STILL AS A PRISON
AS QUIET AS A MOUSE - AS LOUD AS A BELL
AS BLUNT AS A RULER - AS SHARP AS A KNIFE
AS BAD AS POISON - AS GOOD AS LIFE.

Alex (10 years old)

Cricket Force Spruce up Club



A GROUP of dedicated volunteers have helped to spruce up the grounds of Aycliffe Sports Club in readiness for the new Cricket season.

More than 25 people involved with Aycliffe Cricket Club, including women and children, turned out to give the Sports Club grounds a new lease of life as part of a national initiative. 'Cricket Force' is an ECB (England Cricket Board) programme which

encourages clubs around the country to tidy up their grounds after the harsh winter months.

The scheme is also supported by Natwest, who donated £500 to Aycliffe Cricket Club last week for taking part in the project.

"It was a tremendous team effort," said the club's press officer Lee Weldon. "We've previously taken part in Cricket Force but this year was by far our best effort because it was co-ordinated by first team captain Chris Palmer, who deserves a lot of credit for this."

"The project needed someone to manage it and Chris certainly did that. He had all the adults as designated team leaders with children working under them and it worked perfectly."

"The winter months cause us a lot of work and we had to trim bushes back, paint the scoreboard, clean the changing rooms out, just generally give the whole place a spruce up."

"It's worked and everyone involved certainly played their part so the grounds are ready for the start of the new season."

Aycliffe Cricket Club currently have a first and a second team as well as U-18s, U-15s, U-13s and U11s.

Anyone who interested in

getting involved in the 2010 season can contact the club's press officer Lee Weldon on 07759 754959.

CRAFTY AT BURNHILL



For all those school-age children looking for something fun and interesting to do in the holidays - Churches Together Youth Forum is hosting a craft afternoon, led by Angel Arts, from 2pm-4pm on Monday 12th April at Neville Parade Methodist Church. The cost per child is £1 and includes refreshments. All children welcome.

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