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Week Ending 16th April, 2010

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LANDLORDS CONFIRM GO AHEAD FOR TOWN CENTRE DEMOLITION WORK

"Town Centre owners to commence demolition in late May 2010" of former health centre and library. The owners of the town centre have submitted a demolition notice to the County Council outlining their plans to demolish Dalton Way and the former health centre and library. The notice says: "the proposed demolition works have been the subject of competitive tender and it is proposed to commence demolition in late May 2010 for a period of approximately 18 weeks, completing on or about 1 September 2010." Phil Wilson said: "This is great news. We all wish the news came months ago, but at least the demolition is now going to happen. I'm

also pleased that Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club has agreed to run a lottery in the run up to the demolition. One of the first prizes will be to 'swing the hammer' against the buildings to be demolished. The money raised from the Rotary Club Demolition Lottery will go to local charities. I have spoken to the managers of the charity shops in the town centre who are delighted that the proceeds will be divided between their charities. We've also written to businesses in the town centre asking them to sell the lottery tickets and donate a prize. The day the demolition starts, will be a day of celebration for the whole of Newton Aycliffe."

AYCLIFFE SWIMMER TAKES SCOTTISH TITLE

WINS 3 MEDALS

Sam Dixon, 12, from Sedgefield 75 Swimming Club has returned from a very successful week at the Scottish National Age Group Swimming Championships. He qualified for 6 swims: 200m freestyle, 100m and 200m backstroke, 100m and 200m butterfly and 200m Individual Medley. In the 200m butterfly he finished in first place, and went into the finals swimming a personal best time of 2.31.16 and became the Scottish National Champion.

The following day Sam swam in the 200m backstroke and the 100m butterfly continuing his good form finishing in 2nd place narrowly missing out on a second win.

He had another two fine swims on the third day narrowly missing swimming in the final of the 200m Individual Medley. On the last day of competition Sam only had one event to swim, the 200m freestyle and once again gave made the final where he again swam a personal best time finishing in 3rd place.

Hannah Featherstone, 11, competed at the weekend at Leeds Open Meet. She swam the 400m freestyle on the Friday night going through to the final where she finished in 4th place in a time of 5.07.53.

On Saturday Hannah swam in the 200m freestyle, 100m backstroke and 100m butterfly again making the finals in all her events finishing 4th, 5th and 4th respectively. Hannah had two swims on the Sunday, 100m freestyle and 200m backstroke and successfully earned her place in the finals where she finished in 7th place in the freestyle and 3rd place in the 200m backstroke.



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4 Church Street
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School Pick-up Could Cost you £30 Fine

At a recent PACT meeting for the GREENFIELD/MIDDRIDGE WARD (Police and Communities together) local residents expressed concerns about parents parking their vehicles inconsiderately in and around BYERLY PARK SCHOOL.

This includes parents parking on the zig zags outside the school, obstructing drop kerbs, and parking too close to the junction of GREENFIELD WAY, causing an obstruction for other road users. The same is also happening on MEADOWFIELD WAY and particular the junction with LADYBOWER. The police have agreed that this is now to become a PACT priority for that area, and we will be working alongside the school to enforce this.

This will include any driver committing any of these offences to be issued with a fixed penalty notice which is a £30 fine. Parents are reminded that there is a large car park outside the EVANGELICAL CHURCH on LADYBOWER, which they may use, where there is a subway which leads directly to the school gates.

Please use this, It could end up saving you a £30 fine. The

Highway Code clearly outlines the offences in Section 242:

You MUST NOT leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road. [Laws RTA 1988, sect 22 & CUR reg 103] Section 243

DO NOT STOP OR PARK

Near a school entrance

Anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services

At or near a bus or tram stop or taxi rank

On the approach to a level crossing/tramway crossing

Opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space

Near the brow of a hill or hump bridge

Opposite a traffic island or (if this would cause an obstruction) another parked vehicle

Where you would force other traffic to enter a tram lane

Where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles

In front of an entrance to a property

On a bend

Where you would obstruct cyclists' use of cycle facilities

Aycliffe Pair Hit Walk Target

Two Aycliffe Super Fans are set to smash their target of raising £1,000 for Newton Aycliffe FC with a 25-mile trek.

Peter Allison and pensioner Frankie Swinburn walked to Northallerton's Regency Stadium for Aycliffe's game there earlier this month.

Sadly and very disappointingly, the game was postponed due to a "waterlogged" pitch, but the pair completed their challenge in a very commendable seven hours, and they look set to surpass their £1k target.

"It's a fantastic achievement," said Aycliffe chairman Gary Farley. "Northallerton is a canny drive, never mind a walk, so they did extremely well to complete it in the time they did."

"We're all very proud of them and thank them wholeheartedly for their commitment and support for the club." Anyone who'd like to send a donation to the fundraising effort 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.

Meanwhile, Aycliffe claimed their 14th league win of the season with an emphatic 10-2



win at home to rivals Crook Town on Easter Monday in front of a bumper 253 crowd.

New signing Fred Woodhouse scored three and made two more in a man-of-the-match performance on the 18-year-old's debut.

The scoreline was maybe an unfair reflection on the visitors, with Chris Wilson, Crook

Town's Newtonian goalkeeper, making a string of top class saves as Aycliffe piled on the pressure in a record-breaking victory.

Mark Wood was on the scoresheet twice with two penalties while striker Elliot Gardner grabbed a brace for the third game in a row. There were also goals for Dan Mellanby, Josh Knox and Anth Campbell. Scott Brassell, another Newtonian, and Graham McTaggart scored Crook's goals.

Aycliffe followed their derby win up with a 1-1 draw at Hebburn Town, thanks to a John Close goal.

Their postponed fixture against Northallerton has been re-arranged for next Wednesday (April 28) which is scheduled to be their last game of the season.

They're due to play their last home game of the season against Team Northumbria this Saturday (April 17), 3pm kick-off at Moore Lane Park.

REMAINING FIXTURES
Sat April 17: Team Northumbria (H), 3pm
Weds April 28: Northallerton (A), 7.30pm
www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk

BMX Bike Stolen Twice

On Tuesday 6th April a youth stole a young lad's Bronze & Black Giant BMX bike from outside the Leisure Centre.

He was caught on CCTV and the Police tracked him down and charged him with theft. Unfortunately the thief had already dumped the bike down by the Burn and before the Police got there to recover it some other person had taken it away.

It was a Christmas present for Kai Young, bought by his Mum and quite unique in style, so if you see it please ring Mrs Miller on 307764 or contact the Police on 0345 6060 365

Council Creates Jobs

Fifty young people will take up jobs with Durham County Council as part of the second phase of a new initiative to get the unemployed back into work.

Phase Two of The Future Jobs Fund will see 18 to 24-year-olds helped back into work. Around £1 billion has been made available to support the creation of jobs for long term unemployed young people, who will take up posts in various roles from countryside rangers and administration assistants to receptionists and neighbourhood wardens. Hundreds of young people started work as part of phase one, and now a further fifty are being given a helping hand.

The funding has enabled the council to strengthen its workforce and reassure members of the public that more neighbourhood wardens and teams to keep the streets cleaner and greener are working within communities.

Local Artist Exhibits at Greenfield Gallery

The Greenfield Gallery, is hosting a selection of work by artist Norman Cornish. This exhibition, "Norman Cornish - A Seam of Life", features work from the permanent collection at Northumbria University Gallery, Durham County Council and also work from private collections. Work will include the exploration of North East communities, pit life and the social fabric that makes up rich and diverse life in County Durham.

There is an educational resource that has been developed alongside this exhibition which is accessible at the official Norman Cornish website www.normancornish.com. As part of the exhibition programme we are running free primary school workshops,

Norman's biographers will be doing an illustrated talk on Monday the 24th May at 7.00pm and copies of the book will be available throughout the exhibition. Tickets for the book talk are £2.00 each and must be purchased in advance from The Greenfield Community & Arts Centre

The exhibition runs from Thursday 6th May 2010 until Thursday 10th June 2010 with a Preview Evening on Wednesday 5th May (invitation only) The Greenfield Gallery is open from 10am-9pm Mon-Thurs and Fri 10am-4pm. You can contact the Arts Centre for more information on 01325 379 048 or by email at info@greenfield-arts.co.uk.



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John's Stall Raised £1530

Dear Sir,
May I announce the following results from my Charity Fundraising stall.
£550 to the Oaks Centre for disabled adult learning.
£630 to Newton Aycliffe Junior Neighbourhood Watch & Young People's Voices.
£350 to Acle Scout Group at Aycliffe Village.
Many thanks to all those who donated items to sell.
Honest John

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DAMAGE TO NATURE PARK WILL BE REPAIRED



Major excavation work on the Nature Park by Northumbria Water has caused some concern to visitors who fear the area has been spoilt. Two huge tanks have been constructed on the site and

sunk into the ground to a depth of about 10 feet to cope with future flooding which might occur in the sewage system passing underground. The work started last November and finished about three weeks ago. The disruption affected dog walkers and others who use the footpath leading up to and through the park and as can

be seen from the photograph it's still in an awful mess. But the Environment officer at the Town Council, Steve Cooper, is on the job and is having ongoing talks with the Water Authority to bring the site back to a satisfactory condition. The delay is due to bad weather preventing landscaping work.

FREE SWIMMING MEANS NEW FRIENDS, HEALTH & EXERCISE

It's a year since Durham County Council launched its extended free swimming programme and over 270,000 swims have been enjoyed by residents all over the county. Thousands of people have registered and 71 year old Mary Lee from Sherburn in Durham is just one of them. Mary says she can sum up what it's meant for her in three words, "Friends, health and exercise," and is urging others to give it a go.

The programme offers free swimming to everyone in the county under 19 or 60 and over, during any public swimming session at all ten public pools in County Durham. Cabinet Member Bob Young said "I am really pleased that so many free swims have been enjoyed by people, young and old, but I want even more people to get in the swim."

"If you haven't registered it's so easy and it's not often you get something for nothing. There's another whole year to go on this great programme so please, go on down to your local pool and register so you can enjoy all the benefits swimming can offer."

"For some it may be a casual dip or a bit of fun with grandchildren in the local pool, for others it's a great way of exercising without putting pressure on the body. It can help alleviate stress and help tone, it's a really versatile way to get fit or maintain weight too."

Should anyone be in any

doubt then maybe Mary Lee, can persuade them, "You can swim in any public session and pick what time is best for you, I tend to pick the quieter times."

"Aches and pains have improved dramatically since I started swimming regularly. Its great, you get to meet so many people and make new friends."

What would Mary say to other residents that haven't as yet signed up to the free swimming in County Durham? "Go for it, it gets you out of the house, it gives you regular exercise, saves you money and you get to meet people from all walks of life and many age groups that I now call friends" Durham County Council's extended free swimming programme is a two year pilot funded by central Government and NHS County Durham. Two hundred thousand people qualify. The programme is designed as part of many sporting initiatives leading up to the 2012 Olympic games in London. To learn more about free swimming visit www.durham.gov.uk/freeswimming

CHILDREN'S PARTIES AT OAK LEAF

Why not let Oak Leaf Sports Complex give your child a birthday to remember, and you a lot less to worry about? You can use the Sports Hall first or have an Entertainer come to work their magic in the Function Room.

The onsite facilities will take care of all your catering requirements. For further information and booking forms contact the Oak Leaf Sports Complex 01325-300600.

Darlington F.C. Writing Competition

A LUCKY young Darlington fan could win a dream trip to Wembley in a football writing competition.

Darlington FC are inviting budding young journalists to enter a national competition by writing a match report on a Quakers game.

The winner will receive a full home strip with their name and number on the back, a goody bag and an official certificate as well as their name listed on the Football League website.

But youngsters, who have just two weeks to enter the competition, will also be entered into the national final, with the overall winner getting a VIP media day out at Wembley, with up to three family members, at the 2009-10 Coca-Cola League Two play-off final, when the winner will also be able to write a report on the day for the Football League's official website, www.football-league.co.uk

All entrants, who must be aged 14-years-old or under, must send their reports no later than Friday April 23, to the club's community liaison officer, Damon Shaw, on damon.shaw@darlington-fc.net

Alternatively you can post your report to 'Junior Reporter Competition', Damon Shaw, Darlington Football Club, Neasham Road, Darlington, DL2 1DL. Terms and conditions apply*

Young fans can either get their Kids for a Quid tickets in advance from the ticket office at the Northern Echo Arena, or call 0871 855 1883, or they can pay on the gate on the day of the game.

BUSINESSES - CHECK YOUR RATEABLE VALUES

Traders should continue to check their rateable values as business rates bills land on their doormats this month.

The Valuation Office Agency which works out the rateable values of all non-domestic properties for business rates liability, is urging business owners to check that their details are correct and contact the VOA if they have any concerns.

Local councils have started sending out the rate bills, based on the new 2010 rateable values produced by the VOA. Councils will include any relief that the property in question is eligible for, including small business rate relief, transition and empty property relief. Businesses must already be registered with their local council to receive small business rate relief. Transition and empty property reliefs are applied automatically.

The rateable values were published back in October 2009 and business ratepayers can access them online to check their details. The new rates bills will become effective from 1 April 2010. The VOA's revaluation project manager, Steve Bliss, said:

"It's important that businesses check their rateable values to make sure the details are correct and contact us if they have any concerns. If the details are wrong we want to correct them now."

"Our website has proved very popular and business owners use it to check the details of their rateable values and compare them with others. The website has been designed to make the process easy. It offers straightforward help, with short videos on key topics designed to give a step-by-step guide to the valuation process."

The new rateable values are based on rental values of all non-domestic property as at 1 April 2008 and are the basis of the business rates bill calculated by local councils. Revaluation of business properties in England and Wales takes place every five years. It does not raise additional income from business rates. It is designed to maintain fairness and consistency, by ensuring that rateable values reflect changes in the rental market, and redistributes business rate liability fairly among all businesses.

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 21st April 2010
Full Council - 7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 30 minutes has been set aside for electors of the Parish to ask questions of appropriate members of the Council at its Council Meeting. Questions should relate to the work of the Council or affect the Parish in some way and they should be given in writing to the Town Clerk at least five clear days prior to the date upon which they will be asked.

Agendas/Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting.
www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open thirty minutes prior to the commencement of meetings.

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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NASSA AGM

The Newton Aycliffe Scouts Supporters Association will hold its AGM on Wednesday 28th April 2010 in the Scouts Centre, Bluebell Way. Doors will close at 7pm.

ROTARY CLUB OF NEWTON AYCLIFFE
www.newtonayclifferotary.org.uk

MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

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LOCAL LABOUR ACTIVISTS LAUNCH PHIL WILSON'S RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN



One hundred Labour supporters attended Phil Wilson's re-election campaign launch at the Navy Club last Saturday.

Phil said: "I've been proud to represent Sedgfield constituency and Newton Aycliffe in Parliament since 2007. I'm proud of Labour's

achievements, with the introduction of the minimum wage, winter fuel allowance and free bus passes for pensioners, Sure Start, new schools and hospitals. Labour has made the right decisions on ensuring we weather the global recession. Unemployment, home repossessions, business failures and interest rates are a lot lower than they were in the Tory years. The Tories are a change we can not afford. Labour wants to build a future fair for all."

LITTER PICKERS PLAN BIG SPRING CLEAN

Dear Editor
I would like to remind your readers that on Saturday 17 April Heighington Parish Litter Group holds its Big Spring Clean. Anyone who wishes to join us will be made very welcome, and any children who do so will be given a certificate recording their involvement. We start at 10 am and finish at 12 noon with refreshments in Heighington Village Hall. You can join us at any of our three assembly points: outside Heighington Village Hall, at 2 Main Road, Redworth, and at Old Farm Cottage, School Aycliffe (on the main road near North Cottages). We provide all the necessary equipment. We do not pick in Heighington

village but on the verges and under the hedges of the roads running through the parish. Among others we pick along the road through School Aycliffe, past the Offices of Greater Aycliffe Council because the other side of the road is in Heighington Parish. We also pick through Redworth and up to Shildon. And down the road from Heighington towards Heighington station.

We hold ten litter picks each year and on average we collect 30 sacks of litter per outing. Please come and help us make our Big Spring Clean even bigger than usual.

Kit Bartram
Secretary
Heighington Parish Litter Group.

LABOUR HYPOCRISY?

Dear Sir,
I have just received an Election leaflet from Phil Wilson and find it was printed in Essex!

I know for a fact we have two printing companies in Newton Aycliffe and there must be more in the rest of the constituency, yet he chooses to use printers in the south of the country. This man is supposed to be flying the flag for the north and I believe he is on various committees fighting for jobs here, yet he gives work to a printer in the prosperous south.

I know for a fact that printing costs are higher in the south and wonder if our local printers were asked to quote for the work. In the leaflet he talks about job boosting and pledging help for businesses in the Sedgfield constituency. He also states he is Labour's "Local Man", but he prefers to support a southern printer? I note spelling mistakes and other errors and I can't understand why he dare put the printer's name on the leaflet as this will be noticed by many people like me and go against him.

As a person who lost his job recently this does not sit well with me and I will be showing my anger at the ballot box.

Angry Newtonian

Name & address supplied

Ed: Newton Press were not asked to quote for the election printing.

By law the printer's name must appear on all Election literature.

AYCLIFFE PROGRAMME WINS TOP AWARD

Newton Aycliffe's popular matchday programme has been crowned Northern League Programme of the Year. In the club's debut Northern League season, Aycliffe's full-colour 32-page matchday read has scooped the top prize at the first time of asking.

Paul McGeary and Martin Walker, who produce the programme, pipped Marske United to top spot after the Seaside won the award three years running.

Northern League chairman Mike Amos said: "Newton Aycliffe's programme was the overwhelming choice of the judges.

"It's a great achievement for the first season in the league and even more so to beat Marske United, last season's national programme of the year, into second place.

"Judges liked everything about it, but particularly it's professional production and appearance, the range of its content and the fact that the programme gave an instant impression of a club that's going places.

"Those involved deserve the warmest congratulation – any club in football would be proud to have a programme like that, and for just £1."

Editor Paul McGeary said: "We're absolutely chuffed to



bits with the award. Both Martin and I have out a tremendous amount of work in to the programme over the course of the season, going back to last July when we started putting the first together.

"It is a labour of love, but to be recognised like this really does make it all worthwhile, and to win this at the first attempt, with the quality of matchday programmes in the Northern League these days, says a lot."

Chairman Gary Farley added: "We're delighted for Paul and Martin as well as for the club, it's a great achievement. "The programme, while a novelty for our fans, has proved extremely popular throughout the season and it's still very much in demand, which is testament to the work Paul and Martin put into it."

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10 hours per week:
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(£6.30 per hour)

A vacancy has arisen for a Cleaner at the school. This vacancy will be for an initial six month probationary period.

Application packs can be collected from the school from Monday, 19th April, 2010 or can be posted out on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope. The closing date for applications is Monday, 26th April, 2010 and interviews will take place on Thursday, 6th May, 2010.

St Francis CE (Aided) Junior School
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Choice Based Lettings Drop-In Session

From the 1 October 2009, Sedgfield Borough Homes (SBH) began letting its properties through the Durham Key Options Choice Based Lettings Scheme. So far over 400 properties have been advertised through the scheme which enables applicants to "bid" on properties they wish to be considered for.

SBH has arranged several "drop in" sessions for any applicant or resident wishing to know more about how to apply for a home under the new scheme.

If you would like to attend the sessions listed below, please contact the Choice Based Lettings Team at SBH on 0845 505 5500 to arrange an appointment.

22nd April 2010 - 9.30 am – 1 pm - Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre in the Ash Room.

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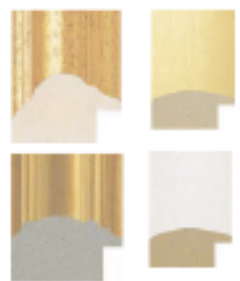
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Happy Wedding Day



Rachael Barber and Daniel O'Connor were married on Saturday 3rd April, 2010 at Darlington Registrar's Office. The Reception was held at the Bay Horse Middridge and also in the evening at the North Briton, Aycliffe Village. The Bride's Sister, Rebecca was Bridesmaid and the Best Man was John Wardle. The couple live in Stanfield Road and are expecting their first child in July which will be the first Grandchild for both sets of parents. They had a short honeymoon in a hotel - a wedding present from Alison & Stuart Dyson for which they are very grateful. They thank everyone for their kind gifts and for attending.

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LACK OF FUNDS FORCE C.A.B. TO REDUCE SERVICES

Sedgefield & District Citizens Advice Bureau has over the last fifty years been a stronghold in times of need. Enabling people to recover control of their lives through control of their finances, their homes and their human rights which releases them from the burden of anxiety, stress and ill health, preventing relationship breakdown and allowing people to make a fuller contribution to their community. Almost everyone has felt the effects of the recent recession in one way or another, whether it be by the rise in fuel costs, a wage freeze or even worse, the loss of employment. The CAB are also facing difficulties caused by the recession and ever increasing costs and as a result have to make changes to the service they offer. Any decisions have been made using sound financial principles and despite their best efforts there just isn't enough money to keep the service running at its current level. Donna Stewart, Business Development Manager stated "We have relied on other projects' management costs to support the running of the main service for a number of years as the core grant no longer covers the extensive outreach and main bureaux service we have offered. As client demand has increased, funding hasn't and although for a time we have been able to offset this, it is no longer financially viable. The cost of running the service through salaries, heat, light,

premises, stationery etc has all increased and it has now come to a point where we must take stock and provide the service based on the level of funding we receive. Unfortunately this has resulted in a small number of staff redundancies as we have had to streamline what we offer by working smarter. We have recently purchased a public house in Spennymoor which is to be our main bureau in the town. This decision has been questioned by many who do not know our circumstances. The purchase and refurbishment not only improves the profile of the town centre, provides us with more interview rooms to see more clients, but also reduces our outgoings; the mortgage repayments are cheaper than the rent we are currently paying on additional office space, plus it gives us some security in these unstable times." Sessions at outreach and main bureau are to be reduced as costs are greater than the funding received. All town and parish councils and AAPs have been contacted advising them of our situation and asking for support so that we can continue at the current level. Certain outreaches are very helpful and provide the room and facilities free of charge rather than actually handing over money - this is very much appreciated, however, where a cost is being incurred for us to provide the service then we are looking to find alternative arrangements. The trustees met last week

and considered their options, making the decision to reduce the service to open at the following times: Newton Aycliffe Tues, Wed, Fri from 10am - 1pm. The Sure Start and Health Advice Sessions remain unchanged and debt advice is also available throughout the week by appointment. We would like to thank those who do support us whether it is financially or in kind by providing a venue and facilities free. We apologise to the public for the reduction in hours and hope that we can still provide the help and support that you need. For further details of sessions please ring 0844 499 4123 or www.cab-sedgefield.co.uk

Received 144 Easter Eggs

Following their recent appeal for Easter Eggs, The Co-operative Funeralcare would like to thank everyone for the generous response. In total Funeralcare offices in the area collected 144 eggs as well as gifts of soft toys, baby clothes and fresh eggs. These were shared between the Darlington Women's Refuge and the Wear Valley Women's Refuge who were very pleased to accept them on behalf of the children staying with them. A spokesperson for Wear Valley Refuge said, "The children and their mothers were thrilled; many families have benefitted from your generosity."

Councillors Should Fight to Keep Shafto House

Dear Sir,
Having read Counc Henderson's letter in last week's Newton News I was very annoyed. Has he got the best interest of the town at heart? The very fact that he carries the title of Town Councillor should have him fighting to keep an asset like Shafto House open. The same old arguments about how much cheaper it is for people to live in a private home are trotted out. Could that be because the staff are better trained and are paid a salary which reflects this? Once all the council run homes are closed and the private sector have the monopoly, does Mr. Henderson think the cheaper rates will stay the same?
Ann Dryden
Greville Way

St. JOHN'S STUDENTS IN £300 SPONSORED SWIM



Emily Matthews and Liz McDade, are two students from John's Catholic School and Sixth Form Centre, Bishop Auckland. They have been chosen along with 23 other students from St John's, to travel to Peru in July 2010. Whilst in Peru they will be assisting in building an Activity Centre, as well as leading workshops in art and mural painting in a local school in one of Lima's severely deprived areas. As part of the fund raising activities, Emily and Liz organized a sponsored swim

at the Broom Mill Day Spa in Ferryhill on Sunday the 28th March. Over 600 lengths of the pool were achieved in an hour, from the four swimmers involved. They raised over £300 in sponsorship. We would like to thank everyone who supported this event with there generous donations. We would also like to thank Dawn Larn, proprietor of The Broom Mill Day Spa for letting the swimmers use her pool and her fantastic facilities. The welcome was as warm as ever and everyone attending had a great afternoon.

FORMER MAYOR JOINS ROTARY CLUB



Former Councillor and Town Mayor, Michael Dalton, has joined the town's Rotary Club. Michael, an Accountant, was inducted on the 13th April by President Jean Thompson who is shown here pinning on Michael's Rotary badge. Michael lives in Woodham with his mother Mary, the current Mayor of Great Aycliffe. He has given great service to the town and is currently Secretary to the Board of Directors at the Pioneering Care Partnership.

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Parentline Plus Online

Parentline Plus have introduced a free new online live chat service that will enable parents and carers to chat instantly to trained advisors regarding any parenting or family issues.

The live chat service www.parentlineplus.org.uk/livechat will be available Monday to Thursday (9am – 4.30pm) and Friday (9am – 12.30pm) with all chats kept confidential between parents and the Parentline Plus online support team.

Jeremy Todd, Parentline Plus Chief Executive said:

“Although information and practical support is readily available via our helpline, email, website and local support services 24 hours a day; the opportunity to talk in real time to one of our trained advisors is a positive addition to the many different ways we currently work with parents.

Parentline Plus live chat was created in response to the growing demand from parents who want to be able to access information quickly. Our trained advisors will be able to offer support and practical advice to all family members who find themselves in difficult and challenging situations.”

Parents that require support outside live chat opening hours, can call the free, confidential, 24 hour Parentline on 0808 800 2222 or email parentsupport@parentlineplus.org.uk

DANCE MEDALLISTS OF THE YEAR

The IDTA (North East) chose Newton Aycliffe, for the first time, as the venue for their Medallist of the Year Freestyle competition and Street qualifier. It was held at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Sunday, March 28th, 2010. Below are the results from Lee Green Dance Centre:

3-5 years Rosettes Solo
 Amelia Anderson 1st Place
 Amy Dolan 3rd Place
 6-8 years Rosettes Solo
 Summer Fenwick 1st Place
 Beatrice Lineton 5th Place
 6-10 years Stardance Solo
 Libbie Anderson 1st Place
 Reece Atherton 2nd Place
 10-13 years Solo
 Annis Race 2nd Place
 Reegan Henn 3rd Place
 9 years & Under Pairs
 Ellie Jade Anderson and Beatrice Lineton 1st Place
 10-13 years Pairs
 Chloe Farley and Annis Race 2nd Place
 Daniela Winwood and Reegan Henn 4th Place
 9 years & Under Rock and Roll
 Reece Atherton and Summer Fenwick 2nd Place
 Beatrice Lineton and Ellie Jade Anderson 4th Place
 10-13 years Rock and Roll
 Reegan Henn and Daniela Winwood 1st Place
 Annis Race and Kalya Shaw 2nd Place
 Megan Cross and Hayley Archer 4th Place
 14-17 years Street Solo
 Rebecca Barber – Qualified
 18-25 years Street Solo
 Natalie May Bradshaw –

Qualified
 14-17 years Street Duos
 Rebecca Barber and Kalya Shaw – 5th Place
 Stephanie Wilson and Rebecca Ellis - Qualified
 9 years and Under Team – Disco Fusion (3rd Place)
 Abbie Kennedy, Olivia Archer, Ellie Jade Anderson, Lisa Robinson, Charlotte Rowley, Harrison Evans, Reece Atherton, Rachel Bennett, Summer Fenwick and Beatrice Lineton.



10-13 years Team – Desire (3rd Place)
 Georgia Wakefield, Chloe Farley, Georgia Heads, Karis Morton, Megan Cross, Annis Race, Jordyn Routledge, Reegan Henn, Kalya Shaw, Daniela Winwood, Kasia Shaw, Emily Kavanagh, Hayley Archer, Rebecca Lowes and Chloe Brassel.

Well done to everybody who took part in our first ever home turf competition. You all danced really well and we all had a fun day. Thank you to the parents for their continued support.

Anyone who has an interest in joining Lee Green Dance Centre please contact Caroline Race on Tel. No. 07949 911642. Our classes include Freestyle Disco, Street, Lyrical Slow, Rock n Roll, Acro, Ballet and Tap. Adult classes are also available including Salsa, Hip Hop and Aerobics.

How to Live Healthier

Free healthy snacks, health checks, demonstrations and information provide the recipe for healthy living!

A free community drop-in event has been organised at Shildon Methodist Church Hall on Tuesday 26 February from 10am – 1pm, aiming to help people in the area to change or improve their lifestyle.

On the day there will be a wide range of free activities and displays including: free health checks, refreshments and healthy snacks, displays & health information from stopping smoking, cancer support to how to lose weight and be more active demonstrations on healthy eating, cycling and being more active, education, learning, and energy saving advice

Debbie Ryan, Events Officer, from the Pioneering Care Partnership who are organising the event, commented: “For people who just want to improve their lifestyle and maybe get rid of some bad habits affecting their health, we’d like them to drop-in and take advantage of all that’s on offer – from the free buffet or health advice. The event is excellent for everyone; whether they’d like to stop smoking or would just like to make those small adjustments to ensure a healthier lifestyle. It’s relaxed, friendly and a fantastic way to ensure people can look and feel great.”

Anyone interested in coming along should just turn up on the day. To book a free health check please contact the Pioneering Care Centre on 01325 321234 or email enquires@pcp.uk.net.

PHOTOGRAPHER HOLDS FIRST EXHIBITION



Lawrence Conyers, who runs Anson Photography from his studios in School Aycliffe, will display some of his acclaimed work at Arthur Robinson House on The Green in Billingham.

The exhibition is open to the public on 23rd April, with a dedicated opening evening from 6-9pm organised by Sixth Element Marketing and Design.

It will be a proud moment for Lawrence, who set up his business a year ago, as it will be the first time he’s showcased his work in a gallery.

Work on display includes a striking image of the Angel of the North to the backdrop of a setting sun, called Angel Darkly, and also some glamorous, gothic-style work like Dragon Lady, Painted Angel and Lady of the Lake.

Lawrence said: “The work that I’ll have on display is my own distinctive, unique style, which I believe is the point where photography becomes traditional art.”

“There is some photography,

but also some digital paintings produced as signed, numbered, limited edition fine art prints, including some of the Dragon Lady series which has received critical acclaim in the art and photographic community.”

The Billingham exhibition is the first of three confirmed exhibitions this year, with others also planned.

For more information about Lawrence and Anson Photography, and to see some of his work, visit www.ansonphotography.co.uk

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Saturday 17th April - “F.M.”

Rock Page Review: “Was this the best mid-week pub gig over 11? 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”

+ Outrageous Comedian “Dave Adams” (If really offended you won’t be disappointed) and Gary’s Very Nearly 50 Birthday Party

Dave Lunn Review: (Captain Rock and The Turbinia, Christmas 2008). “The pub was full and the crowd were up for some Christmas shenanigans... Shenanigans are a Captain Rock thing, lots of wandering into the crowd, guest appearances galore. Captain Rock are for very good musicians, playing some very good music. Al and Mikey are solid at the back, Steve’s got a great voice and Lowry’s playing gets better all the time”.

Tracks covered by Who, Pearl Jam, Black Sabbath, Deep Purple, Blue Oyster Cult, AC/DC, Thin Lizzy, Metallica and more

Saturday 1st May - “REMEDY” (Formerly known as Alcatraz)

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them for each other. 'Kissing Sid James' can be seen from the 2nd – 6th June at St. Clare's Church Hall. Wed – Sat 7:30pm Sun Mat 4:00pm. Ticket helpline: (01325)324932 Buy online at www.stage-one-productions.co.uk or in person at Greenfield Community Arts Centre.

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CHERIE BLAIR VISITS TOWN

Cherie Blair made a personal call on the Princess Royal Trust for Carers offices in the Town Centre this week. She is a patron of the Trust and asked to meet the staff while in the North East helping the Labour Party Election campaign. Parliamentary Candidate, Phil Wilson and his partner Margaret are personal friends of the Blairs, and hosted the visit. Cherie enjoyed an informal chat over tea and biscuits, listening to the concerns of staff



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LAUNCH OF NORTH EAST HELPLINE TO HELP PEOPLE IN FINANCIAL CRISIS

Debt advice services for people in the North East and Cumbria are being expanded thanks to the launch of a new telephone helpline. The advice line will mean an extra 8,000 people across the region will be able to get the free, independent, specialist money support they need. National charity Citizens Advice has been able to launch the service thanks to a £1.5 million funding boost, provided by the Northern Rock Foundation.

Available to anyone living in the region who has a debt problem, the new helpline is 0300 333 3445 and is free to call from most landlines and mobile phones.

Three new full-time telephone debt advisers will join a team of thirteen face-to-face advisers based at Citizens Advice Bureaux throughout the North East and Cumbria to deliver help to people, launching in early April. Workers from DAWN, a CAB service based in Northumberland, unveiled the new advice line

number as they launched the service.

Nick Bussey, Citizens Advice North Area Director said: "The recession has had a big impact in this area and we have seen a sharp increase in demand for advice on debt and other related issues as a result. This much-needed funding boost will help us to reach more people who are struggling and make sure they get the practical and personalised advice they need."

Northern Rock Foundation Chief Executive Penny Wilkinson said, "The new service is being set up with £1.5 million from the Northern Rock Foundation to fund face-to-face and telephone debt advice for people in financial crisis. The extra money will fund three full-time telephone debt caseworkers and 13 face-to-face debt caseworkers for two years. This award is in line with our philosophy of helping tackle key issues which face the communities in the North East and

Cumbria."

The new helpline 0300 333

3445 is available between 9am and 5pm weekdays.

SPIRITED AYCLIFFE PERFORMANCE AGAINST LEAGUE LEADERS

Newton Aycliffe 10 Guisborough 55

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club's last home league match of the season saw them host runaway leaders Guisborough at Moore Lane. The warmest day of the year saw a pitch suited to running rugby.

The game began with Aycliffe fronting up well to their larger and better drilled opponents but Guisborough soon scored two tries to take an early 10-0 lead. Aycliffe fought back and, after a break by Andy Newman, Warren Parsonage's forceful running saw him shred the visiting defence allowing him to put Chris Wilson over in the corner. There then followed an unsavoury incident which resulted in a red card for Guisborough and a yellow for Aycliffe. Whilst both teams were short-handed, Guisborough responded better and scored two more tries. Aycliffe continued to tackle well in the centre of the pitch, but Guisborough were excellent at mauling and producing overlaps, from where

they added a fifth try before the break. The score at half time was 31-5. In the second half, Guisborough continued to attack and scored further tries. A moment of quick-thinking by Aycliffe captain Gareth Parsonage at a tap penalty saw him give a long pass to Wilson who was able to cross the line unopposed in the corner.

This was only the second time this season that Guisborough have conceded 10 points. A final try for the visitors saw them complete a convincing but hard-fought 55-10 victory.

After a series of below par performances this was a good showing by Aycliffe against superior opposition. On 17th April Aycliffe complete their league programme with a visit to Washington, kick-off is at 3pm. Aycliffe's sponsors are Fabtech Engineering and Workshop Supplies. More information available at www.ayclifferugby.co.uk

SBH Support North Air Ambulance



Julie Ramsey and Karen Gibson

Fundraising has begun after Sedgefield Borough Homes (SBH) announced its chosen charity for 2010. SBH

employees chose The Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) from a list of 20 nominated charities.

Making the announcement, Colin Steel, Chief Executive said, "Our employees work hard to raise much needed funds for a number of local charities. Our decision to support the Great North Air Ambulance Service for the next 12 months shows a strong commitment to fundraising for the benefit of our local and wider community."

The Housing Association raised over £1,600 in the past 12 months for the British Heart Foundation, which was chosen in memory of former colleague Martin Smith.

SBH hopes to increase its fundraising activities during 2010 and has set itself the ambitious target of raising over £2,000 for the GNAAS, which got under way with a charity cake baking day, with staff baking a variety of Easter themed cakes which were raffled and raised over £100.

Sweeping the Area with Kind Deeds

A REVOLUTION swept the area last week – leaving behind a trail of kind deeds. Over five days, hundreds of volunteers from Xcel Church, in Newton Aycliffe, went out into the community with the aim of changing people's lives through simple acts of kindness.

They staged children's parties, visited nursing homes, carried out litter-picking, tidied railway stations, gave free car washes, delivered toys to children in hospital, gave blood and generally carried out tasks of neighbourly goodness.

The Xcel Servolution – based on an annual event which began in America but has spread all over the world – took place from Tuesday to Saturday, April 6-10th.

Julian Clark, Associate Pastor of Xcel Church, said: "Servolution is about not looking inwards at our own lives but outwards at the lives of others, and going out into the community and making a difference through deeds of kindness and public spirit."

Events mainly focussed on communities where Xcel Church has congregations – in Newton Aycliffe, where the church was established 43 years ago, and in Durham City and Darlington, where it

has satellite churches.

It culminated on Saturday, April 10, with the Xcel Servolution Community Day at the Xcel Centre, on Aycliffe Business Park, the church's home since December. The event, which was completely free and included a free car wash, litter-picking, baby-gear giveaway, plus a football cage, climbing wall and face-painting for children.

People took donations of furniture for the King's Church Furniture Collection Scheme, in Darlington, and food items to go into the Xcel Food Bank to provide hampers for local needy people.

Servolution was the brainchild of Pastor Dino Rizzo, of the Healing Place Church, in Los Angeles. The idea has spread throughout the world and is now held annually, mostly around Easter.

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