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Demolition Day Draw Tickets on Sale Now

FIRST PRIZE 42" H.D. T.V.



Tickets for the Town Centre Demolition Day Draw organised by the Rotary Club are on sale now at 50p each in the Charity Shops, British Heart Foundation, YMCA, Sue Ryder and British Red Cross plus other outlets including the M.P.'s office. The first prize is a 40inch flat screen T.V. donated by Tesco. Other valuable prizes include a £125 Voucher at Specsavers, altogether there are prizes to the value of £1,000. The first prize winner will also be involved in the demolition, having the pleasure of knocking down one of the old buildings. The draw will be held at a special Charity night to be held at the British Legion who have given their premises free along with entertainment and bingo. The Rotary Club will have a Tombola Stall and the

kitchen will provide their famous home-made Pie & Peas all included in the ticket price of £5 on sale now at the Legion and from Rotary members. Tickets are limited to just 150 so please buy early to avoid disappointment. You can ring Newton Press on 300212 to book tickets or call at Walkers, Simpasturegate. Rotarians will also be selling the tickets at Tesco's.

P.A.C.T. Meeting

Police & Community Together

The next PACT meeting for Aycliffe Village is Saturday 22nd May from 10am to 12noon. Anyone with concerns about their community is invited to attend.

Big Band Concert & Dance at Big Club



The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe are bringing the Big Band sound to the Big Club! Direct from the USA and touring Europe, on route to perform at the Montreux Jazz Festival is the sensational highly acclaimed River Cities Jazz-Big Band coming to the Working Mens Club on Sunday 27th June at 7.30pm. Kick back and dance or just listen to the music of Glen Miller, Sinatra, Michael Buble, Count Basie, Duke Ellington,, Earth Wind and Fire plus many others. Tickets on sale now at an amazing £7.50 available from Mike on 312872 or Jill on 311274. All proceeds for the Rotary campaign to eradicate Polio throughout the world.

WOODHAM COLLEGE CELEBRATE FORTIETH

Woodham Community Technology College will commemorate its 40th Anniversary this summer. To mark the occasion, the college will be holding an Evening of Celebration on Tuesday 6th July from 3.45 - 6.30 p.m. Woodham staff, students, parents and partners have much to celebrate, and will be extending invitations to friends of the college. If you were a student at Woodham during the time of its inauguration, or you know anyone who was, please let the college know by emailing Marie Oswald, m.oswald@woodham.org.uk, or telephoning 01325 375482. The college are trying to trace as many of that first cohort as possible so they can be included in the celebrations.

Past Mayor Appreciated

Dear Sir,
On behalf of all the Independent Councillors on the Town Council we would like to express our appreciation for the excellent way Past Mayor, Mary Dalton carried out her duties. She was a wonderful Mayor and Chairman of the Council and we admire her dedication and commitment to the position she held so well over the year, despite the tragic loss of her husband Reg. She represented the town in a superb manner and brought great credit to the position of Mayor which will be difficult to emulate. The Independents

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PROUD LIBERAL DEMOCRATS JOINED COALITION

Dear Sir,
A number of people, are writing to newspapers including the Newton News criticising everything and everyone, but failing to disclose they are Labour Party Councillors. Understandably they would rather people did not know! John Clare is the latest to join this list.
Councillor John Clare, rather than showing any contrition for Labour's misrule over the last 13 years, has vented his spleen at the failure of his Labour government to be re-elected, by blaming others.
He benefitted from a free university education so which Party introduced tuition fees in England and for non Welsh students in Wales? It wasn't the Lib Dems or Tories!
Which party scrapped the 10p rate of income tax, hitting 5 million lowest paid in this country? The same answer!
Which party took us to war in Iraq on a false pretext, Guess

who?
Which party in their 2005 election manifesto promised not to increase income tax? The Labour Party and they broke yet another promise!
Why is unemployment higher after 13 years of Labour misrule than in 1997 when they came to power?
Labour lost 91 seats and 1 million votes at the recent General Election, The Lib Dems lost 5 seats yet increased their vote by 1 million, Which Party promised a referendum on the Lisbon Treaty then prevented one? Which Party forced Unitary Councils on everyone, forcing the transfer of housing to unaccountable landlords? Sadly, since 1997 - across the whole country, only 2,700 council homes have been built - under Labour.
I am proud that my Party, the Lib Dems, has agreed to join with the Conservatives at this time of national economic

crisis - a crisis mainly caused by Labour Party misrule. Yes, there will be financial pain for all of us, but people realise that this mess was caused by the Labour Party, who conveniently slip away into the background to lick their wounds, while we, the Lib Dems, take the hard, unpopular decisions they should have taken.
Clr Blenkinsopp, Lib Dems

SUMMER FUNDRAISING FETE

Saturday 29th May
N.A. Youth Centre
12noon-4pm

Come along and grab some bargains/saige items. Table top sales, craft, novelty, cake, tombola, bottle stalls and many more.

GAMES AND FUN FOR EVERYONE

Youthy Under 12's Champs Again!



Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre under 12's finished off a very successful season last weekend with a home win against Northallerton with an impressive score line of 9-1 and ensured for the second year running they have gained promotion and are crowned Teeside Junior Football Alliance champions of their division, winning the league by 8 points.
They also reached the last sixteen in the County cup and the quarter finals of the Challenge cup. They will be going to the T.J.F.A awards at Tall Trees in June to collect their well deserved trophies. The under 12's currently hold a squad of 17 players who are doing the community of Newton Aycliffe proud with their determined

efforts and commitment. They all enjoy their football and have made a tremendous effort to catch up matches postponed due to bad weather which sometimes meant playing four matches a week but they managed it and always with a smile on their faces making the coaches and parents extremely proud of them all.
Everyone involved with the team would like to thank our sponsors Defoe Court Care Centre for the strip and support last year; however we are now on the look out for a local company willing to offer sponsorship for next season as we move up into division 4. If anyone is interested in helping please contact Kevin on 07732370323 or Julie on 07938027960 thank you



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Therapist on Healing Mission

Newton Aycliffe Therapist Carole Dawson flies to Srajevo on 5th June to bring relief to those suffering the aftermath of the war. She will join other complementary therapists for a two week tour of duty under the banner of the British charity \2Healing Hands Network". "I am looking forward to using the skills I have learned over 22 years to help those people whose lives have been shattered by war. I will be working with amputees and rape victims," said Carole. Carole will raise the £750 needed to make the trip from donations. If you would like to help or find details about the work of the charity call her on 310758 or visit www.healinghandsnetwork.org.uk



Sports Club Undergoes £50k Refurbishment



Newton Aycliffe Sports Club has undergone an extensive refurbishment plan investing £50,000 over the last three years as part of an ongoing improvement programme. Work has included a complete re-wiring job as well as new décor throughout, new windows, new furniture, a new carpet in the function room and new widescreen plasma TV's with surround sound. The club is now well geared up to be the town's best venue to watch this summer's World Cup tournament and Sports Club secretary Pat Flynn says it's part of the committee's commitment to continually improve the club for its members. "The work we've done within the clubhouse itself has cost a small fortune but we've also invested heavily in the football club, which is a big asset to us. We've committed more than

£15,000 to the development of Moore Lane Park since last summer, but we mustn't forget there are other sporting divisions within the club, and they need our support as well, so we're looking to renew the floodlights for the rugby club's training area". said Pat (pictured above) Treasurer Dennis Henderson, controls the purse-strings at the club and has authorised some sizeable cheques in recent years. "We see it as sensible investment," says Dennis. "We've changed the attitude of the committee and membership numbers have significantly increased over the years, up to around 700 at the moment, with a large number of those regularly coming through the doors. "This is an extremely successful club which is well run and turns over healthy profits year-on-year. It makes good business sense to retain funds for emergencies, but it was decided a few years ago to start investing some of that money back into the club. "It's to benefit the members and reward them for their loyalty to the club who make these refurbishments possible with their support as well as their support to all sections of the club in buying raffle tickets etc. We're a forward-thinking committee and we're investing in the club now for its future and for the benefit of our members." www.aycliffe-sports-club.org.uk

BIG CLUB TEAM IN CUP FINAL

This Sunday sees the final of

AGNEW COMMUNITY CENTRE

The New Youth Club "Elevate" which runs on a Saturday morning 10.30 to 12 noon is going fine and last week 17 young people 5 years to 12 years of age attended and all credit goes to James Ross and his team of first class voluntary workers.

Work on the Landscaping of the new Centre is coming along slow but sure thanks to the Probation Service and for the work they are putting back into the Community. We are hoping to be in position by July, if successful in applying for new funding, to put in a Picnic, Play & Garden Area to be accessed by the Community on a daily basis and to be used by all ages together. You are very welcome to join us in providing an ever growing list of facilities. We are all volunteers with no reimbursement accept for help with car fuel if attending official association business. The Hall and Meeting Room are available for outside hire by arrangement. Please ring Ron on 07535255098 any day from 10am to 11pm for cost and availability. Please Note that on Wednesday 26th May from 10am to 12noon we are hosting a CAVOS Spring Coffee Morning with free Tea, Coffee & Cakes, so drop in for a chat and if you have not been into your Community Centre before then this is your opportunity. We look forward to meeting you on the day. On June 3rd starting at 1pm [doors open at 12.15pm] we are having "All our Yesterdays" with music from 1940 sung by the lovely Jenna Highfield at a cost of only £2 per ticket, some still available for sale, ring Margaret on 319857 so not to be disappointed. Refreshments on sale and a Tombola with a wide and varied array of prizes.

the Bishop Auckland Heart Foundation Cup which will be contested by current holders Newton Aycliffe WMC and their rivals from the Durham & District Premier division, Kelloe WMC. The game will take place at Beechfield Park, Coxhoe. Newton Aycliffe WMC, managed by Derek Wood finished eighth in the Swinburne Maddison Durham & District League whilst their opponents, fought valiantly to end up in the runners-up spot. Both sides are well populated with names from the Northern League including Newtonian Chris Smith. Aycliffe WMC's Northern League

side includes Mark Wood, Stephen Richardson, Anthony Campbell, Chase McMullen and Stuart Owen - all from Allan Oliver's Aycliffe side, and are skipped by Crook Town's Scott Brassell. Around 50 teams enter the competition with teams from the D&DSL, the Spennymoor Sunday League and the Wear Valley League making up the majority of the numbers. This season the Darlington Invitational League provided the competition, with a scattering of teams as the trophy proves ever more popular to clubs in the region. The Taylor family founded the competition almost half a century ago and this

season sees for the very first time a brand new trophy, with the original now back under the watchful eye of the very people who introduced it. Almost 300 people turned out at Moore Lane Park last season to see Aycliffe WMC win the competition on penalties. The Aycliffe side won their semi-final this time round on penalties also, seeing off Witton Park Rose & Crown, while Kelloe enjoyed a more routine passage, defeating Sedgfield St Edmunds 2-0. All proceeds from the day go directly to the British Heart Foundation, with over £1,000 raised at last season's showpiece.

THE TURBINIA

*** Saturday Night Live ***
The Very Best of Rock - Normally NO Cover Charge

Saturday 22nd May - "The Click"
Fantastic band, taking the local music scene by storm. Playing modern classics from Kaiser Chiefs, Kings of Leon, Killers, Snow Patrol, Kasabian, Ben Jovi and much much more. Be early as a full house is expected.

Saturday 30th May - "Sabbatica"
An evening of classic Black Sabbath music from the Ozzy era
Davys Rock Page Review: "The singer had great presence, the other three members of the band were excellent. It's unfair to give the lead guitarist all the limelight, but late face it the lead guitar is like the centre forward, he gets all the attention and boy did this guy milk it and deliver some great work that left us totally speechless. It's not often we are totally blown away but this guy did it. Some of his solos made the hairs on the back of your neck stand up. The bass was fantastic and the drummer gave an equally great performance, this may sound like we are going over the top but its not hype, we are paying £12 to see a U2 tribute band at the Customs House and to be honest after hearing Sabbatica, we would gladly pay the same amount to see them

Saturday 5th June - "T.T. Blue"

For more information on bands go to www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034 Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke

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FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

Our speaker on Wednesday, 26th May will be Mr Roger Morris who will give a talk entitled 'Isaac's Tea Trail' about the life and work of Isaac Holden, an eighteenth-century tea seller and philanthropist. We meet on the last Wednesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Shafto Way. New members are always welcome. Car parking and refreshments are free. For further information on NAFHS please visit our website at www.communigate.co.uk/ne/nafts or contact Keith Bell on 01325 307905

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HEIGHINGTON PARISH LITTER PICK GROUP

Dear Editor

It may interest your readers that last Saturday, 15th May eight members of the Heighington Parish Litter Pick Group joined the LitterFree Durham Group to clean up Howns Gill near Castleside.

Howns Gill is a beauty spot in County Durham with steep-sided valley hiding stone caves and has a 150 year old viaduct that carried the Tyneside to Stanhope railway. The tracks have been removed and the line now forms part of cycleway and footpath.

It is a popular route and well used, but sadly many people discard their rubbish on the banks and in the cave. LitterFree Durham decided that it needed a clean up so 20 people gathered in the sunshine to pick over 60 bags of rubbish and many other discarded large items such as shopping trolleys, televisions, bicycles and car tyres. The total rubbish filled the trailer of the local farmer who volunteered his services for the collection.

The Heighington Parish Litter Group carries out monthly litter picks around the verges of roads leading to Heighington, Redworth and School Aycliffe. We would be pleased to welcome others to join us from Newton Aycliffe.

Our next pick is on Saturday 12th June starting at 10.00am. The volunteers can join the pick at three locations in Redworth, School Aycliffe but preferably at Heighington Village Hall where a safety briefing and tools to help with the pick can be collected. Again we would be pleased to welcome new volunteers to join us and help to keep the area tidy. But of course it would be even better if people would stop throwing rubbish onto the roadsides.

Lou Bedocs,
Member of HPLG



Aycliffe F.C. Produce DVD

Newton Aycliffe have produced their very first official DVD - and now fans can get their hands on a copy! The club showcased the 20-minute production at their end-of-season presentation night last week.

Aycliffe's media manager Martin Walker enlisted the help of Teesside University with students Craig Henderson and Robert Paxton volunteering to film and edit the piece.

The DVD includes action footage from two Aycliffe games, interviews with chairman Gary Farley, manager Allan Oliver and player Mark Wood as well as a Crossbar Challenge feature with the players.

There's also a brief historical montage piece to complete the video, which went down well with players and fans at the club's presentation evening. "It's something that we haven't tried before so it was a bit of a gamble!" admitted Martin.

A short preview of the DVD can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBC7wS4CcRM - Fans can order copies of the DVD, which cost £5 each, by email: martinwalker50@hotmail.com or on 07826 525907, or from behind the bar at Aycliffe Sports Club. Dan Mitton walked away with three top awards at Newton Aycliffe's end-of-season presentation night. The defender was crowned Player of the Year, Players' Player of the Year and Supporters' Player of the Year.

It followed his Matchday Programme Player of the Year award to cap off a fine season for the 21-year-old, who'd won seven man-of-the-match awards during the 2009-10 season in the Northern League from 40 games.

Almost 100 Aycliffe fans cast their votes in the Supporters' vote on the last home game of the season, with Mitton winning 96 points (20.6%). Elliot Gardner, Top Goalscorer with 19 goals last season, came second with 81 points (17.3%) and goalkeeper Steve Richardson was third with 75 points (16.1%).

There were also votes for John Close, Paul Stout, Chase McMullen, Paul Broom, Anth Campbell, Dion Raitt and Stu Owen. Defender Close picked up Secretary Steve Cunliffe's Player of the Year award and goalkeeper Richardson won Allan Oliver's Manager's Player of the Year award, while Anth Campbell was presented with an award to mark 10 years with the club.

Aycliffe have clinched a home friendly with neighbours

Darlington to officially open their new stand. The Quakers will come to Moore Lane Park on Wednesday August 4 (7.30pm kick-off), three days before Aycliffe's Northern League season starts, as Darlington prepare for their Blue Square Premier campaign, which kicks off on August 14th. Admission for the game will be £4 adults and £2 concessions (O-65s and U-16s).

Aycliffe have also lined up Northern League neighbours Bishop Auckland on Saturday July 10 and will take on Shildon, the league's first division runners-up, at Dean Street on Friday July 23. A full programme of pre-season games including kick-off times will be published in due course. www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk

MUSICAL EVENING

If you would like an enjoyable, relaxing evening listening to good music then Monday 24th May at Burnhill Way Methodist Church (near the Turbina) is the date and place to be. At 7.30pm the Centenary Singers will present an evening of song for all. Admission is by a minimum donation of £4 and all are invited to come and share in what promises to be excellent entertainment..

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Saturday 9th May
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Friday 4th June - 'The 2' 80s Band
Saturday 5th June - 'Greenrooms' Up and Coming
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Saturday 19th June - 'Mickey Rich'
Friday 25th June - 'Adam Cole'
Saturday 26th June - 'The Click'

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For further information on any of the above courses or to book your place, contact Reception on 01325 300600, but hurry as all courses have limited availability and are very popular.

V.E. Anniversary Fun at Legion

The British Legion Club celebrated the 65th V.E. Anniversary with lots of family activities last Saturday. Flags and bunting, entertainment food, bouncy castle and face painting were all part of the fun. Eddie Graham was “Ed” Chef on the Hot Dog and Burger Stall while in the Concert Room Jenny Daniels (in photo) and Ashton Hayes provided some splendid singing acts.



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QUAKERS SIGN RUSSELL

Darlington have signed former goalkeeper Sam Russell on a one-year deal.

The 27-year-old shot-stopper, whose currently with Welsh Blue Square Premier outfit Wrexham, will join the Quakers on July 1.

“Sam brings some much-needed experience,” said Davey. “He’s a local boy so he knows the area and obviously he’s been with the club before so he knows what it’s all about and he knows the fans.”

“We need experience going into the Blue Square Premier and Sam offers us that so he fits the bill perfectly.”

Russell takes the total number of players currently signed up for the 2010-11 season to nine.

Career record
Darlington, loan (2002-03), 1 game
Scunthorpe, loan (2003), 12 games
Darlington (2004-07), 117 games
Rochdale (2007-09), 46 games
Wrexham (2009-10), 18 games
Total: 194 games

£8,500 RAISED FOR DEBT HELP CHARITY

Three brave thrill-seeking Newtonians conquered their fears of heights whilst Zip sliding from the Marsden Grotto last week. Altogether 65 regional people took part raising £8,500 for Christians Against Poverty

After stepping off the 50 metre high cliff top they reached speeds of 30mph to get down to the beach the fast way!! It was a huge adrenaline rush and definitely a once in a lifetime experience for them. Christians Against Poverty has seen 227 clients become debt free so far in 2010. One Newton Aycliffe client sent

a letter to Bede Feechan this week stating

“We would like to thank you for your time and support during your visit on Tuesday, we are both feeling a weight has been lifted and we can see a way forward now. Look forward to seeing you again this Tuesday and thank you again for your kindness”

Please will you consider becoming Life Changer to assist our local Newton Aycliffe centre?

We call our regular givers ‘Life Changers’ because it is only with their help that we can give people a solution to their debts and financial crises, changing their lives dramatically. Quote from Carol, ‘It’s been fantastic working with CAP – They’ve got us back on track and we have enough money to eat properly.’

88% of our clients said that they found CAP’s services ‘life transforming’ or a ‘great help’. Giving regularly to CAP means that you become a Life Changer!

£1.00 or £2.00 a month is all it takes to make a difference in the lives we serve by giving regularly to CAP so that more people can be freed from the oppression that debt brings. Christians Against Poverty has a spectacular vision to reach every community in the UK with a professional debt counselling service by 2015

Please contact Bede Feechan 07842 561775 bedefeechan@capuk.org if you would like to become a Life Changer Alternatively if you need DEBT COUNSELLING phone the CAP Helpline 0800 328 0006 to book an appointment with Bede

PCP INFO SESSION AT LIBRARY

The Pioneering Care Partnership are holding two free information sessions in the Library Community Room on Tuesday 25th May at 10:30 am and 11:30 am.

These sessions are designed to assist people out of work, people claiming Incapacity Benefit or people over 50, to improve their skills and confidence, and to discuss future skills workshops (details and dates of these workshops to follow soon).

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Open Letter to County Council Leader

Dear Simon Henig

Following a meeting this morning of the Newton Aycliffe Sure Start Children's Centre Management Group, I write to express a number of very serious concerns at the decision to allow private practice to run child care within the centre. It was agreed at the meeting to write a formal letter of complaint on behalf of the group to raise the following points.

Initially there is a concern about the tendering process itself and if all approved day care providers were made fully aware of this proposal. It now appears that one single owner dominates child care locally. This limits the choice of parents within Newton Aycliffe.

Members of the management group are very concerned that Durham County Council money will now be used to subsidise a private practice. This point will emerge from several other points listed below. At present it is unclear exactly who will benefit from the provision of private practice within the centre. However, there is a real concern that whoever does benefit, it will be at the cost of the local people who have put so much effort into making Sure Start a genuine success.

There are concerns at the loss of services for local children and parents. The Children's Centre was established some time ago to meet a local need that has always been recognised. Since opening, the centre has been very successful in engaging a wide range of parents into the work of the centre. Local people have attended a wide range of activities with their children. Due to the nature of the courses and meetings the clients are continually changing as children grow older. There is a concern that these valuable services will now be lost to local people, either by not running at the Centre or by being moved to a new venue that may not be supported by parents. There is an additional concern about cost. The group has been informed that a series of alternative venues is now being looked at to host events, meetings and courses but the additional costs will be met by Durham County Council. This is seen as subsidising private practice.

It has taken a long time to build up support for Sure Start's work in the area and the reputation of

the centre. There is a real fear that if services are spread around the town they will be spread too thinly and not accessed by parents at all. This will be a tragic loss to the community. Without a single site it will be much more difficult to recruit new parents, something that Sure Start recognises as a major difficulty anyway!

Another concern is the size of the centre itself and the use of space inside the venue which was built on a smaller budget than many other centres. The small building is currently well used but with the removal of a large amount of internal space for the private provider, the room available will shrink considerably. This will make existing services very difficult to deliver and future development will also be affected. An additional fact is that the present centre's size is not in proportion to the number of 5 year olds it currently has to reach. Across the town there are 1287 under 5's and to reach this is one of the largest reach figures in the local authority and increases the pressure on the provision of services.

In addition car parking space is very limited indeed. As the centre is next to a school, car parking spaces at particular times of the day are at a premium anyway. School and Children's Centre staff car parking is very limited indeed and additional staff will only increase this problem.

The primary school which shares this site shares this concern and is also worried at the increase in traffic, illegal use of car parks (which cannot be supervised or managed) within the centre and dangers to the pupils.

It is a real fear that an increase in cars accessing the site will increase the problem of more and more cars entering the school site and create dangers to the children. Are there any plans to review the car parking spaces available in any way at all? Are there plans to extend the present building to facilitate the private practice and the existing facilities?

Are there any demands placed on the private practice to make financial contributions towards any improvement of facilities that are deemed necessary? Whilst the management group was reassured that jobs within the centre were not at risk, working practices will have to

change considerably. Staff may have to travel to different venues to deliver services; meetings may have to be held elsewhere around the town. All of this is not a good use of staff time and may be unnecessary. Once again it may bring increased costs to the County Council budget.

These concerns are very genuine and reflect the views of many local people who currently use the Children's Centre as well as the Management Group itself.

Alderman George Gray

Frank Firth, Nominated Strategic Officer For Children and Young People's Services, said: "As a result of consultation when the centre opened it was agreed that space for childcare provision would be designed into the building, but as there was sufficient childcare in the wider area it wasn't necessary to actually provide this service. "Since this consultation in 2002, half of the pre-school provision in the town has disappeared, Clarence Day Nursery closed and a plans for a new 100 place private day-care did not go ahead. The usual correct tendering process had to be followed in the search for a new child care provider and, now that process is complete, the contract has been awarded to House of Eden. Arrangements are now progressing to begin offering these much-needed services in the very near future. The building remains Council property and the business will be operating under licence."

CREDIBLE NEW GOVERNMENT

Dear Sir,

I read with some incredulity John D Clare's letter under the heading "Lib Dem Position Undeserved" I am not a member of any political party, never have been – never will be, but he cannot be allowed to get away with such a ridiculous assertion.

He totally misses the point of having an election in his contention that "a vote for the Liberal Democrats is a vote for a Tory government". This is completely wrong, mis-leading and just plain daft.

The facts are clear that across the country, many people who may have voted Labour in previous elections moved straight to Conservative this time. Perhaps he has not noticed that the Liberal Democrats have ended up with fewer seats than before the election although they have increased their share of the overall vote a little? Surely the point of an election is that people vote for the candidate or the party that most closely reflects their own views and aspirations in order to install a government that does the same. For far too long, we have had governments that failed to command a majority of over 50% of the overall

vote and all our post war administrations have been elected with less than 50%.

By joining a coalition with the Conservatives, the Liberal Democrats give the new government much better credibility with the electorate as they have over 60% support between them. In addition, by joining the government, the Liberal Democrats will now have an opportunity to put some of their own ideas and policies in place. Something that has been denied them for a very long time.

I for one believe that it is good that for once, politicians are prepared to put aside party prejudices and work for a common good. Perhaps our local councillors should take note. Week after week we see in the Newton News, letters from our local councillors that focus on slagging off their opponents with personal insults rather than discussing the issues they have in a mature, constructive way and arriving at a sensible consensus decision.

Everyone has to compromise occasionally and no single party or individual has all of the answers.

Fair Voter

Name & address applied

Toon Fans Hit £2k Target



Four Newcastle fans are set to smash their fundraising target after completing an arduous return journey to St James' Park! Geordie fan David Neale decided to walk 33 miles from Aycliffe to Newcastle to catch United's last game of their Championship title-winning campaign last month, to raise money for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.

David was quickly joined by pals Shaun Sproates, Chris Neasham and David Garthwaite – and the quartet, who also biked home from the Toon, have already doubled their original target of £1,000. Although they're yet to collect all of their money in, the four are set to raise more than £2,000 from the effort.

"It was hard work but a great experience," said season ticket holder Dave. "We just wanted to raise as much money for the foundation as possible." Donations can still be made at www.justgiving.com/david-neale, or anyone who'd like to contact David can email him on dmneale9@aol.com

Co-op Sponsor Sports Club Juniors



Recently The Co-operative Funeralcare were proud to become sponsors of the Newton Aycliffe Sports Club Junior FC Under 13's team and make a donation towards the purchase of new playing strip for the team. The attached picture shows the team wearing their new strip with The Co-operative Funeralcare brand name on their shirts.

TALK ON PAINTER

At 7 pm on Monday 24th May at Greenfield Community & Arts Centre, Robert McManners and Gillian Wales will give an illustrated talk about their book "The Quintessential Cornish" detailing the life and work of Norman Cornish.

Tickets, £2, are available from the Arts Centre Reception. The Norman Cornish Exhibition will be at the Greenfield Gallery until Wednesday 9th June. Further details on www.greenfield-arts.co.uk or telephone 379048.

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WILD ABOUT NEWTON AYCLIFFE

A new guide to parks, play areas and woodland walks in Newton Aycliffe will help residents discover the town's hidden treasures. Wild About Aycliffe includes details of countryside areas and attractions in and around the Newton Aycliffe

area.

The full colour brochure has been funded by the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Area Action Partnership (GAMP). Brian Riley, Area Action Partnership Co-ordinator for GAMP, said: "The

Newton Aycliffe area is rich in Parks, Woodland, Walkways and Recreational areas and the guide has been developed to encourage local people and visitors to make the most of them." The guide features a map highlighting attractions

including Aycliffe Nature Park and Simpature Nature Walk as well as facilities and points of interest along the Great Aycliffe Way. It will be available from schools, public buildings and country parks around the Newton Aycliffe area.

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S.A.S.D.A. FUNDS P.R. FIRM

A SEDGFIELD-based PR consultancy has hired a budding apprentice thanks to £1200 in funding and resources support from local enterprise agency SASDA.

Say Something Consultants, based in The Square in the town, was offered the business development assistance after owner, Angela Leighton, was accepted on to the Coaching For Higher Growth programme and had identified the need for another member of staff.

Ann Boyd, sales specialist at SASDA, assessed Say Something's needs and suggested funding was available from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund. She also assisted in the search for the right person by contacting Bishop Auckland College for some potential candidates.

Libbi Cook, 19, from Shildon, is now working as an administrator and trainee PR account executive and hopes to create a successful career in the PR and marketing industry.



"We are delighted to see Libbi doing so well at Say Something," said Ms Boyd. "From the word go it was an exciting opportunity for her and it's great to see The Working Neighbourhoods Fund creating the opportunities to help growing companies to hire when they need to."

"We are working hard in the community to educate businesses about what help is available so they can take advantage of funding and continue to grow at right pace."

SASDA - which supports businesses in the region

and creates employment opportunities for residents through various resources including the Working

Neighbourhoods Fund, has helped scores of companies.

"We are delighted with Libbi she is very quick learner and a real asset to the team," said Miss Leighton. The funding came at the perfect time for us and it's great to know we could give someone from the local area a fantastic opportunity to serve an apprenticeship in what is a demanding and fast-moving environment."

For further information about how your business can receive support and funding from SASDA contact 01325 310730.

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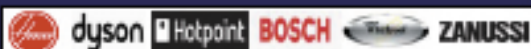
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In Memoriam

MENA COLLINSON Died
17th May 1999. Thinking of
you today Aunt Mena. Love
you. Now with Uncle Tot. God
bless, Niece Mena and Joe xx
SANDERSON, Sarah Ellen.
Died 24th May 2007. Still
loved and missed by us all.
Norman and family

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FREE SONG & DANCE WORKSHOP

A FREE GLEEful time at Greenfield Community & Arts Centre on Tuesday 1st June when John Melvin will start the workshop by

teaching the song. On Wednesday 2nd June, Candi Scott will be teaching a short dance routine to go with this

song and on Thursday 3rd June 2010 there will be a short performance on the Greenfield Stage for the family and friends of those attending the workshop. All three sessions are from 1pm to 3pm. You will need book a place and to be between 8 and 16 years of age. Ideally, you should attend all 3 sessions. To book your place, telephone 01325 379048 or email info@greenfieldschool.co.uk Other activities at Greenfield Community & Arts Centre detailed on www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

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Thank You

ARROWSMITH Mary and family of the late Colin wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, many friends, neighbours and colleagues for the kindness and sympathy shown to them during their recent sad bereavement. Also cards, flowers and letters of condolence and donations to Cancer Research. Many thanks to Delphine and Dr Peedel at Darlington Memorial Hospital. Also Dr Ramsey at Bewick Crescent, Rev. Linda Potter for the comforting Service, Paramedic, Ambulance Service, also PC Jason Quye for their support, thanks to Newton Aycliffe RAFA Club, Don Walkers and the Co-operative Funeralcare, Newton Aycliffe. £250 donations received for Lung Cancer Research. Thank you

GRATEFUL thanks to the people who helped my father when he fell in Hardinge Road on 6th May. Would the lady please ring 07505 091234 to return scarf.

SHEILA CLAUGHTON. A big thank you to my wonderful family for the Surprise 70th Birthday Lunch last Sunday. The gifts, flowers and cards from them and friends were beautiful. You all made my day. I love you all

THANK YOU Scott from Bill Plant Driving School for putting me through my driving test first time. From Kyle Robinson

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 26th May 2010
Environment Committee - 7.15pm
Followed by the Recreation Committee

QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 20 minutes has been set aside for an elector to ask questions, give evidence or make representation on any item of business included on the agenda.

If members of the public have any questions it would be appreciated if they could make them known prior to the start of the meeting.

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 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".

Congratulations

Billy Bainbridge

Happy 13th Birthday
19th May 2010
Hope you have a fab day on Saturday when you go paintballing (ouch!) Lots of love, Mam and Dad xxx

Happy birthday Billy. Teenager at last. have a great time on Saturday. Love, Nana and Grandad Barkley xxx

Happy 13th birthday on 19-5-2010. Enjoy your day and Saturday. Lots of love, Auntie Karen, Uncle Andy, Cousins Sam and Rach xxx

Happy birthday Billy. (19-5-2010). Hope you have a fab day. Love you loads from Auntie Jackie, Uncle Dale and Big Cuz Dale

To my special Grandson. Sorry I couldn't be there, lots of love, Nana Bainbridge xxx

Judith Russell

Happy 40th Birthday
22nd May 2010
Have a great birthday. Lots of love from Mam, Dad, Sharon, Adrian, Arron and Amy-Jo xxx

Carl Bruce

Congratulations on your passing out (7-5-10) into the Royal Navy. Charley. All our love, Grandma and Grandad xxx

DONNA To my darling Wife and love of my life, happy 40th birthday Donna. Love always, Mark xxx Always remember, life begins at 40 x

TO THE BEST Mam in the world, happy 40th birthday. Lots of love from Holly and Evie-Rae xxx

TARA HYMAS Happy 40th birthday. Lots of love from your loving Husband Geoff, Daughter Katie, Son Daniel and Daughter-in-Law Wendy

JULIE KIRKBRIDE Happy 40th birthday from Mam and all the family xxx

JAKE MARSHALL 20-5-1997. Happy 13th to a special Son and Brother. Lots of love, Mam, Dad and Amber xxx

MASON, Corey Allan James. Happy 18th birthday. With all our love, Mam, Dad, Boys, Nana and Granda

ROBINSON, Michael James. Hope you have a great day on Monday 24th May on your 18th birthday. It's here at last. It feels like only yesterday when you came into our lives and you have made us proud every day. Love you lots and lots. Mam, Dad, Steph, Lisa and David

Angela Surman

Happy 40th Birthday
27th May 2010
40, no - you don't look a day over 39! Have a great day darling. All our love always, Lee, Jack, Harry, Danielle and Sooty xxx

Public Notice

WATCH BATTERIES now available at Taylors Newsforce

DONATIONS needed of Bric-a-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring Honest John on 316630

RSPCA Durham and District cats and kittens for adoption, fee applies to cover 1st and 2nd vaccination, also neutering and id chip. Please Tel 311215

AYCLIFFE Car Boot Sale will now be held at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex field from Sunday 23rd May 2010. Sellers from 11.30am, buyers from 2pm

SLIMMING WORLD St Clares Church every Thursday at 1pm and 5.30pm with Debbie. Call for details or just come along 01325 300615

Emma Burgess

Happy 16th Birthday
Let the celebrations begin!
Hope you have a fantastic party. All our love for ever, Mum and Peter

Sophie Williams

Happy 18th Birthday
Congratulations on your 18th Sophie, have a great day, and a brilliant night on Saturday. All our love Mam, Tony and Michael X

Kay Armstrong
aka "The Rover"

Congratulations on your promotion! Bob, we are sorry to see you leave. Enjoy your holiday and keep in touch. Love and best wishes, all your friends at Wilkinsons

Abby Swainston

Happy 16th Birthday
to our darling Daughter on 18th May 2010. Have a great day. Love, Mam and Dad xx

Happy 16th Birthday to my Granddaughter. Love from Gran and Poppy

Happy 16th Birthday Abs, enjoy your day. Lots of love, Holly, Michael, Auntie Annie and Uncle Bob xxx

Business For Sale

SINGLE TAXI business in Newton Aycliffe. Established in 2005. Health problems forces sale. Offers. Tel 07939 433 733

Mary Hill

Happy 60th Birthday
26th May 2010
We hope you have a wonderful time. We love you very much from Bryan, Kirsty, Michala, Richard, Beth & Lois xxx

Lauren Holly

Happy 16th Birthday
26th May 2010
Lots of love, Mum and Dad xxx
Happy birthday big Sis. Love from Luke and Keema xxx

Mia Wilson

Well done Mia for coming first in 3-5 Medallist of the Year. Mammy is so proud of you! Lots of love, all your family. Big thanks to Brenda and Hayley

Joshua McCartin

18 AND STILL CUTE!
Happy birthday. Have a great time. Lots of love, Mum, Dad, Samuel, Rileys, Hills and Jones' xxxxx

BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE



The concert given by Cockerton Band in St. Clares Church raised £645 for church funds towards the £11,000 needed to replace the heating bolier before winter. The band played many excellent pieces from their repertoire and everyone agreed they fully deserve their place in the National Championships. Theanks to the band for the Concert and also to all who came along and supported the event.

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Arc De Triomphe - 1st October 2010, £179 (B&B)
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Sunday Mystery Trip, 30th May 2010, £12.95
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J.L.S.	12-01-2011	Newcastle Arena	£45.00
Disney on Ice	09-10-2010	Newcastle Arena	£32.00
Paul Weller	01-12-2010	Newcastle Arena	£47.50
Boyzone	01-03-2011	Newcastle Arena	£47.50

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NEWTONIAN PLAYS PRO WATER POLO DOWN UNDER

Scott Carpenter from Sedgfield Water Polo Club based in Newton Aycliffe has just returned from Australia where he was playing Professional Polo for Victoria Tigers in Melbourne in the Australian National League. Scott is the dominant force in British Men's Polo 2 years out from the Olympics in London. After his outstanding performance in the European Championships in Switzerland in September, when he became the first British Male player to win the top Scorer award, a host of teams from Europe and the USA wanted him to sign Pro contracts. Scott decided on Australia and after being there for the last 7 months, he inspired the Tigers to win their first National Men's crown for 17 years. Despite arriving back from Romania where he was playing for GB only 8 hours before the play offs started in Sydney he played in all four matches which included scoring the winning goal in the Semi final with one second left on the clock against the Manchester United of Australian Polo Freemantle Mariners. In the final they defeated Drumfoyne from Sydney 10-8. The Australian commentators for TV described him as the most dangerous player in the play offs and a devastating outside shooter. Scott finished in third place in the Australian goal scorer list with 63 goals only 6 goals behind the Australian Olympic Captain Sam McGregor, despite playing 5 games less due to GB team commitments. Scott is off to a tournament in Georgia soon with GB but hopes to have a couple of weeks rest after that before having to decide soon where he is off to for the next National League season either back to the Tigers or to the top European Leagues in Italy or Spain.

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Youthy Under 7's - League Champions



Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre AFC Under 7's Yellow team have been playing the season in the Russell Foster league in Durham every Saturday morning. Last season was their first season and they worked hard together, but this season all of their work has shone through as they have secured the league title and champions with still 2 games to play. They have now been entered into the TJFA (Teesside Junior Football Alliance) Development Section in Division One and parents are all very proud of them. They have gained many followers and 2 brand new sponsors s. and the boys are so excited!

AYCLIFFE PILED ON THE RUNS IN FIRST WIN

Newton Aycliffe's first team finally won their first game of the season with a thumping 136 run win away at Simonside in the top division of the North East Durham League. Aycliffe piled on the runs scoring an impregnable 246 for 8 in their 45 overs with major contributions from Kyle Robinson, with a superb 76, Graham Telford (47) and Sean Lawless with 37. In reply the homeside were dismissed for 112 with Luke Telford shining with the ball taking 5 for 34 and Sean Lawless supporting well taking 3 for 25.. Newton Aycliffe seconds lost at home to Beamish by 68 runs despite an excellent all round performance by 15 year old Sam Telford. The youngster was the pick of the bowlers taking 4 for 39 as the visitors were bowled out for 166 and then top scored with a robust 32 in Aycliffe's reply of 98 all out. Newton Aycliffe's under 18's got their first victory of the season defeating Esh Winning by 41 runs in the Durham County junior league. Aycliffe batted first and scored 119 in their 20 overs thanks to good innings from Sam Telford (45) and in reply the visitors were skittled for just 78. The under 15's lost a thrilling game away at Langley Park in the league cup by just 3

runs. Captain Dan Weldon was the pick of the Aycliffe bowlers taking 3 for 25, which helped restrict the homeside to 100 for 9 in their 20 overs. Adam Hickey lead the reply for Aycliffe with a superb 47, but was agonisingly stumped trying to smash the the final ball

of the innings for a winning boundary. The club's under 13's side gave a good performance despite going down by 30 runs away at Seaton Carew and the club's under 11's lost their first game of the season away at Billingham Synthonia.

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